

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

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Seek & Soak Prayer Service

by AJ Reynolds, Worship Director

Psalm 133: "Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" To that verse I say AMEN!!! Before 2012 gets rolling, we want to unite together for a night of prayer and praise. Come join us on January 8, starting at 6p here at GEFC, as we SEEK after the Lord by praying for upcoming 2012 events and as we SOAK in the Lord's presence through our worship and praise. Childcare may be provided if requested.

Women's Bible Study



We are about to begin Beth Moore's exciting new Bible study on the Book of James, and we would love for you to join us. We know you'll be blessed by God's Word and fellowship with other women, and we'll be blessed by your presence.

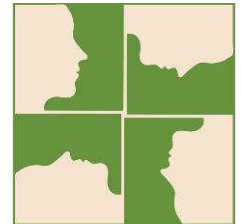
This 8 week journey will begin on Thursday February 9 with a morning and evening group available for your convenience. The morning group will run from 9-11am and the evening class will run from 6:30-8:30 pm. We hope to have childcare available for infants through pre-school age children during the morning class.

Cost of the materials is \$17.50 if ordered and paid by Sunday, January 22 and \$21.50 if ordered and/or paid after this date. Only materials ordered by January 22 are certain to be here by the start of the study.

State of the CHURCH MEETING

Are you a faithful attendee and servant of God at GEFC? If so, we invite you to join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting on Monday, January 30 at 7pm. Per our constitution and by-laws only members can vote on actions of business but all are welcome to attend and participate in discussion.

Annual reports will be available at the Welcome Center no later than January 22.



Small-Groups

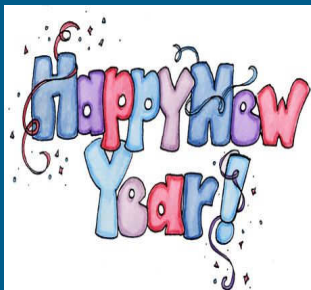
While the cold weather may not be a great indication - the spring Small Group season is here again! GEFC Spring Semester for Small Groups will start the first full week of February, and run through mid-April. Watch for sign-ups beginning January 8th during services. Several options will be available throughout each week. Small Groups will complement the church-wide emphasis on Pastor Greg's ongoing sermon series, "Paradise Reclaimed." Prayerfully consider joining your church in this Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching Out opportunity. Please contact David or Lori Gilmore, small group coordinators at dlkc@mchsi.com with any questions.

Goals

by Rita Ford, Adult Coordinator



There is a part of all of us that fears turning 80 and realizing as we look back that we didn't accomplish what we hoped. Goals and God are the answer to accomplishment.



Happy New Year! Where am I going this year....

- G - G is for goals and God
- O - o is for organized
- A - a is for attic and attitude
- L - l is for laughter

We have all made goals in the past. I know now they need to be concrete and measurable. By concrete when I say love my husband more I realize that its too general, but if I say fix his favorite food once a month that's measurable. General is write more letters this year but to make it measurable I need to say write one letter a week. I may not always meet the goals that I set but having a goal keeps us pushing forward in the right direction and we can see how close we come, Writing our goals down is so much more of a commitment.

There is a part of all of us that fears turning 80 and realizing as we look back that we didn't accomplish what we hoped. Goals and God are the answer to accomplishment. We live in a needy world and the reality is that we can't do it all, Jesus didn't either but he still said, "It is finished."

G is for knowing God more and loving others more. How can I make that a measurable goal? I can set a goal of not putting my head on the pillow until I have been in God's Word. Now to love others.... Be nice to your kids; they will choose your nursing home. I can also make it a priority to call someone instead of relying on email or texting once a week

O is for organized, I can set my timer for 7 minutes to work on cleaning out the refrigerator, or 3 minutes to straighten a drawer. I am going to use a timer and see what can be accomplished

A is for attic. Oh how I love my attic. It is full, but the best thing about it as I look back I always recall the faithfulness of God and I want to do that more... A is also for attitude. I need to remember to be more mindful of giving thanks. Always say and think three positives before saying a negative.

L represents laughter, Job 8:21, "He will yet fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy." People ask what would you have done different, I always say: loved my husband in front of my kids more, hugged him and held hands more, and laughed so much more. Life is short and serious but there is a need to laugh so much more in our daily lives. May you enjoy the following tale about **5 Old Ladies**.

Sitting on the side of the highway waiting to catch speeding drivers, a police officer sees a car pattering along at 25mph. He says to himself, "This driver is just as dangerous as a speeder", so he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over. Five old ladies, two in the front seat and three in the back, wide eyed and white as ghosts. The driver, confused, said, "Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit. What is the problem?"

"Ma'am you weren't speeding,

but you were driving much slower then the speed limit and that is very dangerous for other drivers."

"No sir, I was doing the speed limit just like the sign said, exactly 25mph.

The police officer, trying to contain a chuckle explains to her, "25 is the highway number, not the speed limit. But before I let you go ma'am I have to ask if everyone in the car is ok? These women seem shaken."

"Oh they'll be all right in a minute officer. We just got off highway 130."

Happy New Year...



With Sympathy

To Beuedly Lewis and her family as they mourn the loss of her brother-in-law who passed away on December 11, 2011

A Moment for Missions

by Jenny Olson, Mission Team

Elizabeth Mativo is one of the missionaries supported by GEFC. She is a remarkable woman who worked alongside her husband, Pastor Onesivus Mativo, for 27 years in remote areas of Kenya with unreached people groups, planting 14 churches, some of which were in Muslim areas where they risked their lives to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Following her husband's unexpected death from a heart attack in 2008, Elizabeth returned to her family home in Mbooni, Kenya. This transition was very hard for her after living away for 28 years on the mission field. Also, in Kenya, people don't respect you if your spouse dies. Widows are looked down on. When you are a widow, other relatives will begin to take your possessions and property.

Elizabeth felt so depressed and lonely. She began to wonder if other widows felt like she did. She felt the Lord leading her to start a ministry, Mjane Yatima, to widows, their children and orphans.

Mukene is one of the widows in Mjane Yatima Ministry. Her husband died several years ago, leaving Mukene to raise her two daughters and a son without their father. As a teen, one of Mukene's daughters found herself pregnant and unmarried. Six years ago, she gave birth to a little girl and named her Ndanu. She dropped out of school and is now in the advanced stages of cerebral malaria. There is little hope that she will recover.

Mukene is elderly and struggles to provide for herself, her children, and her granddaughter, Ndanu. She came to Elizabeth's home looking for help. Thanks to your benevolent giving, Ndanu is able to go to school. She is in Kindergarten. Elizabeth also tries providing for Mukene's daughter's medical treatment.

Most recently, the much needed rains came. The temperatures can reach down into the 40s and 50s in Mbooni, and with the unheated houses and dampness, Mukene's family was very cold. Elizabeth was able to give them a blanket and a

few warm clothes.

Elizabeth says, "They came to my home about two weeks ago. They shared with me how they have been seeing the hand of the Lord. Mukene says she is grateful that I can help them once in a while. She encourages me a lot. Most of the unchurched women I reach out to don't come back to say thank you, but she always does. I am happy to help them and they are grateful for the support they get. Psalms 41:1 says, 'Blessed is he who considers the poor, the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.' I know that God will deliver you in your time of need, like you deliver some in my community," says Elizabeth.

Please pray for Mukene and her family, that they will continue to see the Lord through the efforts of Elizabeth Mativo. Pray that they will put their trust in Him and become regular attenders of the Bible studies and church. Pray for continued provision, and complete recovery for Mukene's daughter.



“Psalm 41:1 says, ‘Blessed is he who considers the poor, the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.’ I know that God will deliver you in your time of need, like you deliver some in my community.” says Elizabeth.

Don't bring it into the New Year

- Self-help books — Trust in God first; don't turn to him as a last resort. (See Proverbs 3:5-6.)
- Gavel — Stop wasting time judging others. Instead, pray for them, help them and team with them. (See Luke 6:37-38.)
- Tape measure — Consider only God's standards; don't compare yourself to other people. (See Luke 18:9-14.)
- Life vest — Don't be overly cautious spiritually. Peter experienced Jesus in a real way because he dared to step out of the boat. (See Matthew 14:22-33.)
- Rearview mirror — Don't live in the past. You'll miss out on what God is doing in your life now. (See Philippians 3:12-14.)
- Garage-door opener — We think we're networked but often isolate ourselves. God intended for us to live in community with one another. (See Hebrews 10:23-25.)
- Handcuffs — Don't offer excuses about why you can't help out. God can do amazing things through — and despite — us. Just follow him, with no excuses. (See Mark 6:35-4) —Gregg McCaslin

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.
- Proverbs 3:5-6



Our clients have had the opportunity to see God's love at work through the donations of time, clothing, toys, food, and money.

Food Pantry News

We hope that you and your loved ones had a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas!

Our prayers are filled with thanks and gratitude for the many blessings that have come from throughout the community during the 2011 holiday season. Our clients have had the opportunity to see God's love at work through the donations of time, clothing, toys, food, and money. This lesson is learned and remembered by many who are helped this time of year. Geneseo is a giving and caring place, and we are lucky to experience the love for others that is shared on a day-to-day basis.

During January, our focus is on goal setting for the upcoming

year. All clients who do not have high school diplomas are encouraged to begin working toward GED readiness and classroom work. Job-seeking, budgeting, and parenting skills are also areas where we encourage our clients to be more ambitious and improve on.

As food costs continue to rise we also continue to stress the importance of making wise choices when grocery shopping. We access many resources, in addition to the coupons you have been donating, to make smart grocery shopping a habit. This will be another main focus for our clients in 2012.

We are always in need of blankets, coats, snow pants,

boots, etc to help keep our clients warm throughout this winter season. If you have any of these items that are gently used and no longer needed, the Food Pantry would welcome your donation.

Thank you for your support throughout the year. We ask God to bless you and your families during 2012.

Food needs for January are: Sugar, soda crackers, graham crackers, cereal bars, pancake syrup, catsup, mustard, mayonnaise

Non-food needs for January are: lotion, laundry detergent, dish soap, diapers, and cleaning supplies

Robert (Bob) Clack Remembered In Love



Robert (Bob) Clack
1922-2011

Robert (Bob) was born on December 3, 1922 in Havre, MT, the son of Weaver & Alice Clack. He was united in marriage to Tura G. Meadows on October 26, 1946 in Siloam, TX. Bob attended Oklahoma A&M college. He served in the U.S. Air Force cadettes and Army during World War II. Bob was a photographer for Texarkana, TX Gazette, and the Super Sonic Wind Tunnel for the Army. He was employed by the U.S. civil Service at Red River Army Depot and transferred to Rock Island Arsenal in 1965. Bob retired from civil service in 1972 and then was employed by Caterpillar from 1975-1985.

He was a member of Geneseo Evangelical Free Church where he previously served as a deacon, and member of the Geneseo Kiwanis Club where he served as past president and club treasurer. He was also past president of Geneseo Community Chest. Bob enjoyed traveling with his beloved wife, Tura, photography, and reading.

Survivors include five children: sons and daughters-in-law; Charles & Leah Clack, Cooksville, TN; Dr. Robert M. & Ymelda Clack, Simms, TX; John & Pam Clack, Simms, TX; daughters and son-in-law **Charlotte & Dr. Carl Brinkmann, Geneseo**; Tura Kaye Clack, Gainesville, FL; 16 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Tura, and one grandchild Michael Brinkmann.

January 2012

HAPPY
NEW YEAR!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 NO ELEVATE YOUTH GROUP	2	3 Reading Connection Women's Book Group 10 am	4 REACH Jr. High Youth Group 6 pm AWANA - 6:20 pm	5	6	7
8 Seek & Soak rehearsal 3pm Seek & Soak Prayer Service - 6 pm	9	10 Free News submission deadline Elder Meeting - 7 pm	11 MOPS - 9 am REACH Jr. High Youth Group 6 pm AWANA - 6:20 pm	12	13 14 Sr. High ELEVATE Winter Retreat January 13-15	
15 NO ELEVATE YOUTH GROUP	16 Administrative Council Mtg. - 7 pm	17	18 REACH Jr. High Youth Group 6 pm AWANA - 6:20 pm	19	20	21 Olson Baby Shower 10 am
22 ELEVATE Sr. High Youth Group 6 pm	23	24 MOPS - 6:30 pm Elder Meeting - 7 pm	25 REACH Jr. High Youth Group 6 pm AWANA - 6:20 pm	26	27	28
29 ELEVATE Sr. High Youth Group 6 pm	30 Annual Congregational Meeting - 7 pm	31				



Blessed Expectations Welcomes New Life



Lila Corrine McCallister



**daughter of Philip & Erin
born on December 9, 2011**

Hailey Renee Olson



**daughter of Dusty & Melissa
born on December 15, 2011**

Blessed Expectations is hosting a Baby Basket Shower for the McCallister's in celebration of the birth of their second child, Lila.. You may place cards or gifts in the basket or you may contribute to a group gift by January 8. The group gift envelope is available in the foyer or in Sunday School class on the clipboard. Checks are payable to Catherine Sommers.

Ladies. Blessed Expectations invites you to a baby shower to celebrate the first-born child of Dusty and Melissa Olson on Saturday, January 21 @ 10 am. If you plan to attend please sign up how many will be coming at the Welcome Center or in a Sunday School class. If you would like to contribute to a group gift you may do so in the registration envelope no later than Sunday, January 15. Checks can be made out to De Kosman.

Treasurers Financial Report

October 31, 2011

Annual Budget:	\$367,504.00
GF Contributions YTD:	\$356,349.57
Expenses YTD:	\$383,186.85
Emergency Fund	\$110,000.00
Building Fund	\$ 60,308.48
Capital Improvement	\$ 24,000.00
Moving Exp. & Equip	\$ 12,000.00
General Fund	\$ 9,600.57
Missions	<u>\$ 1,533.94</u>
Pastoral Search	\$ 1,955.00
Sunday School	\$ 414.25
Gifts & Memorials	\$ 421.69
TOTAL	\$220,233.93

Geneseo Evangelical Free Church

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Sunday Worship Services

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

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

The FREE NEWS

is published monthly by
Geneseo Evangelical Free Church