

# 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 ❖ July 2005

## Increase Our Faith! Is it a Matter of Quantity or Quality?

Would you like to have more faith? The apostles said to Jesus, "Increase our faith!" (Luke 17:5) This was a noble request. Yet Jesus did not give a direct answer. Instead He said, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you."

The mulberry tree was noted for its tenacious root structure. The removal of the tree represented difficulty. Why would anyone want to uproot a tree and throw it into the sea? It might be entertaining and could possibly solicit respect and awe from those who observed this action and ability, but it is doubtful that Jesus used this illustration as a public badge for those with faith. Rather, Jesus responds to the disciples by teaching them that faith in quantity is not the same as faith in God.

### Sunday Picnic at 216

Join us for our first picnic of the summer at the new church property on Route 216 in Fulton (12131 Scaggsville Road) on **Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>** at 5:00pm. Bring your own lawn chairs or picnic blankets, and please speak with **Chris Waller** about what side dish you can bring to share. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided.

### Musical Ensemble

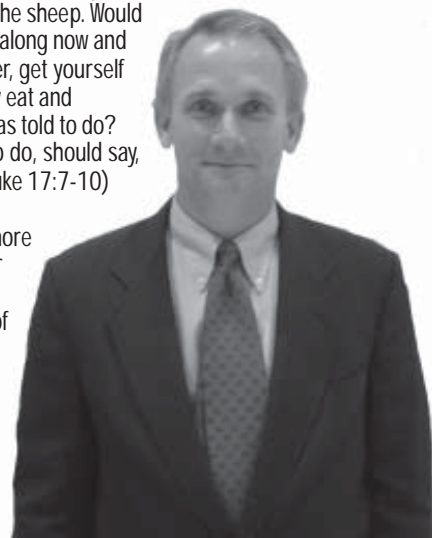
The musical ensemble will sing together on **Sundays, July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>** from 8:45-9:20am. Then we will not meet again until **August 14<sup>th</sup>**. Newcomers are always welcome!

It is not more faith as an isolated mindset, but instead a focused attitude of trust in the power of God to remove difficulties that He deems necessary for the tree to be uprooted and removed.

If the apostles comprehended Jesus' instruction on how to increase their faith, He knew of a danger that could accompany this mighty faith. The danger is that one begins to think that they are the possessor and originator of that faith. Jesus added a second parable to block this type of thinking. He said, "Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat?' Would he not rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready, and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink?' Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'" (Luke 17:7-10)

More faith can increase our effectiveness. We should desire more faith in God of whom all things are possible. However, greater effectiveness does not increase our importance or worth. Avoid this trap. Children of God are redeemed by the blood of Christ. Nothing can be added to His atoning death, and God increases our faith based upon our relationship with Christ.

Do you want more faith? Why? What would you do if you had it? How would you feel about yourself if you possessed it? Thankfulness should be the only response—thankful that He gave it, and thankful that you could use it for His glory. ❖



## Focus on Our Missionaries: *The Showalter Family, Burkina Faso, West Africa*

On Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, the first printed copies of the Acts of the Apostles in Kaansa were presented at the Kaan church in Obire. The completion of this new booklet, together with the previously published Gospel of Luke, brings us to the point where one-third of the New Testament is now finished in the Kaansa language.

In societies where practically no one has ever read before, books are not generally hot sale items, but we were encouraged to see quite a few people following along with the scripture reading in their own copies of Luke. We later learned that Pastor Emmanuel had recently used a new sales strategy to encourage people to buy: He took a stack of copies of Luke to the front of the church, then asked everyone who could read, but who didn't yet have a copy of Luke, to stand up. He then passed out copies to all of those standing. When everyone had a copy, he returned to the front and said, "Each of you standing owes the committee 250 francs [50 cents]."

This is a time of transition—for our oldest son, Nathanael, for our family, and for the Kaansa team. Nathanael graduated from high school on June 11<sup>th</sup> and returned to the States on June 28<sup>th</sup>. For "Third Culture Kids," leaving high school to go "home" is leaving behind your whole life and entering a new world. Nathanael's graduating class of nine is spread over Africa, Europe, and North America. Nathanael will begin an internship at NIH in July (thank you, Mac) and will enter the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia this August (thank you, Lord).

The rest of our family will return to the States on July 13<sup>th</sup> for a year's furlough. Our colleague Gloria Scott will also be taking a furlough during this time. This means that our Burkinabe colleagues, Yao, Nadoome, and Raphael, will be on their own for a year. Their work is cut out for them—they have first drafts of James and 1 Corinthians that need to be revised, checked for exegesis, consultant-checked, and corrected. They plan to continue translating Matthew. They would also like to take a course in English while we are away.

Each of these situations needs to be brought before the Lord in prayer. Pray that the Word of God in Kaansa would transform this people group as they hear it, receive it, and put it into practice in their lives. Pray for Nathanael as he makes this sometimes-wrenching transition from his "home" in Burkina to new challenges in work and study in the States. Pray for our family and for Gloria as we (once again!) sort, pack, move, and settle into another life; for Esther and Jesse as they start in new schools this fall. And pray for Yao, Nadoome, and Raphael, as they continue on alone, that they would look to the Lord for encouragement and guidance for the challenges they will face.



We look forward to seeing you soon in Maryland!

*Stuart and Cathie*

Good Hope Reformed Presbyterian Church  
 Post Office Box 164  
 Burtonsville, MD 20866  
 (301) 236-4151  
 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.goodhopepeca.com

## *Good News from Good Hope!*

# July 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Preschool Moms' Book Study at Kate Haber's - 10am	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am
<b>3</b> Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Youth Group - 6:00pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Preschool Moms' Book Study at Kate Haber's - 10am	<b>8</b> Youth Group Movie Night at Columbia Mall 7:00-9:30pm	<b>9</b> Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am
<b>10</b> Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am <b>Picnic at 216 - 5:00pm</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Preschool Moms' Book Study - 10am Session Meeting at Waller's - 7:30pm	<b>15</b> Youth Group Picnic & Flashlight Games at 216 Property 6:30-9:30pm	<b>16</b> Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am
<b>17</b> Worship Service - 9:30am <b>Communion To Be Served</b> Sunday School - 11:00am Youth Group - 6:00pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Preschool Moms' Book Study at Kate Haber's - 10am	<b>22</b> Youth Group Video Game Tournament & Game Night 7:00-9:00pm	<b>23</b> Building Committee at 216 - 7:30am Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am
<b>24</b> Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Youth Group - 6:00pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Info for August newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Preschool Moms' Book Study at Kate Haber's - 10am	<b>29</b> Youth Group Cookout & Airgrams at Hadeeds' 6:30-9:30pm	<b>30</b> Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am

## *Don't Miss the Fun on Route 216!*

*by Steve Gerwin, Building Committee*

Progress continues to go well on the outside projects at our new church property, with all of the curbs and gutters in place for the parking area, as well as all storm drain work completed. We are holding off on finishing the circle in front of the church building until some major excavations are dug for the building's mechanical room and for the basement (where the garage once was). We will also be burying water storage tanks for the fire protection system under the area where the existing driveway ends. Soon the septic field and pumping station work will begin. Electrical power will also be installed during the next few weeks. On the interior of the building, all of the steel for the worship area flooring is now in place, and the windows are being cut in.

There is still plenty of work for volunteers to do on weekends—some destruction, some construction, depending on your preference. All are welcomed, a great time is had by all, and we usually knock off by about 11:30am. We will also have some major construction projects to come that church members will have fun doing—each nail we pull, each brick we lay, each hole we dig, we reduce our mortgage! Working on this building is a once in a lifetime chance, something you will always remember—and on top of that, it is expanding the kingdom of God. What a deal! ❖

## *Lots of July Youth Group Events!*

The middle and high school youth groups will meet for a wide variety of social activities on **Friday nights** during the month of July—a movie night at the Mall in Columbia on **July 8<sup>th</sup>**; a picnic followed by flashlight games at the church property on Route 216 on **July 15<sup>th</sup>**; a video game tournament and game night at the Gerwins' house (1125 Windmill Lane, Silver Spring) on **July 22<sup>nd</sup>**; and a cookout and missions event at the Hadeeds' house (10506 Edgefield Drive, Adelphi) on **July 29<sup>th</sup>**. Please contact **John or Becky Hadeed** for more information about any of these events.

In addition, **Craig and Wendy Higgins** will host the youth group at their house (2407 Starcrest Drive, Silver Spring) on **Sundays, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>** from 6:00-7:30pm for a time of fellowship, music, and Bible study. All middle school and high school students are welcome!