

# Good News from Good Hope!



*Day after day... they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ. ❖ Acts 5:42  
Good Hope Reformed Presbyterian Church ❖ The Presbyterian Church in America ❖ August 2006*

## *Perseverance Produces Character, and Character Produces Hope*

In last month's newsletter, I said that we would be relocating to our new building in July. That did not occur. Will it be August? I think so. I hope so! Last month, I also referred to Israel being led by the Lord through the wilderness. When the glory of God (as represented by the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night) moved, the people followed. God led them with a visible sign. He is leading us by His providential hand. We should be ready to move just as the Israelites were, whether by a visible cloud or a pillar of fire or just when the circumstances are right.

We may not be able to comprehend in minute detail the workings and reasoning of God's providence, but we know that each aspect of His work in our lives has a purpose. Paul wrote to the Romans: "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us." (Romans 5:1-5)

Even suffering, which may seem senseless, can yield a sanctifying effect in our lives when used in God's hand. As we journey on as a church, our goal is to love our Lord and to serve Him. We want to see others built up in their faith, and we want to see many come to a saving knowledge of Christ through His Gospel. If it requires perseverance, take heart—we will have better character for it, and we will love each other more through it. ❖



## *Focus on Our Missionaries: The Huber Family in Kiev, Ukraine*

The phone rang bright and early this morning. It was Ukraine calling, and it was getting towards the end of the afternoon there. I spent the next three hours trying to participate in a conference call in Russian with several Ukrainian pastors, elders, and a few Mission to the World (MTW) missionaries. Russian is hard enough when I am sitting in a room with people, but trying to participate in a meeting over speaker phone when I could hear only about every other word was challenging, to say the least!

We were talking about the challenges faced by one of our church plants in Kiev. The question was whether or not the pastor had the energy and vision to continue, and whether or not the leadership of the church could agree on a common plan and vision. I talked while sitting on the porch overlooking the open spaces of Carroll County, Maryland, while I could hear the sounds of the traffic of downtown Kiev in the background.

Obviously, we are not in Ukraine. I am writing today from a home lent to us while we are on HMA. HMA stands for "Home Ministry Assignment," which is present day language for what used to be called "furlough." I think they changed the terminology because too many people interpreted furlough as vacation, and it is anything but that! Thus the new term.

But Home Ministry Assignment has its own problems as well. The first, of course, is that it is a mouthful to say, and no one but missionaries seem to understand it anyway! But a more subtle difficulty is found in the word "home."



It seems like such a simple little word. It is a rich word and often conjures up in our minds visions of many good things, even if our home-life was or is less than ideal. Being home is a classic theme. After all, "there's no place like home!" (Please repeat that three times.) Odysseus spends an entire book trying to get back home.

I think more than anything else, home is supposed to represent belonging, acceptance, love, rootedness, rest, place, and joy.

So where is home for us? Where is home for a missionary family? Is it in Ukraine? Well, yes and no. Our lives are there. Work, sights, sounds, smells, and neighbors have become familiar to us. But we don't own a house there; we rent an apartment on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of a really ugly 17-story building. And ultimately, we are not from Ukraine. We don't "fit in." I suspect the language, culture, and customs will always be somewhat strange to us, even though we have been there for 8 years now.

But perhaps surprisingly, Maryland doesn't feel quite like home either. We know it. Our family is here. We were born here, went to school here, and love churches here. But we have been changed by living overseas. We are not the same people we were. I am here now for HMA, but it is unsettling. I feel like I should be someplace else. Yet I know that Ukraine is not my home either.

In a sense, we feel "homeless." We often feel like wanderers or travelers or strangers, wherever we are. We love being in many places, but are any of them really home? I confess that part of me aches as I long for a home. Part of me would like to own a home somewhere. Part of me would like to be more settled.

But this divided, hurting, restless, sojourning heart has its advantages as well. It makes us long for another home. A home that Jesus says He is getting ready for us. That will be our place. As C.S. Lewis says in one of his books, heaven will be the place where we truly feel at home. As John Calvin says, how extremely deplorable would our condition be if we would not "raise our thoughts toward heaven, rise above the passing show, and look beyond the horizon of this world."

Dear brothers and sisters, thank you for sending us out. At times it hurts, but peace, rest, and home await. And that is a good, good thing.

Blessings to you,

*Eric for the Huber Family*

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 Current Meeting Location:  
 Briggs Chaney Middle School  
 1901 Rainbow Drive  
 Silver Spring, MD 20905

Join us for Worship at 9:30am and Sunday School at 11:00am each Sunday  
 www.goodhopepca.com

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am	31	1	2	3	4	5 Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am
6 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am	7	8	9	10	11	12 Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am
13 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Youth Group - 6:00-8:00pm	14	15	16	17 Session Meeting at Waller's - 7:30pm Youth Group Frisbee Golf - 7:30-9:00pm	18	19 Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am
20 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am <b>Communion To Be Served Congregational Meeting 11:00am</b> Youth Group - 6:00-8:00pm	21	22	23	24	25 Info for September newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	26 Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am
27 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Youth Group - 6:00-8:00pm	28	29	30	31	1 Wallace Memorial Church Youth Group Labor Day Retreat 4:00pm	2 Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am

## *Last Minute Odds and Ends*

*by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman*

The voluntary army headed by **Steve Gerwin** has done a great job in cutting costs with their labor, but unfortunately much of that army is in summer vacation mode now, and there still remains a lot of finishing to do. The only painting left to be done by volunteers is the sanctuary. **Tim Rowan** has lined up a crew that will be laying the flagstone around the entryways. **Glenn Taylor** has what **Matt Malanoski** calls the "glory job," meaning that every time Glenn finishes a job, people say, "Wow, that looks great!" Things like drywall, sinks, and electrical outlets do not seem to elicit the same response... Glenn has completed the flooring downstairs and the beautiful ceramic tiling of the entryway, and he now moves on to the hardwood finish of the floors in the sanctuary and the fellowship hall. **Ron Pottle** and **Jack Waller** are putting their finishing touches on the front sign. The deck out back still remains to be done, as do the roof gutters. Besides this, there are all sorts of little odds and ends, but job assignments have been made, and steady progress continues. The building inspection for our Occupancy Certificate is the last step and one that Matt is staying on top of. We are still within budget for the project—praise the Lord! ❖