

Reaching UP in our LOVE for God!
 Reaching IN in our LOVE for one another!
 Reaching OUT in our LOVE for the world!

A Christian Duty to Speak Out

by Jim Mason

Over the past several months a change has come over me. (I think it is called conviction.) The Truth Project videos, the study of Isaiah and current situations in America have awakened me to the need for Christians to speak out for what is right. It's not about politics or parties it's about morality.

We're told by Jesus that, "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. {14} "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden." (Mat 5:13-14 NIV) Jesus had very little to say about politics, but plenty to say about morality. That's to be expected since His Word was written for all times and all nations. Biblical teaching does indicate, however, that we are to be good citizens of the country we live in, to pray for our leaders, and to seek the peace and prosperity of our nation.



Under our form of government, the starting level of being a responsible citizen is to be informed and vote. Christians are neglecting this duty. Over the past 4 major election cycles, Christian voter turnout has declined an estimated 40%. Not much light is showing. That's where I lived until recently. I voted and sometimes I prayed. I now believe that I need to

step up the level of speaking out beyond simple voting AND I need to be more consistent in prayer. I will admit to failing to do so at times because I held out little hope that my voice would change anything. Perhaps you have that view, too.

I now understand that we really must speak even if it doesn't change the course of action taken. Our God-given job is to speak the truth in love at all times. Not just when it seems like it might make a difference or be what people want to hear. Read the famous "Here am I. Send me!" passage from Isaiah 6:8-9 - "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" {9} He said, "Go and tell this people:

"Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving." This about a message that God clearly says will be ignored, but Isaiah is sent by God with the message anyway.

Our culture is changing and we must not blame the people who don't follow Christ. It's not their job to be light in this world, it's ours. Our duty as Christians and citizens is not to be taken lightly. Some will be called to be more involved in politics than others. But just like other duties of the follower of Christ our duty to speak up in behalf of good is not optional.



There's a Small Group for You!

The Small Group Ministry got off to a good start last fall, with five groups forming including almost 60 people. We are now ready to begin a new quarter in February. Although groups are encouraged to stay together, the commitment is only for the current quarter, approximately 12 weeks. There is space to connect in an existing or new group, and anyone looking for an opportunity to develop relationships, study the Bible, share with one another, serve others, and experience spiritual growth is welcome. Small Groups are a great way for relative newcomers to engage as well as for long-term members to foster new or deeper relationships. For further information on Small Group Ministry, please contact Chris Kuster at 945-8120 or send him a message at krc@geneseo.net.



- February 20 – St. Malachy
- February 27 – 1st Congregational & Holy Trinity @ 1st Congregational
- March 6 – Lorraine UMC
- March 13 – 1st UMC
- March 20 – Grace UMC
- March 27 – Evangelical Free

Missions Minute

by David Walters, Missions Team

One would have to admit that Moses' life contained some significant events and changes in his role in God's sovereign plan. From being rescued by Pharaoh's daughters and growing up with all the privileges of royalty to spending 40 years shepherding sheep in Midian. And finally called by God to lead His people out of Egypt.

Not to imply that we have modern day Moses' (maybe we do?) but some changes are in the process of happening with some of our missions family.

First, a relocation will be occurring for David and Sasha Bliss. They now serve with the EFCA ReachGlobal mission in Poland. Over the past few months the mission leadership and the Blisses have been in discussion about transferring out of Poland. With the support of their leadership and God's guidance they will open a brand new ReachGlobal ministry in Bulgaria. It has become clear to them that God is calling them there and specifically to the city of Sofia. Pray for them over the next few months as the transition is made.

Second, Bob and Joyce Wertz will be moving. Their goal has always been to see the Honduran church mature so they could assume all responsibilities for growing the ministry. The Honduran leaders are ready to lead the church! Lord willing, by May 2010 this will happen. The Wertz' will continue as missionaries with ReachGlobal and plan to do so from the location of their home church in Freeport, IL. What will their ministry be?

Joyce's responsibility for recruiting and promoting for ReachGlobal Latin America keeps her traveling often to conferences and churches in the U.S. The move will bring her closer to those contacts making travel more reasonable and efficient. A high priority is to continue to support and visit the Honduran church periodically and provide needed guidance. Bob will continue to serve on the Latin America leadership team and will serve as consultant to worship ministries in Latin America. Both are also on the ReachGlobal international leadership team. In addition they sense a call to minister to Latin Americans in Northwestern Illinois. Pray for them as they work through

the emotional and logistical move from Honduras.

Finally, Bethany Brown has completed her ministry with South American Mission in Columbia. She recently returned home to Aledo, IL. We praise God for being a part of her support team for the past 3 years and for what has been accomplished for the sake of the gospel in Columbia. We pray for her as she seeks what God has in her future.

It's a blessing to serve as partners with these servants of the sovereign God.

Blessed Expectations

Baby Shower for

Nellie White

Saturday, February 6

at 10:30 am

**GREG & RON'S
Wilderness
Adventure**

**THE GEFC
FATHER/SON
COLORADO
ADVENTURE**

**CAMPING, HIKING,
FISHING & FUN!**

JULY 18-23

Pastor Greg invites you to come with he and his son David on a Father/Son Camping, Hiking and Fishing Outing in Colorado this coming summer. Last summer he found a place north of Crested Butte, Colorado that took his breath away. There is camping, fishing and hiking available in the majestic Gunnison National Forest. He would like to share the experience with you.

Are you looking for a breath of fresh air, a renewed vision of the majesty of God, good male time with friends and a memory with your son that will last a life time? Then join David, Ron Price and me on a Wilderness Adventure in Colorado.

When: July 18-23. Leave Geneseo Sunday afternoon July 18 arrive at the campground north of Gothic, CO on Monday, July 19 by 5pm. Camp four nights and depart for home on Friday, July 23.

Who: This is a Man-and-his-boy outing. Bring your son, grandson, nephew or a friend. Boys 10 years old and older.

Pastor Greg will provide a detailed packing list.

If you are interested in heading west for the GEFC Wilderness Adventure, contact Pastor Greg at pastorgreg@gefc.org or 309-944-2454.

Father's Love Letter

author unknown

My Child,

You may not know me,
but I know everything about you.
(Psalm 139:1)

I know when you sit down and when
you rise up. (Psalm 139:2)

I am familiar with all your ways.
(Psalm 139:3)

Even the very hairs on your head are
numbered. (Matthew 10:29-31)

For you were made in my image.
(Genesis 1:27)

In me you live and move and have
your being. (Acts 17:28)

For you are my offspring. (Acts 17:28)

I knew you even before you were
conceived. (Jeremiah 1:4-5)

I chose you when I planned creation.
(Ephesians 1:11-12)

You were not a mistake, for all your
days are written in my book.
(Psalm 139:15-16)

I determined the exact time of your
birth and where you would live.
(Acts 17:26)

You are fearfully and wonderfully
made. (Psalm 139:14)

I knit you together in your mother's
womb. (Psalm 139:13)

And brought you forth on the day you
were born. (Psalm 71:6)

I have been misrepresented by those
who don't know me. (John 8:41-44)

I am not distant and angry, but am the
complete expression of love.
(1 John 4:16)

And it is my desire to lavish my love
on you. (1 John 3:1)

Simply because you are my child
and I am your Father. (1 John 3:1)

I offer you more than your earthly
father ever could. (Matthew 7:11)

For I am the perfect father.
(Matthew 5:48)

Every good gift that you receive
comes from my hand. (James 1:17)

For I am your provider and I meet all
your needs. (Matthew 6:31-33)

My plan for your future has always
been filled with hope.
(Jeremiah 29:11)

Because I love you with an everlast-
ing love. (Jeremiah 31:3)

My thoughts toward you are countless
as the sand on the seashore.
(Psalms 139:17-18)

And I rejoice over you with singing.
(Zephaniah 3:17)

I will never stop doing good to you.
(Jeremiah 32:40)

For you are my treasured possession.
(Exodus 19:5)

I desire to establish you with all my
heart and all my soul.
(Jeremiah 32:41)

And I want to show you great and
marvelous things.
(Jeremiah 33:3)

If you seek me with all your heart,
you will find me.
(Deuteronomy 4:29)

Delight in me and I will give you

the desires of your heart.
(Psalm 37:4)

For it is I who gave you those desires.
(Philippians 2:13)

I am able to do more for you than
you could possibly imagine.
(Ephesians 3:20)

For I am your greatest encourager.
(2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

I am also the Father who comforts
you in all your troubles.
(2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

When you are brokenhearted, I am
close to you. (Psalm 34:18)

As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have
carried you close to my heart.
(Isaiah 40:11)

One day I will wipe away every tear
from your eyes. (Revelation 21:3-4)

And I'll take away all the pain you
have suffered on this earth.
(Revelation 21:3-4)

I am your Father, and I love you
even as I love my son, Jesus.
(John 17:23)

For in Jesus, my love for you is
revealed. (John 17:26)

He is the exact representation of my
being. (Hebrews 1:3)

He came to demonstrate that I am for
you, not against you. (Romans 8:31)

And to tell you that I am not counting
your sins. (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

Jesus died so that you and I could be
reconciled. (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

(Father's Love Letter.....Continued from page 3)

His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you. (1 John 4:10)

I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love. (Romans 8:31-32)

If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me. (1 John 2:23)

And nothing will ever separate you from my love again. (Romans 8:38-39)

Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen. (Luke 15:7)

I have always been Father, and will always be Father. (Ephesians 3:14-15)

My question is...Will you be my child? (John 1:12-13)

I am waiting for you. (Luke 15:11-32)

**Love, Your Dad
Almighty God**

Answer: "fear the LORD ... to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all ..."



Edna Gilleland and her family as they mourn the loss of her father who recently passed away.

And Brad Cox and his family as they mourn the loss of his brother who passed away on January 11.


An AWANA thank you

Thanks to everyone who donated items for the AWANA Christmas Store. Your support was great, with hundreds of gift items, as well as wrapping supplies, donated. **A special thanks to all the volunteers and AWANA Leaders who wrapped gifts or helped operate the Store.** Despite the need to re-schedule on a Saturday due to the weather, you made the Christmas Store run very smoothly.

The boys and girls really enjoyed the opportunity to shop for and give to their family members. Thanks.

Dining Out Together

Join us at Roy's Taco House on Sunday, February 7 immediately following 2nd service. They are opening early just for GEFC so we do ask that you register in advance in your ABF class or at the Information Center in the foyer by January 24. Each family is responsible for the cost of their meals. Hope to see you all there!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>** PIP = Partners in Prayer</p> <p>***FPU = Financial Peace University</p>	<p>1 Missions Team meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>2 Women's Book Club 10 am</p> <p>FPU preview 6pm</p>	<p>3 Awana 6:25 pm</p> <p>Jr. High 6:30 pm</p>	<p>4 Homework-Hangout 8 pm</p> <p>Decorating for Father – Daughter Dance</p>	<p>5 Homeschool Group 1 pm</p> <p>Father-Daughter Dance 7 pm</p>	<p>6 Baby Shower for Nellie White 10:30 am</p>
<p>7 **PIP 7:45 am</p> <p>Dining Out @ Roy's Taco House 1 2:00 pm</p> <p>Sr. High Youth Group 6:30 pm</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 Elders Meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>10 MOPS 9 am</p> <p>Awana 6:25 pm</p> <p>Jr. High 6:30 pm</p>	<p>11 Women's Bible Study 9 am & 7 pm</p> <p>Homework - Hangout 8 pm</p>	<p>12 Homeschool Group 1 pm</p> <p>Connected Together @ Svendsen's 7 pm</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 ** PIP 7:45 am</p> <p>Dodgeball Tournament 1PM</p> <p>Sr. High Youth Group 6:30 pm</p> <p>BABY BOTTLES DUE BACK!</p>	<p>15 Administrative Council Meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>16 ***FPU 6 pm</p>	<p>17 Prayer Shawl Ministry 1:30 pm</p> <p>Awana 6:25 pm</p> <p>Jr. High 6:30 pm</p>	<p>18 Women's Bible Study 9 am & 7 pm</p> <p>Homework - Hangout 8 pm</p>	<p>19 Homeschool Group 1 pm</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 ** PIP 7:45 am</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>MOPS 6:30 pm</p> <p>Elders Meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>24 Awana 6:25 pm</p> <p>Jr. High 6:30 pm</p>	<p>25 Women's Bible Study 9 am & 7 pm</p> <p>Homework - Hangout 8 pm</p>	<p>26 Homeschool Group 1 pm</p> <p>Connected Together @ Svendsen's 7 pm</p>	<p>27</p> <p>EQUIP CONFERENCE</p>
<p>28 ** PIP 7:45 am</p>						

Looking for a great date idea for Valentine's?

by Pastor Michael Mauriello

Hey guys! Valentines is right around the corner, and I know what you're thinking. Gosh, Valentines, how am I going to top what I did last year? What did you do last year, anyway? Did you have to panic at the last minute, looking for a reservation at a great restaurant? Did you miss that romantic movie, the one your wife or girlfriend really wanted to see? Did you go somewhere, but you thought to yourself: Gosh, what is my money going towards? Did you feel awkward cause you felt out of place at that swank hoity-toity restaurant?

Well, have no fear of Hallmark's vice-grip on your anxious soul! GEFC Student Ministries is offering a Valentines' Day date option that's not to be missed!

This summer, the Sr. High is aiming to take about 15 students to the Evangelical Free Church's bi-annual youth conference, "Challenge!" This year's conference is in Columbus, OH, and the theme is "UNDO!" UNDO will focus on the beatitudes of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, and challenge our student's to not live complacent lives as young believers, but to risk boldly for the Kingdom and for Jesus' glory!

In order to help raise money, our top minds collaborated and said, "How

can we help the people of the church?" And what better way to help than assist that man who has absolutely no idea what to do for Valentine's Day.

Your \$25.00 pass for two will earn you a Lasagna Dinner prepared by the best cooks at GEFC. (Really, is



there a bad cook at GEFC?) The meal starts at 5:00 PM on February 21st, at the Rock at First United Methodist Church. Here's what's provided:

- ✦ Drinks (the non-alcoholic kind)
- ✦ Breadsticks
- ✦ Salad
- ✦ Lasagna

- ✦ Desert and Coffee
- ✦ A romantic comedy of some sort (suck it up, fellas!)
- ✦ A chance to bid on some awesome items in a silent auction

A chance to hire out some really great kids with some really great talents.

And, you have the peace of mind of knowing that your money is going to provide a great student at GEFC a chance to go to a great conference and be challenged by some of the best youth speakers and bands in the nation. All for \$25.00? I mean, come on!

You can purchase your tickets any Sunday starting in February.

So, panic no more my romantic males! You're Valentines success is assured! (At least the date part is. The roses and jewelry are still up to you!)

PS: We are offering a great way for those of you who aren't plugged in at GEFC to get involved? Anyone know how to make lasagna?

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Sunday Worship Services

- Conventional Service - 8:15 am
- Contemporary Service - 10:45 am

Education - 9:30-10:30 am

Senior Pastor - Greg Chenoweth
Student Pastor - Michael Mauriello
Worship Director - AJ Reynolds

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