



Country Hills Church
25th Anniversary
 "Whatever It Takes..."

Inside this Issue...

Vision / Leadership	p. 1
Steve Said What?	p. 4
This Month in Prayer	p. 4
Children's Ministry	p. 5
Women's Ministry	p. 5
Food Bank	p. 5
Adult Fellowship	p. 5
New in the Library	p. 6
Student Ministry	p. 7

Vision / Leadership

"Life Africa & Life Peru"
 On December 28 I started off my message focusing a little on these words, **"Be very careful, then, how you live, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish but understand what the Lord's will is (Ephesians 5:15-17).** The context of these words is a huge call to God's church. Listen to just some of the phrases in the previous verses:

- Be imitators of God (vs 1).
- Live a life of love just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us (vs 1).
- Verses 3 and 4 talk of things that are improper for God's people.
- Live as children of light for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness,

righteousness and truth (vs 8 & 9).

- Find out what pleases the Lord (vs 10).
- Have nothing to do with the deeds of darkness, but rather expose them (vs 11).

As you can see this is a huge challenge for His church to live out such truth. What does it mean to be an imitator of God, to love as Christ loves, to see goodness, righteousness and truth as the fruit of our lives? The answer to such a question calls for action from each Christian because lip service to such words would never be enough.

On January 4th we heard about a couple of opportunities that will allow us to engage once again in being God's church to a hurting world, to fulfill some

(Continued on page 2)

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Country Hills Church strives to be a nut-product free facility.

Sunday, January 11, 2009
25th Anniversary of
Country Hills Church



Vision/Leadership

of the call we see in the above verses. A little over a year ago we took an offering for an orphanage for kids suffering with AIDS or who have been orphaned by AIDS in South Africa with the target of raising \$15,000. We blew ourselves away as a church by responding and giving over \$33,000. I still get goose bumps when I think about that. With that in mind I began to talk

What does it mean to be an imitator of God, to love as Christ loves, to see goodness, righteousness and truth as the fruit of our lives?

about what would happen if we developed partnerships with some organizations that would help us address the need of poverty and AIDS beyond a one time shot like what we did. What could we do if we focused our efforts on not just meeting the needs of mercy that are so prevalent in our world but we also dare to address the causes of such needs.

We see in Psalm 89:14 that righteousness and justice are the foundation of God's throne. God is not content with us just meeting the needs of mercy that surround us but to also address the issue of injustice that causes so many of the needs. In Micah 6:8 we see God calls to His church to address both issues of mercy and justice, **"He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."**

Throughout scripture we find God's heart for

righteousness and justice expressed in terms of meeting the needs of the poor, widows and orphans and if we as His followers are going to be an imitator of God we must also address such issues. Here are just some verses of the dozens found in scripture: Psalm 68:5, Jeremiah 22:2-3, James 1:26-27, Proverbs 21:13, Proverbs 19:17, Isaiah 42:6-7, Luke 14:13-14. In these and many others we see God's heart and His call to us to respond.

As you heard on January 4th this is what we propose to do in responding to the heart of God and His call on our lives in terms of the poor etc.

1. Over the past few years we have been seeing a growing partnership through Missionary Ventures to meet some medical needs and to assist in a home for kids in Peru. We would love to continue to respond to these opportunities and express our mercy in tangible ways. This coming April Pat Carlson & Janeen Hoover will be leading a group to serve in these two areas once again.

2. We also would like to begin a partnership with Christian Horizons Global (CHG) through which we would partner with a village in Ethiopia to assist them in developing their infrastructures so they may come to a point of being sustainable. Initially we would be involved in HIV/AIDS awareness program, the providing of Antiretroviral drugs, the development of a day care center and assist in providing funds for micro loans that would allow individuals to have self sustaining employment. In February there are four of us, (Brad Kish, Deanne Gingrich, Kendra Hahn and I)

- Whose Voice the Waters Heard – Robert Vaughan (novel)
- Harsh Pink - Melody Carlson (True colors; 12) (teen fiction)
- Bright Purple – Melody Carlson (True colors: 10) (teen fiction)

- Child of Promise – Kathleen Morgan (Brides of Culdee Creek; 4)
- The Prophet – Francine Rivers (Sons of Encouragement; 4)
- All the Way Home – Ann Tatlock (novel)

**Your Library.
For your pleasure
and
your growth.
"Check it out" today!**

DVDs

- A Man Called Norman - Mike Adkins
- Taming the Tiger - Tony Anthony (Docu-drama)

CDs

- WOW Worship (aqua) - various (worship)
- Looking Back - The Watchmen (gospel)



**Jr. High and High School students meet
Wednesday evenings 7:00 p.m. at the church.**

JR – Jr. High – Gr. 7 – 8
HS – High School

Wednesday, January 14 - First night of Student Ministry in 2009!

Friday, January 16 - Sledding and Games Night (High School students), 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Meet at the church. Sledding at "Mt. Trashmore". Bring snacks, games, change of clothes etc.

Winter Camp: February 6 - 8, 2009 (High School students). We will be staying at Riverview Bible Camp, Chesley, ON. The cost is \$80 by January 28, or \$90 by February 4. The bus will leave the church on Friday, February 6 at 6:00 p.m. and will return at approximately 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 8. Registration forms are available on the back table in the auditorium.

JR Drop In

Grades 7 - 8
Tuesdays 4 - 6 p.m.



SR Drop In

Grades 9 - 12
Tuesdays 7 - 9 p.m.

Drop In resumes meeting on January 13.

New in the Library

Books for Adults and Teens

- Like Dandelion Dust – Karen Kingsbury (novel)
- Wings of a Dove – Beverly Bush (Zoe Journals; 1)
- The Cure – Athol Dickson (novel)
- Mark of the Cross – Judith Pella (historical fiction)
- Everyday Cheapskate's Greatest Tips – Mary Hunt (finances)
- Glastonbury Tor – LeAnne Hardy (historical fiction)
- Feeding Your Appetites – Stephen Arterburn / Debra Cherry
- The Landing Place – Clint Kelly (suspense)
- The Beginning of Sorrows – Gil, Lynn and Alan Morris (novel)
- Fallen Stars, Bitter Waters – Gil, Lynn and Alan Morris (novel)
- Chocolate Beach – Julie Carobini (novel)
- Who Put My Life On Fast Forward? – Phil Calaway
- A Dime A Dozen – Mindy Starns Clark (novel)
- Don't Take Any Wooden Nickels – Mindy Starns Clark (novel)
- Surviving A Spiritual Mismatch in Marriage – Lee & Leslie Strobel
- The Monster Within: Facing An Eating Disorder – Cynthia McClure

In addition to books, CDs and DVDs for adults, teens and children, our library contains many Bible commentaries, reference material and devotionals for your use.

- Crusade of Tears – C. D. Baker (Children's Crusade – fiction)
- Complete Guide to Caring for Aging Loved Ones – Focus on the Family

- Solemnly Swear – Nancy Moser (novel)
- Sister Chicks Down Under – Robin Gunn Jones (novel)
- Oksana – Susan Down / Susan May Warren (novel)
- Learning To Fly – Roxanne Henke (novel)
- Redeemed – Donna Dawson
- The Unfolding – Jim & Terri Kraus (novel)
- Saving Levi – Lisa Misraje Bently (true story)
- Fire Bird – Kathy Tyers (novel)
- Fusion Five - Kathy Tyers (novel)
- Crown of Fire – Kathy Tyers (novel)
- Letter Perfect – Cathy Marie Hake (novel)
- Thin Air – Bette Nordberg (Novel)
- The Most Important Little Boy in the World – Dean Briggs (novel)
- Always Green – Patti Hill (novel) (Garden Gates; 2)
- Without a Trace – Colleen Coble (Rock Harbor Mystery; 1)
- All I'll Ever Need – Harry Kraus (novel)
- The Incumbent – Alton Gansky (suspense)
- Skinny – Laura L. Smith (teen fiction)
- If I Gained The World – Linda Nichols (novel)
- The Ishbane Conspiracy – Randy, Angela, Karina Alcorn (novel)
- King's Ransom – Jan Beazely / Thom Lemmons (historical fiction)
- Doesn't She Look Natural? – Angela Hunt (novel)
- All Things Hidden – Kathy Herman (Seaport Suspense; 3)
- Eye of the Beholder – Kathy Herman (Seaport Suspense; 2)
- The Prodigy – Alton Gansky (Novel)
- Rediscovering the Kingdom – Myles Munroe (Christian Living)
- Evidence of Things Unseen – Beverly Bush (Zoe Journals; 2)
- Perpetua – Amy Rachel Peterson (based on true story)

who are heading to Ethiopia to do a fact finding trip to investigate which village we would partner with. Because of the purpose of this trip CHG asked us to keep the number to 4 people. In the future there will be opportunity for others called to go to serve on a team to the village.

With this all said going to Peru or Ethiopia is only one part of the opportunities that are before us. Each of these needs a team response from the church for them to be effective. We can all be involved and we all need to be involved. But what does that look like? Here are some ways that allows each of us to share in meeting the needs.

- Providing gifts and supplies. – These will be made known as we move forward.
- Providing financial support. – Sending people and meeting needs simply cost money. Someone once said to me "Vision costs money". I make no apology for this. If we are going to affect the lives of the poor, of widows and orphans then we must be willing to share the blessing of God in our lives. We are talking about how best to approach this and will inform you when we have an idea.
- Provide prayer. – Not just for the teams that go but also for those who we are serving. We can do all that we do but if we don't pray it will short circuit our efforts to affect life change in those we serve.
- Prepare to go. – Going on a mission's trip is not some form of a glorious vacation. They are opportunities for us to follow Christ serving recklessly. If God is laying something like this on your heart then take time to pray about it and talk it through.

When it comes to financially supporting mission trips the Missions Mobilization Team has suggested that funds would be raised this way:

- 25% given by the participant
- 25% raised by the participant outside of Country Hills
- Country Hills invited to help in the remaining 50%.

Please know that Country Hills is not obligated to the 50%. It simply provides the church the opportunity to partner in these endeavors. If more comes in than needed the funds will be directed to future trips.

At this point the Ethiopian team is looking to raise \$3500 which is 50% of the total travel cost since CHG has generously covered the expense of my trip. Please mark your envelopes "Life Africa" if you would like to help in this.

As April approaches the teams going there will be seeking funds for travel and medical supplies totally \$15,000. If you are interested in supporting this please mark your envelopes "Life Peru".

We will also provide opportunities for you to assist in providing supplies for the people we go to serve.

As I shared on Sunday January 4th it is my hope that as a church we will come to own these two opportunities and seek to affect life change on an ongoing basis. In so doing we will be reflecting the reality of Ephesians 5:1-2, **"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."**

Steve Hahn



Steve Said What?

On January 11th we celebrate 25 years of being a church. There is much to be thankful for over those years. How can one measure the impact of changed lives, people growing in Christ, help being offered and received? Who knows all that has gone on in the lives of people as they journeyed through the ministry of Country Hills? There is no doubt that we have seen the evidence of God's work in people's lives but we likely don't comprehend the extent of the work God has accomplished throughout the years. As I type this a verse comes to mind, **"So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless"** 1 Cor. 15:58 (NLT). In 25 years of serving, of giving, there has never been anything useless. God has taken what has been offered and blessed it and multiplied it in the lives of many. Has that always been done perfectly? No, but that is

This Month in Prayer

The Youth Ministry Zone: This month we want to remember the Student Ministry Leaders.
Remember those in authority over us: PM Stephen Harper, Premier Dalton McGuinty, Regional Chairman Ken Seiling, Mayors: Craig (Cambridge), Halloran (Waterloo), and Zehr (Kitchener), area MPs (Stephen Woodworth, Peter Braid, Harold Albrecht and Gary Goodyear), as well as EMCC National Leader Phil Delsaut.

always a part of the journey and learning together. I feel a small part of this only being here a little over 3 years but I am excited for the days that lay ahead for us. What will the next 25 years hold for us as we continue to remain faithful to the call God has upon us as a church? How many more stories will there be, how many more changed lives, how many more

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needs met as we continue to give ourselves enthusiastically to the work of the Lord? Let us continue to offer whatever we have to do whatever it takes knowing that nothing we do in His name is useless. Let us remember that God took the loaves and fish of a boy and multiplied them to feed thousands. What will He do with what we offer Him? I think it's going to be quite a journey watching all that unfold.



What's Up Down There? Sunday Morning Worship

Preschool & Sr. Kindergarten - Grade One

January Theme:
"God Made Me Special"
 God Made The World

- January 4:** God Made the World (Genesis 1:1-23; Psalm 104:5-28, 30) God made the world.
- January 11 :** God Made the Animals (Genesis 1:24-25; Psalm 104:5-28, 30) God made the world.
- January 18:** Enjoying God's World (Genesis 1:1-25) I love the world God made.
- January 25:** Caring for God's World (Genesis 1:1-25; 29-30) I love the world God made.

Grade 2 - 6 Program

January Theme:
"Resourcefulness"

Using what you have to get the job done.

- January 4:** Taking Care of Business (Colossians 3:22-24) Work like you're working for God.
- January 11:** Anniversary Sunday
- January 18:** Ant Thinking (Proverbs 6:6-11) Work hard even when no one's watching.
- January 25:** Dig It (II Kings 18:1-2,5-8:2 and II Chronicles 32:1-23) Do your best, and trust God to do His part.



After School Club for Grades K-6
 Mondays, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

"Connections" Women's Ministry

For Women of all ages!

Continental Breakfast

Saturday, February 28, 2009 at the church
 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

The cost is a \$3.00 donation at the door. A sign up sheet will be available at the back of the church starting February 8. If you have any questions contact Sue Sisco or Linda Whittaker .

"Dinner's for Eight" will be held during the month of January.

Adult Fellowship Carry In Dinner



Tuesday, January 20
 12:00 noon

Meet in the lower auditorium at 12:00 p.m.
 Please bring your favourite **nut product free** dish and place setting.

Food Bank

Food Donations Are Always Welcome!

Donations of food can be left in the blue bin by the table at the back of the auditorium. Items needed include coffee, tea, sugar, pasta, pasta sauce and cold cereal.