

# 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 ❖ June 2006*

## Giving Up or Going On?

**G**iving up or going on? That is often a position in which we find ourselves. Sometimes it is appropriate to give up. As is said, "When the handwriting is on the wall, it may be best to throw in the towel." At other times, we want to quit because the pain of persevering is more than we want to bear.

Those admirable believers listed in Hebrews 11 used their faith as a strength that enabled them to persevere in their calling even though some of them faced immense adversity. The writer of Hebrews, having delineated these people as examples, called his readers to "run with perseverance the race marked out for us." Part of our race at Good Hope entails finishing a long-term building project. We are rounding the corner, and we can see the finish line! We have worked and endured for the sake of Christ our Savior, Whose kingdom and glory we desire to see exalted. In these closing days of this part of our race, let us encourage one another and prayerfully depend upon God for strength to finish this task.

You may currently have an issue in your life that is not connected to our building project but still requires you to persevere. Be encouraged and stay the course, and God will give you success in finishing the race He has marked out for you. ❖



*In the spirit of Christian joy  
Wade and Sharon Bender  
and  
Jack and Christina Waller  
invite you to share in the joy  
of the marriage uniting their children  
Laura Lynne Bender  
and  
Jacob Whitlock Waller  
on Saturday, the eighth of July  
Two thousand and six  
at two o'clock in the afternoon  
Tabernacle Baptist Church  
616 Broad Street  
New Bern, North Carolina  
Dessert reception following the ceremony*

## Focus on Our Missionaries: *Linda Karner in Chiba, Japan (East of Tokyo)*

**S**ince returning to Japan in January, I have been teaching English at Kokubunjidai, the church plant that has been my place of worship for two years. God is really doing something exciting at Kokubunjidai—we have two junior high students and three high school students. This may not sound like much, but in the whole history of our English program (which started in 1989), we have hardly ever been able to attract this age group, because of competition with school activities and with "cram" schools that Japanese kids attend after regular school to improve their chances of passing their entrance exams to either high school or college with a higher grade. The three high school girls had a very good relationship with the last English teacher, who was a college sophomore and therefore close to their age. They even visited her in the US during their spring break. Young people attract young people! So please, young people at Good Hope—think about giving a year or two of your life to further the work of God's Kingdom here in Kokubunjidai.

Another even more exciting thing that God is doing is bringing what I like to refer to as "choice men." As you know, we need men to establish Presbyterian churches. Well, God has brought two men in their late 30s/early 40s, along with their families! Yes, I have one complete family of three, and three out of four members of another family (one daughter is not in our classes) who study English and, more importantly, hear the living Word of God each week. The men seem very receptive to the Word, but of course I cannot see their hearts. One high school daughter came to worship last week by herself. Please pray for these two families (the Saitos and the Shiroganes) to come to faith.

I also have another "choice man"—the college student. In fact, God rebuked my heart the other day because I don't usually think of him as "choice"—"flighty" seems more appropriate! But that's his season of life right now. He's a winsome, outgoing young man, hearing the Word each week. College is prime time in a Japanese person's life, a little space of freedom between the busyness of high school and the time commitment of working for a company. Even in the US, college is a time when many people make a decision for Christ, and they have their whole lives ahead of them to serve Him and enjoy His blessings. Plus, we need Christian husbands for Christian young ladies here! So, in the final analysis, Mr. Ninomi is very much a "choice man." Please pray that God would open the eyes of his heart.

On top of this, God has brought the parents of two of my children to special events recently—as a couple. This, too, is not something that I am used to seeing. It's been very hard to make that connection (child to family), and usually it's just to the mom. One of these dads even came to worship by himself! So, we see God at work inside and outside of our English program and altogether five open men. Not to mention an elderly man who joined a class in January and was baptized in April! God is building His church.



**Linda Karner leads Bible time with Mr. and Mrs. Saito. Please pray for this couple and others who are learning English and hearing God's Word.**

Thank you so much for your prayers and support!  
May God bless you and keep you,

*Linda Karner*

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.goodhopepca.com

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June 2006						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Youth Group - 6:00-7:30pm Rowan Growth Group - 6pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> Session Meeting at Wallers' House 7:30pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am
<b>4</b> Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am
<b>11</b> Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am
<b>18</b> Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am <b>Communion To Be Served</b> Sunday School - 11:00am	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am
<b>25</b> Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am	<b>26</b> Info for July newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am

*Coming This June...?*

*by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman*

The sign says, "Coming This June." The sign may be wrong...

When you visit the construction site during the week, you are almost sure to see the same things. **Matt Malanoski**, of course, is almost always there, as is **Jack Waller**. **Jim Rowan** is a frequent visitor, and the multitude of HVAC units that he already has in place is impressive. **Glenn Taylor** may also be observed preparing the floor for the volunteer force that will soon be joining him. In addition to this group of in-house professionals, this week's workforce has been filled out by a group of drywall finishers that came from Pensacola, Florida and are with us thanks to Jack's brother.

On Saturday mornings, the place is a beehive. **Steve Gerwin's** army of volunteers has put a lot of trees in the ground, and **Tim Rowan** has figured out a way to keep them watered. Next on the SGA (Steve Gerwin's Army) list are painting and flooring, and the time for those things is now!

We are constantly reminded that things take place on God's schedule. I personally lose track of this too often, and the church project has been a good reminder to me about who is really in charge. Anyway, we are finally getting there. Please let Steve know of your willingness to work, and please continue to pray for us all and for the project. ❖

