



UNDER THE STEEPLE

February, 2009

Lake Osborne Presbyterian Church (*PCA)
Lake Worth, Florida

ANNUAL MISSIONS CONFERENCE

February 27 – March 3
(Friday – Tuesday)

***EXPECT GREAT
THINGS FROM GOD***

***ATTEMPT GREAT
THINGS FOR GOD***

William Carey, May 30, 1792

Isaiah 54:2-3



Dr. Paul Kooistra

Coordinator of the PCA's Mission to the World

Rev. Paul Alexander

Veteran PCA pastor and missionary to Ukraine

and visiting missionaries

The Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) is an evangelical denomination, organized in 1973, with a strong commitment to the inerrancy of Scripture, to the historic doctrines of the Reformed faith, to the task of world evangelization, and to the teaching of a consistently Biblical world-and-life view.

From Missions Committee Chairman, Dick Miller

It is Missions conference time again. We have always been asked to think “Faith Promises.” Give in faith knowing that God will provide for our needs. 2009 will be a test of our faith. We have to commit with good sense, and still stretch in faith. We cannot plan to have or lose our jobs, or investments. If we lose, we cannot give, if we don’t - thank God.

I always think of the missionaries who went in faith, compared to our giving in faith. Who has to have the most faith? They gave up most things we enjoy in life. They are well trained to think seriously about expecting the unexpected when they are preparing their budget and collecting promises for funding for their mission journey—that they must expect. These kinds of times come upon us, and the promise givers run into problems out of their control. Still they went. Now they have to depend on us, the promise givers. They must keep their “eye on the ball,” and tend to their mission. They know the many donators to their mission are in threatening circumstances. Any one of the entities who keep them funded could fail, leaving them “up the Amazon with out a paddle.” Or in Europe, Spain, the Philippines or anywhere with no recourse - they are at the mercy of the donors.

In past years it was routine to see our collections for the church in general and missions funding in particular to dwindle from the Summer through November, and “get well” with heavy giving in December. But, not in 2008. December did not pick up the pace. We were blessed with a \$20,000 fund balance to begin the year which went up a little and back to the balance by September, and left the year \$5,000 below what we started with. We have never missed our promised giving to any missions promises. Let’s keep that promise with a good 2009. Start the Missions year off right by attending the conference starting Feb 27th and ending Mar 2nd. The committee has worked most of the year planning the program, and preparing for a smooth and interesting presentation. We added one new element, a Saturday morning program. The purpose of this is to avoid the common frustration of speakers not having enough time to tell you about what they are doing, and how exciting it is in their mission area. You will hear about the work of God in one of our Ecuador missions, in Guayaquil. I was fortunate enough to hear it when I took the “Vision Mission” trip in November. They could point to dramatically answered prayers, and achievements only prayers could provide you will be amazed. That program is one that demonstrates that our giving pays off. We hear so much negative news and problems, it is hard to keep going.

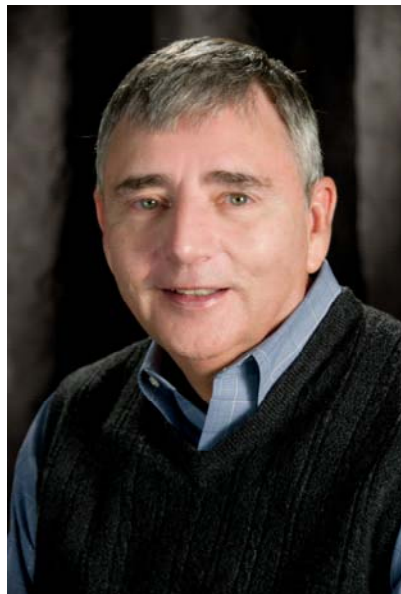
I want to add one more thing I came across. You can read about it in Dinesh D’sousa’s book “What’s so Great About Christianity”. In his book, in which he uses non-Christian statistical data, he makes the following two points in Part One: “The Future of Christianity”:

1. “We often hear that Islam is the fastest growing religion. Not true. Christianity is the fastest growing religion in the world today. Islam is second.
2. Although “the West is more secular, the world as a whole is becoming more religious.” “America is the most religious country in the Western world.” “This third world Christianity is coming our way.” “Only the United States sends more missionaries to other countries. We may be seeing the beginning of a startling reversal.” I have heard of missionaries from other countries coming to America— God knows we need them.

My take on all this (you have to read the book) is that we have taken Christ’s word to all the world (most of it anyway), but those we converted may be called to return the favor. The point is, we are not dumping money into a black bottomless hole-full of useless wide-eyed missionaries. Our efforts in Missions is paying off. Be encouraged, don’t give up, or even let up. The battle is being won, and we don’t want all that to go for naught.

2009 MISSIONS CONFERENCE

We will be blessed with two excellent keynote speakers ...



Born and raised in Minnesota, **Dr. Paul D. Kooistra** holds a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Minnesota, a M.Div. from Columbia Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Alabama. He served as assistant pastor of Pinelands Presbyterian Church in Miami, Florida, 1967-1969; and associate pastor of Seminole Presbyterian Church in Tampa, Florida, 1969-1973, where he assumed the role of principal of Seminole Presbyterian Day School during the 1972-73 academic year.

In 1973 Dr. Kooistra assumed the position of Assistant Professor of Christian Education at Belhaven College in Jackson, Mississippi. In 1975 he became Associate Professor of Christian Education and Homiletics at Reformed Theological Seminary (RTS) in Clinton, Mississippi, until 1983 when he was named Professor of Practical Theology. In 1985 he accepted the presidency of Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, where he also taught Practical Theology. He served the seminary until 1994 when he assumed the position of Coordinator of Mission to the World in Atlanta, Georgia, for the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). In 2008 Dr. Kooistra was elected as Moderator of the 36th General Assembly.

Rev. Paul Alexander was born in Ithaca, New York. He attended Bob Jones University, Temple University, Fuller Theological Seminary, and Columbia Theological Seminary. As a pastor in the Reformed Presbyterian Church (Evangelical Synod), he joined the PCA when that denomination was received into the PCA. Prior to that, he served as moderator of his former denomination's annual assembly. He served as Senior Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, AL for 43 years (from 1958 until his retirement in 2001). During that time he led the church in the founding of Westminster Christian Academy.

Since his retirement, he and his wife, Lorraine, have been MTW missionaries to Ukraine. He has worked with the church planting team in Odessa and provided significant training for lay leaders in congregations there. He continues to work from his home in Huntsville in raising support for "Covenant Partners," an MTW work which is seeking to provide guidance in establishing Christian schools for covenant children in the churches of Ukraine.

We will also welcome missionaries Jim Tate (Ecuador), Jim Patterson (Philippines), Howard Sheldon (Texas- Bible translation), Franklin Beaver (Muslim world).

MISSIONS CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, February 27

7:00 pm Opening Message from Dr. Kooistra
 Congregational Prayer

Saturday, February 28

9:00 am Missionary presentations from Jim Tate and Franklin Beaver
 Messages from Dr. Kooistra
 Question and answer session

6:00 pm Catered dinner (gourmet chef, Brian Goodner)
 DVD showing of MTW's work
 Message from Dr. Kooistra

Sunday, March 1

9:00 am Sunday School hour with Dr. Kooistra

10:30 am Morning worship with Dr. Kooistra
(Faith Promise challenge)

Noon Covered dish luncheon

6:00 pm Evening worship with Rev. Alexander

Monday, March 2

6:00 pm Catered dinner (Vicki Backus)

7:00 pm Missionary presentation from Howard Sheldon
 Message from Rev. Alexander

Tuesday, March 3

6:30 am Men's breakfast with Missionaries

Noon Covered dish luncheon with Missionaries

6:00 pm Ethnic covered dish dinner

7:00 pm Missionary presentation from Jim Patterson
 Closing message from Rev. Alexander

(No Wednesday night ministries this week only)

Sunday, March 8

10:30 am Morning worship
 Faith Promise challenge from Pastor Roff

5:30 pm Evening worship DVD – The Story of Missionary William Carey
*whose famous sermon on Isaiah 53 is this year's missions theme
 and whose work in India led to the modern missions era*

PASTOR ROFF'S UKRAINE REPORT

During the first week of January, Pastor Roff was in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Belgorod-Dnestrovsky for the installation and dedication of this organ (seen here with their church choir), an exciting Christmas gift for the people of this community in southern Ukraine. He has been working for four years to raise the funds for this gift. Members of Lake Osborne have generously contributed to this project. Members of our choir sang in this church last June on the day they formally dedicated their new building. Pastor Sergey Betin and his wife, Lyuda, visited us here at LOPC two years ago.



Pastor Roff helped Pastor Betin plan the first-ever Christmas Eve Candlelight service. Everyone loved it, and have agreed to make this an annual tradition in the church's worship schedule. Two days after Christmas, Pastor Roff played the dedication concert to a full house. There were more people in the building for that occasion than they had ever seen before, most of them from the community. Our hope is that this will set a pattern of using the organ as an outreach tool to attract people to concerts, where they will hear a brief presentation of the gospel before the music begins.

All the members asked that their deepest thanks be sent to all who have made this gift possible. They pledge that it will be used joyfully for the glory of the Lord and for the advancement of the kingdom.

From the Maintenance Department ...

I am not your mother, so I do not pick up after you! Please try to put things (including tables and chairs) back where you found them. This will save time for other important projects around the church property.

*Thank very much,
Your brother in Christ, Phil Elder*

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Carolyn Kullmar

January has simply flown by so 1 / 12th of 2009 is now history. I hope it was filled with blessings for each of you and that you are keeping all those New Year's resolutions.

I'm sure each one who attended the Spiritual Life Conference with Don Whitney benefited from it and those of you who didn't, I hope you will find time to listen to the messages. We are blessed with good teaching and now we can anticipate the Missions Conference which begins on Friday evening Feb. 27th with Dr. Paul Kooistra. We are indeed blessed to have Dr. Kooistra, the head of MTW as one of our main speakers and also Rev. Paul Alexander, a retired minister from AL. I am sure there will be more information about the conference in other parts of this newsletter, so I will just say "Mark your calendars and set aside Friday, February 27th - March 3 for the conference". As those of you who have been here know, not only is the conference a time to learn more about missions, but it is also a time for eating!!!! So come and satisfy your appetites--both spiritually and physically!!!!

During the month of January, the Panicos spent 2 weeks in Columbia, SC while John worked on his seminary requirements. The Shepleys spent some time at their home in their "northern home"--(a little farther north in FL). The Ossos spent some time at their place in Tennessee. Maria reports that it was all of 1 degree when they arrived there!!!! Ann Seay once again met her sister and together they attended a conference at St. Simon's, GA. Hazel and Denise Brown went to Pensacola to celebrate Hazel's mother's birthday. The Myers family went to Orlando to celebrate Jay's father's 90th birthday. Sharon Virkler enjoyed having her sister from New Jersey visit at the end of the month.

George and Carol Kirkwood have had an eventful and wonderful January They spent the first week in Sanibel with all of their family--4 children and 2 spouses and 3 small children. And these 3 children are a beautiful story. The Kirkwood's daughter and her husband have these children, twin boys, who are 1 and a little girl 2 ½ as foster children whom they hope to adopt. You really need to talk to Carol to learn the story of these children. It will really touch your heart and please pray that the legal problems will be worked out. What a blessing it will be for these children to be raised in a Christian home instead of the situation from which they have come. By the way, Carol just spent 3 days in New Hampshire with this family and just beams when she talks about the visit.

Kathie and Richard Eubanks are going on a Caribbean cruise with Richard's sister and brother-in-law Feb. 13th - 27th. Stella Dookie plans to spend the month of February in Trinidad. Our folks surely do get around!!!

As you know, I love to publish activities of our young people. Katie Gocio has been accepted at Palm Beach Atlantic. And Melissa Myers was awarded a purple rosette at the fair for a poster she did showing how horseback riding is good therapy for folks with physical problems. Evan Myers graduated last year so did not enter anything this year.

Amanda Backus and Justin Isaac were married Jan. 16th in a beautiful ceremony at the Lake Worth Golf Club. They are living in the Orlando area but their long range goal is to head to the mission field Do pray for this young couple as they begin their life together.

Lou Langley not only celebrated a birthday but also had a lot of company during the month of January. Her granddaughter, Emily Sutton, a second year nursing school student, arrived on Jan. 6th and spent 6 days with Lou. On the 10th Lou's son, David and his wife, Suzanne arrived. David was in real pain when he arrived so saw a doctor and was hospitalized for gall bladder surgery. Needless to say, a busy few days were spent not as planned!!!! (Don't you imagine that Lou was ready for a rest when they all left????)

Other news of the Langley family--Suzanne is having her third book of poetry published in February. And 15 year old grandson, Evan has gained 2 inches in the last year and is now 6 feet 4 inches tall!!! (We'll all have to look up to him!!!)

Isn't it nice to have the Van Roekels back among us. My, how those children have grown. Do pray for Steve to find work. And we are happy that Leilou is back and doing so well. We surely miss John Farley since he has moved to the Ocala area. Arlene Cortese made a trip to Kentucky and made arrangements to move there to be close to a daughter. I know this is something they need to do but oh, how I hate to see them leave. Arlene is such a faithful prayer warrior.

Jean Archer and her daughter will be in the area for a week taking care of necessary business. We do hope Jean will not desert us but will hopefully be here at least part time

I am happy to report that Georgina Babcock is back in her home and doing well. Also that Jimmie Miller continues to improve. Do be faithful to pray for her upcoming tests and we are looking forward to Jimmie being back among us soon!!!!. We need to pray for Roy and Pearl Saunders concerning Roy's health and also for John Olsen's recovery.

We extend our sympathy to the Noller family and the Roff family in the death of loved ones but what a blessing that both Tom Noller and Col. Elliott are with the Lord.

I hope you are doing a good job of keeping your directory up to date. The changes this month are Kathyne Dumitriu-. Although she is still living at the same address, her mailing address is now c/o John P. McKenna CPA/PFS, 111 NE 4th St., Delray Beach, FL 33444. Pat Zengerle's summer address is P.O. Box 366, New Market, MD. 21774. And John Farley's new address is: 18012 S.W. 68 Loop, Dunnellon, FL 33432 (352-465-7722).

Have a wonderful February, ending on the high note of the Missions Conference.

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN FEBRUARY 15



GROW YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE!

We will return to a series of electives in February. Here are the books that will be used in each class. Select the class that will be most helpful to you. If you would like to order a copy of the text, you can do so on Sunday morning.

<i>Ministry</i>	“Women’s Ministry in the Local Church” <i>(by J. Ligon Duncan)</i> <i>Teacher: Nancy Lee</i>
<i>Christian Living</i>	“Respectable Sins: Confronting the Sins We Tolerate” <i>(by Jerry Bridges)</i> <i>Teacher: Larry Roff</i>
<i>Doctrine</i>	“18 Words; the Most Important Words You’ll Ever Know” <i>(by J. I Packer)</i> <i>Teacher: John Brandt</i>
<i>Bible Book</i>	“The Sermon on the Mount: the Character of a Disciple” <i>(by Dan Doriani)</i> <i>Teacher: Steve Van Roekel</i>

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH “PLUGGED-IN”

This weekly discipleship meeting for teens will resume at 6:00 pm on February 15th.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

from Lisa Lennon



In February, we will be learning more about Jesus during Children's church:

February 1 – Jesus Demonstrates His Authority – Mark 1:21-28

Teacher – Tatiana Cardona; Helper – Melissa Myers

February 8 – Jesus Heals, Prays, and Preaches – Mark 1:29-39

Teacher – Lisa Lennon; Helper – Chris Lennon

February 15 – Jesus Calms a Storm – Mark 4:35-41

Teacher – Carol Brandt; Helper – Caroline Tate

February 22 – Four Friends Help a Paralyzed Man – Mark 2:1-12

Teacher – Lisa Lennon; Helper – Hazel Brown

In Awana during February we are learning some answers to important questions:

February 4 – What Does Heaven Look Like?

February 11 – Why Should We Pray?

February 18 – How Does God Want Me To Treat Other People?

February 25 – Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People?

During the missions conference, we will have Awana on Tuesday instead of Wednesday.

I would like to have the children come to learn about missions other nights during the conference also. Please see Lisa Lennon for more information on children's activities during the mission's conference. Please remember to pray for each of the children in the church and for their activities.

COMMUNION

We will celebrate the Lord's Supper during our morning worship on February 8, Come prepared to meet with the Lord in this sacrament with the rich nourishment it provides for our souls.



THANK YOU ...

Larry and Betty Roff extend their heartfelt thanks for the prayers and cards of condolence received following the recent death of Betty's father, Col. Philip Lovell Elliott.

He had a distinguished career as an officer in the US Army. Interment will take place this spring at the memorial cemetery at West Point Military Academy, where he graduated in 1940, and at which he served as Chief of Staff prior to his retirement.

He was not converted until the age of 60. But from that point on was a voracious student of the word of God, seeking to catch up on the years he had not known the Lord. He died just short of his 93rd birthday.