

THE EVANGEL

January 2017

TWO HEADED FOR HAITI

Valita Bockcovich and Gloria Johnson are heading back to Haiti to Fountain of Christ School and Children's Home in Fontaine Haiti, January 30 – February 6, 2017.

While at Fountain, the two women will minister in the first ever two-day teaching conference for women held in the community.

Please support Valita and Gloria in prayer as they prepare for this exciting ministry opportunity. Financial support should be directed to Cornerstone's Short Term Missions Fund (for receipts) or given directly to either Valita or Gloria.

NEHEMIAH SERIES FOCUSES ON BUILDING THE PEOPLE OF GOD FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

Where do you turn when you want to add new structure to your faith? Where do you look when you want to understand principles God may use to renew your commitment to Him or revive your hope or trust in Him? What words provide insight or direction when you want God to bring new life to your family, your church, your community, or your own heart? Have you ever thought that the Old Testament book of Nehemiah might be just the treasure trove of wisdom you need?

Nehemiah was a man who wanted renewal and revival for the ruined city of Jerusalem and the broken people of God. Nehemiah wanted God's glory to shine again where once the people had been devoted to Him. Jerusalem had been captured and destroyed by the Babylonians nearly a generation earlier, perhaps before Nehemiah's time, but it was still his city and the remnant of survivors were his people and he desperately longed for God to restore the glory of His presence to His people and His place.

Nehemiah's longing resonates with all the people of God who desire the day when God's glory will fill the earth as the waters cover the sea. It resonates with all of us who yearn for God to be first and foremost in our heart, our lives, our family, our church, our community, our nation, and our world. (Continued on page 3)



(Treasurer, Continued from page 1)

Treasurer Provides Christmas Financial Update

Dear Cornerstone family and friends,

On this below zero day in Grand Marais, it is my privilege and joy to bring you the warmest of greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate in the Advent and Christmas season.

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Along with celebrating God's amazing grace in sending His Son, the end of the calendar year is also the season church treasurers, like me, take a prayerful and careful look at the financial well-being of the congregations we serve. I'm writing to you today to provide an update on the financial health of our congregation. Historically, we review our church finances together at quarterly or annual business meetings. However, we are currently rewriting our church constitution and have not held those regular informational quarterly meetings. So, as is my privilege and responsibility as treasurer, I offer you this update on our current situation for your consideration.

Living in Grand Marais is a wonderful experience but making a living here can be a challenge. We live in a transient community. Due to career transfers, new opportunities, and a few who moved to their heavenly home, we've lost a significant percentage of regular contributors since the 2012-3 fiscal year. At the last annual meeting we passed a budget of \$103,000 or \$1,990 per week. While we have been tracking slightly above that target to date, the average general fund collection for the past 11 weeks has been about \$1,245, or \$745 per week short of budget.

In past years, during the summer months as our body swells with our friends from the rec park and their seasonal cabins, our general fund balance has carried a significant surplus into the winter months. This has not happened the last couple of years. Our general fund balance today is \$6,800, however half of this is in reserved accounts, mostly for mission opportunities. Without some increase in income or some restructuring of our funds we will soon have a difficult time meeting our obligations.

In regards to the information we are supplying, the Elders and I have a few requests: 1) please pray and seek God's guidance and wisdom for our church and our leaders as we seek His will on this topic, 2) please mark your calendars for **Sunday January 8, 2017** when we will have an meeting after the service on this topic with additional information and ideas for addressing our situation, 3) please contact me or one of the elders if you have questions or comments or would like more information.

In Christ's service,
John Hill, Treasurer



*The Return of
the King*

Wednesdays

6:30pm

Revelation: The Return of the King

Encouraging believers to endure!

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God used Nehemiah powerfully in the rebuilding and restoration of Jerusalem decades after the city was destroyed. Nehemiah's journey of faith and obedience provides significant direction for our own personal journeys with Jesus.

Our intent, guided by the Holy Spirit, is to spend the winter and spring of 2017 (January through May) gleaning the principles for renewal that abound in Nehemiah's autobiographical account of God's restoration of His people.

We're calling the series, "Nehemiah: Building the People of God for the Glory of God." We'll start by considering the question, "What are the genuine requirements for true renewal?" (There are six.) Then we'll ask the question, "What can we expect when true renewal begins?" (There are five answers.) After these we'll ask, "What happens when the work of renewal is complete?" (These nine conditions and practices will blow you away! God is amazing!)

Want to prepare for this series? Wonderful!

- Read Nehemiah through (and don't skip the lists. Everybody skips the lists. There's gold in those lists. Don't miss it!)
- Pray for yourselves, for your church family, for your community, and for your leaders as we seek the Holy Spirit in this study of God's word.
- Identify areas in your life where you would like to see God restore the magnificence of His glory. Perhaps you want to love Him like you once did? Maybe you want to serve Him more boldly than you ever have? Could there be some spiritual or relational or personal healing God could do. Think of the places in you and around you where your heart's desire is for God to shine.
- Commit to being present Sunday mornings and following along as we journey together in this word.

Adult Sunday School

Winter 2017

Two Sunday school electives are available this winter for your personal advancement in the faith through the word.

JOSHUA, JUDGES, RUTH

Jim Mattson leads this discussion group based on the adult curriculum from Lifeway and the Southern Baptist Sunday school board. This term the focus in Joshua, Judges, and Ruth. Sunday school quarterlies that provide study background for the discussion are available for each student.

1 JOHN

The year long course, "How to Study the Bible for Yourself and Actually Get Something Out of It," has graduated! The group has chosen to continue their practice of inductive Bible study by turning their attention to the New Testament letter of 1 John.

Both classes meet at 9:15 Sunday morning and both welcome new students at any time!



JANUARY

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