

JULY-AUGUST 2010
FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Every church has its cycles of life and death, but it seems especially momentous when the oldest (and one of the longest-serving) member of the church passes away. Such was the case last week, when Louis Templeton went to meet his heavenly reward. Mr. Templeton had served this church in many capacities, including as a long-time Sunday School teacher, treasurer, and Clerk of Session. He has left quite a legacy for this body of Christ. As most of you know too, he donated the land that our church building now occupies. The church simply would have been very different without him, and his response to God's Calling in his life.

What about you and me? Have we responded in a dedicated and committed manner to God's Calling in our lives too? Do we seek to live into our promised salvation in this life and into the next? Will we leave a faithful legacy as well?

These are all good questions to ask ourselves as we ponder our life's journey this Summer (and beyond!).

It is easy to get caught up completely in financial, health, job and other worries so that we rob ourselves of the joy that God has in mind for us. Sometimes we seek to hear and think about the promises of God for blessing and heavenly reward, but do not want to hear and think about being used as a vessel for Christ for all of the *Great Ends of the Church* (see chapter 1 of the Presbyterian Book of Order). Doing our part to fulfill the *Great Ends of the Church* may seem like too much to do, but this is because we forget all the help and renewal and (especially!) transformation available to us through God's Spirit.

If we are to be faithful as a church body in lifting-up the *Great Ends of the Church*, then we need to be engaged in more ardent prayer, and seek to be more faithful in our response to God's Calling in our lives. If we do this, I know that we'll find that our legacy as a church will be much more than we could ever have planned for, or dreamed of.

To God be the Glory!

Pastor Charles

On July 17, Marion Medical Mission Celebrates 25 years at the Christian Life Center in Herrin, Illinois

By Tom Logan

Marion Medical Mission (MMM) celebrates 25 years of the impossible on July 17. This is a big deal. Many people don't know who we are and what has happened – even in Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois. I've been criticized for this (and rightly so) because it is important for the story to be told so that others know how God has worked through us doing the impossible.

The Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois has supported MMM year after year. It started in here in 1985. This Presbytery is a part of MMM. Understand what we've done together. Since 1990 we've built 10,921 wells providing an estimated 2,000,000 people with a sustainable source of safe drinking water. More safe drinking water in Africa than any other aid organization in the world. Safe drinking water is life not death for many in a place where over 80% of the children who die under the age of 5 die from water born or sanitation related diseases.

The celebration July 17 at the Christian Life Center in Herrin is for you – it is for us to celebrate what we have done together through the miracle of God's blessings. There will be several events starting at 4 PM, dinner at 5:30, ending with the program\worship starting at 6:30. Come to one – come to all – but come. Jocelyn and Leah Covey (with help of others) have put together an amazing assortment of African wood carvings and artifacts for the silent auction. Meet and talk with MMM volunteers from all over the country, as well as the 35 volunteers going to Africa this year. There will be video clips of past mission trips – some funny, some amazing.

Rev. Elisha Mwasakifwa will be here. He is the Coordinator of the Shallow Well Program in Tanzania.

Mr. Vyalema Khosa will also be here. He is the Coordinator of the Shallow Well Program in Northern Malawi. He is the best community organizer I've ever met. In 2000, Mr. Khosa and I were passengers in a pickup that crashed turning over on its side. Five people were injured, one killed. I was paralyzed from the waist down unable to get out. Mr. Khosa reached down from the driver's side pulling me out. He then stopped a passing vehicle and got the injured to the mission hospital in Ekwendeni. Extraordinary people; the best ever.

On July 17 the celebration-worship service starts at 6:30. Among other things, Mr. Khosa will speak, and Rev. Mwasakifwa will preach.

So come!! We call upon you again. We need your prayers and encouragement more than ever before because God has blessed us with more foolishness than ever before. Our 2010 goal is 2,500 wells that would provide 500,000 of the extreme poor (300,000 children) with safe drinking water before the rains come in November. And construction on the 1st well won't start until September.

Know the Shallow Well Program has brought us together despite our differences. We are the Beloved Community: the extreme poor, the not-so-poor, the wealthy, black people, white people, Africans, Americans, diverse cultures, political views and religions—all God's creation.

We need to share what God is doing. Together, through your prayers, donations and volunteer spirit – through this Presbytery – we have been to the mountain top and we've seen the Promised Land. Unchindami Kwa Chiuta—Glory to God.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1-Tricia Cannedy...12-Avery Ann Higerson...16-Laura Weatherford

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

5-Ted & Cathy Cunningham

24-Steve & Tricia Cannedy...Jim & Mary Ann Shillinger

30-George & Wanda McKinstry

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2-Wilma Templeton...12-Cy Keller...15-Jakob Higerson

25-Rosalie Thomas...Stephanie Chapman...29-Greg Templeton

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

13-Herb & Tirzah Chapman...18-Tom & Catherine Hobson

19-Lewis & Louise Schweizer...20-David & Leanne Templeton

29-Lloyd & Ruby Cunningham

July Calendar

Friday, July 9-Relay for Life- DuQuoin High School Track-6 pm

Wednesday, July 21-Session-7 pm

Saturday, July 24-Perry County Clean Up Event-7-11:30 am

Perry Ridge Landfill

Electronics Recycling Evenet-8am-3pm-

Perry County Government Building

Sunday, July 25-Thursday, July 29 Vacation Bible School

Methodist Church 6-8:15 pm

August Calendar

Monday, August 2-Miners Game 7 pm

Monday, August 2-Sunday, August 8-Pastor Charles on vacation

Sunday, August 8-Elder Chuck Dobronick will be preaching

Wednesday, August 18-Session 7 pm

Thursday, August 19-Biggest Loser 5:30 pm, weigh in

SNACKS FOR BIBLE SCHOOL We have been asked to provide the ingredients for trail mix. We need Cheerios, Lucky Charms, Gold Fish Crackers, Oyster Crackers, and Raisins. If you would like you may make a monetary donation and Louise Schweizer will purchase the needed ingredients. Donations toward the cost of Bible School will also be accepted.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS MINERS GAME-

Monday, August 2, 2010 @ 7 pm. Box tickets cost \$7 which includes a \$1.00 off coupon to use anywhere inside the park. Parking passes are available for \$2 each. **Must sign up by Sunday, July 15th. Any questions please contact Dave Baranowski; 618-201-3590.**

PRISON NEEDS-

Coloring books, crayons, children's books and small children's toys are needed at Mernard Correctional Center. They would be made available in the visiting rooms as children come to visit incarcerated parents. If you would like to donate any of these items just bring them to the church.

RELAY FOR LIFE

The Perry County Relay for Life is Friday, July 9 at the DuQuoin High School. It starts at 6 pm with the Survivor Lap, followed by the Caregiver Lap and then laps for everyone. The Luminaria Ceremony begins at approximately 9 pm. Please come show your support and join the team for a potluck supper. Our Survivors are Mary Ann Shillinger, Wilma Templeton, Virginia Richart, and Glen Hamilton. The members of the team are Dave Baranowski, Sandy Kiehna, Amy Skerley, Jim and Sharon Higerson, Ted and Cathy Cunningham, Julie and Donnie Wilder, Eleanor Cunningham, Carol Heisner, Louise Schweizer, Herb and Tirzah Chapman, Barb Collier, Cheryl Schneider, Marvin Graff.

The next newsletter will be sent out in September. if you have anything you like to add or if we have missed a birthday or anniversary please call the church and let us know how we can improve.

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