

The Chatter



January 2012

Gabbin' with Gordon

I want to thank all of you for the very generous Christmas gift. Wow! What a surprise. Thank you so much for expressing your love to Colleen and me in this way. Your generosity is amazing! It is indeed a joy to serve the Lord with you. We have so many blessing for which to be thankful.

In a recent blog post, John Ed Mathison writes: "I heard about a church from North Carolina that sent a mission team to a leper colony on the Caribbean Island of Tobago. The team met a lot of sad patients afflicted with leprosy. One memorable experience was a worship service they held in the campus chapel.

The lepers came in and took their seats on the pews, and the mission team led them in hymns. The pastor of the group was a man named Jack. He noticed there was one leper on the back row who was facing in the opposite direction. All the rest of the lepers were facing the song leader.

Jack announced, "We have time for one more hymn. Does anyone have a favorite?" About this time the leprosy lady on the back row turned around and for the first time faced the song leader. Jack said that it was the most hideous site

he had ever seen in a human being. She had no nose or lips. Her head was almost like a skull. When she raised her arm in the air, she had no hand. It was just a nub.

The pastor then said this leprosy lady said, "Could we sing 'Count Your Many Blessings'?" It was at that point the whole mission team experienced something they had never experienced before. Here was a lady, with relatively nothing to be thankful for, asking to sing "Count Your Many Blessings." At first, they couldn't even lead the song, and then they sang it with new meaning:

"When upon life's billows you are
tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged,
thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name
them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the
Lord hath done."

If a leprosy lady on the Island of Tobago wanted to count her blessing shouldn't we do the same?

God was so gracious to all of us in 2011 and He will be the same to us in 2012.
Be sure to give Him thanks.



Dear Church Family,
I'd like to thank all of you for the generous Christmas gift that I received this year. It is so awesome to have a congregation like you supporting me in my journey as the Youth Activities Director here at OCC. Thanks again and have a wonderful New Year.
—In God's love, Shannon



The La Crosse Chapter of the Wisconsin Right to Life is sponsoring a signature ad in the La Crosse Tribune on January 22nd commemorating all of the precious lives lost to abortion since Roe v. Wade was passed on January 22, 1973. If you would like your name included, please PRINT it on the sign up list in the foyer or bulletin insert. Please add your name by Sunday the 15th.

The ad runs around \$4000 so we would like to collect \$2 per person or \$5 per family. Please add your name and give your money to Roni Westbrook.

MISSIONS CORNER: GOOD NEWS PRODUCTIONS

Good News Productions International (GNPI) recently launched the *Beyond Ourselves* campaign, which is allowing GNP to upgrade their technology to reach more people in more remote places. This campaign has also helped their project NOMaD develop technologies to help very remote populations hear the word of Christ. Below is an excerpt from their last newsletter...

“Our urgency for the *Beyond Ourselves* campaign will continue because we know the cause is right. Project NOMaD is proof that media is helping take evangelistic efforts to the next level. A recent report from our initial NOMaD team in Eldoret, Kenya, confirms this approach is working. A recent visit to the home of the Pokot tribe's ‘warrior commander’, Mudang, who had previously been antagonistic toward Christianity, might have been their last attempt evangelize to that small group of people. However, the unique presentation of the Gospel using one of GNPI's solar kits opened the eyes of the chief. Protus (the missionary) wrote, “I have watched Mudang's life transform from a terror man to a caring and loving man.”

Good News Productions International is a Mission that our congregation supports on a regular basis.

The words "Thank You!" are written in a large, elegant, black cursive font. The text is surrounded by decorative swirls and small dots, giving it a celebratory feel.

Dear OCC family,
I would like to thank all of you for the very overwhelming and generous Christmas gift! I am so honored to be a part of this family and to be able to serve the Lord with you as your Church Secretary. May God bless you and your families in the New Year. In His Love, Laura

JANUARY PRAYER CALENDAR

7—As the new year begins, pray for new opportunities to serve the Lord.

8—Please pray that in the new year, our church and missions will be effective for reaching those who have not heard the Good News.

9—Remember to pray for Coulee Christian School in the new year and also for their financial well being.

10—Remember to pray for Ben Alexander and his ministry through ESP Ministries.

11—Be in prayer for Roy Schwarcz of Chosen People Ministries as he spreads Christ's word to the Jewish people.

12—Please pray that as economic difficulties continue, God's people will keep missionaries and ministries fully funded.

13—Continue to pray for military personnel around the world.

14—Praise God for baptisms that are occurring in sensitive areas around the world and give thanks for the missionaries that are performing them!

15—Keep Crossroads College in your prayers as they enter into a new year. Pray specifically for their financial well being.

16—Pray for those missionaries serving their first term overseas. Pray for the adjustments they will need to make to a new culture.

17—Pray for the members of the church board as they meet tonight. Pray that God remain the focus of discussions.

18—Remember to pray for GBM and the Christian's Hour as they spread the Gospel through radio broadcasts.

19—Remember to pray for the Aturukuku school in Uganda and that we may continue to support the students there.

20—Remember Naomi Christianson in your prayers as she continues her missionary work in Indonesia.

21—Please keep Ben & Miranda Alexander (ESP Ministries) in your prayers as Miranda was involved in a car accident that totaled their only car. Their ministry is hurting financially. You may find out more information about this accident at: www.espministries.com

22—Give praise and also pray for all missionaries serving tirelessly through their "retirement years."

23—Please be in prayer for APCMI and their new directors as they spread the word of the Lord through Indonesia.

24—Please be in prayer for the leaders in our church and for the guidance they provide to our congregation.

25—Pray for the Annual Congregational Meeting tonight.

26—Pray for all those affected by the natural disasters in 2011. It was one of the worst years for natural disasters on record.

27—Continue to pray for the church in Tororo, Uganda and that it will continue to bring God's Good News to the people of Uganda.

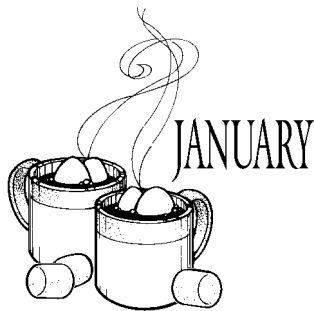
28—Give praise to God that we live in a country where we are not persecuted and terrorized on a regular basis.

29—Please pray for Good News Productions as they continue to spread God's Word through video productions in the new year. Pray specifically for their 'Beyond Ourselves' campaign and for the project NOMad.

30—Pray for Gordon Clary and the messages he will deliver in the coming year. Pray that your heart will be open and receptive to God's word.

31—Please continue in prayer for WCMA in the new year as they plant churches throughout Wisconsin.

Onalaska Church of Christ
1415 Well Street
Onalaska WI 54650



11th—Choir practice resumes

11th— 2011 Ministry Reports due to the Church Office.

17th—5:00 p.m.—Daycare Ministry Meeting
—6:00 p.m.—Missions & Property/
Finance Meetings
—6:30 p.m.—Board Meeting

22nd—Wisconsin Right to Life ad will appear in the La Crosse Tribune.

25th—6:30 p.m.—Annual Meeting

January 25th
6:30 p.m.

On the Ballot:

Elder: Jerry Cox
Deacon—Greg Chilcote, Ron Pugh, Gary Hanson, Jeff Jewell.
Treasurer—Laura Falkner

Ministry reports are due in the office by the 11th so they can be included in the Annual Report.

The Chatter is a monthly newsletter of Onalaska Church of Christ, 1415 Well Street, Onalaska, WI 54650. Everyone is welcome to worship with us each Sunday at 10 a.m. Sunday School begins at 8:30 and Fellowship Time is at 9:30. Gordon Clary is our minister and Shannon Deters is our Youth Activities Coordinator. Church office: (608) 783-4794. Email: occ@centurytel.net. Web page: www.onalaskachurchofchrist.org