

Prayer was a wellspring of strength and inspiration during the Civil Rights Movement. For my husband, Martin Luther King Jr., prayer was a daily source of courage and strength that gave him the ability to carry on in even the darkest hours of our struggle. I remember one very difficult day when he came home bone-weary from the stress that came with his leadership of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. In the middle of that night, he was awakened by a threatening and abusive phone call, one of many we received throughout the movement. On this particular occasion, however, Martin had had enough.

After the call, he got up from bed and made himself some coffee. He began to worry about his family and all of the burdens that came with our movement weighed heavily on his soul. With his head in his hands, Martin bowed over the kitchen table and prayed aloud to God: "Lord, I am taking a stand for what I believe is right. The people are looking to me for leadership, and if I stand before them without strength and courage, they will falter. I am at the end of my powers. I have nothing left. I have nothing left. I have come to the point where I can't face it alone." Later he told me, "At that moment, I experienced the presence of the Divine as I had never experienced Him before. It seemed as though I could hear a voice saying: 'Stand up for righteousness; stand up for truth; and God will be at our side forever.'" When Martin stood up from the table, he was imbued with a new sense of confidence, and he was ready to face anything.

--Coretta Scott King from "Standing in the Need of Prayer"



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news



January
2012

One of the members of the team that went to Burma recently put together "10 Things I Learned in Burma" and that sparked a thought in my own mind to create my own version. I call it "12 Truths I Learned in Burma." I plan on speaking to each of the 12 during each of the newsletters in 2012. Here is the 12th truth as we count down to number 1.

Number 12 of the 12 Truths I Learned in Burma

"Chinese food tastes the same in Burma" --- We were eating lunch at a seminary one day and I was sitting next to the General Secretary (i.e., the guy in charge) and asked if they had made this food as it was real good and I wanted to thank the people responsible for the meal. What I didn't say was this food looked and tasted very familiar. He told me they did not make it; they ordered it from a restaurant --- a CHINESE restaurant down the road. Can you believe it? I go nearly halfway around the world and I am given food I could get next door.

I found this to be very funny and mentioned it to a few of my fellow travelers. The fact is that I had traveled over 9,000 miles and I was expecting a trip full of new experiences only to find myself face to face with the common, the ordinary. I had just taken a long journey, one I had been anticipating for months, to a foreign land I had never been to, and I had hoped for a time filled with many amazingly new and first-time encounters. And there I was eating food I could get at the local Chinese buffet on Dodge Street. It just didn't seem right.

During this trip I would come across local pastors who said they were struggling with getting people to attend church or Bible study regularly and dealing with generations who have very different views of what "proper" worship music should be, young men and women wondering what their future holds for them, people with health problems, employment issues, financial concerns, and believers searching for Divine guidance in the midst of their hopes and dreams. Each of these things are common, ordinary matters found everyday in Omaha; but I wasn't in Omaha, I was in Burma.

The truth of the matter is that I would experience many new things in that foreign land, yet there remains an even greater truth --- that human beings, regardless of location or language or culture, have many core similarities. We all must drink water. We all want to be loved. We all have dreams and hopes. We all have struggles. And we all need a personal and up-close relationship with a God who wishes to be with us in the "stuff" of life, who we can look to, live with, and love as we labor through our daily lives.

(Continued on next page)



get plugged in

January

- 1 - Communion
Benson Baptist Food Pantry
delivery and clothing drive for
FBC.
May the New Year be blessed
for you!

- 2 - Church office will be closed.

- 4 - Adult Bible Study/Youth Group
6:30 pm

- 9 - Stewardship meeting 7:00 pm

- 11 - Adult Bible Study/Youth Group
6:30 pm

- 14 - Hy-Vee Outreach 10 am - 2 pm

- 18 - Adult Bible Study/Youth Group
6:30 pm
Drop off food for school

- 19 - Deliver food to Sunset Hills
School

- 23 - Ministry Council 7:00 pm

- 25 - Adult Bible Study/Youth Group
6:30 pm

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

- 28 - Men's Breakfast 8:30 am

- 29 - Annual Meeting/Potluck
following the worship
service.

12 Truths I Learned in Burma Continued

It is so easy to look upon someone who appears a bit different than us, only to see the differences. I suspect were we to take the time to get to know them, we would find a wealth of similarities. Yes, Chinese food tastes the same in Burma, but then again, the people of Burma are also the same in many ways. I pray that Sunset Hills is a family that chooses to emphasize the similarities and understand the differences of those we come in contact with. May God help us to set aside our expectations of difference and see with clear vision what we have in common. May we be an approachable people who ourselves are willing to approach others. For together we are far greater than we could ever be apart. Praise the Lord!

In the coming months make sure you get your newsletter, as you won't want to miss the rest of the list of 12 Truths. Here is a teaser:

11) "Laughter spans great distances," 10) "The battle is not yours, but God's," 9) "The Judson Connection," 8) "Mission trips are challenging," 7) "Mission trips change lives," 6) "God is everywhere," 5) "Leeches are everywhere," 4) "It is possible to do great things with very little," 3) "Lukewarm never tasted so good," 2) "Don't forget to take off your sandals," and 1) "We treat, God heals."

Pastor Roy

A Journey Through the Book of John

Pastor Ron will begin a new sermon series in January 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.


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12-31-1997

THIS YEAR, FOR NEW YEARS, I AM RESOLVING TO DO ALL SORTS OF BAD THINGS SINCE I NEVER EVER STICK TO MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

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



Saturday, Jan. 28th
8:30 am

MEN'S BREAKFAST



Happy Birthday

Joy Okoruwa	January 12th
David (Nick) Fitch	January 19th
Vicki Loeffler	January 24th
Doug Hamlin	January 28th



Happy Anniversary

Roy & Gail Karlen
January 12th





reaching
out

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.

Mission Outreach Ministry Team

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

MCLE...what? You may have heard the term MCLE floating around a bit in the church. MCLE is short for Missional Church Learning Experience. This is a series of meetings that the Mission Ministry team is participating in to help understand the nature of a missional church and to identify possible missions that Sunset Hills can engage in and begin to build potential partnerships. More importantly, we hope not to simply participate in single mission projects but to develop a committed, long-term mission effort where we are actively and personally engaged in the mission work itself. The MCLE is to help us re-look at missions and become committed to hands on mission work within our community. A lot of effort, studying, praying, and ground work is going on behind the scenes.

What does that mean for you? Well, I'm glad you asked. This means that here at Sunset Hills we are committed as leaders to find projects and a committed mission to touch lives right here in our community; for YOU to get involved in serving in the mission field. We have a great church, great people, generous people, yet, where ever possible, we need to be physically active and present in our neighborhood and community.

To begin we need to gather information about what our neighborhood needs. Therefore, we are offering you an opportunity to do just that. On January 14th, weather permitting, we will be handing out joy (bottles of Joy detergent) to people and prompting them to inform us of what they perceive the needs of the neighborhood are. We will be connecting with our community through these interactions while also giving out coffee and hot chocolate. PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY by calling the church or putting your name on the Outreach wall near the front door. Be watching as we find other creative ways to touch people's lives because you will want be, and need to be, a part of the mission work at Sunset Hills.

To update you:

Sunset Hills Elementary: Thank you to Gina and her helpers for providing the snack this month and for Venita, our church secretary, for delivering them.

Also, recently gun belts had to be loosened! "Cookies for Cops" was a great success for the third straight year. Thank you Sunset Hills and all that provided the over 600 cookies that went to Sheriff's Deputies and other law enforcement workers such as CSI, Investigations, Property, and etc. This project is very special to pastor Jason as he ministers to our deputies and their families here in Douglas County. This gives them a sense of appreciation from all involved, Thank you.

SUNSET HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH MINISTRY COUNCIL MEETING NOTES DECEMBER 12, 2011

Ministries Present: Pastor Ron, Mark Caughey – Worship, Arlene Deerson– Shepherding, , Donna Ray – Discipleship, Pedro Okoruwa – Prayer, Ken Vetter – Moderator, Jason Workman – Mission. **Members absent** Yvonne Swearingen – Shepherding, Deanne Caughey – Pastoral Staff, Doug Larsen – Stewardship, Bob Slechta – Treasurer, Gina Slechta - Discipleship

Pastor Ron opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

Pastor Ron reported on his trip to Burma.

The Ministry Council will have a planning retreat beginning with dinner January 27th and continuing Saturday the 28th.

Prayer Ministry-The Ministry Council is seeking a leader for this ministry. Pedro Okoruwa continues in his support of the Ministry Council as a prayer warrior.

Discipleship-A leader for Discipleship is needed. Donna and Gina are leading temporarily. Donna suggested support for the IMMERSE 2012 gathering of ABC youth in Washington DC., that the new children's table has been setup, and that we gave praise to the Lord for such wonderful kids at Sunset Hills.

Stewardship Property-In Doug's absence Pastor Ron reported some minor maintenance issues.

Worship Ministry – Mark reported on planning for Christmas Eve service with Karen and the Christmas Day Services.

Shepherding Ministry – A leader for the prayer chain is being sought.

Pastoral/Staff Relations – will meet next week

Mission – Pastor Jason reported that the work with Sunset Hills Public School will expand to include reading aloud to the children, and volunteering to help at their upcoming spring carnival. The cookies for Cops project was a huge success with the delivery of over 700 cookies. The Hy-Vee project will be postponed until mid-January. Rosemary Gordon heads a joint group with the Karen. The next Karen/Sunset leadership meeting is January 22 at 6:00 PM.

Treasurer Report – Mark Caughey serving as the transitional Treasurer presented a Nov. 30th financial summary and summarized our 2011 budget. He compared the 2012 pledge report from Yvonne with our 2012 proposed budget. Due to a significant shortfall, it was decided that each ministry must reduce their budget and resubmit their 2012 budget proposals by January 16th. The Congregation will be asked to vote on the 2012 budget at a congregation meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

A motion by Mark was second by Arlene to withdraw sufficient funds from the Stanley Morgan reserve account so we will begin January 2012 with \$15,000.00 checking account balance was approved. This will follow the 2011 year end payment of all bills. The actual amount required will depend on the amount of giving during December of 2011. This will provide necessary relief in the week to week management of paying church bills.

The payroll is now being done by H& R Block and the bank accounts are nearly all switched to Pinnacle Bank from Wells Fargo.

Pedro Okoruwa closed the meeting in prayer.

Our next Ministry Council meeting will be January 23rd at 7:00 PM. All Sunset Hills members are invited.

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

Sandy Berry, strength and healing
*Mary Marsha Jobe, comfort &
healing*

Vicki Buschusen, recovery from stroke
Mike Minarick, comfort and healing
Jason Workman, healing

**Prayer
Corner**



He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust. Psalm 91 : 1-2

Beautiful verses spoken lovingly to her children nightly by a Mother that wanted her children to know their Heavenly Father. Verses that come to mind to reassure, strengthen and comfort repeatedly in life. Pray that the words you give your children will lead them to a greater understanding and love of our Heavenly Father and that your family will see Him in all you do.

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

January - (Veggies/Healthy Snacks)
Small Group - Gilmer

February - (Homemade Goodies)

March - (Chips & Dips)

April - (Rootbeer Floats)

Will you sign up to help us honor the teachers & staff at our neighborhood school???

**Food & Clothing
Collection**
Sunday, January 1st
**The January food theme is
Soup.**

The Siebels family have volunteered to deliver the food to Benson Baptist Church and deliver the clothing to First Baptist



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

American Baptist Women Will Not Meet in January.
Instead, we suggest you have a personal time for a devotion or plan an activity with someone you haven't seen for awhile. Read a book, make some hot chocolate and watch a movie or anonymously do a kind deed for someone. Be sure to take care of yourself; stay warm and healthy.

In February we will be making favors for Maplecrest Nursing Home Residents.



thank you !

A big thank you to Wes Gilmer for shampooing the sanctuary carpet. It looks great and his service to his church family is greatly appreciated.



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.

Dec.	Giving	Attendance
4	\$4,634.00	152
11	\$3432.50	65
18	\$2978.00	73
25	TBD	TBD

SHBC FINANCIAL SCOREBOARD

(As of November 30, 2011)

Expenses YTD	\$ 138,259.88
Income YTD	\$ 129,978.16
Difference +/-	\$ - 8,281.72

Please prayerfully consider helping to close the widening gap in meeting the basic expenses we are incurring. Anything you can do would be appreciated.

*Does not reflect HVAC, Alltel, or ABC/NE income or expenses.