

# 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 ❖ September 2002*

## *How Solid Is Your Foundation? Build Your Life on the Solid Rock*

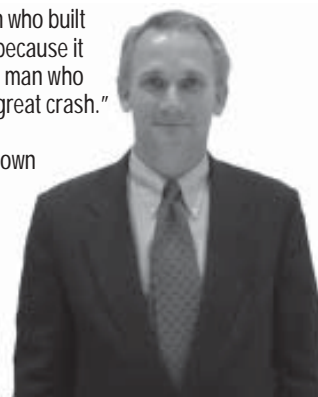
In Florida, there are no basements. The soil is too sandy, and the water table is too high. Houses are constructed on the sand. Well, not exactly on top of the sand. First, you dig a trench a couple of feet deep that outlines the house. Then, you place steel rebar in the trench, staking it about 6 inches above the bottom of the trench. Last, you pour concrete into the trench until it is about 12 inches thick. Off this footer the house is built. In essence, you have created your own rock on which your house will stand.

A few years ago, my brother Charlie was faced with a serious problem. His house began to sink. Many of the door openings inside the house became out of square, and the doors would not close. The windows of the house were more and more difficult to open. The house was settling. In order to remedy the problem, large screws were driven deeply into the ground all the way around the house. So far, this has stopped his house from sinking any further. His first foundation failed. Maybe his second will not. Only time will tell.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet, it did not fall because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

We may create our own foundations upon which to build our lives. We may create our own logic, our own value systems, and our own wise sayings to live by, but will they last? Have you heard the howling winds outside your house? Are you being pelted with economic woes, physical deterioration, or mental anxieties? Is it time to trade in your thoughts for His thoughts, your ebbing strength for His strength, your evaporating peace for His abiding peace? Do you really think that you can match wits with the eternal living God?

As a Christian, I have founded my life upon Christ, and my salvation is in Him. As I live daily, more and more I find that when I follow the rock of His Word, I am able to endure the tossing storms of my life, and when I move from the rock of His Word, I quake and need His hand to lift me from my sinking despair. Jesus exhorts us to build our lives upon His Word. Let us not seek another construction site. Another subdivision is not needed. ❖



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

When we left for Africa last September, we could not see in our planning beyond July 2002. The uncertainty of my father's cancer shrouded the future like a mist. When we returned from Africa in early July, the mist still hung thickly around us, and we could plan just one day at a time. Now, Dad is resting in the presence of God from his labors and suffering, and, for us, the mist has lifted. One by one, the questions that kept us awake at night in May and June have received their answers; one by one, the prayers we all have prayed have returned full of promise.

### **Regarding my father's illness:**

You all know that the Lord took Dad home on July 6, less than 24 hours after we arrived from Africa. The funeral service at his home church was a beautiful and strong testimony to his life and faith. Many people have expressed their love and appreciation for Dad in cards and visits since his death. We can't help but feel a great peace and satisfaction at a life well lived and a battle well fought. Thank you all for your prayers and for your expressions of support during the time of his suffering.

### **Regarding our future:**

It is clear that we need to be here near my mother for a while. There are many things to settle after Dad's passing, and we all need time to work through them. Trying to manage these things from Africa, leaving my mother alone here, did

not seem wise, loving, or practical. And while we may be able to settle things in 6 months, we will spend the whole school year here to give some measure of continuity to our children. They have already gone through two changes in schooling in the last two years. (Nathanael is three for three!)

### **Regarding school for the kids:**

Several people have given towards our children's tuition this year, and my mother has generously offered to help, too, so that all three kids can attend a Christian school close by—the same school Nathanael attended during our furlough in 2000-2001. A big thank you to all who have contributed to their tuition needs and who have sustained us in prayer.

### **Regarding housing:**

We did not want to ask the renters of our house in Burtonsville to leave, but they decided on their own to buy a house and move out of ours by the 15<sup>th</sup> of August. Hmm—does it seem as though this was planned? We moved back in on August 24<sup>th</sup> and appreciate all of the help you gave us to make this happen!

### **Regarding the Kaansa translation project:**

Checking Luke 18-24 in June went very well, though it was a painstaking process that revealed more changes to be made. Yao, Nadoome, Cathie, and I worked together on these revisions during the last half of June. In July, after we left, Yao, Nadoome, and Gloria took vacations and are now back in Obire, continuing to revise the first draft of Luke 1-17. Gloria will continue to work in the village into September. I will return to Burkina Faso on September 29<sup>th</sup> and will stay until the beginning of November to help with final revisions and to attend a non-narrative discourse workshop with the team. This will help us prepare for translating the book of Acts and beyond.

### **Regarding your prayers and support:**

Once again, we stand amazed at God's care and His timing. What was so uncertain in May and June has now become clear. Thank you for holding us up through it all by your prayers. Thank you to those who have given generously of their time, their resources, and their encouragement to support us in this work and in this time of transition.



With love and gratefulness to God,  
*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 9:25am and Sunday School at 11:00am each Sunday.  
[www.goodhopepca.com](http://www.goodhopepca.com)

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# September 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Session Meeting at Waller's House 7:30pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Men's Breakfast at Waller's House 7:30am
<b>8</b> Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm Youth Group GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Macdonald GG 6:30pm	<b>11</b> Tim Rowan GG 7:00pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> French GG - 7:30pm	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm Youth Group GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Macdonald GG 6:30pm	<b>18</b> Tim Rowan GG 7:00pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> French GG - 7:30pm	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm Youth Group GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Macdonald GG 6:30pm	<b>25</b> Tim Rowan GG 7:00pm	<b>26</b> Info for October newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	<b>27</b> French GG - 7:30pm	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm Youth Group GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> Macdonald GG 6:30pm	<b>2</b> Tim Rowan GG 7:00pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> French GG - 7:30pm	<b>5</b>

### *Session Meeting*

The Session will meet on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at the Waller's House.

### *Men's Breakfast*

The next Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am at the Waller's House. Please read letters XVII-XX in C.S. Lewis's *Screwtape Letters*.

### *Growth Groups*

Growth Groups will resume on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. The fall schedule will be:

- Sundays at 5:00pm - Ron and Amy Higgins' House
- Sundays at 5:45pm - Youth Group at the Waller's House
- Sundays at 6:00pm - Edward and Victoria Chandler's House
- Tuesdays at 6:30pm - Mac and Bobbie Macdonald's House
- Wednesdays at 7:00pm - Tim and Beth Rowan's House
- Fridays at 7:30pm - Ed and Bonnie French's House

### *Men's Basketball*

Men's basketball will resume for the fall in October for all men in high school or beyond. Please mark your calendars now with the following Thursday evenings from 8-10pm at Briggs Chaney Middle School:

October 17 and 24; November 7 and 21  
 December 5 and 19; January 9 and 23  
 February 20 and 27; March 13 and 20

### *Church Retreat at Camp Hemlock*

The annual church retreat will be held from October 11-13 at Camp Hemlock. Mark your calendar now, and stay tuned for more details soon. Please see **Tina Bailey** or **Mark Hegerle** with any questions!

### *Newsletters on Website*

Past issues of the church newsletter are available on the church website at [www.goodhopepca.com](http://www.goodhopepca.com). Thanks to **Donna Kotting** for her maintenance of this website!