

# heartland connection

February, 2012

I ♥ JESUS

Volume 18, Issue 2

Dear Friends,

February is a strange month. It is in the middle of winter. It is supposed to be gray and cloudy and snowy and cold. Many people isolate themselves inside. The only things we can look forward to is a holiday that celebrates the forecasting skills of a rodent and a day devoted to cards and candy. We also remember some of our presidents and give the banks and post office a day off. Still, we must go through February to get to March when things begin to improve.

It is always hard to believe how quickly time flies. This winter has flown by already and it is disappointing to not have had some winter weather this year. I love seeing the snow, and I am still holding out for a big storm. In our spiritual lives often times it seems like nothing is happening on the outside. We are not seeing any huge changes and other people can't see any difference either. Our times with the Lord may seem dry and our prayers seem to bounce off the ceiling. We desperately need a fresh pouring out of God's Spirit. Many times we face what the old Puritan writers called "the dark night of the soul."

## *"the dark night of the soul"*

What are we to do at times like that? The most important thing to remember is that even though we may not see huge change, God is still at work in us. The promises of His Word remind us that He is not inactive. Phil. 1:6 *"For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."* Or, Phil. 2:13 *"for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."* Or again,

Rom. 8:29 *"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;"* Or, 1John 3:2 *"Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is."*

There will be times of great, visible, observable growth in our lives. We need to continue to "work out our salvation with fear and trembling." But what about those other times? Are there ways we can overcome the seeming inactivity and sense God's presence with us again?

God has shown us that many times the inactivity comes because of sin. He says in Isaiah 59:2, *"But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear."*

God tells us to examine ourselves, confess our sins, repent and return to Him. When we do that He promises us that He will restore us. Acts 3:19 says, *"Therefore, repent and return so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."*

But what about those times where we have confessed and examined and don't know about any sin? How do we respond to those dry times? In a word—obedience. In John 14, there is one factor that Jesus said would prove our love to Him. Jesus said, *"If you love Me, you will obey Me"*. What better demonstration of our love for God could there be than for us to do what He asks. It's not because we have to earn His love. He gave us that before we even wanted Him. It's because we ought to. We now have the ability and the incredible privilege to show our love for God through obedience. Let us continue to strive for purity, holiness and Christlikeness in our lives as we walk according to the manual He has given us—His Word.

So, we follow God's plan and continue to do the things we know are right that He has shown us. We continue to pray, read and study His Word, fast, worship. As we submit ourselves to these disciplines, we know that He is still working and will bring about His results. Richard

*Pray  
Read & Study His Word  
Fast  
Worship*

*(Continued on page 2)*

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Foster in the classic book, "Celebration of Discipline says, "A farmer is helpless to grow grain; all he can do is to provide the right conditions for the growing of grain. He puts seed in the ground where the natural forces take over and up comes the grain. That is the way with the spiritual disciplines—they are a way of sowing to the Spirit. The disciplines are God's way of getting us into the ground; they put us where He can work within us and transform us. By themselves the disciplines can do nothing; they can only get us to the place where something can be done. They are God's means of grace." I would encourage you in those times of apparent inactivity to go back to the basics. Spend time in the Word and prayer. Fast. Worship. Put yourself in the place where God can do His work in your life.

I look forward to a great month of learning and growing. I am thrilled with our new elders and deacons and encourage you to continue to pray for them and encourage them as you can. We have some great adult Sunday School classes starting this month and I would urge you to make that a part of your Sunday. We are seeing new faces almost every Sunday. Continue to reach out and greet them and make them feel welcome. In this month of Valentine's Day, let us use it as a month to truly love one another.

God is at work! I pray you have a great month. I love you all.



George

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Dear Heartlanders,

I hope this new year has started well for you and that God is blessing you as you follow Him. Are you finding the time to spend in Bible reading, study and prayer? It's tough sometimes, but well worth the effort.

One of the tools we want to provide for you in helping you are our Shepherd Groups. Everyone in our congregation is now part of a group overseen by an Elder and Deacon. You were handpicked to be in a group.

At our Elder/Deacon retreat in early January, we again were reminded by the Scriptures that our primary responsibilities as Shepherds are fourfold:

**Know our flock** - We need to know who you are, how you are doing, what needs you may have and what areas we can pray for.

**Feed the flock** - This is being done through Sunday morning preaching, Sunday School classes, small groups and Bible Studies.

**Lead the flock** - this is done as we meet to pray, study and discern God's direction for us as a church.

**Protect the flock** - We do this by understanding the times we live in and refute those teachings and practices that are against the Word of God.

Our Shepherd Group ministry is concentrating on #1. We want to get to know you and your family so that we can pray for you specifically and help meet the needs that arise in your life and family. We will be contacting you on a regular basis to check in with you. We also want you to have a specific person you can contact when a need arises or if you have a question about what is going on at Heartland. You will be contacted by your Elder or Deacon in the next few weeks to begin that process.

We would ask that you would pray for us as well. It is an awesome privilege to be able to be used to help shepherd this flock known as Heartland. We realize that we need His supernatural strength, discernment and wisdom to be able to do the ministry that God has called us to.

We are excited to see what God is going to do in our body this year!

Blessings!

George Granberry for the Elders and Deacons

# ***HOW TO PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES***

*(From Pastor Rick)*

As we enter our annual Missions month here at Heartland, our awareness of our missionaries is naturally heightened. There are exciting things going on around the world, and we are privileged to be a part of them! Heartland has had the privilege of sending several families out in recent years. I know personally that Ben and I are both excited and humbled by the opportunity that we have to be sent to South Asia later this month. In preparation for this trip I have become reminded of the incredible need for prayer support for missionaries and their work. In the midst of our busy daily lives we can too easily forget the physical and spiritual struggles our brothers and sisters on foreign soil can face. The Lord has been teaching me much about the importance of prayer. In an effort to encourage each of us to make prayer for our missionaries more a part of our daily Christian life, I am dedicating the rest of my space to sharing with you a resource that MTW, our denominational missions organization provides to aid us in effective prayer. I hope you find it useful. Why not take these pages out of this month's newsletter and place them in your Bible or prayer journal, where you can have them handy during your prayer time? Maybe you have a particular location where all the members of the family frequent—the refrigerator front, a bulletin board, or even a bathroom mirror—where these requests could be posted as a reminder to pray. However you choose to use this guide I pray that God will use you in the spread of the Gospel as you faithfully pray for your missionaries.

In Christ,  
Rick

Have you noticed that missionaries almost always say that their greatest need is prayer? Perhaps you sometimes think that is just what they are supposed to say—the standard missionary speech. The real issue is the money, right?

The truth is, without prayer, the money is useless. Through the ages, missionaries have known that only God can save the lost, heal the sick, or accomplish anything for His kingdom. And He chooses to work through prayer. Jesus said, "I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it" John 14:13-14.

How then should we pray? Is it enough to say "God bless Bill and Beth"? Praying daily for the needs of missionaries and their ministries can be difficult if we are not in close contact with them. But in order to keep our prayers fervent and consistent, drawing us into closer communion with God, we often need more specific direction.

Most missionaries, regardless of their location or ministry, have some needs in common, simply because they are missionaries. And, like all of us, missionaries are fallen people in need of God's daily grace at work in their lives.

Below are some specific ways to pray for them. There is a category for each week, with a specific prayer need for each day of the week. Weeks one through five are missionary specific, while weeks six through nine are directed at missions in general. As you become aware of other needs your missionaries have through prayer letters and websites, please add them to your list. Once you have prayed through Week Nine, you could begin again with Week One.

*(Continued on page 4)*

*How Lovely on the Mountains are the Feet of Him Who Brings Good News,  
Who Announces Peace and Brings Good News of Happiness,  
Who Announces Salvation, and Says to Zion, "Your God Reigns!"  
Isaiah 52:7*

*(Continued from page 3)*

### **Week 1 – Faithfulness in Ministry**

1. Gospel-driven perseverance, regardless of results; protection from discouragement and strength in persecution
2. Joyful service and faithful prayer for the ministry; growing love of the Church and missionaries of other denominations
3. Long-term faithfulness to stay the course of ministry
4. Many brought to faith and beginning a lifelong journey of discipleship
5. Wisdom and skill in mobilizing and training leaders
6. Continuing growth in grace, leading to a life of self-sacrificing love, repentance, humility, and faith
7. Heart for evangelism; boldness in taking opportunities to share the gospel

### **Week 2 – Building Relationships**

1. Effective grasp of language and ability to communicate; growing understanding of the way nationals process information, which is different from ours
2. Cultural adjustment, ability to fit in appropriately
3. Freedom in Christ to be transparent and real; willingness to accept people as they are
4. Deepening love for the peoples of the ministry region
5. Grace, humility, friendship, and love in relationships; teachable hearts
6. Encouragement of those in persecution
7. Deepening love for the poor, demonstrating mercy, doing justice

### **Week 3 – Protecting Their Witness**

1. Loving and respectful team relationships, team unity
2. Protection from sin and Satan's attacks
3. Constant abiding in the Word of God; a spirit of loving obedience to the Word
4. Vibrant and consistent prayer life
5. Regular and joyful family worship, and discipling of children
6. Vital, growing, and deep experience of God; personal accountability for spiritual growth
7. Humility, flexibility, and openness to learning; protection against pride

### **Week 4 – Resources**

1. Financial support
2. Good stewardship of resources
3. More laborers for the field
4. Greater numbers of short-term workers returning for long-term service
5. Power of the Spirit in their ministries
6. Faithful and effective prayer letters to prayer support base, in the midst of overwhelming ministry
7. An effective prayer movement in each region, team, or country for budding churches and teams

### **Week 5 – Home & Family**

1. Strong marriages and families; saving faith for all MTW children, that they would be faithful disciples
2. Friendships on the field
3. Family issues such as separation from college-age children, aging parents, and other issues at home
4. For missionary kids – issues of transition, schooling and friends; love for team and adoptive peoples
5. Health, safety, and physical well-being; faithfulness in rest, fun, exercise, and eating
6. Safe, adequate, and affordable housing
7. Spiritual nourishment in a cross-cultural context where there may be no church or a small, perhaps immature, church; spiritual nurturing for their children and youth when there may be no ministry for young people

*(Continued on page 5)*

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### **Week 6 – Our Global Family**

1. Godly national church leaders and church-planting facilitators; national church-planting movements
2. Christian marriages and healthy family relationships; children of believers, especially 2<sup>nd</sup> generation, coming to faith and being disciples
3. Protection for young believers in the faith, so that they may grow strong, protected from societal pressures and false teaching
4. Courage in persecution
5. Wisdom in leadership for national leaders; missions vision to go where North Americans can't
6. True biblical understanding, not compromised by cultural pressures or traditional religions of the region
7. Disciples and disciplers with true hunger for the Word

### **Week 7 – People in Restricted-Access Countries**

1. Church-planting movement in closed countries
2. Wisdom for national Christians in discipling and encouraging new believers
3. Personal safety of Christians
4. Fellowship for believers
5. Opportunity for believers to share the gospel safely
6. Inroads for bringing the gospel message into the country
7. Availability of Bibles, books, and literature for ministry

### **Week 8 – The Church at Home**

1. Worldwide missions vision that translates into praying, giving and going
2. Local, cross-cultural heart that welcomes people of all races and socio-economic backgrounds
3. Growing pastors with hearts for missions
4. Enthusiasm for sharing the gospel
5. Community outreach in word and deed
6. Love and peace within the PCA
7. Growth in number and depth

### **Week 9 – Behind the Scenes**

1. Godly, gifted, competent, heart-for-missions home office staff
2. Financial support of MTW, particularly by PCA churches
3. God's leading in selection of committee members, MTW leaders
4. Biblical and effective missions vision, strategies, and methodologies
5. Significant participation in partnerships between MTW, PCA churches and the field
6. Effective use of technology to serve missionaries, churches, and partners around the world
7. Servant's hearts for all MTW staff, hearts that are growing in grace

*Therefore, My Beloved Brethren,  
Be Steadfast, Immovable, Always Abounding  
In the Work of the Lord, Knowing That  
Your Toil is Not in Vain in the Lord.*

*1 Corinthians 15:58*



# *The Teaching Trip to Southeast Asia - The Story*

Were you surprised to hear about Pastor Rick and Ben's trip to Southeast Asia? The journey actually began over two years ago! Allow me to tell the tale, for God has been working through it all!

Heartland became aware of the Asian Crescent Partnership, a part of MTW, when our Sandy and Mandi were seeking where God would have them use their gifts and practice medicine in God's mission field. The Partnership is a collection of churches, both in Asia and the US, who work together to plant churches and train believers to spread the Gospel among their own people. At that time, and in the months after, Sandy and Mandi realized that God was indeed calling them to Asia. Heartland's Missions Committee also discussed with the Partnership how we might come alongside them to help.

Fast forward to 2011. Pastor Rick was invited to come to Asia to train the leaders of a brand-new Presbyterian denomination there. Like Sandy and Mandi, Rick believed that he was to share his gifts with our new brothers, half a world away.

As Pastor Rick and the Missions Committee began preparations, we began a dialog with another PCA church in Montana, who are key members in the Partnership. They advised strongly that Heartland send a "second man" along with Pastor Rick. But whom?

Thus began an effort to send not one but two men! A piece of advice Heartland received from the Montana church was that the "second man" be someone who could share the load with Rick - in planning, in travel, and in teaching. The Missions Committee nominated several men in the congregation whom they believed would be a great "second man." In talking to each of them, one man's ability, availability, and willingness seemed to make him the perfect fit - Ben.



So, the team is set! Pastor Rick is preparing to teach the new leader and Ben will be ready for anything! Our brothers will leave in mid February, and be back at the very end of the month.

Much remains to be done. Two tasks in particular will need the help of Heartlanders - helping them build a network of prayer support, and financial support. These men are traveling far, both geographically and culturally. Pray that they will be effective for the spread of the Gospel of Christ. Pray that His Word, meant for every people, tribe, tongue, and nation, will go forth with power! Also prayerfully consider supporting them financially. We will have sign up opportunities to receive prayer updates, as well as other ways to come alongside them in prayer. If you are lead to help financially, you can make a check out to Heartland and write "Southeast Asia Mission" in the memo line.

May God move powerfully in the prayers of His people, and may He multiply the gifts of His people, for the sake of His Glory!

Matt Phillips and the Missions Committee



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**REFORMED THEOLOGY NIGHT:** The men of Heartland (ages 17 & up) are invited to join in Theology Night for our monthly discussion of Reformed theology, on Friday, February 10th, 7:00 p.m at the Frank's home. This month we'll be reading and discussing Tim Keller's brief article "**The Cultures of the PCA**". If you have questions or would like more details, please contact Ben Franks at: [ben@franksfamily.net](mailto:ben@franksfamily.net).

# Stewardship Principles

## God's Part/Our Part

We continue with the second session of Crown Financial Ministries Biblical Financial Study. In this lesson we will review the roles of God and Man in the area of financial stewardship.

### **GOD'S PART:**

*"Behold, to the Lord, your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it"* (Deuteronomy 10:14 *ESV*). Throughout the bible it is very clear that the Lord owns everything and that ownership was never transferred to us. Why is that important?

**Ownership vs. Lordship.** In *Luke 14:33* Christ made a startling demand of his followers. *"None of you can be my disciple who does not give up all his own possessions"*. This doesn't necessarily mean He wants us to give away everything we own, although He might make that request of some. What it does mean is that we must transfer ownership of our possessions to the Lord. Once we personally recognize God's ownership of everything, every spending decision becomes a spiritual decision. This in turn should influence how we care for possessions.

Recognizing the Lord's ownership is also important in learning contentment. When you see something as your own possession the condition of that possession affects your attitude and your contentment. Acknowledging God's ownership, and being honest with that assessment relieves stress, anxiety and discontentment.

**Who is in control?** As Presbyterians we know and believe that God is creator and owner and directly in control of every event that occurs upon the earth. *"We adore you as being in control of everything ..."* (1 *Chronicles 29:11 ESV*). Regardless of the circumstance, the Lord uses everything in our life to fulfill His purposes and for our ultimate good.

The Lord uses these circumstances in our life to develop our character, even through difficulty and personal pain. *"... [W]e rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope"* (Romans 5:3-4). The Lord disciplines His children (Hebrews 12:6, 10-11). If we are disobedient we can expect God to discipline us, encouraging us to abandon our sin and seek His holiness in our life. Because God is in control we have the peace of knowing He uses everything in our life for His good and perfect eternal purpose.

**God is the provider.** *Matthew 6:33* tells us to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all our needs (food & clothing) shall be provided. Although the Lord is unchanging in His faithfulness to provide for our needs, what we can't predict is *how* the Lord may provide. The Lord instructs us to be content when our basic needs are met. Let us learn to be content in every circumstance and in what He has given us.

### **OUR PART:**

The word "stewardship" perhaps best describes what our role is. *"It is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy"* (1 *Corinthians 4:2*). To be trustworthy or faithful we must know what is required of us. First, be faithful with what the Lord has given. The parable of the talents in the book of Matthew teaches us to be faithful regardless of how much He has entrusted to us. Second, be faithful in every area. The Lord requires from us an account on how we handle all of our finances not just the tithe and/or offering we have given to Him.

**Benefits of handling money faithfully.** Faithful stewardship results in a more intimate fellowship with Jesus Christ. *"His master said to him, well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master"* (Matthew 25:21 *ESV*). Faithful stewardship develops character. Scripture is replete with examples of the relationship between the development of a person's character and how he handled money. Finally, faithful stewardship results in placing our financial house in order to the glory of God. As we apply God's principles to our finances, we begin to spend more wisely, get out of debt, save for our future and ultimately give more to the work of Christ.

As we walk through this review of Crown's bible study let's evaluate our hearts in the matter of how we handle His resources and our finances. Let's strive to be rich toward God and poor towards the world. We can do this by investing in His kingdom and eternity today.

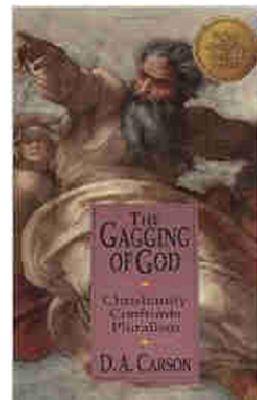
*Editors Note: Portions from above are taken verbatim out of the Crown Financial Bible Study.*



## Heartland Bookcase Focus

In the Preface to the book *The Gagging of God*, Carson writes that “the one common theme of the great majority of commentators who seek to define Western culture at the end of the twentieth century is pluralism. . . . In my most somber moods I some-

times wonder if the ugly face of what I refer to as philosophical pluralism is the most dangerous threat to the gospel since the rise of the gnostic heresy in the second century, and for some of the same reasons.” You may or may not agree with this call to concern, but if you have high regard for D. A. Carson as an evangelical writer and thinker, and I hope you do, then we should at least pay attention to what he has to say.



Carson has written many good books, but this one may be his *magnum opus*, simply because of the great concern that he attaches to the topic. In Chapter 2, after discussing the very significant impact of postmodernism on our society, Carson writes: “True, conservatives did not so easily buy into passing critical theories and were less liable to succumb to philosophical naturalism, except in indirect ways. But they wrote many books on hermeneutics that presupposed a rigid subject/object distinction. Even in this century, some Bible colleges and seminaries have given the impression that rigorous training in Greek, Hebrew, and exegesis will almost guarantee an orthodox outcome in one’s theology. Until very recently, some of them prided themselves in their ignorance of historical theology, judging it to be more or less a waste of time: learn how to do exegesis, and the right answers will be cranked out. There was almost no reflection on how the culture of our age affects us as we engage in interpretation.” Near the end of the chapter Carson writes: “The point should now be very clear. Although not everyone is on the same page, although not everyone is committed to postmodernity, although not everyone thinks that no readings of texts are ever incorrect, although not everyone follows David Tracy in theology, and although not everyone follows Polanyi or Kuhn in science (after all, the sheer diversity that constitutes empirical pluralism is where I started this book), the fact remains that these movements are perceived to be on the cutting edge, and their influence in our culture is vast. Truth disappears, retreating before the culture of interpretation, dissolving in the mists of postmodernity.” Challenging material to be sure, but we are called to be a witness, to be salt and light, in the culture in which we find ourselves.

To browse the above book, or many others, please see the Heartland Bookcase in the gathering area. You will find there a number of books and booklets that may be of interest to you and your family. To make suggestions, please see either Larry Paarmann or Morten Vigilius.

Larry Paarmann

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### "God Is Working His Purpose Out," Missions Hymn of the Month, Trinity Hymnal, 74

At times the oppression of culture, the rise of paganism and the increased anti-Christian sentiment can be discouraging. We as Christians have been called to a living hope--to hold on to our anchor, run to our strong tower and continue to shout the gospel. "How beautiful are the feet of them that carry the good news." God IS working His purpose out and we have been graciously called to be instruments of His grace.

As we learn this new hymn for Missions Month in February, let us sing the melody with zeal in worship of our Creator God and declare His plan to "Let the nations be glad."

For the earth will be filled  
With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord  
As the water covers the sea. Habakkuk 2:14

## *February Missions Month at Heartland*

This month is Missions Month at Heartland Community Church, and to get us started I thought it would be helpful to look a bit at the Biblical basis. I wrote this several years ago, so if it sounds familiar, it is!

You probably know well where Christ gives His disciples what we have come to call the Great Commission: And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Mt 28:18-20 NASB)

However, missions actually begins long before then. One of the first places in Scripture where God brings missions into sharp focus is when He says this to Abram (in Ge 12:1-3):

"And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, ***and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.***"

Missions flows through Scripture. In Is 66:19 we find this:

"And I will set a sign among them and will send survivors from them to the nations: Tarshish, Put, Lud, Meshech, Rosh, Tubal, and Javan, to the distant coastlands that have neither heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they will declare My glory among the nations."

"The nations" does not refer merely to geographic or political boundaries. It refers to all peoples, all groups, all times – in other words, "every people and tribe and tongue and nation."

Missions runs all the way until the end of days, where John records his vision that God has accomplished what He intended, in Rev 5:9-10:

And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and ***purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.***"

But – why did God work to purchase, with the blood of His dear Son, men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation? John Piper, in his book Let the Nations Be Glad makes a convincing argument.

First, God's works glorify Him, and no other. Hear what Isaiah wrote about God's glory in our creation (Is 43:6-7):

"Bring My sons from afar, And My daughters from the ends of the earth, Everyone who is called by My name, And whom I have created for My glory, Whom I have formed, even whom I have made."

Also, God calls His people to praise Him with great joy, as here in Psalm 67:3-4:

Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; For You will judge the peoples with uprightness, and guide the nations on the earth. Selah."

But how? How can sinful man rejoice and be glad in a God who will kill them because of their sin? **Through Christ!** John 17:24 says:

"Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world."

Hear a passage from Piper's book:

"*God is pursuing with omnipotent passion a worldwide purpose of gathering joyful worshippers for himself from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. He has an inexhaustible enthusiasm for the supremacy of His name among the nations.*" (Piper, Let the Nations Be Glad, p. 40, Baker Books 1993)

Omnipotent passion. Inexhaustible enthusiasm. Missions is about God glorifying Himself, and gathering in those whom He has called, joyful worshippers, the Bride of Christ, the Church, until the gathering is complete, and the Bride is ready for the wedding feast, and for the Bridegroom, our Lord Jesus! Thanks be to God, and welcome to Missions Month!

Matt Phillips

# **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL SIGNUPS**

## **SPRING SEMESTER**

On February 5 we will be starting another semester. In addition to the adult classes described below, we will be continuing our children's Sunday School ministry. The Lord has blessed Heartland with talented and willing teachers for which we are very thankful. There will be a table with signup sheets in the gathering area on Sunday morning. In order to best allocate classroom space we encourage the adults to sign up for the class they plan to attend. The Teaching Team is excited to offer the following classes:

### **The Word of the LORD: An Introduction to the Minor Prophets** – *Ben Franks and Pastor Rick Franks*

Of all the passages of Scripture the prophets in general (and the Minor Prophets in particular) are arguably the most difficult books for most Christians to study. They are filled with strange names, places, and visions which often leave us scratching our heads and flipping back to more familiar passages of Scripture. Yet, as 2 Timothy 3:16 tells us, we know that "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."

This promise includes the sometimes confusing and disorienting books of the Minor Prophets, so we want to take this semester to spend some time with this portion of God's Word. Please join us as we introduce and survey these wonderful books and see the vibrant applications they have for our daily lives. It is our hope that as we spend time in the minor prophets that we will gain the tools necessary to uncover the rich wisdom and blessing that God has for His people in these books!

### **R.C. Sproul's Foundations Class: An Overview of Systematic Theology** – *Gary Gensch and Jason Wegener*

The truths of Scripture relate to each other in perfect harmony because God has superintended its authorship in order for His people to have a faith that is "firmly established, steadfast and not moved away from the hope of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ".

This eye-opening series addresses a broad spectrum of theological truths in the study of God that effectually translates into how we daily walk and trust in the Lord.

We will begin the third and final installment of the 60-class course learning about the doctrines of Justification by Faith, Sanctification, and the Perseverance of the Saints; understanding what the Church is, Worship, the Sacraments of Baptism and Communion and end with 8 classes dealing with what happens to you at death, the Kingdom of God, the Millennium, the Return and Final Judgment of Christ, Eternal Punishment and close with Heaven & Earth Made New.

It is not necessary to have taken the previous classes in order to attend and so all are welcomed to participate in our meaningful class discussions as we encourage and strengthen one another in our faith and obedience to the Lord.

### **Practical Evangelism** – *Mike Hull*

Please join me as we examine scriptural principles regarding evangelism and how to apply these principles in today's society. What is evangelism? How are we to evangelize? Who are we to evangelize? What are our responsibilities related to the great commission? How does our doctrine and culture impact our evangelism?

We will address these questions and many more as we study scripture along with several historic and contemporary resources on the subject. The goal of the class will be to better equip each of us to "share the reality of Christ with the world" (Heartland's Mission Statement.)

# A·D·V·A·N·C·E·

Always Desire Virtue And Never Conform . Ever!

**Ladies of Heartland A.D.V.A.N.C.E. Conference coming soon!**

By Beth Osborne

Can you believe the 2012 Women's Conference is less than a month away? I'd like to briefly share with you some examples of how God has truly confirmed the direction of this year's conference. Last October, the Lord began making His plan known. Daily He revealed bits and pieces of His "puzzle" which He carefully chose for *us*, the ladies of HCC! Each decision made, from the theme ("Living Godly Lives"), to the speaker (Mary Beth Smith), to the ladies involved in preparation, was bathed in prayer and confirmed in the Word.

He impressed upon Sherri Kahrs (co-coordinator) and myself to rethink what "retreat" meant. We both realized that God did not want any of us to "retreat" in our relationship with Him; but rather to move forward in our spiritual growth and development to become more *Christ-like* in our thoughts, actions and speech. He wants us as His children to grow deep in our love and understanding of His Word, as well as learn to know Him more intimately through worship, praise and prayer. He directed us to **Proverbs 31:30** ("Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised") and **Romans 12:2** ("*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect*"). These passages became the foundation for the **A.D.V.A.N.C.E.** Conference for Women 2012. This acronym means: **"Always Desire Virtue And Never Conform Ever!"** If you study these verses, you will see A.D.V.A.N.C.E.!

Attending the conference is a wonderful way to get to know our ladies and develop new friendships. You will be blessed by the teaching of the Word, the worship and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you at the 2012 A.D.V.A.N.C.E. Conference, February 24-25, at the Airport Hilton. Further details will be in the gathering area at the registration table through Feb 19th. You may contact Sherri Kahrs (684-0104) or me (207-1336) if you have any questions.

## ==== A Word From W.I.†. ====

We welcome **Ruby Nelson** as the new Coordinator of Worshipers In Training. Ruby also serves as a Trainer with WIT. She and her husband, Brian, are the parents of Callahan. Brigitte Crist has volunteered to assist Ruby with tasks necessary to maintaining the organization and smooth running of this ministry. She serves WIT as a Sub for our staff. Brigitte and her husband, Dallas, are the parents of Teryn & Audrey. Please keep these women in your prayers as they transition into new responsibilities.

Lois Johnson has moved to Trainer since turning 18 in January. She had begun her service with WIT as a Helper. The ministry of WIT does allow staff members the option of moving to a different position as he/she feels called. After fulfilling 6 months of service and meeting the requirements as stated in the job description they may switch. If you are a teen (at least 14 years old) and looking for somewhere to serve the body of Christ at Heartland, come and see us. WIT could be just the place to discover what gift(s) you have and begin to use them to God's glory.

My husband, Ken, & I have served with WIT from its beginning. We believe it is a vital ministry to families with young children here at Heartland and an ideal way to fulfill the vow made at baptism "to assist parents in the Christian nurture" of their children. As a help to our ministry, please fill out and return the survey from the bulletin and place it in the basket marked "W.I.T. SURVEY" in the Gathering Area.

In His service by His love,  
MaryKay Larson



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  (2) Women's Bible Studies: 9-11 am	2  Session 6:30 p.m.	3  <i>Pastor George's Day Off</i>  Simply Dinner	4 Men's Basketball Open Gym 8:00 am  Women's Retreat Plan Mtg 9:45 a.m.  Simply Dinner
5 <i>Lord's Day</i>  <i>Communion and Mercy Offering</i>	6  <i>Pastor Rick's Day Off</i>	7	8  (2) Women's Bible Studies: 9-11 am	9	10  <i>Pastor George's Day Off</i>  Theology Night 7:00 p.m.	11 Men's Basketball Open Gym 8:00 am  Missions Movie Night 7:00 p.m.
12 <i>Lord's Day</i>	13  <i>Pastor Rick's Day Off</i>	14  Deacon Mtg 6:30 pm	15  (2) Women's Bible Studies: 9-11 am	16  Session 6:30pm	17  <i>Pastor George's Day Off</i>	18 Men's Basketball Open Gym 8:00 am
19 <i>Lord's Day</i>  Homeless Outreach Ministry 7:00 am  POT PROVIDENCE	20  <i>Pastor Rick's Day Off</i>	21  Finance Mtg 7:00 am	22  (2) Women's Bible Studies: 9-11 am	23  <b>MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	24  <i>Pastor George's Day Off</i>	25 Men's Basketball Open Gym 8:00 am
26 <i>Lord's Day</i>	27  <i>Pastor Rick's Day Off</i>	28    7pm - 10:00pm Evening Prayer	29  (2) Women's Bible Studies: 9-11 am			

## NURSERY SCHEDULE

**Sunday School 9:00-10:35**

**Worship 10:35-12:??**

Feb 5 Ruby Nelson/Hannah Larson	Bouma Family/Jane Shelden
Feb 12 Phillips/Ralph Drayer	Yourdon Family/Rebekah Waalkes
Feb 19 Haslam/Erin Sundquist	Jansen Family/Ralston
Feb 26 Arryn Parker/Lauren Pohlenz	Deb, Elizabeth & Timothy Johnson/ Anne Wegener
Mar 4 Rayna Waalkes/Kathy & Will Morris	Mark & Sherri Kahrs/ Sarah Franks



- 3 Larry Paarmann  
Susan Shelden
- 4 Rayna Waalkes
- 6 John Bouma  
Mark Huenergardt  
Morten Vigilius
- 7 Kirk Hansen  
Stan Shelden
- 9 Jay Maness
- 11 Jon Larson  
Adam VonStroh  
Caleb Woodlief
- 12 Jeff Vaughn  
Justice Wegener
- 13 Timothy Franks
- 14 Hanna Grebe
- 15 Rick Franks
- 16 Scott Zimmerman
- 17 Joshua Maness
- 18 Gustavo Formenti  
Jeff Morris  
Titus VonStroh
- 19 Steve Wagner
- 22 Mike Hull  
Karen Hull  
Kristin Jackson  
Seth Larson  
James Paine
- 23 Marc Carrigan
- 24 Jordan Flora  
Kristy Lewis  
Daniel Zimmerman
- 25 Olivia Yourdon
- 26 Jaclyn Bouma
- 28 Sarah Willis

### Worshippers In Training Schedule

Date	Music	Trainer	Helpers
2/5/12	Rolaine Hetherington	Ken Larson	Anna Hetherington Arryn Parker
2/12/12	Erin Frost	Ruby Nelson	Seth Larson Kay Coon
2/19/12	Cynthia Shelden	Cynthia Shelden	John Hetherington Sarah Franks
2/26/12	Abby Hannaford	Lois Johnson	Daniel Johnson Arryn Parker
3/4/12	Melanie Scharping	MaryKay Larson	Brigitte Crist Daniel Johnson

Date	Prayer of Confession	Prayer of Thanks/Supplication
2/5/12	Eric Mork	Morten Vigilius
2/12/12	Andrew Strain	LaVerne Waalkes
2/19/12	Scott Willis	Brad Welles
2/26/12	Chase Tinius	Bryan Yourdon
3/4/12	Jeff Waalkes	John Bouma

### GREETERS

**February: The Matt Gertz Family**  
**March: The Jeff Morris Family**  
*Please arrive at 10:15 a.m.*