

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 Presbyterian Church ❖ The Presbyterian Church in America ❖ July 2007

Glorifying God Through Vacation Bible School

Recently we distributed a card in our Sunday morning bulletin which summarized the purpose, vision, core values, and strategy of Good Hope Presbyterian Church. We stated that our purpose for existing as a church is to glorify God. Our vision is to be a church that is a worshiping, welcoming, growing, teaching, loving, serving, sending community of believers, to the glory of God and the promotion of the kingdom of Jesus Christ. Our core values are commitment to Jesus Christ, commitment to family and the family of believers, and commitment to the local community and the world.

During this first week of July, Good Hope is hosting its first Vacation Bible School at our new location in Fulton. Vacation Bible School perfectly fits our purpose, vision, values, and strategy. Those engaged in the ministry of VBS are glorifying God. Aspects of our vision for what our church should look like and feel like are being set and will be met that week. God will be worshiped, Christ will be exalted, children and parents will be welcomed, the gospel will be taught, love for children will be tangibly shown, and serving by the staff will occur. Our values will be lived, demonstrating our commitment to Jesus Christ, who said, "Let the children come to

Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Luke 18:16) Our core value of commitment to our family and the family of believers will be lived as we attempt to bring children to Christ or closer to Christ, because when we are closer to Christ, we grow closer to one another and are more enabled to live the rule He has for us in life. Also, our core value of commitment to the local community and the world is put into action as we move out toward them with the love of Christ.

Pray for VBS!

Please be in prayer throughout the week:

- Pray that everyone involved in VBS will have fun and be safe!
- Pray that God will become real to the children who attend.
- Pray for endurance for VBS workers.
- Pray that families whose children are attending VBS will come to church on Sunday and stay for the luncheon.
- Pray that God will be glorified in our efforts to share His love.

Recently a card was distributed with our purpose, vision, core values, and strategy on it. You will be seeing more of its content with greater explanation and unfolding of these ideas. While it is a good thing to distill on a card a summary of why we exist, what we want to be, what is important to us, and how we plan to accomplish it, what is more important is that our words move from distillation to dissemination in word and deed. Pray for the ministry of Vacation Bible School. It is a ministry that is doing what we said we should. ❖



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

Does preaching about Christ make people crazy? Without Christ, would God have no power or wisdom? Is boasting always a negative thing?

These are some questions that came up just in chapter one as we began reviewing the second draft of I Corinthians with a translation consultant in Ouagadougou in June. Stuart was there in Burkina Faso with Gloria, Yao, and Nadome, our translation team. We also invited a literacy trainer named Karifa to sit in on the review. Karifa did attend church in the Kaan village of Obirei a few years ago, but he has stopped coming, and he never made a commitment to Christ. He represented for us the ways that unchurched Kaan villagers might understand (or misunderstand) our draft translation of the Scriptures.



Consultant checking helps us carefully examine again the draft of the Kaansa translation, comparing it to the Greek text, and getting feedback from what we call a "naive listener"—that is, someone who is unfamiliar with the text and Christian teachings in general. Yao or Nadome will read a passage to him in Kaansa, and then we ask him to translate it back to us in French. Sometimes the most amazing misunderstandings come to light. For example, in I Corinthians 1:21, the Kaansa text reads something like this:

"The people of this world with their wisdom, they cannot know God. Therefore, God saw it good that He take the teaching of the death of Christ, which is folly to people, and save those who believe in Him. This is God's wisdom."

Karifa's on the spot translation said, "God saw it good that He take the teaching of the death of Christ, which makes people crazy..."

Hmm... Not exactly what we meant to say.

After some discussion, we decided to change the verb in that part of the verse, so that it instead read, "which people consider to be folly."

It took us 9 days to work through the whole book of I Corinthians, averaging 47 verses per day. It will take us another five days or so to decide on all of the changes to the draft. When we're done, we'll have draft #3, and our village translation team will use this in small group Bible studies among church members for a couple of months, still gathering notes on how we might improve the text. Finally, we'll read the book aloud to a group of Kaan pastors to test for readability and comprehension. We then make a few last changes (draft #4) and start laying it out for publication as a separate book of the Bible. Lord willing, and with your continued prayers and support, I Corinthians in the Kaansa language will be published in early 2008.

Meanwhile, the team is working on the gospel of John and Galatians, and we may begin Hebrews in the fall.

Thank you for being a part of this great work!

Stuart and Cathie

Join us for Sunday School at 9:45am and Worship at 11:00am each Sunday.
Evening Worship is held each Sunday at 6:30pm.

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July 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Communion To Be Served Middle School at church - 5pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm High School Youth Group at the Higgins' - 8:00-9:30pm	2	3 Vacation Bible School 9:00am -12:30pm daily	4	5	6	7 July Deacons of the Month: Tim Rowan Glenn Taylor
8 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Friends & Family Luncheon Middle School at church - 5pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm High School Youth Group at the Higgins' - 8:00-9:30pm	9	10	11	12 Session Meeting at the church - 7:30pm	13	14
15 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm High School Youth Group at the Higgins' - 8:00-9:30pm	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm High School Youth Group at the Higgins' - 8:00-9:30pm	23	24	25	26	27 Info for August newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	28
29 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm High School Youth Group at the Higgins' - 8:00-9:30pm	30	31	1	2	3	4

Friends & Family Luncheon

To wrap up our week of Vacation Bible School, our next Friends & Family Luncheon will be held after the morning worship service on **Sunday, July 8th**. Please come and make our visitors feel welcome! If you have not already responded, please contact Becky Hadeed today at (240)441-8410 or rhadeed@atsrvcs.com to let her know whether you plan to attend or not.

After this month, future Friends & Family Luncheons will be held on the first Sunday of each month (August 5th, September 2nd, October 7th, and November 4th). Please make the most of these special opportunities to invite friends to get to know our congregation!



Skipper and Loop De Loo ensure that "splashtacular" fun can be found this week during VBS!