

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Vacation Bible School
- Treasurer Report
- Slavic Gospel Association Camp information
- Part 2 - Why are we searching for a full-time pastor of Children & Family Discipleship?

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FREE NEWS

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 6

July/August 2011



CHOOSING to Help the Awana Ministry by Eric & Stephanie Bos

Do you have trouble fitting everything into your schedule? Like most of us you are probably busy, busy, busy. With life being as hectic as it is, we simply have to make choices. Choices about what we do with our time. Choices about what is going to be a priority.

AWANA stands for Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed. Not ashamed of their faith! That is a choice I am sure we all want our children to make. What about going beyond just our children? What about helping other children to make that

choice?

AWANA is not only a fun way to teach biblical knowledge it is also a Christian outreach. The ministry gives us the opportunity to reach the children of the community. These children will be your child's classmates, teammates, prom dates and eventually co-workers and even a potential spouse. GEFC has the mission statement of Reaching Up, REACHING OUT, Reaching In. What better place to start than with our children.

We find time and money to

support our children in any number of activities. We support sports, music, and theatre. We pay for equipment, instruments, and private lessons. We attend practices, games, and awards banquets. Yet, as good as all those activities are they are not eternal investments in our children. AWANA is a ministry with eternal value for our children and the children of our community.

In order to make this ministry a success we need your help. The Wednesday night ministry simply will not work without the help of volunteers. There is a wonderful training opportunity for those interested in helping. Our AWANA missionaries, Bruce and Marti Brumfield will be holding a training day right here at GEFC. In order to make this choice more convenient for you they are making the trip so you don't have to. Please prayerfully consider investing in the lives of our youth through this wonderful, proven ministry. Will you help us have an eternal impact? The choice is yours.

VBS is ...

“Kickin’ It Old School”

Get ready for "Kickin' It Old School" with new music and lessons from the Go Fish guys! VBS will be July 11-15 from 5:30-8:00pm, with a family lunch on Sun. July 17th for VBS students and their families.



Postcard invitations are available at the information center so you can invite your friends! VBS is open to children age 4 - entering 6th grade.

You may register in the church office or online at gefc.com, and receive a free CD of this year's

During the week of VBS, we will have nursery and a 3 yr. old class available for children of our volunteers.

**AWANA
Leaders Training Day
Saturday, August 6th
8:30am-3:00pm
LUNCH WILL BE
PROVIDED!!**

Bible Camp for Russian Children

Does your child look forward to going to camp in the summer? Did you attend camp as a child? As a student, do you enjoy going to camp? Did you come to Jesus, or see one of your friends accept Him as their Savior, at camp? Slavic Gospel Association provides Bible camps each summer for Russian children who don't have the means to attend, and you can help provide those financial means for them to go.

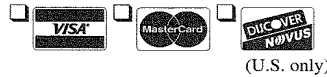
Last summer more than 2,000 boys and girls repented and trusted in Christ during the camp sessions. Many of the 13,000 children who attended camp were from non-believing families, some being homes where drugs, alcohol and poverty were a way of life, some were delinquents, some ill, and occasionally special needs children are able to attend. All of these children are precious to the Lord and they are taught at camp that God loves them and sent Jesus Christ to be their Savior. Nearly 1,300 began attending local churches after the camps concluded – this touches whole families.

A gift of \$41 will provide much needed assistance to send a Russian-speaking child to camp for a week, as well as provide the camp with evangelistic materials. In addition this gift will also provide Christian literature, pencils and paper and other items to support their continued discipleship in God's Word following their camp experience.

If you would choose to support one or more child(ren) for a week at camp, you can do so by both filling out this reply form and writing your name on the form written in Russian so the receiving child can know who the gift is from. Return them to: Slavic Gospel Association, 6151 Commonwealth Dr., Loves Park, IL 61111-9907



Please place a gift of \$ _____ to my credit card:



(Card Number)

(Exp. Date)

(Phone)

(Name on Card)

(Cardholder's Signature)

... for the boys and girls
attending summer camp!

Instructions: Please sign the attached card below, tear off, and return with your gift and reply form in the provided envelope. Keep this card as a reminder to pray for the children attending summer camp!

Card translation:

Front: Welcome to Summer Camp!

Back: I will be praying for you and hope you enjoy your week at camp! May you find joy in learning about our Heavenly Father who loves you, and whose Son gave His life so that you can have eternal life with Him.

I will be praying for you.

A Friend from North America

Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me' (John 14:6).

Я буду молиться о тебе! Надеюсь, что тебе понравится в лагере и ты испытаешь радость от знакомства с любящим Небесным Отцом, Который отдал Сына Своего, чтобы ты обрел(а) жизнь вечную!

С молитвой о тебе,
(I will be praying for you.)

Твой друг из Северной Америки
(A Friend from North America)

*"Иисус сказал ему: я есмь путь и истина и жизнь; никто не приходит к Отцу, как только через Меня."
(Иоанна 14:6)*

Why are We Searching for a ‘Full-Time’ Pastor for Children & Family Discipleship?

by Pastor Greg Chenoweth

In last month’s newsletter, we asked the question, “Why are we searching for a Pastor for Children and Family Discipleship?” We reminded ourselves of God’s value of the family and His appointment of parents as the primary disciplinators of their children. We also re-visited GEFC’s stated value of “Family” and observed the strong young family demographic within our church. This month, let’s ask, “Why is this a **full-time** position?” When you consider our expectations and the scope of this position, you will see why this is a full-time position.

As a church we have high quality expectations for our various ministries. This is especially true in Children’s Ministry. We expect our Children’s ministries to provide a quality program that reliably leads our children to the Lord Jesus through His Word. We expect qualified supervision that provides a safe environment for our children. Our children’s ministry workers rightfully expect oversight that helps equip them to serve our children in an effective and confident manner. All of this requires a servant leader who gives concerted attention to recruiting,

equipping and supervising our various children’s ministries.

The scope of our children’s ministries also leads us to pursue a full-time position. In the Ministry Description for Pastor for Children and Family Discipleship, we include the following ministries under the umbrella of responsibilities: Children’s Sunday School (birth through 6th grade); Jr. High Sunday School and Youth Group (6th through 8th grade), AWANA; Children’s Church; Vacation Bible School; Nursery; Special programs and activities that involve children; Camp Scholarships. We have also added the responsibility of developing ministries that assist parents in their role as the primary disciplinators of their children. That’s quite a breadth of ministries! The scope of just the Children’s ministries has been overwhelming for those who have considered being our volunteer Children’s Ministry Coordinator.

In our GEFC Leadership structure the Children and Junior High ministries require a Children’s Ministry Coordinator and a Youth Ministry Coordinator both of which serve on our Administrative

Council. Unfortunately, the last two years we have not had a Children’ Ministry Coordinator and this past year we have not had a Youth Ministry Coordinator. Consequently, we have struggled to effectively oversee, recruit, and equip our Children’s and Junior High ministries and volunteers. The scope of our Children’s and Youth ministries and the vacancy in our Children’s and Youth Ministry Coordinator positions begs for a full-time overseer.

We continue to see an increasing number of people who call Geneseo Evangelical Free Church their church home. With an increase in people comes an appropriate increase in expectations of our children’s and family programs. And with this comes an increasing complexity for overseeing these various ministries, more than what the vast majority of volunteers are able or willing to assume. Consequently, I think you would agree that it is easy to justify a “full-time” position.

But can we afford it? Let’s address that in September’s Newsletter.

“When you consider our expectations and the scope of this position, you will see why this is a full-time position.”

Semi-Annual Business Meeting

If you are a member of GEFC you know that it is your opportunity and obligation to attend Annual Business Meetings. Our Semi-Annual Business Meeting will be held on Monday, July 25 at 7pm. We hope you will plan to join us.

If you are not a member of GEFC but are regularly attending here

please understand that we would love for you to join us too. You matter!

Items of discussion will include:

- General church update
- Job description proposal for Worship & Youth Director

- Pastoral Search Team Update
- Applications for membership





What's Going on this Summer?

QUAD CITY RIVER BANDITS BASEBALL GAME

Join your friends from GEFC on Sunday, July 31 for a **Quad Cities River Bandits** Baseball game at Modern Woodmen Park in Davenport. The game is at 2:00 PM. We'll leave from church at 12:30 and enjoy brats and baseball. Bring your glove. Special activities for the kids. Contact Craig Anderson for more information or to answer any questions that you may have craigand@theinter.com, 944-5783 if you plan on attending

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

This Summer we'd like to invite all families with children Pre-K to 5th grade to come to GEFC on Sunday, July 24 at 4pm for a **FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT**. We'll be watching the classic VeggieTales Movie "Jonah".

At GEFC, we love it when we can help families spend time together with other families, and that is what this night is all about. The popcorn will be hot, the movie will be hilarious, and the cost is FREE!

NIGHT OF WORSHIP

On Sunday, July 31, (time TBA) come to the city park for a sweet time of modern worship with other area churches. The band will be made from multiple congregations who all share a passion to serve our same Great God. Please come to this event as we join in Christian unity with other area churches in prayer for our community and exalting the Name of Jesus together.

*Don't put yourself
into vulnerable
positions in the
first place.*

Avoiding Temptation 101

A mom and her young son were walking through a mall when she suggested they go into a toy store to buy a birthday gift for the boy's friend.

"No, Mommy, I can't go in there," he protested. "I'll see something I want and can't

have. Then I'll cry. So it's just better if I don't go in."

Temptation wasn't yet in this boy's vocabulary, but he sure knew what it was. More impressively, he knew what to do about it.

Follow the boy's example: Don't put yourself into

vulnerable positions in the first place. For "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41b).

With Heartfelt Sympathy to...



*Judy & Shelle Iwinski
and their families
as they mourn the loss of
Judy's father-in-law
(Shelle's grandfatherher)
who passed away on
May 30, 2011*

and

*Kelly Kraft and her family
as they mourn the loss of
her grandfather
who passed away
on June 15, 2011*



*The Lord is close
to the brokenhearted
and saves those*

Do For Others What God Does For You

by Max Lucado - submitted by Craig Anderson, Elder

Note: Please read this article by Max Lucado. It has great practical advice we can use every day - let's honor Christ by our actions.
- Craig Anderson, Elder

You and I have the privilege to do for others what God does for us. How do we show people that we believe in them?

Show up. Nothing takes the place of your presence. Letters are nice. Phone calls are special, but being there in the flesh sends a message.

Do you believe in your kids? Then show up. Show up at their games. Show up at their plays. Show up at their recitals. It may not be possible to make each one, but it's sure worth the effort. Do you believe in your friends? Then show up. Show up at their graduations and weddings. Spend time with them. You want to bring out the best in someone? Then show up.

Listen up. You don't have to speak to encourage. The Bible says, "It is best to listen much, speak little" (James 1:19 TLB). We tend to speak much and listen little. There is a time to speak. But there is also a time to be quiet. That's what my father did. Dropping a fly ball may not be a big deal to most people, but if you are thirteen

years old and have aspirations of the big leagues, it is a big deal. Not only was it my second error of the game, it allowed the winning run to score.

I didn't even go back to the dugout. I turned around in the middle of left field and climbed over the fence. I was halfway home when my dad found me. He didn't say a word. Just pulled over to the side of the road, leaned across the seat, and opened the passenger door. We didn't speak. We didn't need to. We both knew the world had come to an end. When we got home, I went straight to my room, and he went straight to the kitchen. Presently he appeared in front of me with cookies and milk. He took a seat on the bed, and we broke bread together. Somewhere in the dunking of the cookies I began to realize that life and my father's love would go on. In the economy of male adolescence, if you love the guy who drops the ball, then you really love him. My skill as a baseball player didn't improve, but my confidence in Dad's love did. Dad never said a word. But he did show up. He did listen up. To bring out the best in others, do the same, and then, when appropriate:

Speak up.

You have the power to change someone's life simply by the words that you speak. "Death and life are in the power of the tongue" (Prov. 18:21 NKJV). That's why Paul urges you and me to be careful. "When you talk, do not say harmful things, but say what people need—words that will help others become stronger" (Eph. 4:29).

Earlier I gave you a test for love. There's also a test for the tongue. Before you speak, ask: Will what I'm about to say help others become stronger? You have the ability, with your words, to make a person stronger. Your words are to their soul what a vitamin is to their body. If you had food and saw someone starving, would you not share it? If you had water and saw someone dying of thirst, would you not give it? Of course you would. Then won't you do the same for their hearts? Your words are food and water! Do not withhold encouragement from the discouraged. Do not keep affirmation from the beaten down! Speak words that make people stronger. Believe in them as God has believed in you.

A Love Worth Giving, Max Lucado
Copyright [Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2002] Used by permission

You have the power to change someone's life simply by the words that you speak.

Whatever the Weather

No matter the forecast, weather can remind us of God's presence:

- When it's sunny, remember that Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12).
- When it's cloudy, remember that God often spoke to and guided his people from a cloud (Exodus 13:21-22).
- During a thunderstorm, remember the thunder and lightning when God beckoned Moses to Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:16).
- When it rains or snows, remember that God's Word serves his purpose just as precipitation does (Isaiah 55:10-11)
- When it's windy,

remember that "a wind from God" came at Creation (Genesis 1:2), and God's Holy Spirit arrived at Pentecost like a mighty wind (Acts 2:32).



July 2011

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|--|---|---|-----|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am | 4 OFFICE CLOSED Missions Team Meeting 7pm | 5 Men's Church Softball 7pm & 8:15pm | 6 | 7 Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Pastoral Search Meeting 7:00 pm | 8 | 9 Men's Golf Outing 8:30am |
| 10 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am | 11 Missions Team Meeting 7pm Men's Church Softball 8:15pm | 12 Women's Book Group 10am Elders Meeting 7pm Men's Church Softball 7pm | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - JULY 11-15 - 5:30-8PM | | | | | | |
| 17 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am VBS Outreach after 2nd service | 18 Administrative Council Meeting 7pm Men's Church Softball 7pm & 8:15pm | 19 Men's Church Softball 8:15pm | 20 Sr. High Youth Group & Overnight 6p Jr. High Youth Group 6:30p | 21 Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Pastoral Search Meeting 7:00 pm | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am Family Movie Night 5pm | 25 Congregational Mtg. 7pm Men's Church Softball 7pm | 26 Men's Leadership/Elders study 6:30pm | 27 Sr. High Youth Group 6p Jr. High Youth Group 6:30p | 28 Women's Bible Study 6:30pm | 29 | 30 Worship Conference Sr. High Cookie Baking 1pm |
| 31 Baseball game @ Modern Woodman Park 12:30pm Worship in the Park | | | | | | |

August 2011

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| | 1 Men's Church Softball 7pm Mission Team Meeting 7pm | 2 Men's Church Softball 7pm | 3 Sr. High Youth Group & Overnight 6p Jr. High Youth Group 6:30p | 4 Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Pastoral Search Meeting 7:00 pm | 5 | 6 Awana Leader Training 8:30a-3p |
| 7 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am COMMUNION No Sunday School | 8 Mission Team Meeting 7pm | 9 Elders Meeting 7pm | 10 | 11 Women's Bible Study 6:30pm | 12 Used Book Sale 9a-5p | 13 Used Book Sale 9a-12 noon Children's Sunday School Teacher Training |
| 14 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am Used Book Sale 9:30-10:30a No Sunday School Sr. High Girls Group lunch—Noon | 15 Administrative Council Meeting 7pm | 16 | 17 | 18 Pastoral Search Meeting 7:00 pm | 19 | 20 Private Shower 8am-1pm |
| 21 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am Sr. High Youth Group 6pm | 22 | 23 Men's Leadership/Elders study 6:30pm | 24 | 25 | 26 27 Sr. High Fall Retreat | |
| 28 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am Sr. High Youth Group 6pm | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

Treasurers Financial Report

May 31, 2011

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Annual Budget: | \$365,504.00 |
| GF Contributions YTD: | \$161,243.36 |
| Expenses YTD: | \$139,170.60 |

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Emergency Fund | \$90,000.00 |
| Building Fund | \$60,208.48 |
| General Fund | \$57,157.68 |
| Youth Retreat | \$4,055.66 |
| Missions | \$1,233.94 |
| ABF's and SS | \$356.74 |
| Gifts and Memorials | \$421.69 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$213,434.19 |

Geneseo Evangelical Free Church

914 N. Chicago St.
Geneseo, IL 61254

Phone: 309/944-4667

Fax: 309/944-4668

E-mail: gefc@gefc.org

Sunday Worship Services

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

Education - 9:30-10:30am

The FREE NEWS

is published monthly by
Geneseo Evangelical Free Church



Geneseo Food Pantry News & Needs

Happy Birthday America! On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress, setting the 13 colonies on the road to freedom as a sovereign nation. As always, this most American holiday will be marked by parades, fireworks, and backyard barbecues. Help us all to remember to thank God for the many wonderful blessings He bestows on us each day, especially on a day as special as July 4th.

Remember! Free Swims are every Saturday at the Geneseo Pool from 11:30 to 12:30. Call 944-3129 for pool hours and admission prices.

Your children may register for the Summer Reading Program at the Geneseo Public Library from June 13 to June 17. "A Mid Summer Knights' Read" is the theme, and it promises to be an exciting and enriching time for all participants. Phone 944-6452 for details.

There is no charge to participate.

If you know an individual or family who is struggling to pay utility bills this summer, please watch the media for information about the availability of funds through the LIHEAP Program (Low Income Heat and Energy Assistance Program). In the past, appointments have sometimes been made in early August; however, it depends completely on the state legislature's timetable. The Food Pantry receives no notice prior to the information published in the paper.

Food needs are: spaghetti sauce, sugar, pancake syrup, pasta, rice, soda crackers, graham crackers, jelly, canned tuna, canned chicken, and generic spam

Non-food needs are: laundry soap, dish soap, cleaning supplies, razors, shave cream, body wash, bar soap, generic pain relievers, cold medicine, diapers size 3 or larger, shampoo, conditioner

Note: If you have items to drop off remember that we have a Food Pantry drop box right inside the front door. Our Food Pantry representative is Erica Venema and she is diligent about emptying our box and seeing that items are delivered to the Food Pantry on a regular basis.

If you have a larger donation you may drop your items off directly to the Food Pantry at 217 N Russell Ave. If you have questions about the need for certain items the Food Pantry number is 309/944-3165.

**Whoever is generous to the poor
lends to the Lord, and he will
repay him for his deed.**

Proverbs 19:17