

## Not So Quiet November

Pastor Dale McIntire



November. It's the month (other than April) when a lot of Grand Marais folks take their vacations. There's no snow, no pretty leaves to look at, not so many tourists. The primary color is gray. Fall is mostly fallen and winter makes overtures of supremacy.

November can be pretty quiet, gales on the Lake notwithstanding. November is a great month for taking a deep breath before we launch into Christmas and the New Year. But this is not your ordinary November at Cornerstone! The calendar is full of wonderful opportunities to bless the Lord and to bless his people.

November 2011 will host two communion services, a worship service at the Care Center, two missionary families, a Sunday brunch, a family event, Christmas decorating, a missions conference, a thanksgiving service, and the first Sunday of the Advent season, no to mention four regular Sunday morning worship services, four Sunday evening small group Bible studies, four Wednesday evening studies on "heaven," four worship rehearsals, and an International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church observance that will last a day and a half! In the background there will be community ministry opportunities including Care Partners and the Salvation Army Merry Christmas for Kids project.

How should we prepare for such a whirlwind month of kingdom activity? First, pray. Invite the Holy Spirit to fill you and prepare you to both give and receive the spiritual blessings God has in store for you this month. Ask him to prepare your heart and make you sensitive to the opportunities, to fill you with a godly desire to make the best of every opportunity he sets before you.

Second, worship. Praise God for every minute of every day and for the abilities to experience each of those moments of life as a moment lived in Christ for his glory. The depth of grace and mercy God extends to us each day cannot be discovered. And he alone knows the extent of the impact our participation with him in these ministries will have. Praise the all-knowing, ever-present, all powerful God with your whole heart. Let thanksgiving flow easily and readily from your lips.

Third, commit. Make the decision to be physically available to God in whatever he wants you to be a part of this month. Commit to him, not to activities, and the activities will be a source of joy rather than of burden in your life.

Finally, participate. Get involved. Enjoy the grace of God in Christ Jesus as you encounter him in this month of ministry in his name!

## Cornerstone Community Church Board Minutes - October 18, 2011

Joann Mattson, Church Clerk

Present: Pastor Dale McIntire, Linda McIntire, Jim Chupurdia, Maxine Chupurdia, Joe Kirkeby, John Hay, Joel Pike, Andrew Warren, and JoAnn Mattson.

Absent: Margarquet Fortunato

Chairman John Hay called the meeting to order. Pastor Dale shared a passage of scripture from Daniel 6 and Linda McIntire opened in prayer.

JoAnn Mattson read the minutes from the September 20, 2011 board meeting. M/S by Joel Pike, Maxine Chupurdia to accept the minutes as read; motion carried.

Andrew Warren distributed the treasurer's report. The general fund balance is \$ 18,037.61 and the balance for all funds is (\$91,257.56). Year to date giving is (\$2,901.45) below budgeted amount. M/S by Maxine Chupurdia, Joel Pike to accept the treasurer's report as given: motion carried.

Ministry Board reports:

Christian Education Ministry Board - Jim Chupurdia

- Sunday School is back in full swing
- Mary Hay will be working on the preparation of a Christmas presentation with the younger children during the Sunday morning children's service.
- There will be a Monday evening men's program beginning in November.
- Pastor Dale is leading a Wednesday evening series on Heaven.

Jim outlined some of the results of a recent survey.

Elder Ministry Board - John Hay

- Board continues to meet and spend time in prayer.
- They have spent time discussing Pastor's objectives.

They are looking into the possibility of providing Pastor and Linda a significant amount of time off next February.

Hospitality Ministry Board - no report

Missions Ministry Board - Joel Pike

- *Christmas in October* giving to date is \$1,061.00.
- Joel is expecting another missionary video greeting soon. (Continued on page 3)

- A special Saturday evening prayer meeting focusing on the persecuted church is being planned by Dave and Karlie Avery for November 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - November 13<sup>th</sup> Brad and Lucie Kaspar will be here and will share during the Sunday School time and they will also have a time to share in the morning worship service.
  - Cables will be here the weekend after Thanksgiving and the mission board is trying to put together a mini mission's conference for that weekend.
- Board is continuing to pray for short term mission opportunities.

#### Outreach & Evangelism Ministry Board - Linda McIntire

- About half of the Advent devotional articles have been turned in so far.
- They are planning a *Plate of cookies in Jesus name* project (based on Matthew 25) for the Christmas season.

Christmas caroling is scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at the Harbor View Apartments.

#### Service Ministry Board - Maxine Chupurdia

- A distribution was made from the Helping Hand fund.
- Flowers were sent to a member following surgery.

#### Trustee Ministry Board - Joe Kirkeby

- New monitors have been purchased and paid for.
  - The laptop in the AV booth is wired into the sound system.
- Sanding and plowing has been arranged.

M/S by Andrew Warren, Jim Chupurdia to accept the board reports as given; motion carried.

#### Pastor's report

- Time has been spent on writing objectives.
  - Planning for Advent is underway.
- Working on a Salvation Army Christmas project.

#### Old business:

Andrew Warren - still looking into assistant treasurer possibilities.

The audit has not been done yet.

Pastor's objectives - see attached

(Continued on page 6)

New business:

- Jim Chupurdia on behalf of the CE Board
  - They would like to explore the possibility of bringing someone in to work with the teens on a regular basis, possibly every Saturday evening. Okayed by board consensus to explore - will need congregational approval before hiring.
  - They would like to sponsor an Advent wreath making family event - scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30.

Joe Kirkeby on behalf of the Trustee Board

- Joe will order 2 additional rugs for the entryway for winter (trustee miscellaneous fund)
- Board is looking into adding additional lighting by the organ. Joe will be meeting with an electrician tomorrow.
- Web hosting for three years is \$458.54 (to be paid from trustee board computer expense budget).
- Decorating for Christmas to take place Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00.

Adjourn.



We want to recreate some of the elements of the church gathering underground. As such, the time and location of the meeting will be disclosed at a later date to those who express interest in praying together on Saturday, November 12.

Those who are interested should contact Joel Pike or Dave Avery.

## **A Missions Evening at Cornerstone**

Saturday November 26th, 2011

- with special guests Steve and Nopaluck Cable
- Ethnic Potluck
- Christmas card making for our Missionaries.
- Presentation on Santisuk English School in Bangkok, Thailand. -
- more details to come

## The Tigre

The Tigre, also known as Xasa, Kassa, Tigray, and Tigray, are located in Northern Eritrea and Sudan. Over a million people strong, they are considered one of the original people groups of that area. Descendants of the ancient Egyptians, the Tigre are tall, brown skinned people, with narrow noses. The women love to dress in vibrant colors, long flowing dresses and the more jewelry, the better.

Most of these people were converted from animism to Islam in the 1800's, by Muslim Arab Missionaries. Today they hold to the Sunni belief system of Islam but also mix in some of the old animistic ways of their past, this mixture of religious beliefs is called Folk Islam.

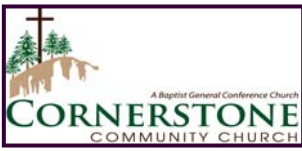
The Tigre's are held bondage to a fear of an evil spirit they call Zar, who is said to enter anyone at will causing accidents, illness, and even death. They rely on their Shamans to cure the sick, communicate with the spirits, and to control the events around them, such as the weather, by way of trances. They also make sacrifices when they feel that their sins are numerous. These sacrifices include corn and/or animals which are considered their scapegoats for their sins. Pray that these precious people would have an opportunity to hear how Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice and was the scapegoat for their sins, and that only by his blood can we find complete forgiveness for our sins.

The lifestyle of the Tigre is similar to that of other North African nomad shepherds. They spend half of the year in the northern highlands and the other half in the western lowlands grazing their flocks and herds of sheep, goats, camels and cattle. Recently, though, some have taken up permanent residence in the area and have started farming the land. Corn, sorghum, wheat, legumes, and linseed are their main crops. Today these farmers and shepherds are feeling the effects of the famine and drought that is widespread across the horn of Africa. Pray that this crisis would allow the Tigre would gain access to the gospel through any Christian aid that may be coming into the area. And that the Missionaries that find themselves in the area to do famine aid would be able to make contact with the Tigre and share not only food but the lifesaving message of the gospel.

Would you join us in prayer for the Tigre people of Eritrea and Sudan in the month of November?

### Brad and Lucie Kaspar

Join us on Sunday, November 13 during the Sunday School hour (9:15-10:15 a.m.) to hear from and converse with our missionaries in the Czech Republic.



1 Cedar Grove Lane  
PO Box 662  
Grand Marais, MN 55604