

Current  
sermon series:  
***Paradise  
Redeemed***  
A study of the  
Pentateuch  
(the first five books  
of the Bible)

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**14<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Uniquely & Wonderfully Made  
Women's Retreat  
Tuesday, November 8 at  
5:45pm**

## A Thanksgiving Prayer

*Lord, so often times, as any other day  
When we sit down to our meal and pray*

*We hurry along and make fast the blessing  
Thanks, amen. Now please pass the dressing*

*We're slaves to the olfactory overload  
We must rush our prayer before the food gets cold*

*But Lord, I'd like to take a few minute more  
To really give thanks to what I'm thankful for*

*For my family, my health, a nice soft bed  
My friends, my freedom, a roof over my head*

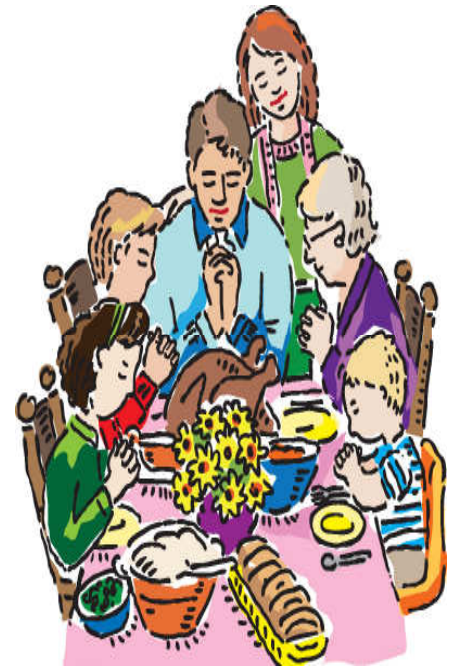
*I'm thankful right now to be surrounded by those  
Whose lives touch me more than they'll ever possibly know*

*Thankful Lord, that You've blessed me beyond measure  
Thankful that in my heart lives life's greatest treasure*

*That You, dear Jesus, reside in that place  
And I'm ever so grateful for Your unending grace*

*So please, heavenly Father, bless this food You've provided  
And bless each and every person invited*

*Amen!*





## The Nursery Nook

Cold and Flu Season has arrived! For the protection of everyone involved, please do not bring your child to the nursery if he/she has any of the following symptoms: fever, diarrhea, vomiting, sore throat, unexplained rash, colored discharge (from nose, eyes, or ears), earache, persistent cough, heavy congestion, or any skin infection. Please make sure your child is symptom-free for at least 24 hours before bringing him/her back to the nursery.

During Sunday School hour on Labor Day, we were reminded of emergency procedures for the church. In case of a fire or tornado, we want to remind

parents not to rush in to the nursery to retrieve their children, but to let the nursery staff bring them to safety. The nursery team members present at the church will report to the nursery to assist. The nursery has an emergency plan and we have held practice drills with the children. In case of a fire, we will take the children out the east door of the building and proceed to the baseball diamond. In the case of a tornado, we will take the children downstairs to the preschool room. If you have any specific questions about our emergency procedures, please see or ask a nursery team member.

Lastly, we will need a few more volunteers in the nursery starting the first of the year. Volunteers are required to have attended the church for 6 months and to go through the CAP (Child Abuse Prevention)-approval process. Also, in January, Stacey Cotty is going to be stepping down from the Nursery Team after several years of service and we need to fill her position. If you feel God prompting you, please consider joining us in this rewarding ministry!

The Nursery Team  
Erica Venema, Stacey Cotty,  
Dee Ann Kuster, Dede  
Nelson, Rebekah Reynolds

The Food Pantry welcomes donations of coupons. They are cut and sorted, and clients are encouraged to use them on groceries and other items.

## Food Pantry News

The holidays are just around the corner, and that means it's time to think about donating ingredients for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners or holiday meal baskets or boxes. A simple holiday meal can be put together for about \$25.00.

Our hours during November and December are as follows:

**Thanksgiving:** Close at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 22 & reopen at 9 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 28 **Christmas:** Close at noon Wednesday, Dec. 21 & reopen at 9 a.m. Jan. 2, 2012

Advent begins on November 27<sup>th</sup>, and as we prepare for the birth of the Son of God, we begin a period of preparation and reflection on the wonderful gift that we will receive.

The Geneseo Junior Woman's Club is sponsoring the Angel Tree. Each angel contains information about clothing sizes, a wish for an educational toy, and a book or game. The tree will go up before Thanksgiving. Simply choose an angel, make a purchase of your choice, and return it to Walmart by the deadline.

The winter season is on its way, and our clients appreciate warm clothing, outerwear, blankets, etc., that have been donated. If you find that you have extras, please consider donating to the Food Pantry. Because of the sluggish economy, financial donations to help with utility bills do a lot to help lessen the burden on families and individuals struggling to make ends meet.

The Food Pantry welcomes donations of coupons. They are cut and sorted, and clients are encouraged to use them on groceries and other items. If you would like to share the coupons from your newspapers, we would appreciate it!

Food needs: Holiday cookie ingredients, pancake syrup, pancake mix, instant mashed potatoes, chicken and beef broth, stuffing mix, jello, jelly, gravy mix, and cereal

Non-food needs: paper towels, small bottles of laundry soap, dish soap, household cleaners, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, shaving cream, disposable razors, pain relievers and decongestants

# Fill A Shoebox, Bless A Child

by Debra Jones, Operation Christmas Child Coordinator

This marks the second year for GEFC to be a Relay Collection Center for Operation Christmas Child. Last year as we embarked on this new adventure we had no idea what the Lord had in store for us. We were late jumping on board as a Relay Collection Center and had to learn quickly how to correctly take on this wonderful task.

What began as a one dollar challenge from Pastor Greg to the congregation has turned into a ministry opportunity for our congregation as well as for our community. When Pastor Greg passed out dollar bills to the congregation at the end of the sermon and challenged us to use the dollar to serve others I searched and prayed for how God wanted me to use my dollar. I felt drawn to a ministry my husband and I were quite familiar with, Samaritan's Purse, which is the parent organization for O.C. C. At first I just thought of filling a shoe box and then I felt called to do more. Before I knew it I was jumping on board with Operation

Christmas Child as coordinator for a new Relay Collection Center in Geneseo. In years past people from Geneseo and the surrounding area would have to get their boxes to either the Quad Cities drop off locations or to Peoria to the main collection center. Our goal in having a local relay collection center is to make it easier for people to fill a shoebox. When it's a chore to deliver the box people are less inclined to follow through with a good intention. Hopefully by having a local drop off location many more boxes are filled and many more children are blessed with material gifts as well as the opportunity to hear the Gospel. You see, Operation Christmas Child isn't just about meeting the material and physical needs of children around the world, but most importantly reaching them with the Gospel and changing their lives, and their families lives for eternity.

In 2011, Operation Christmas Child will reach more than 8.5 million children. These shoeboxes

are hand delivered to children in more than 100 countries on six continents. These boxes reach their destination by use of everything from planes to pack animals. The shipping cost of these millions of boxes also requires funding. Perhaps you don't feel inclined to fill a shoebox, but would rather make a donation to help cover shipping for the shoeboxes. Although there is a suggested donation of \$7 to ship each box, not everyone can both fill a box and pay for the shipping. Therefore extra monetary donations are always welcomed. Checks can be made out to Samaritan's Purse Volunteers for collection week are also welcomed. If you have any questions please contact me at any time. Debra Jones 309-944-6574 or [debrakayi@gmail.com](mailto:debrakayi@gmail.com)

Collection Week: November 14 – 21; 2:30-5:30 Mon. Tues. Thurs. Fri; Wed 2:30-7:00; Sat 10-2; Sun 8 -12; Mon 10-Noon



*“What began as a one dollar challenge from Pastor Greg to the congregation has turned into a ministry opportunity for our congregation as well as our community.”*

## We Can Make A Difference!

GEFC has graciously accepted an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of some local young people. We have been asked by the Geneseo Ministerial Association to collect items for homeless children of the Geneseo school district. Yes, **homeless**. Many children are displaced due to difficult family situations and are found to be living with friends or relatives. As they do their job of going to school everyday and act as if nothing is wrong, many have no personal items with them. That's where we come in. Please help these children by contributing to their basic needs.

Examples of items are listed below. You may drop off your donations in our specially marked boxes in the church foyer.

- Shampoo
- Dental care items
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Breakfast or snack bars
- Single servings of dry cereal
- Powdered milk (box of 1 qt. pkgs.)
- Trail mix, raisins
- Peanut butter
- Fruit cups, dried fruit
- Cough drops
- Tylenol
- Band-aids
- Lip balm
- Hand lotion
- Liquid detergent, laundry bag
- Clothing: All sizes (K-12<sup>th</sup> grades)



# Voice of the Martyrs - Serving the Persecuted Church

by Ken White, Mission Team



Visit Voice of the Martyrs website at [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com)

**The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church is Sunday, November 13.**

**This day is set apart to remember thousands of our Christian brothers and sisters around the world who suffer persecution, simply because they confess Jesus Christ as Lord.**

Ps 10:17 "You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and listen to their cry"....Do you know what the International Day of Prayer is? According to the Voice of the Martyrs website in the traditional church calendar, "All Saints Day" and "All Souls Day" stand out in the month of November, set apart to remember the saints of the church and the souls of those who departed this world. It is fitting, then, that the modern church has set apart the month of November to remember and pray for the persecuted church, through the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP).

There are many countries in the world today where Christians are martyred for their faith. Believers in Afghanistan are facing death threats; Christians in Uzbekistan, Nigeria and many other countries all around the world face violence, imprisonment and even death. There are other places in the world such as North Korea where acts of persecution take place, but we don't see or hear of it. Brother Andrew of Open Doors once said, "Our heroes are not with us simply because they are in prison."

IDOP is a time set apart for us to remember thousands of our Christian brothers and sisters

around the world who suffer persecution, simply because they confess Jesus Christ as Lord. This year it is set for Sunday, Nov 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Voice of the Martyrs is a non-profit, inter-denominational Christian organization dedicated to assisting the persecuted church worldwide. VOM was founded in 1967 by Pastor Richard Wurmbrand, who was imprisoned 14 years in Communist Romania for his faith in Christ. His wife, Sabina, was imprisoned for three years. In the 1960s, Richard, Sabina, and their son, Mihai, were ransomed out of Romania and came to the United States. Through their travels, the Wurmbrands spread the message of the atrocities that Christians face in restricted nations, while establishing a network of offices dedicated to assisting the persecuted church. The Voice of the Martyrs continues in this mission around the world today through the following main purposes:

- Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.
- We help Christians who are or have been, persecuted for their involvement in

spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. We provide medical assistance, food, clothing, and other forms of aid.

- We support Christians who are willing to invite their fellow men, even their persecutors, to Jesus Christ through faithful deeds of love in a hostile environment. We supply Bibles, literature, radios, and other evangelistic tools.

- We encourage persecuted Christians by giving their testimony a voice, informing Christians in the USA to know how to help. We believe that the lives and the testimony of persecuted Christians is a vital part of the fellowship of all believers and will challenge and strengthen the faith of Christians everywhere. (Info provided by Voice of the Martyrs at [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com). Please visit the site.)



*With Sympathy  
to Red Despain &  
his family as they  
mourn the recent loss  
of his sister.*

# November 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Reading Connection 10 am  Pastoral Search Team	2 AWANA Mtg. 6:20 pm	3 Women's Bible Study 9am & 6:30pm	4	5
6 Time Changes! Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am ELEVATE 6pm Cross Country Banquet	7 Women's Retreat Set-Up Mission Team Meeting 7pm	8 Women's Retreat 5:45 pm Elder's Meeting 7pm	9 MOPS 9am AWANA Mtg. 6:20 pm	10 Women's Bible Study 9am & 6:30pm	11	12
13 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am Hebrews Elective Lunch (following 2nd service) ELEVATE 6pm	14 Mission Team Meeting 7pm	15 Soccer Banquet Pastoral Search Team 7pm	16 AWANA Mtg. 6:20 pm	17	18	19
<b>Operation Christmas Child : Box drop-off November 14-21 (M,T,TH, F 2-5:30pm; W 2-7pm; S, S 8am-Noon; M 10am-Noon)</b>						
20 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am ELEVATE 6pm	21 Administrative Council Meeting 7pm	22	23	24 BUSINESS OFFICE CLOSED	25 BUSINESS OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am	28	29	30			



Awana is a ministry for children pre-school age through 5th grade. They meet each Wednesday from 6:20-8:00 pm.

During the month of November the clubbers will be asked to collect toys for Toys for Tots. They can be brought to club with the kids on Wednesday nights.

**NOVEMBER THEME NIGHTS**

- November 2nd - Hat night
- November 9 - B.A.R.F. night  
(Bring A Real Friend)
- November 16 - Be thankful night
- November 23 - Club will not meet
- November 30 - Measles night

Remember to set  
your clocks **BACK**  
one hour when  
going to bed on  
**Saturday,**  
**November 5** so you  
are on time on  
**Sunday,**  
**November 6**



**Christmas Season  
Schedule**

**“Eve Before You Leave” Service**  
Wednesday, December 21 @ 7:00 pm

**Christmas Eve Service**  
5:00 pm

**Christmas Morning Service**  
9:30 am (No Sunday School,  
Children’s Church or Nursery)

**New Years Day**  
Everything is back to normal  
including Sunday school classes.



**Treasurers Financial Report**

September 30, 2011

Annual Budget:	\$367,504.00
GF Contributions	
YTD:	\$283,172.06
Expenses YTD:	\$251,584.40
Emergency Fund	\$90,000.00
Building Fund	\$60,308.48
General Fund	\$67,816.11
Missions	\$1,638.94
ABF's and SS	\$375.41
Gifts and Memorials	<u>\$421.69</u>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$220,560.63</b>

**Geneseo Evangelical Free Church**

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Senior Pastor, Greg Chenoweth  
Worship & Sr. High Director, AJ Reynolds  
Administrative Assistant, Catherine Sommers

**Sunday Worship Services**

- Conventional Service - 8:15 a.m.
- Contemporary Service - 10:45 a.m.

**Education for all ages - 9:30 a.m.**

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