

**Elder's Note**  
"Lent: A Time to Reflect"  
**Page 2**  
By Sam Seppala

**Hope's Annual Meeting Highlights**  
**Pages 3 & 4**  
By Bob O'Brien

**News from Nicaragua**  
**Page 13**  
By Ronnie & Tandy Seppala

**"Missions in Place"**  
**Part 2**  
**Pages 6 & 7**  
By Karen Kangas

**More Mission News...**  
**Pages 4, 8 -10**



# HOPE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

"To know the Triune God in the person of Jesus Christ and to make Him known"

March – May 2015/ Spring Edition

## NEWSLETTER



For lo, the winter is past,  
The rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth;  
The time of singing has come,  
And the voice of the turtledove  
Is heard in our land.  
The fig tree puts forth her green figs,  
And the vines with the tender grapes  
Give a good smell.  
Rise up, my love, my fair one,  
And come away!

Song of Solomon 2:11-13  
(NKJV)

**Stewardship Corner:** "Debt=Slavery" and "5 Biblical Money Principles" Page 11

**Hope Family Feature:** Interview with Donald & Linda Cramb Page 10



## Elder's Note

### **“Lent: A Time to Reflect”**

By Sam Seppala

When we stopped to eat at an Italian restaurant on Wednesday February 18, our son Macky noticed a number of people there who had small black smudges on their foreheads. He questioned us about this. We explained that they were most likely Roman Catholics who were observing Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the season of Lent which leads up to the Passion Week and Good Friday and Easter.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a time of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline observed by many Christians. Its purpose is to set aside a period time to reflect on Jesus Christ- his suffering and sacrifice, his life, death, burial and resurrection.

We of Lutheran and other Reformed background most likely do not observe the time of Lent as a time of great significance in our spiritual lives. However, we should not overlook the need to spend time reflecting upon the great work of redemption which Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ accomplished while here on this earth.

One particular hymn which comes to mind in reflecting upon this is: "Near the cross was Mary weeping, gazing on her dying son, there in speechless anguish groaning, through her soul the sword had gone. Ye who think of sin but lightly, nor suppose the evil great, here may view its nature rightly, here its guilt may estimate."

When we estimate that the evil of sin is so great that it required the death of God's only begotten Son, we cannot justify or rationalize away any of our sinful deeds. We must acknowledge our transgressions and repent and turn away from sinful deeds. I do not need to enumerate what deeds are to be considered sinful, for you have received the gift of the Holy Spirit, who will bring your particular sins to mind. My only exhortation to all of us is to be obedient, to confess, repent and cease from sinful deeds.

Sin is the problem which only Jesus Christ can solve. He has indeed solved this problem and we are more than conquerors in Him.

Have a Blessed Season of Lent!  
In Christ,  
Sam Seppala

## Hope's Annual Meeting Highlights

Submitted By Bob O'Brien

The following is intended as a brief summary of the high points from our recent annual meeting that was held on January 24, 2015.

### Old Business:

1. Teaching Elder Search: The initial search did not reveal the desired candidate and a second search is well underway. The search team has enlisted the services of Stewart Nutter (Consultant) whom has assisted a number of churches to first identify the dominant area of giftedness and then the search process. The GRASP (Group Reflection And Synergistic Planning) program was conducted on November 15th and open to all members of HFC. A major deliverable from the GRASP activity was the following vision statement which will be used to refine the search for the teaching elder with regard to giftedness.

### 2015 Vision Statement

Hope Fellowship Church exists to glorify God, submitted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the authority of Scripture. We are dependent on the Holy Spirit through prayer to guide us in the following vision:

**Fellowship:** Our fellowship goal is to provide a God centered environment where people with diverse gifts are likeminded in Christ to build authentic relationships and draw others to Christ.

**Worship:** The purpose is to draw the congregation into the spirit of worship, focusing on God, providing an atmosphere and blend of worship that minister to all generations.

**Education:** Our education goal is to make available biblical teaching to all ages for the equipping of the body that all may come to maturity in Christ.

**Outreach:** Our outreach goal is to be inspired by the Holy Spirit in love we will walk out our faith openly, intentionally engaging others with compassion within our communities and cross culturally with anticipation of producing fruit that glorifies God.

### The following timeline lays out the plan going forward: *(italics means underway)*

- 1/9-3/1: Post advertisements (send out candidate packets), accept applications up until 3/1- 4C's Church, 4 C's Home Office, Interlutheran Seminary, Gordon-Cromwell, Dallas Seminary, Trinity Ev. Divinity School, Moody Bible Institute
- 1/21-3/11: Review resumes, applications & audio messages/sermons
- 3/18: As a group, finalize candidate ratings to reduce number of viable candidates
- 3/25: As a group, reduce number of viable candidates based on interview findings
- 4/1: Select top candidate(s)
- 4/1–5/1: Final interview/selection process
- 5/1–6/1: Present offer
- 6/1–12/31: Probation period
- 1/30/16: Final Blessing from congregation during annual meeting

### New Business:

1. It was voted on and approved to move \$50,000 in funds from the emergency fund to the building fund, leaving a balance in the emergency fund of approximately \$14,000.
2. There is a consensus that we should build an all purpose ampitheater on the Prescott Road property in the location that we have conducted various services. The ampitheater can be used in advance of the construction of the all purpose church building for a variety of activities that include but are not limited to open air services, weddings, concerts, drama, etc. This construction should commence as soon as weather permits.
3. Building Committee: A meeting should be scheduled post haste to bring clarity to a number of details and reinvigorate the effort.
4. Sunday Fellowship Time: On 2nd Sunday of the month there will be a time for fellowship from 10:30-11AM where refreshments will be served.
5. Small Groups: The elders have recommitted themselves to offer regularly scheduled small groups.
6. Van/Shuttle Bus: There was considerable discussion about the need for a 15+ passenger vehicle that can

*(Continued from page 3)*

be used by the youth group and others. During the meeting a member submitted a \$1,000 donation towards this effort.

7. **Biblical Mentoring:** The elders are in the process of selecting a Biblical mentoring program so that not one will be left behind.
8. **Discipleship Training:** We are trying to determine the level of interest around discipleship training.
9. **Lay Counselors:** Randy & Karen Kangas are serving as lay counselors and have a list of available resources that will be published and shared. If you are interested in formal training please see an elder.
10. **Sudden Loss of Loved Ones:** L. Traffie is investigating the availability of a professional counselor to speak to our body (possibly open to the general public) for a Saturday night in the near future to help us cope with the sudden loss of a loved one as was experienced by the HFC family during 2014.
11. **Elder Oversight List** (the following is a list of the elders and their respective oversight)
  - a. Pulpit (Lars Stenersen)
  - b. Deacon/ess (Mark Holombo)
    - i. Rob Clark (Head Deacon)
  - c. Trustees/Building Committee (Sam Seppala)
    - i. Eli Ketola (Lead Trustee)
    - ii. TBD (Building Committee Lead)
  - d. Treasurer (Lars Sauvola)
    - i. Phyllie Sauvola
  - e. Youth (Lars Traffie)
    - i. Ethan & Amber Ketola
    - ii. Graham Heagy
  - f. Missions (Bob O'Brien/Ben Olson)
    - i. H. Ketola (Nicaragua)
  - g. Sunday School (Bob Seppala)
    - i. Karen Kangas
    - ii. Jody Ojala
  - h. Worship Team (Bob Seppala)
    - i. Cale Sikkila
  - i. Visitations/Counseling (Lars Stenersen)
    - i. Randy & Karen Kangas (counseling)
  - j. Our Jerusalem (Bob O'Brien)
    - i. Be Blessed (Linda Cram & Jeanne Haase)
    - ii. Keene Community Kitchen (John Jankowski & Dave Tourigny)
    - iii. Good News Club (Wanda Knisley)
    - iv. Big Brother Big Sister of Keene (open)
  - k. Small Groups (Ben Olson)
    - i. elders

## Are Our Lights Shining?

Submitted by Jeanne Haase

*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matt 5:16*

It's easy to stay in our own schedule, completing our tasks for the week and staying in that mode. Yet, if we want our lights to shine in the darkness, we can bless others by going where our lights can shine and our heart for people can be observed.

Giving our time and effort in ministry at *Be Blessed* produces more than just the fruits of "helping." For example, the stream of people coming and going are exposed to much more than clothes. As people roam the shop they are prayed for, they may hear our gospel music playing, they are able to share their troubles and needs with us, if they wish. Sometimes they see a Bible or Christian literature for the first time and take it home.

We also hear this quite often: "I can't believe this....I was just thinking how much I needed this (item) and here it is!"

We have also had people come in looking for specific used items that they could purchase. One lady came in looking for an affordable used vehicle she could purchase. So to meet this kind of need we will be putting up a bulletin board for people to post business cards, items needed, items offered, and more.

It truly is a labor of love, and yet Linda and I really need your help. Please consider volunteering once a month for a few hours. There is a lot of physical work involved in this ministry, as well as behind-the-scenes work that is done, not only being behind the counter taking money for the items. Weekly cleaning is done, as well as lots of clothes sorting. We really need some helpers :)

In letting our lights shine we are sharing Jesus Christ to this community. God Bless you for supporting this ministry. Contact Linda Cram, 603-831-2393 or Jeanne Haase, 603-562-5702.





## Sunday School Corner

Submitted by Karen Kangas

For the large group lessons in Sunday school we are learning about the Beatitudes found in Matthew 5:1-12. We are learning that being a Christian in this world can be challenging, but because of God's promises, we can experience his blessings. We're learning how to live a life full of blessings even when things get tough through scripture passages, stories, puppets, activities and asking questions.

### Matthew 5

*And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. <sup>2</sup> Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:*

<sup>3</sup> *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

<sup>4</sup> *Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.*

<sup>5</sup> *Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.*

<sup>6</sup> *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.*

<sup>7</sup> *Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.*

<sup>8</sup> *Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.*

<sup>9</sup> *Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.*

<sup>10</sup> *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

<sup>11</sup> *"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.*

<sup>12</sup> *Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

### The Pathway Points and lessons are:

1. Jesus call his disciples. Jesus wants to be our friend.
2. The crowds follow Jesus. We want to follow Jesus.
3. The Sermon on the Mount. Following Jesus' teaching changes our hearts for good.
4. God blesses those who are poor. God is with us when we're in need.
5. God blesses those who are sad. God comforts us when we hurt.
6. God blesses those who are gentle and kind. God will reward us in heaven.
7. God blesses those who are fair. God makes everything right.
8. God blesses those who are merciful. God is kind to us.
9. God blesses those who hearts are pure. God helps us know him.

10. God blesses those who work for peace. God calls us his children.

11. God blesses those who are punished for doing good. God takes care of us.

12. God blesses those who are made fun of. God says we belong to him.

13. A great reward awaits. God wants us to live for him.



### Tuesday Night Women's Bible Study

Submitted by Karen Kangas

Our latest study has been interrupted many times by the weather. That hasn't stopped us from learning and growing and then sharing our experiences when we were finally able to meet. If any women would like to join the group at any time, please contact Karen Kangas.

We've been reading through [Soul Keeping: Caring for the Most Important Part of You](#), by John Ortberg, going through the [Soul Keeping Workbook](#), and watching the accompanying dvd sessions together. John Ortberg includes a lot of his discussions with Dallas Willard in the book and dvd.

### Here are some quotes from the book:

From the Foreword by Dr. Henry Cloud:

*"It is the human condition; we ignore our internal life, and as a result, we do not have the outside 'life' that we desire, relationally or functionally. We get lost, and we need help to be reminded to work on that internal 'life,' the real one...what John (Ortberg) is calling our soul." p. 11.*

*"He (John) reminds us that we have one and, as Jesus told us, that our soul is our real life. it is the one from which everything else emanates. It is the one that God breathed into mankind, when we became 'living souls.'" p.11.*

*"Our soul is like a stream of water, which gives strength, direction, and harmony to every other area of our life. When that stream is as it should be, we are constantly refreshed and exuberant in all we do, because our soul itself is then profusely rooted in the vastness of God and his kingdom, including nature; and all else within us is enlivened and directed by that stream. Therefore we are in harmony with God, reality, and the rest of human nature and nature at large." -- Dallas Willard. p.15.*

*(Continued from page 5)*

*"...I called Dallas to ask him what I needed to do to stay spiritually healthy....He said slowly, 'You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life.' I quickly wrote that down. Most people take notes with Dallas; I have even seen his wife take notes...*

*"Okay, Dallas,' I responded. 'I've got that one. Now what other spiritual nuggets do you have for me? I don't have a lot of time and I want to get all the spiritual wisdom from you that I can.'*

*"There is nothing else,' he said, generously acting as if he did not notice my impatience. Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day. You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life."*  
p. 20.

***"The most important thing in your life,' Dallas said, 'is not what you do; it's who you become. That's what you will take into eternity. You are an unceasing spiritual being with an eternal destiny in God's great universe."*** p. 23.

*"...This was an invitation to another world--what Gordon MacDonald would call a 'private world.' It is unseen, unknown, hidden. It would garner no applause. it could be chaotic and dark and disordered, and no one might know." p. 23.*

*"A deep soul has the capacity to understand and empathize deeply with other people--not just himself. A deep soul notices and questions and doesn't just go through the motions. A deep soul lives in conscious awareness of eternity, not simply today. It notices and observes and reflects in surprising ways--we talk about a person of 'hidden depths.'"*

*"A soul especially has depth when it is connected to God." p. 57*

*"The soul cries out for connection. To love someone with your soul means your will, your choices, your mind, your thoughts, your feelings, your body, your behaviors, and your habits are aligned for the good of their entire being before God. We bless the soul when we love that way. That's soul love." p. 157.*

#### **John and Dallas taught us how to bless others.**

*"You can change the wording if you want,' Dallas said, 'but it's hard to improve on God.'*

*The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The*

*Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

*"Blessing and cursing are not compartmentalized Bible words at all. They are simply the two ways we treat people. They are as inescapable as breathing out and breathing in." p. 154-155.*

## **Missions in Place, Part 2**

Submitted by Karen Kangas

### **God can direct your feet and place you where he wants you to be.**

One day, years ago, Randy and I were out with our two oldest sons, 16 and 14 at the time, and our two youngest sons, 4 and 2 years old. We stopped at the Pheasant Lane Mall on a whim and since we hadn't brought our stroller for the youngest, we signed one out from Mall Services. When we brought the stroller back, we had only our two youngest near us. Immediately after returning it we turned around and noticed a family sitting on a bench with five small children. Randy went up to them and began talking to them. We commented on their children and told them that we had seven children. They were believers in Christ and seemed to be encouraged by our words.

After that we saw the same family again, one time in Target and another time in Borders Bookstore. Each time we would talk with them. By the third time, Randy and I felt compelled to invite them over for supper. They accepted the invitation and a date was set.

They came for supper. I can't even remember what we had. Pizza, maybe? But we did have a great visit. The mother shared that she was experiencing postpartum depression. The time she saw us at the mall she had just commented to her husband something like this, "Remember when we only had two kids; how easy it was? Look at that family. I wish we could be like them again." Then we turned around from the Mall Services Desk and walked right to them and began talking with them and told them we had seven children. She could hardly believe it! She knew it was God's direction to put us in their life for that time. We were able to visit with them a few more times and made sure she was connected with people who lived closer to her until her postpartum depression lifted. For me, it was an awesome experience that showed God does move and direct our paths.

*(Continued from page 6)*

### **God can change your plans and its okay.**

Usually our family has gotten together with my extended family for an Easter dinner, but one year we were on our own. So, I had made dinner ahead of time and planned to heat it up when we got home from Hope's church service. It was something that was delicious and would allow me time to relax with the family instead of running around my kitchen cooking and fixing.

My daughter, Sarah, had told me that three students from Franklin Pierce University were probably going to be attending the Easter service, since she and Joni Somero and Shannia Aho had invited them. I thought it would be wonderful if they did come because I had wanted to meet them. Well, they did come and I did meet them before the service began. During the message, it occurred to me that they probably didn't have anywhere to go for Easter dinner as they were from Japan and had no family around and that we should invite them over. Then I had the internal wondering. "Um...I had dinner already prepared. Would it be enough? What could I add to make it go further? Well, forget that. Just invite them over." So we did! Yes, I ended up running around my kitchen cooking and fixing, but I tried to act like it was all in the plans. Again, I can't remember what I added, but it was good and it was enough. And I was okay with God's change of plans.

It was an awesome experience. The students had been at Franklin Pierce for four years and had never been in an American home for a meal before. After that we had them over to celebrate birthdays and other events. They wished we had met them years earlier. We all did. We were touched when they asked us to attend their graduation from Franklin Pierce as their family.

### **You Never Know Who You'll Meet at the Friendly Farm**

One time when my children were young we went to the Friendly Farm in Dublin, NH. We noticed another young family there with three small children. They kept watching us and we kept watching them, but we were at a distance from one another. Finally we caught up with each other in the sheep barn, I think it was. Randy and I could tell that they wanted to talk, so we began talking

with them. They asked us our children's names. Well, our oldest is John, then Benjamin, Peter and Sarah.

They were wondering if we were Christians, based on what they could see of our family and the children's names. They had been actively looking for other young Christian families to connect with. We invited them over for supper when we were all done with our visit to the Friendly Farm. Again, I don't even remember what we had, but we had a good time. We visited back and forth with them for quite awhile. We haven't seen them for a long time, but when I think of them and they pop into my head frequently, I remember to pray for them.



*L-R: Benjamin, Randy with Sarah, Peter, and John*

## **HOPE'S SPRING SCHEDULE**

### **Easter Services**

Mar. 29<sup>th</sup> PALM SUNDAY: Sunday school 9:45 am.  
Worship Service 10:45 am

Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup> GOOD FRIDAY: Worship Service 6 pm.  
*(With Communion)*

Apr. 5<sup>th</sup> EASTER SUNDAY: Easter Brunch 9:30-10:30 am.  
Worship Service following-All Welcome!

Services with Jay Weidner:

*(See <http://www.ilseminary.org>)*

April 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> - Friday & Saturday

April 12<sup>th</sup> - Sunday

## **GOTeam: Narnia is always in Winter, but without Christmas**

Submitted by Bob O'Brien

*Note: In order to protect our brothers and sisters currently working in country with the Lord of the harvest I am refraining from using the name of the country in print. We do not want to jeopardize their efforts or threaten the wellbeing of indigenous believers or give the enemy any leverage. I will be sure to be more disciplined when I speak and write about Narnia going forward.*

Why go to Narnia?

This is a great question that really provides the opportunity to reinforce in our own minds, why we need to go.

The GOTeam (glocal outreach team) has been inspired by the often overlooked scripture where Jesus Himself talks about His very own return and that it would only happen after the whole world has been given the opportunity to learn about and make a decision about following Him (*"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."* Matthew 24:14 NKJ). When you see the word "nations", you could substitute with "people groups".

At Hope Fellowship Church (hereafter HFC) the GOTeam has developed a strategy through prayer and guiding of the Holy Spirit that aligns with Acts 1:8 with regard to a three cord approach to outreach;

- our Jerusalem-the Monadnock region to the borders of the USA
- our Judea-Managua Nicaragua
- our Samaria and to the end of the world-Narnia.

*"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* Acts 1:8. Our effort in Narnia is specifically in response to identifying the third and final cord of our strategy (*Samaria, and to the end of the earth*).

The great commission makes it clear that we are to go and make His Name known; <sup>18</sup> *And Jesus came and spoke to them saying. "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name*

*of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* Matthew 28:18-20.

Currently worldwide, over 90% of M-work (cross cultural missions) is being directed to people groups where the gospel has already been or is being preached. As we prayed through our GOTeam strategy it became increasingly clear that we could potentially have a more significant impact if through the guiding of the Holy Spirit, the Lord would direct us towards an UNreached people group so that we could start to offset the great imbalance of cross cultural M-work. An UNreached people group is when less than 2% of that people group follows Jesus. There is an organization "JoshuaProject.net" that identifies UNreached people groups and tracks their progress with regard to belief systems, population and locations throughout the world. These people groups remain UNreached because often times they are difficult to reach (distance, time, cost, climate or comfort) and less receptive to the good news (stony ground and persecution) so therefore few people attempt the looming task. In countries with reached people groups there are often times churches throughout the country whereas countries with UNreached people groups often times do not allow followers of Jesus to have a church. Even though we are a relatively small flock of believers, we could still have a huge impact (Lord willing) by adopting (committing long-term) an UNreached people group and through prayer, time and the working of the Holy Spirit, make His Name known (*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13*).

The Bible makes it clear that if you do not believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior that you are condemned, which in layman terms equates to not going to heaven when one dies (this is Jesus speaking *"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."* John 3:18 NKJ). There are many other verses that reinforce this message, often times we use John 14:6; *"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth and the life. Nobody comes to the Father except through Me."* This only reinforces that the way to God (heaven) is ONLY through Jesus as Lord and Savior. These verses reinforce the significance of identifying an Islamic UNreached people group. After all, Islamic people groups are under intense social pressure to remain loyal



*(Continued from page 8)*

to their Islamic faith. Not only do they not have the freedom to choose, there is also a tremendous amount of social pressure to not leave the faith in which they were born. If you leave Islam you can expect to be ostracized and abandoned by your family. In extreme parts of the world mercy killings are socially acceptable when somebody converts from Islam to follow Jesus. In Narnia, according to Joshua Project 99.98% of the 500,000 people (490,000) are condemned to eternal separation from the Lord because they do not follow Jesus (in my experience I think its closer to 499,950). As previously stated in Matthew 24:14 Jesus clearly has a plan that awaits for these people to have the opportunity to hear the good news and make that important decision that will break their condemnation ("*...but he who does not believe is condemned already*"). In Narnia, you can be an undisciplined Muslim that does not openly practice Islam and still be accepted socially. But if you decide to follow Jesus you will be quickly abandoned by your families, terminated from employment and considered a social outcast. I think we all realize that the enemy wants to do everything in his power to prevent a person from following Jesus, anything or anybody else but Jesus.

So if the Bible clearly states that we are to go (*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. James 1:22*). Then where do we go? As previously stated the only missing link to our Acts 1:8 strategy is *Samaria, and to the end of the earth*. Back in 2011 ish we started to focus prayer about becoming more strategic and identifying an UNreached people group to adopt as our third and final cord to our Acts 1:8 strategy. Over the course of the next year Narnia started to come into focus through a variety of connections in South Africa, Rindge and the greater Boston area. Through prayer and action Corbin Aho along with a team launched a two-month expedition to Narnia in January & February of 2013 to gain a better understanding of the need and opportunities for outreach. Later that summer Corbin, Saara and myself visited Narnia on a 10-day expedition to again survey the culture, identify persons of peace and strengthen relations with other M-workers living in the community. In 2014 Celia O'Brien in partnership with one of the M-worker teams in Narnia committed for a six-month expedition to assist the start up of a community center

that would be used as outreach through English speaking clubs. I visited Narnia in August 2014 to see first hand the progress Celia's team had made and build on the relationships already established in 2013.

This calling to Narnia is further supported by scripture that encourages us to go where others are either unable or unwilling to go (<sup>14</sup> *How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?* <sup>15</sup> *And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" Romans 10:14-15*).

In February this year the entire GOTeam (plus 1) visited Narnia to prayerfully make the final determination whether or not the Lord is calling us to this UNreached people group for HFC to adopt and commit long term. The expedition team included Ben Oslon, Hosea Ketola, Neil Levesque and Bob O'Brien. After the ten-day expedition there was a resounding confirmation that "YES" we are called to adopt this UNreached people group and partner with our growing number of indigenous persons of peace and the M-workers already in country, for one common purpose, to make His name known. The GOTeam is prayerfully planning to lead two expeditions each year (May & October timeframe). The team size initially would be small because Narnia is considered a closed country and sharing the good news openly would potentially set back the movement if reported to the police/government. Sharing the good news would be accomplished similar to countries like Egypt, throughout the Middle East and China (underground). When the Lord decides to open the country for door-to-door sharing; Lord willing we will have already established credibility, persons of peace, many underground believers, a familiarity of the area and the ability to hit the ground running. There is much to be done between now and then and we covet your prayers and where possible your participation.

If you would like to learn more about Narnia please speak to a member of the GOTeam (Ben Olson, Hosea Ketola & Bob O'Brien).

On behalf of the elders and GOTeam, we covet your prayers for guidance, wisdom and discernment.

Respectfully, Bob O'Brien

(Continued from page 9)

### Projected Expeditions for 2015

**February** - Narnia (prayer walk, outreach & discipleship) - SUCCESSFUL

**June** - Managua, Nicaragua (VBS, Vacation Bible School)

**June** - Mozambique (church planting)

**October** - Narnia (conversational English, outreach & discipleship)

**December**-Managua, Nicaragua (outreach)

**Local ministries:** Be Blessed • Keene Community Kitchen • Good News Club • Big Brother Big Sister • Vacation Bible School

You are encouraged and welcome to be actively involved with our local ministries and/or cross-cultural outreach. Please feel free to reach out to Ben Olson, Hosea Ketola or Bob O'Brien if you would like to learn more.

### HOPE FAMILY FEATURE

Donald & Linda Cramb

#### **1. What are your names? Where do you live?**

Donald and Linda Cramb, Jaffrey

#### **2. Please tell us your children's names & ages:**

Andrew Cramb and his wife, Lora Traffic  
Mary Mickelsen and her husband, Eric Mickelsen

#### **3. Where did you grow up?**

Donald grew up in Rindge and Jaffrey.  
Linda grew up in Dayton, Ohio.



#### **4. Can you tell us how you met?**

We met in church in Dayton, Ohio, in 1980.  
We were married at the same church in August of 1981.

#### **5. Tell us something you appreciate about each other:**

Linda appreciates that Donald loves to study God's Word and has a real desire to live a righteous life at home and in the community. Donald appreciates the joy Linda brings to others. He says she is a very gifted, gracious woman and not afraid to attempt new things. He says she lights up a room when she enters it. "My life would be dull without her," says Donald.

#### **6. What do you do for a living?**

Donald has an appliance repair business, Able Hands Appliance Repair. It is his 20<sup>th</sup> year of business. Linda is a substitute teacher for Trinity Christian School in Keene. She also does office work for Able Hands.

#### **7. What are your favorite hobbies?**

Linda enjoys gardening, canning, and Zumba. Donald loves nature and takes photographs of flowers and plants he sees on his walks.

#### **8. What are some things you enjoy doing together?**

We like to travel to visit friends and relatives. We also like to take walks and go canoeing.

#### **9. What brought you to Hope Fellowship Church?**

We were looking for a local church that had Bible teaching and a future of growth and outreach.

#### **10. What is something you enjoy about Hope?**

HFC has a great elder leadership model and warm fellowship including all age groups. Donald loves the Monday night Men's Group and we both enjoy our small group led by Bob and Sheila O'Brien.

#### **11. What message would you leave to your children and your grandchildren?**

We would say to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Love your neighbor as yourself. (Mark 12:30 +31) We pray that they would follow the Lord our God and fear Him; and keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him throughout their lives. (Deuteronomy 13:4)

## Stewardship Corner: Debt = Slavery

Submitted By Bob O'Brien

The rich rules over the poor,  
And the borrower is servant to the lender.  
Proverbs 22:7

The dictionary defines debt as "money that a person is obligated to pay to another." Debt includes bank loans, money borrowed from relatives, mortgage\*, past due medical bills, auto-furniture or appliance loans, and money owed to credit cards companies. Bills that come due, such as electric bill, are not considered debt if they are paid on time.

*\*There are varying opinions when it comes to a home mortgage; if the value of the home exceeds the amount owed on the property then it is considered an investment because the value of the property exceeds the value of the mortgage. If the outstanding amount of the mortgage exceeds the fair market value then it would certainly be viewed as debt (or possibly an anchor).*

Scripture does not say that debt is sin, but it does discourage it. Remember, God loves us and has given these principles for our benefit. If you read Romans 13:8 from several different translations you will see one common theme; "Owe no man anything" (KJV), "Let no debt remain outstanding" (NIV), "Pay all your debts" (TLB), "Owe nothing to anyone" (NASB), "Keep out of debt" (amplified).

Debt is considered:

- Slavery (Proverbs 22:7 & 1Corinthians 7:23)
- A curse (Deuteronomy 28:102, 12, 15 & 43-44)
- Presumes upon tomorrow (James 43:13-15)
- It may deny God an opportunity (1Kings 17:17-16, Malachi 3:10 & Matthew 6:38)

This information is from both the Bible and Crown Financial Biblical Study.

There is a small group study offered by Crown Financial, led by Bob & Sheila O'Brien. The ten series study covers the major stewardship topics and can help you develop a balanced biblical approach that when followed will lead to reduced financial strain and a great plan while still relying fully on the Lord.

If you would like to learn more about biblical principles of stewardship please speak to Bob O'Brien at church or you can also call or text at 603-831-4952.



## 5 Biblical Money Principles

Submitted By Phyllis Sauvola

First of all, I'd like to extend a warm "hello" to all of the members of Hope Fellowship Church.

I was asked to share some of my thoughts in the newsletter this month. It seems only natural to share that which has occupied some of my mind lately. I have found myself wishing I had paid closer attention to how I managed God's money in the past. You see, I always thought of it as "our" hard earned money; to handle how we saw fit. I didn't look at money as though I was managing it for God. *"...For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all."* 1 Chronicles 29:11

I might have been more diligent in my management of it, had I looked more carefully at what the bible teaches regarding money. I'm thinking, I may have gotten a little less stressed about it, too. Can any of you relate?

There are over 2,350 verses in the bible that address God's way of handling money and possessions. Jesus spoke frequently about it.

*I'd like to point out just 5 biblical money principles here today.*

1. Get out of and stay out of debt.  
*"The rich rules over the poor, And the borrower is slave to the lender."* Proverbs 22:7
2. Live on less than you make.  
*"Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them."* Matthew 25:3
3. Save money  
*"There is desirable treasure, And oil in the dwelling of the wise, But a foolish man squanders it."* Proverbs 21:20
4. Live on a plan – Budget  
*"For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it."* Luke 14:28
5. Give  
*"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."* II Corinthians 9:7

Hopefully, this will be some "food for thought" for some of you wonderful people! Lord willing, perhaps I will expound on each of these principles in the next newsletter if there seems to be some interest in this subject matter. Until then, may God richly bless each one of you!

Lovingly!  
Phyllis Sauvola

## From the Heart of the Worship Team

Submitted By Connie Somero

### Multiplied

Your love is like radiant diamond  
Bursting inside us we cannot contain  
Your love will surely come find us  
Like blazing wild fire singing Your name

God of mercy sweet love of mine  
I have surrendered to Your design  
May this offering stretch across the skies  
And these Hallelujahs be multiplied

Your love is like radiant diamond  
Bursting inside us we cannot contain  
Your love will surely come find us  
Like blazing wild fire singing Your name

God of mercy sweet love of mine  
I have surrendered to Your design  
May this offering stretch across the skies  
And these Hallelujahs be multiplied

God of mercy sweet love of mine  
I have surrendered to Your design  
May this offering stretch across the skies  
And these Hallelujahs be multiplied

Your love will surely come find us  
Like blazing wild fire singing Your name

Ccli 2670267

Written by Bo Rinehart, Bear Rinehart

I love the band *NEEDTOBREATHE*. Their songs are so heart felt. After reading their biography on their website, I thought I'd share a little about their recent history:

They wrote this song, "Multiplied," during a tough time in their lives, when trying to find their place in this world with their music. Deciding they wanted to go back to their spiritual roots, Bo, one of the brothers shares, "Our faith was the only reason that we were able to start a new record. Our faith is the reason that we are still a band."

Their new album reflects these sentiments, embracing a sparse instrumentation that lends to the emotional tone of the songs. "The Heart" is a stomping number imbued with an infectious sense of hopeful anticipation. But it's the spiritual yearning on the heartfelt track "Multiplied" that best illustrates the setting in which the band has arrived.

"The first line from my favorite hymn sings these words: 'The Love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell.' If we spent the rest of our life singing Hallelujahs, it still wouldn't amount to what God truly deserves," says Bo. "I need God, even in worship, to help make what little I have to offer worthy of him.

This song (Multiplied) is a prayer. 'May this offering stretch across the skies and these Hallelujahs be multiplied.' Also, God cannot be contained. He has no limits. Then couldn't God use us to spark his exponential ripple effect into motion that could change the entire world? 'May these Hallelujahs be multiplied!'"

<http://www.klove.com/music/artists/needtobreathe/>

## Recipe to Share

### Chocolate Marshmallow Squares

- 2 cups oatmeal
- 1 ½ cups flour
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup melted butter
- 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
- ¾ teaspoon vanilla
- 1 ¼ cup semi-sweet mini chocolate chips
- 1 ¼ cups mini marshmallow

Combine oatmeal, flour, brown sugar, baking soda and salt in mixing bowl. Add melted butter. Mix until moist. Reserve 1 ½ cups of crumb mixture. Press remaining ingredients into a greased jellyroll pan. Bake at 375 degrees for 10-12 minutes. Let crust cool.

Combine sweetened condensed milk and vanilla. Spread over baked crust, leaving it ¼ inch from edge. Sprinkle with mini chocolate chips, marshmallows and reserved crumbs. Bake 12-15 minutes more.





## News from Nicaragua

Submitted By Ronnie and Tandy Seppala

*Elders, Mission Team and brothers and sisters of Hope Fellowship Church,*

We want to thank you for supporting Ronnie since his beginnings in Nicaragua, and for taking our family under your wing for the last five years. You have been God's instrument in our lives, and we are thankful for you and honored to be a part of Hope's family.

It is only right that we keep you informed on the work in Managua, with the expectation that together we can witness God's eternal kingdom being established through us all.

Ronnie had only pastored for one year when he came to a grave conclusion. Each week was easily consumed with the immediate, and nothing was done to build upon the immature foundation of the church. *At this rate*, he feared, *fifty years will go by and we will still be a church without leaders, without fruit, carried on the shoulders of one blue-eyed foreigner.* He realized that only very decisive action would break us from the poverty of spiritual life around us. *In five years*, he decided, *I want to have worked myself out of a job.*

One year has gone by since his decision, and Ronnie has fought against time, tradition, and common sense, in his effort to break-up the hard ground and make it serviceable for growth. The Spirit of the Lord has been with him.

This year he has but one deacon and two deaconesses at his side. They have been equipped through study and prayer to take on the biblical role of a deacon. Weekly they are visiting the needy, mostly the elderly and sick. They run a "mercy fund," their own portion of the church's meager tithing. This is all in stark contrast to the church's former idea of deacon – any number of women, teenagers, and even children who raised their hand during the annual meeting, with the good intention of taking care of such needs as dusting benches and quieting children during a service.

The Lord has drawn a host of people to the church, newborn and eager to grow. There is a great need for discipleship, and we are currently working with the church leaders that we have been given, instructing them that they might then be equipped to disciple.

Ronnie longs to see men strong in faith step forward to pursue eldership in the church. He longs to share the burdens and spiritual needs of the church with others obedient to such a call.

It has been slow work, but we can see some delightful green growth in all the hard cracked earth. And we wait expectantly with you for God to finish what he has begun.

Your brother and sister in Christ,

Ronnie and Tandy Seppala



Ronnie at Wednesday Evening Prayer meeting

### Bible Trivia Questions

1. How many books are in the Bible?  
Old Testament? New Testament?

Answer: 66, 39, 27

### Joke Jar

**Q:** Why didn't the orange finish the race?  
**A:** It ran out of juice.

**Q:** How is a baseball team like a waffle?  
**A:** They both need a good batter.

**Q:** What did the bald guy say when he got a comb for his birthday?  
**A:** Thanks! I will never part with it.

**Q:** Why was the little ant confused?  
**A:** Because all of his uncles were "ants."

*Happy Birthday! Happy Birthday! Happy Birthday! Happy Birthday! Happy Birthday!*

**MARCH**

- 2<sup>nd</sup>-Dakota Chamberlain
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-Keith Muhonen
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-Dallas Wooster
- 6<sup>th</sup>- Eli Knisley
- 8<sup>th</sup>-Faith Wooster
- 9<sup>th</sup>-Anden Ketola
- 9<sup>th</sup>-Connie Somero
- 10<sup>th</sup>-Lacey Aho
- 10<sup>th</sup>-Laura Sauvola
- 14<sup>th</sup>-Maureen Chamberlain
- 14<sup>th</sup>-Elisha Hodgson
- 14<sup>th</sup>-Rayna Olson
- 16<sup>th</sup>-Travis Rautiola
- 18<sup>th</sup>-Joe Kangas
- 20<sup>th</sup>-Taran Stenersen
- 21<sup>st</sup>- Ayden Seppala
- 23<sup>rd</sup>-Kristina Estola
- 23<sup>rd</sup>-Daimon Gibson
- 23<sup>rd</sup>-Lars Stenersen
- 29<sup>th</sup>-Harper Seppala

**APRIL**

- 1<sup>st</sup>- Jacob Haase
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-Marla Somero
- 6<sup>th</sup>-Kayla Olson
- 10<sup>th</sup>-Audrey Gibson
- 10<sup>th</sup>-Kacy Sauvola
- 11<sup>th</sup>-Evangeline Hodgson
- 12<sup>th</sup>-Sadie Gibson
- 12<sup>th</sup>- Simeon Hodgson
- 12<sup>th</sup>- Alan Wooster
- 17<sup>th</sup>-Mason Lehtonen
- 17<sup>th</sup>-Kenneth Lehtonen
- 18<sup>th</sup>- Steven Hodgson
- 18<sup>th</sup>-Ethan Ketola
- 18<sup>th</sup>-Asia Raasio
- 18<sup>th</sup>-Shannon Wooster
- 19<sup>th</sup>-Courtney Sikkila
- 21<sup>st</sup>-Donovan Krook
- 22<sup>nd</sup>-Max Holombo
- 23<sup>rd</sup>-Sarah Kangas
- 24<sup>th</sup>-Anders Somero
- 25<sup>th</sup>-Melonie Ojala
- 27<sup>th</sup>-Cashton Aho
- 27<sup>th</sup>-Matt Saari
- 27<sup>th</sup>- Angela Traffie
- 27<sup>th</sup>-Lars Traffie
- 29<sup>th</sup>-Heather Hill
- 29<sup>th</sup>-Cale Sikkila

**MAY**

- 1<sup>st</sup>-James Weimann
- 1<sup>st</sup>-Shannia Wooster
- 4<sup>th</sup>-Julie Marceau
- 6<sup>th</sup>-Shane Rautiola
- 7<sup>th</sup>- Benjamin Olson
- 9<sup>th</sup>-Slater Somero
- 11<sup>th</sup>-Joshua Seppala
- 11<sup>th</sup>-Jeffrey Seppala
- 15<sup>th</sup>-Greg Hodgson
- 16<sup>th</sup>-Kyle Holombo
- 19<sup>th</sup>-Chase Holombo
- 21<sup>st</sup>-Sheryl Gibson
- 24<sup>th</sup>-Hayes Ketola
- 24<sup>th</sup>-Joy Seppala
- 25<sup>th</sup>- Brendan Ojala
- 25<sup>th</sup>-Sasha Sikkila
- 27<sup>th</sup>-Troy Holombo
- 29<sup>th</sup>- Robert Clark
- 30<sup>th</sup>-Morgan Ketola
- 31<sup>st</sup>-Todd Chamberlain

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

**March**

- 10<sup>th</sup>-Mr. & Mrs. Greg Somero
- 14<sup>th</sup>-Mr. & Mrs. Scott Wooster

**April**

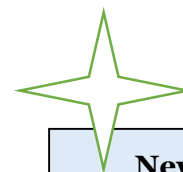
- 13<sup>th</sup>-Mr. & Mrs. Casey Gibson
- 18<sup>th</sup>-Mr. & Mrs. Chad Gibson
- 21<sup>st</sup>-Mr. & Mrs. Robert Clark
- 29<sup>th</sup>-Mr. & Mrs. John Ducharme

**May**

- 13<sup>th</sup>-Mr. & Mrs. Chad Rautiola
- 21<sup>st</sup>-Mr. & Mrs. John Jankowski
- 21<sup>st</sup>-Mr. & Mrs. Ross Somero
- 25<sup>th</sup>-Mr. & Mrs. Graham Heagy

Scripture to Memorize:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. John 1:1-3 NKJV



**New in the Nursery**

A daughter, Morgan Jayne, to Robert and Corrie Guichard on December 19, 2014.

A son, Holden Alan to Kenneth & Carisa Lehtonen & Mason on December 19, 2014.