

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

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A Grateful Adventure

by Craig Henkhaus, Adm. Council

As I write this, I am blown away by how quickly time has passed since I came to serve as Ad Council Director. It has been two years, that I can say, were a learning adventure for me. When I was initially approached by the nominating committee to prayerfully consider serving in this way, I remember thinking, "Lord, are you sure I'm the right guy for this?" Time-wise and knowledge-wise, I did not feel comfortable right away saying, "YES!" However, God knows me better than I know myself (and that is a good thing). I figured He was pushing me to venture out of my comfort zone on this one, which is a place I don't like to get far from! After some prayer and discussion, I said, "yes." I have to admit, I was curious what God had waiting for me on this little side road of my journey. (Jeremiah 29:11)

One thing I have learned is that TEAMWORK is key. It truly takes a lot of effort by many people to make our church work. Part of the teamwork required includes effective communication by all involved. Within this, I also found that there are a lot of people that "work" for the church that may not be known to too many. These people have shown me what a heart serving Jesus really looks like. I have learned how important a thank you is for all the little things they consistently do, which really are not little things because they are doing it for Jesus and the good of our church. (Colossians 3:23)

In addition, I have learned (once again) that grace is my friend. My wife is a Jill Savage fan. Jill, who founded Hearts at Home, often speaks about "Grace Space." Grace is defined as undeserved mercy. It is always a good thing when we give each other enough "grace space." It is hard sometimes. I make my share of mistakes and then some, so I bank on grace to save me time and time again. I talked about this in my last newsletter article, but it's a life lesson that I have to constantly work on, so I thought it worthy of mention again. (2 Cor. 12:9).

Being on Ad Council has also humbled me. I came to see first-hand that our church has some very wise and discerning people in it. I came to really respect and value their input. It was so comforting, in a role I wasn't always sure about, to have people around me that I knew could guide and direct me in a godly and assuring way. I am so thankful to have crossed paths with each of them. I hope I can use the wisdom they have shared with me to further serve God in some way. (Proverbs 13:20)

Overall, serving on Ad Council has been an experience that has helped me grow in ways that I had not expected. I am grateful that God put this adventure in my plan and gave me guidance as I navigated these waters. Thanks to each of you for allowing me to serve in this way the last two years. I pray for each of you to be blessed abundantly with a joyous Christmas season and for God to bring you some adventures that may require you to step out of your comfort zone in 2012. It is in those adventures that we can often clearly see His hand in our life.



6:20 pm Wed., December 14
Awana Christmas Store & Birthday Party for Jesus

7:00 pm Wed., December 21
Eve Before You Leave Service

With Christmas Eve falling on a Saturday this year we know many of you will be with family for the weekend and will miss the opportunity to enjoy a service with your church family so we are offering this service before you leave. It will be much like our traditional Christmas Eve services.

5:00 pm, Sat., December 24
Christmas Eve Service

9:30 am, Sun., December 25
Christmas Service

There will be one combined service geared toward families. There is no Sunday School, Nursery or Children's Church

Mon., December 26
Office Closed

Sun., January 1, 2012
Return to regular scheduling
8:15 & 10:45 am services
9:30 am Sunday School classes
8:15am-12:00 pm

Nursery services available
Children's Church available
during 2nd service only.

Mon., January 2, 2012
Office Closed

Legacy for Jesus

by Gary Dawson, Elder Board

“Our legacy should be that Jesus is cherished and worshiped by each succeeding generation.”



Growing up in the '50s was so different than today. There was a lot more focus on character. In westerns, good guys wore white hats, bad guys wore black ones. Of course there was little practical choice; color television hadn't been invented yet. Good guys were praised and bad guys were never the main character in a television series. There was a strong tendency to look at real life examples for heroes and subject matter on television. Television series theme songs added to the message. For Wyatt Earp the lyric went: "...brave, courageous and bold. Long live his fame and long live his glory, and long may his story be told". The idea of leaving a

legacy appears to have been lost. The media seems almost exclusively bent on discrediting people and tearing them down. One gets the idea that no one deserves a positive legacy. The notion of living one's life with the intent of having a positive legacy is often forgotten in our "have it your way" culture.

We should not idolize any man or woman, but the Bible provides us several examples of people whose actions were virtuous and worthy of emulation. Hebrews chapter 11 lists several people who were examples of faith. Paul held himself as an example of not burdening those he ministered to. Nehemiah and

Hezekiah provided examples of Godly attitudes in leadership. All were flawed sinners but there was something in each one's character worthy of emulation. We should all strive to be positive examples to our children, our coworkers, and others in the GEFC community and family. Our light should shine in a way that others see our good works and glorify God. We should all strive to lift up Christ's name and fame for His glory and ensure that the Gospel story is told. Our legacy should be that Jesus is cherished and worshiped by each succeeding generation.

Food Pantry News



There are still many things that you can do to make the holiday special for the less fortunate in and around Geneseo.

Merry Christmas! Jesus' birth was the greatest gift ever given to the world. From Him, we have received forgiveness of our sins and eternal life. From Him, we have learned to have compassion for others and put their needs before our own. From Him, we have learned to love our neighbors as ourselves. With His help, may we remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birth. During the holiday season, our families are blessed by your compassion, and we are thankful for your generosity now and throughout the year.

There are still many things that you can do to make the holiday special for the less fortunate in and around

Geneseo. The following list contains inexpensive gifts that will make kids and grown-ups happy: any variety of holiday food (nuts, M & Ms, cookies), gift cards, lotions, body wash, fuzzy socks, CDs, DVDs, handheld games, craft kits, and books for any age. Items may be dropped off at the Food Pantry until December 16th.

Themed baskets or bags are also popular gifts. Some ideas are "Movie Night" (video rental certificates, microwave popcorn, candy, or other snacks), "Art" (paper, crayons, markers, paints, glue glitter, construction paper, scissors, etc), baking, laundry room, and kids' bedrooms.

We currently have a huge

need for kids boots, snow pants, and also warm blankets. If you have extras, please consider donating them to the Food Pantry during business hours.

The Food Pantry will close for the Christmas holiday on Tuesday, December 20th at 4 pm and will re-open Monday, January 2, 2012.

Food needs for December are: sugar, flour, pancake mix, syrup, cereal, baking soda, baking powder, brown sugar, vanilla, stuffing mix, snacks, and hot chocolate mix

Non-food needs are: laundry detergent, kleenex, paper towels, dish soap, household cleaning products, non-aspirin pain relievers, cold medicine, and diapers, any size

Teacher Feature

Steve & Debbie Rogers

When asked if Steve and I would be interested in teaching a Sunday School class years ago I put it off because while doing daycare all week I didn't feel I could give what I should to a Sunday school class. So we put it off. Then when we were asked again we decided we would try it. I'm not sure how many years ago that was. God has been faithful to supply the time and energy to us. Now it is just Steve and I at home and we really enjoy being around little ones at least once a week now.

It is so rewarding to be able to get to tell these little ones about God's Word and the interaction of God with his people through the ages and explain the lessons we can learn from those old stories. I actually enjoy doing the Old Testament stories best. We have great curriculum to use and for the Kindergarten class we do Old Testament one year then do the New Testament the next and then

start over with the new little ones that come into class.

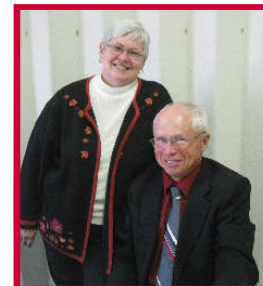
I can remember going to Sunday School classes as a little girl and singing the song "Jesus wants me for a sunbeam" and wanting to be a sunbeam for Jesus but yet I didn't come to really know Jesus until an adult. I was working at a restaurant in the early morning hours doing baking. I would be there alone so I had the radio on and listened to WDLM. It was while listening to Charles Stanley that I knelt on the kitchen floor of that restaurant and I accepted Christ. Sometime in the early '80's. I didn't even know enough to take note of the date.

One of our best stories was a couple of years ago. We had studied the story of the transfiguration and a few weeks later Trish Henkhaus stopped me after church and said that during the worship service Pastor Greg was talking about Jesus on the mountain with Peter, James and

John. Millie had said to her "He's talking about the transfiguration." She asked again and she said the same thing and added, "Mrs. Rogers told us." Needless to say that made my day. I'm glad we have curriculum that doesn't water down God's Word but really teaches them even the big words.

Another time we were in class and Steve was sitting by Silas Henthorn who was visiting that day. I was going over the lesson and had just made a special point and Silas turned to Steve and so seriously said to Steve, "So what do you think of that?". That answer took a few seconds of composure in coming. What joy!

If you are ever given the chance to teach Sunday School I hope you will not pass up the chance to be blessed beyond measure.



Debbie & Steve Rogers, Kindergarten Sunday School Teachers

"I can remember going to Sunday School classes as a little girl and singing the song "Jesus wants me for a sunbeam" and wanting to be a sunbeam for Jesus but I didn't come to really know Jesus until an adult."

Celebrating Christmas at AWANA

The AWANA Christmas Store has become tradition at GEFC. You can't imagine how excited the AWANA kids get when they are purchasing gifts for their loved ones by themselves with points that they've earned memorizing verses and participating in club activities.

The Annual Christmas Store will be held on December 14. There is need of new or nearly new items for the clubbers to purchase as gifts for their families (men, women, boys & girls gifts needed). Due to the size of the club this year many items are needed. Please consider

helping us stock the shelves of our AWANA store by bringing a contribution ASAP. The AWANA leadership will then evaluate where they have gaps and purchase what is needed to finish stocking the shelves for the students to make their purchases. You may bring your donations to the church on Wednesday evenings during AWANA club time or drop off your donation at the church and place in the designated area.

December Theme Nights

December 7 - Be Generous Night
Toys for Tots pick-up

December 14
Crazy Christmas
Sweater Night -
Christmas Store &
Birthday Party for Jesus



Living Proof Live - The Perfect Gift for Her

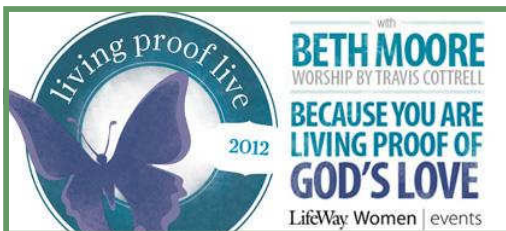


Beth Moore, Bible teacher, is coming to the Quad City area this summer.

Guys, although you may not be familiar with Beth Moore we are pretty sure that your wife is familiar with her. Beth's life-transforming Bible studies challenge and inspire women of every age, everywhere and she is bringing some of that wonderful teaching to us locally, at the iWireless Center on July 27-28. Joining Beth at this weekend event is acclaimed worship leader Travis Cottrell and the Praise Team.

Beth's focus will be on

Scripture that God lays on her heart for each individual Living Proof event—no two messages are the same as she



explores the Bible and how it applies to life. Your wife will be amazed by Beth's experiences as a Believer. She will also be inspired to magnify and strengthen her own

relationship with God.

Gentlemen, this would be the perfect gift for your sweetheart this Christmas and it is a gift that will have wonderful benefits for you too because a wife that is loving her Lord is loving her husband too. Ticket cost is \$65 and if we are able to register at

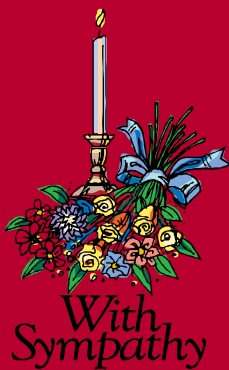
least 50 ladies the cost will be only \$60. If you would like to provide this gift to your wife contact Catherine during regular office hours at 944-4667 or email gefcc@gefcc.org.

With Heartfelt Sympathy

To Ron Ford & his family as they mourn the loss of his mother, Clarice Ford, who passed away on October 24, 2011

To Nancy Nilsson & her family as they mourn the loss of her mother, Dorothy Greenwood, who passed away on October 27, 2011

To Colleen Despain & her family as they mourn the loss of her brother-in-law, Ross Burlingame, who passed away on October 31, 2011



Family Christian Store

Remember to use your Ministry PERKS Membership Card whenever shopping at a Family Christian Store, especially during the holidays because 5% of your purchase will be credited back to our GEFC library. This can be used regardless of coupons that you are using.

December 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 Communion Sunday Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am ELEVATE 6pm	5 Mission Team Meeting 7pm	6 Reading Connection 10 am	7 REACH Jr. High Youth Group 6 pm AWANA Mtg. 6:20 pm	8	9	10
11 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am ELEVATE 6pm	12 Mission Team Meeting 7pm	13 Elders Meeting 7pm	14 REACH Jr. High Youth Group 6 pm AWANA Mtg. 6:20 pm	15	16	17 Private party in the AWANA room
18 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am ELEVATE 6pm	19 Administrative Council Meeting 7pm	20	21 REACH Jr. High Youth Group TBA Eve Before You Leave Christmas Service 7 pm	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 5 pm
25 Christmas Service 9:30 am	26 BUSINESS OFFICE CLOSED	27 Elders Meeting 7pm	28	29	30	31

Year-End Financial Housekeeping

YEAR-END DONATIONS

The last Sunday that year-end donations will be accepted for 2011 is Christmas Day. Additionally, donations (sealed envelopes please) can be dropped off at the church office up to Noon on Friday 30 Dec. **Any donations received on January 1, 2012 will be counted as 2012 giving.** Please contact David Jones 944-6574 if you have any questions. Thank you for supporting our Lord's work!

YEAR-END RECEIPT REIMBURSEMENTS

ALL receipts are to be submitted for reimbursement no more than two weeks after the expense occurs. **ALL** receipts requiring reimbursement for the 2011 budget year must be submitted by December 16, 2011. This allows time for the coordinator to sign-off on the receipt and process properly for reimbursement. Receipts should be submitted to the office. **ALL** reimbursements require a receipt and a signed payment request slip to be filled out and signed by the appropriate elder or coordinator and then processed through the office on the weekly payment log. The payment log is submitted to the treasurer on Friday by 9:00 am with checks being ready for pick-up on the following Monday or Tuesday if Monday is a holiday. There are not exceptions to this process as it allows us to maintain effective stewardship and a proper paper trail with checks and balances for everyone involved. If you have questions or need help, please do not hesitate to call the office during regular office hours for assistance.



Treasurers Financial Report

October 31, 2011

Annual Budget:	\$367,504.00
GF Contributions YTD:	\$318,887.50
Expenses YTD:	\$344,370.39
Emergency Fund	\$110,000.00
Building Fund	\$ 60,308.48
Capital Improvement	\$ 24,000.00
Moving Exp. & Equip	\$ 12,000.00
General Fund	\$ 10,853.81
Missions	\$ 1,588.94
Pastoral Search	\$ 1,955.00
Sunday School	\$ 318.24
Gifts & Memorials	\$ 421.69
TOTAL	\$221,446.16

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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