

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 ❖ May 2003

Pray for Continued Progress on Good Hope's Building Project!

by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman

The building committee met for breakfast on Saturday, April 26th. Once again, progress is at a standstill for now, as we await the completed site development plan for the church property. However, our civil engineer, **Rob Vogel** assures us that this will be finished by Friday, May 9th. Please pray that there will be no further delays, and that we will receive the site development plan in May as promised!

Spurred by a request from the farmer who has leased our acreage in the past to renew for this year, **Jack Waller** raised the issue of using the outbuilding on the property as an activity center for the youth group. This would mean that some of the area planned for crops would be at risk. Because the farmer only pays \$200 per year, the committee voted to proceed with the youth plan, pending on finding out the legality of doing so. The farmer would be offered any acreage that might not be at risk. Bill Davis will be presenting the completed loan application to the bank this week. Windows will be ordered per the specifications of our architect, **Karl Riedel** to present to the senior **Rowans**, now joined in the effort by **Beth Rowan**, so that their work on the stained glass can begin.

Continue to pray for the building project, for the building committee, and for all of us who eagerly look forward to a new church home. ❖

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

Most people don't think that spending 10 days learning grammar would be an exciting privilege. In fact, some might even have nightmares about that sort of thing. My own thoughts as I flew back to Burkina Faso in January seemed sometimes like nightmares too: maybe none of our village literacy teachers would show up for the seminar, and, if they did, maybe they would slink away after a few days of mind-numbing boredom? What if our Wycliffe colleague Gloria and the national translators Yao and Nadoome weren't able to complete the arrangements for the seminar before I arrived in the village? Would we lose valuable time cobbling this thing together at the last minute? I could just see us pleading with village friends or even twisting a few arms and calling in some favors to get enough people to show up. And what if I got sick right in the middle of it? I'd be stranded in the village without Cathie's loving care.

These were the thoughts occupying my mind as I tried to ignore the French movie in the cabin of the 767 sailing over the Sahara at 30,000 feet. But, when I landed in Ouagadougou that Saturday night in mid-January, all of the familiar sounds and smells reassured me that God was still working in this land and among the Kaan people, just as He has been for the last 16 years, and long before that, to be sure. Surely He would continue to do so, regardless of the success of the writing seminar that I had come to teach in the village.

Sunday was a day for rest and for seeing old friends; Monday, a day of hasty preparation. Tuesday, I drove down to the village on the newly paved road, making the trip in just 5½ hours, faster than I had ever done it (or ever should have, no doubt). The road up to the village from Loropéni is as bad as ever, and the village as peaceful and unchanged as ever. Yao, Chantal, and a handful of kids welcomed me back and asked after the health of Cathie and our children. "P's kperkperi. P's b^{ma} thsya' ±" I answered. They are well. They all greet you.

Gloria stopped by that afternoon once word reached her that I had arrived. "So, Gloria, how is the seminar shaping up?" I asked, hesitantly. Gloria's characteristic smile never left her face. "We're all set. We've got 25 people coming. There's a group of ladies who will feed us all at lunchtime. We're all excited about it. We start tomorrow morning."

That night as I lay alone in the dusty coolness of our long-vacant village house, listening to the chirping bats in the attic, I thanked God for His advance work and prayed for strength and wisdom to open up the mysteries of the Kaansa language to these 25 dedicated people.

Instead of a boring grammar lesson, the seminar became a journey of discovery. Together we listened to stories recorded in Kaansa, and the students wrote them down as best they could. Then I took the group on an insider's tour of their language, moving from the basic letters representing the sounds, up to the forms of the nouns and the verbs, and then on to how to string them together in sequence to make sentences, paragraphs, and whole stories. We explored how nouns and verbs change their endings depending on where they come in relation to each other and what role they play in transmitting the meaning of the whole. For the first time, these students saw why their language is written as it is. They marveled at its complexity—a complexity they had



Good Hope is thankful to have had the Showalter family in Maryland with us for the past months. They will be missed as they return to Africa!

mastered with ease from before their earliest memories; a complexity that Cathie and I have puzzled over and stumbled through for 15 years.

One older man was seeing the written form of his mother tongue for the first time. Blaise Farma had been a teacher in the public school system where he taught French to struggling Burkinabe students his whole professional life. He knew all about French grammar, but nothing about his own language. After years of being transferred around the country like most other teachers, he retired last year and settled back in nearby Loropéni. At the end of the seminar, he went up to the blackboard along with all the other students, most of them literacy teachers who had learned to write Kaansa a few years ago. He carefully moved the chalk in the shape of the letters as he listened to the dictation. He traced them more slowly than the others did, but with the same now-familiar curves and lines. He paused and received some hints from his fellow students, all younger than he. He finished his sentences and smiled with an engaging gleam in his eye. After a lifetime of teaching the language of the former colonists, he had now written his first sentence of the language of his childhood. Though French had become the language of his intellect, Kaansa was still the language of his heart.

They were just 25 people in a remote African village, seemingly untouched by the turmoil in the world around them. And even though most of them could not finish the course because they had to return to teaching others to read Kaansa in even more remote villages, they all took with them seeds planted during that seminar, in what seemed like good soil: capable, interested minds and willing hearts. Lord, please make these seeds grow into a bountiful harvest of people ready and eager for your Word in their language.

We are preparing to return to Burkina Faso on July 1st to continue work with the Kaansa translation team. Please pray that we will have the energy and perseverance to once again pack and store away our household, rent the house, and move our lives back to Africa. Pray also for the Kaansa translation team: Gloria, Yao, and Nadoome, as they start the final revision of the Gospel of Luke.

On behalf of the Showalter family,
Stuart

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 9:25am and Sunday School at 11:00am each Sunday.
 www.goodhopepepca.com

Good News from Good Hope!

May 2003						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 4:30pm Youth Group GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	28	29 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	30	1	2 French GG - 7:00pm	3 Men's Breakfast at Waller's House 7:30am
4 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 4:30pm Youth Group GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	5	6 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	7	8 Session/Deacon Meeting at Waller's House - 7:30pm	9 French GG - 7:00pm	10 Good Hope Masters Golf Tournament at Patuxent Greens 1pm
11 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Chandler GG - 6:00pm	12	13 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	14	15	16 French GG - 7:00pm	17
18 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 4:30pm Youth Group GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	19	20 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	21	22	23 French GG - 7:00pm	24 Building Committee at the Macdonalds' House - 7:30am
25 Worship Service - 9:25am Communion To Be Served Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 4:30pm Youth Group GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	26 Info for June newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	27 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	28	29	30 French GG - 7:00pm	31

Wise Stewards on Earth Send Their Treasures Ahead to Heaven

Is Jesus the supreme materialist? Is He a financial expert who can show us how to get the most bang for our buck? In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:19-21) How do you store up treasures in heaven? Is there a teller to deposit it with? How do you get your fortune there? Also, what is the currency of heaven?

The deposit slips of heaven are filled out on earth. The nexus between heaven and earth is presently right here. A friend once told me, "You can't keep your treasure on earth, but you can send it on ahead!" You send it on ahead in the way you use your wealth now. Jesus stated clearly, "You cannot serve both God and money." (Matthew 6:24) You must give your highest allegiance to one or the other. Both cannot occupy the chief place in your life. I know that Jesus is directly speaking of the competition in our hearts between God and money. But I wonder if it is not legitimate to think that Jesus is also driving at a broader issue. The investment that He is calling us to make is not limited to sheer money. Rather, He is expanding the possibilities to include every facet of our lives.

Men's Breakfast

The men's breakfast group will meet on **Saturday, May 3rd** at 7:30am at the Waller's house. In preparation, please read pages 85-124 of *Out of the Silent Planet* by C.S. Lewis.

Use your life by investing in a kingdom lifestyle toward all others and also toward God. If Jesus were restricting His counsel to money alone, then the possibility for reward would be greater for the rich Christian than it would be for the poor Christian. As it is, we can all follow His advice and realize that the way we live here will follow us there. And, while we should not see Jesus' advice in cold economic terms, we must be aware that the heavenly treasure He speaks of, in whatever form it will take, should be sought not so we might be heavenly materialists but wise stewards of the life that He has given us. We seek not to gain, but to avoid a life that is lived in vain. ❖



Jonah Sails to Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held **July 14-18** at Cloverly Elementary School. Our theme this year is "Jonah." The staff is excited about the rich depth of our curriculum, which will strengthen our covenant children and also clearly present the Gospel to neighborhood children. Many workers are needed! Please speak to **Chris Waller** about your availability to help. Opportunities to serve are available even for those who cannot be with us during that week! Please be in prayer that God will prepare hearts for VBS and provide the many workers needed for this outreach ministry. ❖

Good Hope Masters Tournament

Don't forget to see **Mark Hegerle** by this Sunday, May 4th, to sign up for the 2003 Good Hope Masters golf tournament! The tournament will take place on **Saturday, May 10th** at 1pm at the Patuxent Greens Country Club in Laurel. The cost is \$50 per person, which includes greens fees, cart, and prize money. Please see Mark in person this Sunday, or e-mail him at hegerle@erols.com to sign up.

Greetings from Japan

Linda Karner, missionary to Japan, will be presenting a report to us on **Sunday, May 11th** during the Sunday School hour.

Visiting Children's Choir

The **Covenant Children's Choir** of Fourth Presbyterian Church will be participating in our worship service on **Sunday, May 18th**. This group will include approximately 40 children.

Communion Date

Because of the Covenant Children's Choir's visit to our congregation on May 18th, the May date for communion has been changed to **Sunday, May 25th**.

Good Hope Choir Schedule

The choir will be singing hymn #421, "Soul Adorn Yourself With Gladness," during the service on **Sunday, May 25th**. All are invited to join the choir, which will practice this piece on Sunday, May 18th and Sunday, May 25th at 8:30am.

Jonah Sails to Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held **July 14-18** at Cloverly Elementary School. Our theme this year is "Jonah." The staff is excited about the rich depth of our curriculum, which will strengthen our covenant children and also clearly present the Gospel to neighborhood children. Many workers are needed! Please speak to **Chris Waller** about your availability to help. Opportunities to serve are available even for those who cannot be with us during that week! Please be in prayer that God will prepare hearts for VBS and provide the many workers needed for this outreach ministry. ❖

Good Hope Masters Tournament

Don't forget to see **Mark Hegerle** by this Sunday, May 4th, to sign up for the 2003 Good Hope Masters golf tournament! The tournament will take place on **Saturday, May 10th** at 1pm at the Patuxent Greens Country Club in Laurel. The cost is \$50 per person, which includes greens fees, cart, and prize money. Please see Mark in person this Sunday, or e-mail him at hegerle@erols.com to sign up.

Greetings from Japan

Linda Karner, missionary to Japan, will be presenting a report to us on **Sunday, May 11th** during the Sunday School hour.

Visiting Children's Choir

The **Covenant Children's Choir** of Fourth Presbyterian Church will be participating in our worship service on **Sunday, May 18th**. This group will include approximately 40 children.

Communion Date

Because of the Covenant Children's Choir's visit to our congregation on May 18th, the May date for communion has been changed to **Sunday, May 25th**.

Good Hope Choir Schedule

The choir will be singing hymn #421, "Soul Adorn Yourself With Gladness," during the service on **Sunday, May 25th**. All are invited to join the choir, which will practice this piece on Sunday, May 18th and Sunday, May 25th at 8:30am.

Jonah Sails to Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held **July 14-18** at Cloverly Elementary School. Our theme this year is "Jonah." The staff is excited about the rich depth of our curriculum, which will strengthen our covenant children and also clearly present the Gospel to neighborhood children. Many workers are needed! Please speak to **Chris Waller** about your availability to help. Opportunities to serve are available even for those who cannot be with us during that week! Please be in prayer that God will prepare hearts for VBS and provide the many workers needed for this outreach ministry. ❖

Good Hope Masters Tournament

Don't forget to see **Mark Hegerle** by this Sunday, May 4th, to sign up for the 2003 Good Hope Masters golf tournament! The tournament will take place on **Saturday, May 10th** at 1pm at the Patuxent Greens Country Club in Laurel. The cost is \$50 per person, which includes greens fees, cart, and prize money. Please see Mark in person this Sunday, or e-mail him at hegerle@erols.com to sign up.

Greetings from Japan

Linda Karner, missionary to Japan, will be presenting a report to us on **Sunday, May 11th** during the Sunday School hour.

Visiting Children's Choir

The **Covenant Children's Choir** of Fourth Presbyterian Church will be participating in our worship service on **Sunday, May 18th**. This group will include approximately 40 children.

Communion Date

Because of the Covenant Children's Choir's visit to our congregation on May 18th, the May date for communion has been changed to **Sunday, May 25th**.

Good Hope Choir Schedule

The choir will be singing hymn #421, "Soul Adorn Yourself With Gladness," during the service on **Sunday, May 25th**. All are invited to join the choir, which will practice this piece on Sunday, May 18th and Sunday, May 25th at 8:30am.