

## TENDER LOVING CARE

Our small dog, Oreo, recently had an accident; she chased a squirrel around a tree during one of our walks and all Marge and I saw or heard was a “yelp.” We looked to see what may have happened but only saw some sharp, cut-off roots or branches probing up from the base of the tree. Thinking that she may have hurt her foot on one, we continued on the walk until we reached home. Oreo went immediately into her crate and wouldn't come out. After several hours we became very concerned. We examined her feet, then her stomach area, and saw there a deep red abrasion, cut, or puncture. We called the vet and were told to bring her in.

At 3:30 we took her to the vet; Marge carried her to the car, then into the vet's office and examining room, while I all the while assured her that all was well -- that we would make sure that she would be all right. Three hours later, after blood tests, surgery, pain medication, etc. and paying almost \$600, Marge carried her back to the car with an awkward plastic cone on Oreo's head. Once home, we spent the next several days gingerly caring for Oreo, encouraging her whenever we could, and trying to get her to accept the plastic cone. When we'd go out we would put Oreo in her crate – but, with the cone on her head, she could not turn around in the crate. So she would just stand there, facing the back wall, with the cone pressed against the bars. She was helpless and confused. We soon learned to put her in the crate first, then after she had turned around, we placed the cone on her head. That way, she could at least lay down looking out to the room rather than the wall.

The experience is a reminder that some of us need loving care from time-to-time. But in today's society, we tend not to look around or to notice others or their needs. We should be like foreign missionaries, only using similar training as they have had, for our community. Missionaries are trained about cross-culturization, which means that they are taught how to relate to people where they will serve. They are able, after training, to recognize the material, mental, and spiritual needs of the people.

Many times you and I are like the boy or girl who runs to their father and hugs his leg saying, “I love you, Daddy.” But then we look at our brother and stick our tongue out as if to say, “I'm better than you.” We embrace God our Father but don't do what we should be doing to help and encourage others who have struggles of many differing kinds going on in their lives. God's recipe for us is given many times in His Word, but none clearer than 1 John 4:7 which states, “Love one another, for love is of God.”

Love - a selfless giving of myself and my time. What a difficult command! I can only display that kind of selfless love with the help and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Oh, that I could have such a tender loving spirit with my Christian brothers and sisters as I did with Oreo that day.

*Dave Rundle*



# THE MESSENGER

IMMANUEL CHURCH 800 SOUTH MARKET STREET, MECHANICSBURG, PA 17055

## *From The Senior Pastor's Desk*



Our annual Missions Festival will be held on February 13-20. We will be privileged to host Joel Martinez, who serves with the C&MA in Spain, and Penny Iverson, who is an Alliance international worker in Taiwan. By the way, that is the new lingo we are being asked to use: “international worker” replacing “missionary.” This reflects a reality in our world that missionaries are not always warmly received and wearing that label can throw up an immediate wall that inhibits witness and ministry for Christ.

But let it be clearly known that the Alliance is as committed as ever to getting the message of the Gospel to the darkest places in our world. We are sending people to such risky places that neither the people nor the places can be publicly named. These are places where very few people profess the name of Jesus, where very few people have even heard the name of Jesus. They do not know about the Savior who has been sent, the gift that He offers of forgiveness and eternal life. Many of them are frantically busy doing the works of their religion, seeking to meet the standard, to appease the so-called deity they are serving, whether some idol or Allah. Even in Spain and Taiwan, while there is more presence of a Gospel witness than in some of the new places we are going, still the Gospel is not as readily available and understood as it is here in our country. Some in those places have never heard, never clearly understood, and many have never believed.

I know you have read this verse before, probably many times. But read it again. Read while pondering the hopeless destiny of people who have never heard of Jesus. “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’” (Romans 10:14-15).

In light of verses like that, the biblical mandate to get the Good News to the whole world, we must be head over heels involved in missions. We cannot relax, cannot diminish support, cannot cease making every effort to captivate the passion of the next generation for continuing the effort to make Jesus Christ known to all kinds of people all over the place. Let me urge you to participate in as many of the Missions Festival services and activities as possible. Bring your teens and children to hear the stories of other places where God is at work, to rub shoulders with real live international workers (It just doesn't have the same ring to it as “missionaries!”). Come to say THANK YOU to these two servants of Christ who have given their lives to go to faraway places so that those who do not know may know. Come to let them know that they are not standing alone, that we are standing with them by pouring out our prayers and our pocketbooks, that we believe in the mission they are pursuing, and that we are willing to pursue it with them. Come to let God work in you in new ways, to hear His call on your life.

Meanwhile, we say WELCOME HOME to our Cambodia Team! In the same spirit we are talking about, they put it on the line to go and make a difference in another place where many do not know Jesus and where those who do are not always warmly embraced. John, Ken, McKensy, Tim, Mitch, Duane, Mandi, and Matt – you have beautiful feet! THANKS for representing us by taking the Good News to Cambodia!

*Pastor Terry*

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FEBRUARY/MARCH 2011

OUR MISSION IS TO LOVE GOD, LOVE EACH OTHER,  
AND HAVE A PASSION TO REACH THE UNSAVED.



## What If Jesus Were to Come to Your House?

Luke 10:38-42

What would you do if Jesus came to your house? What if I were to tell you that tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. Jesus was going to drop in on you and your family to get better acquainted? What would you do? Are you already prepared for a surprise visit by Him, or would you scramble in desperation trying to get your house and life in order before His visit? Would you invite your family, friends and neighbors over?

What would be foremost on your mind—the dinner menu, cleaning the house, or clearing out the house? What do you think would be foremost on Jesus' mind? Is He concerned about the appearance of your house, or the appearance of your life?

In the gospels, we read that Jesus went into several people's homes to visit with them. These home visits included Matthew's home, Jarius' home, Zacchaeus' home, Simon's home, and Martha's, Mary's and Lazarus' home. This last home is the one I would like to focus on.

In Luke 10:38-42, we read that while Jesus was out traveling, He was invited by Martha into her home. Think of the excitement she must have experienced due to Jesus coming into her family's home. The text gives us some insight into the mood at the time of Christ's visit. We read that Martha was distracted and overwhelmed by the many tasks that were at hand in having Jesus visit her family. We also see that Martha is bothered because she was not receiving any help from her sister Mary. As a matter of fact, Mary was just sitting at the feet of Jesus listening to what He was saying. How could she do this to her sister who needed help in the kitchen?

We see that Martha was so stressed out by Mary's absence that she confronts Jesus, her visitor, and asks, "Don't you care that my sister has left me to serve alone?" Come on, I need help to make this visit by You a success. I am running around this house in a blur trying to better serve You and make a good impression on You, but I can't do it alone. Make my sister help me.

Think of the shock that Martha must of experienced when Jesus responded, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but one thing is necessary, and Mary has made the right choice, and I will not take it from her." Martha was expecting Jesus to tell Mary to get up and help her poor overworked sister, yet what she hears is Jesus declaring that Mary had made the right choice and her the wrong one.

Why is Mary's choice better than Martha's choice? What is the point that Jesus is trying to make? What is it that Mary is receiving that Jesus is unwilling to take from Mary? Go and look at Luke 7:38 ff, and John 11:2 and John 12:2-3 ff.

Question: who are you and I most like—Martha or Mary? What does it take to change? Will we do it? I hope so.

*Pastor Rick*



### AWM 2011 District Retreat March 11-13, 2011

Join women from other Alliance churches throughout Eastern PA for this weekend. Come and be "On the Move" as we study the Word together with Marilyn Lauffer, former Alliance missionary and wife of David Lauffer, Assistant Vice President C&MA International Ministries.

#### Other highlights of the weekend...

**Speakers:** International workers Stephanie Beers, Sylvia Harmon, Sue Danneker, Sarah Jones, Blythe Mason.

**Activities:** Prayer, Zumba, Water Aerobics, Silver Sneakers, Missionary Crafts, Swimming

**Special treats:** Turkish Jewelry (for sale), Worship, Fellowship

#### Costs:

- Registration - \$25
- Hotel - \$92 plus tax, per room/per night. You may have up to 4 women in each room.
- Meals - \$95 for all meals for the weekend (this price includes the \$25 registration fee). For individual meal prices see the registration sheet on the table in the upper foyer (every retreat attendee must pay the \$25 registration fee, regardless of the plan you choose).

You won't want to miss this wonderful weekend full of spiritual encouragement, missions updates, fun, and fellowship.

**Registration deadline is: February 13th**

Pick up a Retreat brochure on the Welcome table. Contact Janet Walter or Ruth Smith for more information.

## THE "POWER TOOLS" OF MISSIONS

So just by reading the title, you are already thinking about the powerful tools needed to accomplish any work for Christ: prayer, scripture, faith, sacrifice, fruit of the Spirit, fellowship of believers and so on, but I would like to focus on some other power tools used on the recent trip to Cambodia. Our trip had many facets of purpose, but one central theme was to assist in the construction of a gazebo-style structure in the very poor village of Ang Sala. There is a small body of believers in this village (about 20) and they have formed a church which will celebrate its first anniversary in February of this year. These Christians are despised by the rest of the village for converting from their beliefs steeped in Buddhism. The Copelands, Laos and Kandi Lay have been working with the people in this village for some time. They have seen the progress and the persecution of the believers and have a passion to come along side this new church. Dr. Kent has been experimenting with some agricultural and entrepreneurial endeavors to assist Polly and her husband Maowl, a key family of the church. Part of his vision is a meeting place for the church and a place for Kandi to conduct her literacy classes for the women in the village (most of whom don't get the opportunity to go to school). Prior to our coming, Kent led the way toward the construction of a 24 foot diameter concrete slab as the base for the new structure. Our part in the project was to install 16 inch square ceramic tiles on the slab, stain the lumber for the structure and assist in erecting the structure. Some of the key tools toward completing this work were from a DeWalt cordless tool kit supplied by Immanuel Church for this project. We used every power tool in the kit as well as many hand tools and accessories given for the cause. The entire project was a joint effort between the Immanuel Missions team, the Copelands and the members of the village. We worked hand in hand and by the end of the week, the villagers were using the power tools and we were using their hatchet and chisel! A special bond was formed between the Khmer and the Americans and it took place without being able to speak more than a few words in their native language (Kent taught us a few simple words like "hi, thank-you, and good-bye"). We were not able to "preach" the Gospel to them or even share about our own personal love for Christ, but by the end of the week, we felt a deep love for one another; a love in Christ that will stick forever in our hearts. As we left the village on that last day of our trip, it was obvious that these Christians were encouraged. They commented about how brothers and sisters in Christ came from the other side of the world just to help them! We also provided the finances needed for them to have a true celebration feast for their one year anniversary of the church where they will be able to invite the town leader (a non-Christian) and get his blessing for the new building. This young group of believers will now have the nicest structure in town...the only building with ceramic floors (a true luxury to those in Cambodia). So although they still may be despised by their fellow villagers and they still have a lot of work to do to complete the structure, they can now walk a little taller, share stories of the love of Christ and fellow Christians and be a light to their village.

So can the use of grinders and reciprocating saws be missions work? Can accomplishing a construction task without sharing a word in the native tongue about Christ be missions? The answer is "yes"...a resounding "YES". Simply the look on the faces of those we served, as well as that of Kent, will affirm the answer that much was accomplished for Christ this week! But lest we forget, the tools have no missional value in themselves; they are simply plastic, metal and wires. It is when these tools are given in love, bathed in prayer and used in loving humble service, that the practical ministry of the love of Christ is accomplished.

*Duane Stine*

