

Animals on the Loose...

... is a riveting story about four classroom pets whose cages have been left open overnight by the students. Even more riveting is listening to it through the voices of very precious third graders at Sunset Hills Elementary School. Every 10 minutes, a new student would come into the conference room, and off we would be, engaging in fluency patterns, punctuation marks, and gently sounding out such treacherous words as "cajoling," "wincing," and "commotion."

Do you have at least an hour and a half once a week or once a month to spend encouraging the children in our community elementary school? Please come and talk to me, and I'll be glad to set up a time to introduce you to the very kind school principal, as well as a whole group of little people who would love to read to you.

Donna French

"Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone."

I Thessalonians 5:14b



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news



February
2012

In the January newsletter I announced that I would use the 12 newsletters of 2012 to give to you each of the *12 Truths I Learned in Burma*. Last month I spoke to #12 – “Chinese food tastes the same in Burma.” This month I give you #11 – “Laughter was created by God and spans great distances.”

One of the best memories I have in traveling to Burma last November was the time spent with the kids. One day we traveled to a location where they had several kids attending school. We entered into the school room where about 70 kids ranging from about 4 years old to the teen years. They all sat so very nice in their chairs as they looked at us while we found our own chairs at the head of the classroom and sat down. Imagine these kids who probably don't get much exposure to foreigners seeing over a dozen Americans come strolling in to their classroom -- and they are pastors and missionaries as well.

They were very quiet as the man in charge of the school introduced them and we introduced ourselves. That is, until one of our group, Charlie, stepped forward. You see, Pastor Charlie was a youth pastor for many years and he knew how to play the guitar. So he borrows a guitar from one of the kids (they had sung to us earlier) and then a few of us “volunteered” to go up and help Charlie as he teaches them a song. You know? One of those songs that have silly words and lots of motions that go with the words!

I had no idea what I was getting into. But before I knew it I was grunting like a gorilla and waving my arms about and singing in front of all those kids....and my peers who did not “volunteer.” Within seconds the kids are laughing and we are laughing and then the kids join in on the singing and for those four minutes we were all the same. Me and my white skin, old and grey hair, American ways and they in their youthful energy and local ethnicity and ways that are quite foreign to me. For a few minutes we were just a group of silly people doing silly things and laughing and laughing and laughing.

(Continued on page 3)



get plugged in

February

- 1 - Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm

- 5 - Communion
Benson Baptist Food Pantry
delivery and clothing drive for
FBC.

- 6 - ABW meeting 7:00 pm

- 8 - Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm

- 13 - Stewardship meeting 7:00 pm

- 15 - Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm
Drop off food for school

- 16 - Deliver food to Sunset Hills
School

- 22 - Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm

- 23 - P.S.R.M. 6:00 pm
Worship meeting 7:30 pm

- 25 - Men's Breakfast 8:30 am

- 26 - Sunset/Karen Leadership
Meeting 6 pm

- 27 - Ministry Council 7:00 pm

- 29 - Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm



WEBSITE

If someone wants more information on our church, ask him or her to look at our webpage,
www.sunsethillschurch.org.
It has a lot of information about the various ministries at Sunset Hills, recordings of Pastor Ron's sermons and photo galleries from our events.

This is our church purpose statement. It is based on Mark 12:28-34 and Matthew 28:19-20, what is often referred to as the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. Please become familiar with our purpose and help your church family to transform these words into reality.

**“To encourage one another to experience
Growing closer to God
Pursuing genuine relationship
Sharing Christ
and to exercise this
**LIFE TRANSFORMING FAITH
in the community.”****

Would you like to receive the Newsletter through e-mail instead of paper? If so, let the office know or write a note on the back of a connection card with your e-mail address. Thank you!



reaching out

Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center

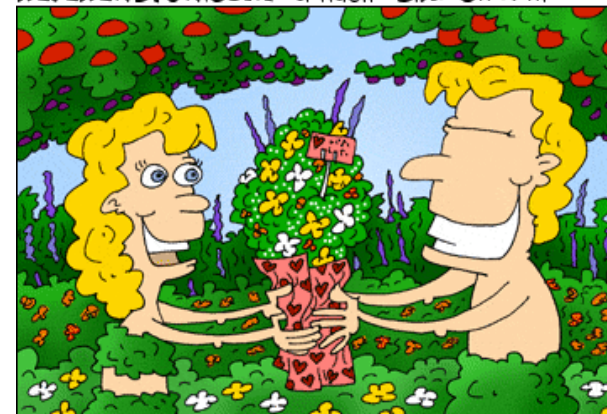


Woodcutters wanted:
February 17-18
Cut wood for summer
Camp campfires
Trim cedar trees
Clean up deadfall

Come by yourself or bring a group!!!
**Make your reservation by phone
402-666-5639
or email—campmerrill@nntc.net**

We are looking for volunteers to help deliver the food and clothing collection to First Baptist and Benson Baptist the first Sunday of each month.

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OH ADAM ... IVE ALWAYS WANTED FLOWERS



Join us for
Adult Bible Study
on
Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.



- 1 Ashley Anderson
- 3 Jack Welch
- 5 Wayne Gilmer
- 7 Scott Darden
- 11 Shannon Wallace
- 12 Rita Ray
- 13 Doug Larsen
- 16 Christina Larsen
- 18 Florence Lakin
- 23 Pat Martin
- 24 Charlotte Lowrance
- 26 Nicole Loeffler
- 28 Linda Kilpatrick



Mission Outreach Ministry Team

Romans 12:13 Share with God's people who are in Need.

It has been a busy month for our church outreach. We have had several opportunities for our church to participate in Outreach projects. We want to thank those that participated in the Hy-vee neighborhood outreach on January 14. We heard about some of the needs our community and neighborhood have and received several concerns that they wanted our church to pray about. It was fun to spread a little "joy" by handing out bottles of "Joy" dishwashing soap. Thank you also goes out to the small group that provided snacks for Sunset Hills Elementary School in January. We are still in need of a small group of people to provide snacks in March and April. Think about how you may help in this important neighborhood outreach project.

You may have heard something about how our outreach team has been participating in MCLE. MCLE (Missional Church Learning Experience) is taking our outreach team through a process where our church is asking themselves "How can we best fit in with God's mission in our rapidly changing culture?" Our team has been learning basic missional church principles. Then, we are going to practice these principles by designing and implementing a small community project. Pastor Ron, who is the ABC-Nebraska coordinator for MCLE, writes, "Jesus made it clear that a great life is one of service and that we can never become the great people He knows we can be until we learn what it means to serve." Before our outreach team can design and implement a small community project we need to know the needs of our neighborhood and what our church member's passions are, in regards to outreach. On Sunday, January 15 we asked our congregation to think and pray about what their outreach passions were. Is it children/youth, homeless, elderly, handicapped, military, to name just a few? Let the outreach team know. We really want your input. We are looking forward to working together as a "missional" church to provide a small community project that our congregation is passionate about and meets the needs of our community. Look for more information about this great project in the near future.



Handing out some "Joy".

Thanks!
Traci



Reaching out to the community.

(continued from page 1)

I often think we don't laugh enough. We take life and ourselves so seriously too much of the time. I have read that humor and laughter helps to reduce stress, strengthens our immune systems, increases our energy level, and can even reduce pain. The awesome thing about laughter is that it also bridges people. It causes relationships to bind together and connections to be made on a more intimate level. Even though our language was different, our cultures diverse, our daily lives poles apart and our ages dissimilar, we connected with those kids. The whole time together changed after that. You could feel it in the room. They were no longer afraid of us, or at least, we were no longer kept at arms length. The distance seemed to diminish.

I wonder. Did God create laughter just so we feel good once in a while? Did He do it so that we improve our health a little bit each time we chuckle or giggle? Or did God create laughter so we might bridge gaps that might otherwise remain wide and unapproachable? Did God create laughter so that we might see in other people so very different than us, that God exists there too? Did He create laughter so that we might realize that the laugh of a kid in Burma sounds just like the laugh of a kid in Omaha, Nebraska? And in that see the joy and hope of a God that wants all His people to be...well....His people.

May the days ahead bring you many moments of gut-wrenching, falling down, hilarious fits of laughter. And remember, after the pain in your side recedes and the calm returns, that Your God gave you the ability to laugh. It was a gift. Enjoy it. Find pleasure in it. And praise Your God for it.



Pastor Ron

**PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS AND
LOVED ONES**
Healing and Comfort

Sandy Berry, strength and healing
Vicki Buschusen, recovery from stroke
Mike Minarick, comfort and healing
Barbara Nicas, healing
Todd Ray, healing & recovery
Dick Larsen, healing following stroke
Cindy Combs, healing and relief
Diane McNaughton, recovery from stroke



**Prayer
Corner**

Lord, I pause to praise, give thanks for all You do. For love of family, and Christian friends who see and worship You.

Help me to honor those who teach and point the way.
 In all they accomplish and the examples they set each day.
 For the leaders in our lives, our church, our city, our country, and all.
 Help them to know You, know upon You they can call.
 And Lord, there are those who suffer, are sad and ill.
 Comfort them, guide them, encourage them to see Your will.
 Now, Lord, help me to be Your living example in this place.
 Teach me respect for others and to be ever mindful of Your grace. Amen

***Sunset Hills Elementary
School
Snack Schedule***

February -
 Homemade Goodies
French, Jones, Martin,
Kilpatrick
 Delivery
Pat Smith

March -
 Chips & Dips

 Delivery

April -
 Rootbeer Floats

 Delivery

 Please sign up for either the food or delivery to help us honor the teachers & staff at our neighborhood school???

**Food & Clothing Collection
Sunday, February 5th
The February food theme is
beans.**

The Siebel Family has volunteered to deliver the clothing to First Baptist Church.
 Terry Anderson has volunteered to deliver the food to Benson Baptist Church.



**ABW Meeting
Monday, Feb. 6 at 7:00 pm**



Devotion by Arlene Deerson
 We will be making favors for Maple Crest Care Center.
 Come join us for this time of fellowship full of laughter and fun.



stewardship

Church Treasurer

We are seeking a Treasurer for the church. This person will serve as a church officer and member of the Ministry Council. If you would like additional information please contact Ken Vetter or Mark Caughey.

A Journey Through the Book of John

Pastor Ron will continue the sermon series which will walk us through selected portions of the Book of John.

John wants us to know that Jesus is the Son of God, the Word made flesh, and the only One who provides eternal life for all who believe in Jesus as their Savior.

Invite a friend and join us as we journey through the amazing and inspirational writings found in the Book of John.

The Benevolent Fund is available for members of our community as well as our own members if there is a need.

The communion offering funds this outreach as they are available.

Jan	Giving	Attendance
1	\$758.23	66
8	\$2270.00	54
15	\$2997.00	64
22	\$1450.50	63
29	TBD	TBD