

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

Honoring the GEFC Class of 2010

You are invited to attend a luncheon in honor of our graduates on Sunday, May 23 immediately following second service. Please register your plan to attend in the designated area on the back of the connection card on Sunday morning during worship service or call the church office by Sunday, May 16. Come and celebrate their accomplishments and encourage them as they step into the next chapter of their life.

Kelsey Taylor Burress

Daughter of Tim & Karen Burress
Future plans: Undecided

Open House: Saturday, June 5
 1-4 pm at Geneseo Evangelical Free Church

Chelsea L. Carlson

Daughter of Curt & Jeanette Carlson & Scott & Angie Bailey
Future plans: To attend Black Hawk College in pursuit of a degree in dental assisting

Open House: Saturday, May 29
 5-8 pm at Geneseo Community Center

Joann Hope Chenoweth

Daughter of Greg & Sue Chenoweth
Future plans: To attend University of Northern Iowa in pursuit of a degree in education

Open House: Saturday, May 29
 9-11 am at her home

Tyler James Claeys

Son of Jim & Linda Claeys
Future plans: To attend North Central College in pursuit of a degree in pre-pharmacy

Open House: Sunday, May 16
 1-4 pm at Geneseo Evangelical Free Church

Alex Michael Claus

Son of Mike & Jodie Claus
Future plans: To attend Black Hawk College and transfer to Western Illinois University in pursuit of a degree in Education

Open House: Saturday, May 22
 1-4 pm at his home

Katie DeGrave

Daughter of Dan & LuAnn DeGrave
Future plans: To attend Black Hawk College and transfer to Trinity in pursuit of a degree in radiology.

Open House: to be announced

Chad Alexander Ford

Son of Doug & Tracy Ford
Future plans: To attend University of Illinois in pursuit of a degree in business

Open House: Saturday, May 29
 4:30-7:30 pm at his home

Tyler Robert Fox

Son of Kal & Beth Fox
Future plans: To attend Iowa State University in pursuit of a degree in engineering.

Open House: Saturday, May 29
 10:30 am-1pm at his home

Danielle Elizabeth White

Daughter of Ken & Pam White
Future plans: Currently attending Black Hawk College in pursuit of a degree in nursing

Remember Mom on Mother's Day



May 9, 2010



Mark your calendars and plan to attend our Adult Bible Fellowship every Sunday this summer! If you've never been to one this will be the perfect time to attend and get acquainted with what they are all about.

June 6-July 18 we will be utilizing a study by Andy Stanley which will take the struggle out of sharing your faith. *Go Fish* offers a new perception of the word "evangelism" by showing how believers can make it a natural, easy part of everyday life.

Beginning, July 25 you won't want to miss Chris Nordick's return in July as she comes and shares her gift of communication with us. Hope to see you!

ReachGlobal's David & Sasha Bliss

by Myrna Williams, Mission Team

David and Sasha Bliss and their 3 daughters have been serving Jesus Christ in Lodz, Poland. They have established a house church in Lodz which has grown spiritually as well as numerically. They have served in Lodz for several years. They have made many wonderful friends there as well as raising their 3 girls. Sasha is native Bulgarian and they both have always had a heart for Bulgaria. They had been praying for many months about ministering in Bulgaria. It was not until last fall that all the right pieces began to fall into place and it became obvious to them that a move was upon them. David will have to learn a new language again.

Their next step was to take a vision trip to Sophia, which took place February 2010. They met with various national church leaders and missionaries to get a broad picture of what was really happening there. They also looked for ways to partner

up with existing ministries. Here are some of the common themes they came across.



- 1) Bulgaria has several areas of practical needs. Human trafficking and prostitution are major problems as well as crime in the city.
- 2) There is a big need for discipleship. One on one

mentoring is important, and spiritual fathers and mothers are lacking.

- 3) There is a need for ministry trainers. A few of the people they met have a desire to do ministry outside of Bulgaria. There is opportunity to do this as Bulgaria is an entry point for eastern countries of the European Union.

Their vision trip was very successful. Most recently David attended back to back conferences in Amsterdam, Holland where he underwent valuable training as well as networking with ministry workers from 30 countries. His time there lead to some great future ministry ideas.

Their most recent prayer requests are: that the details of their move to Sophia will fall into place; that God would continue to open their eyes to ministry opportunities in Bulgaria; and that they would finish well in Poland.

How? Why?

by Carl Brinkmann, Elder

Matt.27:45, 51-54 Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon the land until the ninth hour. And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split. The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now the centurion, and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

Did you ever wonder how the centurion saw what happened at Jesus's death and could recognize him as the Son of God, yet most people did not? -- Unless perhaps this whole story is just that: a story, made up by the followers of Jesus who wanted to start a new religion. Do we have any evidence that these things actually took place other than in our Bible? Actually one of the things that strengthens my faith in the reliability of the Bible comes from a non-Christian unbelieving source who lived at the time of Christ.

Thallus was a gentile unbeliever and historian that wrote in 52 A.D.

approximately 20 years after the death of Jesus. In the 3rd book of his histories he explains away the darkness that covered the earth at Jesus death as due to an eclipse of the sun. Note: he did not argue that the darkness never occurred, as he and everyone else alive at the time could not deny that fact. He simply said it was due to a natural phenomenon rather than a supernatural one.

The Christian writer Julius Africanus (221 A.D) and Phlegan (a first century historian) both mention in their writings that they felt Thallus' explanation of an eclipse that took place during the full moon was

unreasonable. Isn't it great that with our knowledge of the solar system we now know that an eclipse during a full moon would be **impossible!** Easter is always celebrated the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring equinox.

If it wasn't an eclipse that caused the earth to go black during passover, and no one at the time could deny that such an event took place, I wonder how and why it happened?

(This information taken from Josh McDowell's book – *Evidence That Demands a Verdict.*)

Before the Cock Crows

by Tessa & Anna Longbons

I am a betrayer, a liar, a traitor,
I scream out my anguish as my heart seems to bleed;
I abandoned the One I had promised to follow,
I failed where I swore I would always succeed.

In vain I attempt to block out the noises,
My voice over and over again in my head;
Me swearing I'd never deny my companion,
But alas! That I did, and now He is dead.

My leader, my teacher, the one whom I followed,
So valiant and holy unto the end;
He never said even one word against me,
And yet I disowned Him, my most trusted friend.

"You know him!" They cried, with angry suspicion,
But I shook my head no and hurried away.
Three times they accused me of knowing the prisoner,
"I've never met him!" I protested. "I don't know him!" I'd say.

I'm a coward, a liar, it's quite plain to see,
For three times they accused me and three times I said
no.
And yet in my mind his words still ring clearly:
"You'll deny me three times before the cock crows."

And as I claimed that I was not with him,
I remembered his words and I heard the cock's crow;
He turned and looked at me, with eyes filled with sorrow,
I saw what I'd done, and in horror screamed "No!"

The guilt tugs at my heart. The pain won't go away.
For clearly, in my mind, I still see His face—
Filled with sadness, disappointment and grief,
And I run away in shame and disgrace.

I know that I never will see him again,
He's dead and He's buried, shut out from the light.
I wish I could tell Him how much I miss Him,
How I've regretted and hated my actions that night.

He was my teacher, the person I followed,
He gave me new purpose. He gave me a new name.
He was compassionate, and still I denied Him,
And now find myself covered in shame.

We gathered together in the room upstairs,
Where we'd shared our last meal that horrible night'
Now I can't even call myself My Master's friend,
As His followers and I huddle together in fright.

Then all of a sudden the door flies open
And three elated women step joyfully in.
"He is risen! He has risen! The savior's alive!
Surely we all will see him again!"

Incredulous, we stare at the women's glad faces,
"This isn't the time for a joke." John retorts.
I glare at them angry for bringing false hopes.
"But we've seen him, it's true!" Mary reports.

Then later this day as we sit here again,
He appears in our midst, our Lord is not dead
He admonishes us for our lack of faith
I only wish He'd forgive me for what I once said.

As the other disciples gather around him in awe,
I try to blend into the tan mud-brick wall.
Surely He hates me, the one who denied Him,
If ever He thinks of this traitor at all.

But just as He had come our Lord vanishes
Leaving us eleven once more alone.
The others are all excitedly taking,
But I am still thinking of the One I disowned.

Several days later we head for the beach,
Still busy discussing the Lord that we love;
I suggest that we do some fishing.
The blue of the sea echoes sky up above.

We hop into the boat and together push off,
The gear is prepared and we throw out our nets'
My ten companions seem content enough,
But my heart is filled with many regrets.

The sun sinks lower, but our nets still hang limp,
We fish through the night for fish out of reach;
Dawn lightens the world and we're about to give up,
When we see a small figure alone on the beach.

"Friends, haven't you any fish?" The man calls,
And sadly we tell him that no, we have none.
He bids us cast out on the other side of the boat,
But we've done that before, and we've caught not a one.

"Oh, come on," Thomas coaxes, "Let's give it a try."
So we cast our nets into the deep blue of the sea.
To our surprise and delight they fill with our catch—
Glistening fish—Oh! What a sight to see!

The nets are so heavy we can't lift them at all.
A miracle has happened out here on the lake!
"It is the Lord!" John exclaims,
And for the shore we all make.

I cannot wait—I have to know,
Will he forgive me after all I have done?
I dive into the water to emerge, wet and dripping,
Standing shyly before God's only Son.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

A warm fire of coals awaits us on the seashore.
Breakfast is ready, bread, fish, and all;
My friends are all joyous at seeing the Lord,
But I stand alone, feeling feeble and small.

“Peter, do you love me?” “Yes, Lord, I do.”
He asks me three times, and my reply is the same.
My Lord God has forgiven me! I can barely believe it,
I am free from my sorrow, free from my shame.

Three times I denied Him and three times He forgave me.
I stare in sheer wonder as these truths are revealed.
I once was a traitor, yet now am forgiven.
Once I was wounded, yet now I am healed.

Editors note: We are so grateful for this contribution from the Longbon's. Please know that we love to read things that glorify the Lord from our young people. If you have something that you'd like us to consider publishing please submit it to gefc@gefc.org. Our preference is 500 words or less but all things will be prayerfully considered. Thank you.

**Bible Study Fellowship
Exciting New Study!**
submitted by **Lori Gilmore**

Bible Study Fellowship announces a new 30-week study of Isaiah for 2010-2011.

This class will start in September 2010, but you can assure your place by registering this spring.

Daytime classes now offer a preschool program for children from infant to age 6. School-age classes are offered during the evening classes. Please call the contact person about enrolling children.

There is no cost involved in attending BSF. Both classes and the material are made available at no charge.

You can pre-register for this life-changing study by attending an Introduction Class:

- Thursday Women's Day class 9:10-11 am, May 6th & 13th, 2010 at First Evangelical Free Church @ 3321—7th St.,

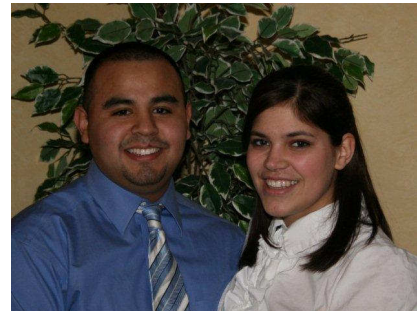
Moline, Illinois (Contact: Kate Moulton 563/332-6167)

- Men's Evening class 6:55-8:45 pm, Monday, April 12 & May 3, 2010 at Bettendorf Presbyterian Church @ Middle Road and I-74, Bettendorf, IA (contact: Duane Truman 563/355-1689)
- Women's Evening class: 6:55-8:45 pm, Monday April 12 & May 3, 2010 at Edgewood Baptist Church at 2704— 38th St., Rock Island, IL (contact: Tammy VenHuizen 309/949-3677)

For additional information, please visit the BSF website at www.bsfinternational.org or contact one of our own here at GEFC: Lori Gilmore 480-4006 or dlkc@mchsi.com or Jane Alexander 944-1105 or alexander5@geneseo.net.

Bridal Shower

A Bridal Shower for
Taylor Price



daughter of
Ron & Paula Price
, at 10:00 am
Saturday, May 15

Ladies, please join us for a bridal shower to honor Taylor Price, on Saturday, May 15, 10:00 am at the church. Contributions toward a group gift are being collected in designated envelopes in each ABF and the information center. Checks should be made out to Teresa Johnson. Berto & Taylor are registered at Kohls and JC Penney.



Mark Johnson & his family
in the passing of his
grandfather on March 26

to the
families of Dwight Francis
& Barbara Neer in the
passing of their brother on
April 2

and also the family of
Shawn King in the passing
of her grandfather on
April 6

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Partners-in-Prayer 7:45 am Sr. High Youth Group	3 Missions Team meeting 7 pm	4 Women's Book Club 10 am FPU 6pm	5	6 National Day of Prayer Service 7 pm	7 Homeschool Group 1 pm	8
9 Partners-in-Prayer 7:45 am  Mother's Day	10 Special Congregational Meeting 7pm	11 FPU 6 pm Elders Meeting 7 pm	12	13	14	15 Price Bridal Shower 10 am
16 Partners-in-Prayer 7:45 am Tyler Claeys Grad. Party 1-4 pm	17 Administrative Council Meeting 7 pm	18 FPU 6 pm	19	20 Craft Night 6pm	21 Homeschool Group 1 pm	22
23 Partners-in-Prayer 7:45 am Graduates Fellowship Luncheon	24	25 Boys Track Banquet Elders Meeting 7 pm	26 Girls Track Banquet	27	28 Homeschool Group 1 pm Wedding rehearsal	29 Johnson/Benhardt wedding 3 pm (by invitation)
30 Partners-in-Prayer 7:45 am Combined ABF hour	31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>The Elder Board has scheduled a Special Congregational Meeting for Monday, 10 May at 7:00 pm to address Pastor Michael's severance and a proposed interim staffing plan. We request your attendance at this special meeting so that we can address these transitional issues.</p> </div>				

Free News

May 2010 Volume 15, Issue 5

Congratulations to the Awana Award Earners!



Cubbies

Jumper Book

Mia Reynolds
Landon Shoemaker
Kirsten Zimmerman
Lyn Cotty
Karson Banister
Emme Cooper
Eva Knollman
Talissa Thomas

Hopper Book

Addie Mills
Gavin Fulcher
Jorrin Fulcher
Chloe Rogers
Johnna Fulcher
Millie Henkhaus



Sparks

Hang Glider Book

Eli Adams
Katie Banister
Isaac Kuster
Jade Parr
Alice Roseman
Abby Sancken
Dawsyn Hartman
Payton Shoemaker
Morgan Snell
Emma Miller

Hiker Book

Luke Henkhaus
Lorinda Ulick
Dawsyn Hartman



Girls

Book 1

Kayla Miller
Veronica Eilers
Caitlyn Gilmore
Rebekah King
Tess Skiles
Mckenzie Davison

Book 2

Lindsey Bideaux
Rebekah Beard
Taylor Claus
Eva Schmitt
Kristen Rose



Boys

Book 1

Henry Cravens

Book 2

Keegan Banister
Christian Booth

Vacation Bible School

July 26-30

5:30-8:00 pm

VBS 2010 will be held July 26-30 from 5:30-8pm. The theme is "Backstage with the Bible" from the Go Fish guys (see gofishguys.com).

Registration is available now for children age 3 - thru those entering 6th grade online or at the church.

Reading Connection

The Women's Reading Connection book group had such a great response to the summer book last year that they are offering another summer read.

The new season will kick off with the summer review of Janette Oke's *Once Upon a Summer* on July 13 at 10:00 am at the church.

All of the books for the 2010-2011 reading group season have been selected. A brochure including titles, book descriptions, ordering deadlines, dates and times will be coming soon. We hope you will join us. Remember that this is a very informal group and is open to everyone so you are encouraged to invite a friend.

Geneseo Evangelical Free Church
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Fax: 309-944-4668
E-mail: gefco@gefco.org

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

The FREE NEWS

Is published monthly by
Geneseo Evangelical Free Church