

# WHEATON

## CROSS † CONNECTIONS

### But Then This ...

#### **By Pastor John**

*"There will be no more gloom for those who are in distress ... for to us a child is born, to us a son is given" (Isaiah 9: 1, 6)*

The whole book of Isaiah is a mixture of gloom and glory. In these verses that distinction is particularly stark. The end of chapter eight is very dark: the people have lost God's way; they consult spiritualists, and they are about to be "thrust into utter darkness."

When Isaiah wrote this, the northern ten tribes had already been conquered by the terrifying Assyrians who flayed their captives alive and dragged them away on hooks. And, the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, as Isaiah prophesies, were soon to be conquered by the Babylonians who were not all that much better. It is hard for us to really imagine the great darkness that the people were walking in.

Then comes the prophecy of everlasting hope, pinned on the birth of the Messiah. "...there will be no more gloom for those who are in the land of distress." Hope is dawning for people.

These were as dark a time as any in the history of the people of God. But Isaiah paints a picture as bright as any that we find in the Bible. From out of the fallen house of David the Messiah will come and God's Spirit will rest on him. In contrast to all the other rulers of the earth, his reign will be righteous and good and his kingdom will be a picture of perfect peace.

That peace, or shalom is wholeness and perfect well-being; it is soundness and restfulness of

individuals and of society.

That is what the Prince of Shalom will bring. We think about it often.

God has made progress since the days of Isaiah. Jesus, the Prince of Peace has all the authority in heaven and on earth. The Lord sits enthroned "...until his enemies are made his footstool."

Meanwhile we have work to do. While the Lord restores his kingship in this world, he assigns some tasks to us. We have a humble role: we pray, and we do deeds of love and mercy. We also vote and write letters. We speak up for those with no voice. We declare with joy and hope that "**Our world belongs to God.**" And then we pray and sing, "**O Come, O Come Emmanuel.**"

***Have a wonderful Advent and Christmas season.***

## Shepherding Board

#### **By Gary Verseput**

The Shepherding Board, consisting of five District teams plus Pastor John, primarily focuses on shepherding the flock – watching over, staying in contact with, overseeing the spiritual health of the members and frequent attenders assigned to each team's District. We do that by conducting home visits - both fairly formal and informal ones, by trying to say "Hi" at worship services and other meetings, and by

being available as a conduit for questions, information, requests for assistance and any other matters that may come up. Each District team consists of an Elder and a Deacon, and each person or family in the congregation should know who their Elder and Deacon are and how to contact them. If you don't, please contact Susan Anderson (who does a super job of keeping the lists current) or Gary Verseput, both of whom will be glad to refer you. We also have an organized method of identifying new attendees, and making sure they are assigned to a District after being present for six services as registered in the Welcome Mats.

We will be concentrating on our home visits over the Winter and Spring months. When you are contacted by your Elder or Deacon about a visit, we hope you will be happy to arrange one. The visit is not frightening or formidable, but rather is an opportunity to connect, to communicate, to check up on your spiritual well being and health, and to talk about your life in Christ. Visits typically last about an hour or a little more, and require no preparation other than prayer on your part. These visits should be good experiences for all of us, and we as District team members really enjoy them. We hope you do also.

Besides our general program of trying to do a home visit with each family or single person every two years, we pay particular attention to the elderly and home bound. We also arrange for transportation and assistance visits for them, as needed, sometimes referring the need to the Care Committee or the Deacons, and sometimes providing direct assistance such as transportation to Church services. In this regard, we ask for some special help in one specific case: a senior member who is homebound needs more social visits to help ease the loneliness. If you would be able and willing to visit, just to spend some time with this dear lady, please contact Nancy Richardson.

***Shepherding teams provide another means of connecting to your Church. We hope and pray that we can be of service, and a tangible benefit in your Christian life. If there's anything you want to talk to your Elder or Deacon about, please contact them. Of course, any elder or***

***deacon will also be willing and able to assist you, but you do have "your own". Please use us, stay in contact with us, and let us help care for you as another part of your Church family.***

## Adult Sunday School

***By Danette Temple***

**Ministry Center 9:15am**

**December 6<sup>th</sup>:**

Marge Mead: Associate Director at the Wade Center (Wheaton College) will be leading us in a 2-part series on Advent reflections on Dorothy Sayers' radio drama, "The Man Born to the King," produced and broadcasted by the BBC during the WW2. It is a play cycle consisting of twelve plays depicting specific periods in Jesus' life, from the events surrounding his birth to his death and resurrection.

Please Pray for: ELIM

**December 13<sup>th</sup>:**

Marge Mead: Associate Director at the Wade Center (Wheaton College) presenting Part 2 of the Dorothy Sayers' Drama Series.

Please Pray for: Wycliffe Bible Translators

**December 20<sup>th</sup>:**

Steven Sowinski, a trumpeter who is a devoted champion of Paul Jeninga's creative new technology in the design of the trumpet. He will bring us into the Holiday season in style as he plays Advent/Christmas Music on his trumpet. Paul Jeninga will also be present and if we are lucky we may get Paul to share his part in this story.

Please Pray for: All the Homeless during this Holiday Season

**December 27<sup>th</sup>:**

No Class-Christmas

# Pastor Transition Planning

**By Dave Sikkenga, Clerk**

On November 2 the elders held a special meeting devoted to starting the planning process for the pastoral transition that we expect to occur after Easter, 2011. The start of this planning was made possible by Pastor John's early announcement of his 2011 retirement.

One major resource discussed was the CRC booklet "Closing Well, Continuing Strong" that was written to provide assistance to retiring pastors and their councils. Other resources available to the elders include denominational literature and experts in Grand Rapids (from the CRC Pastoral-Church Relations Committee) and the regional Home Missions representative, Peter Kelder, who also helped us initiate the recent Refocus process. Some texts from non-CRC sources have also been reviewed.

During this meeting, the elders agreed to use the following committee structure to address pastoral transition issues:

**A. Council Executive Committee**

-Membership: Council President, VP, Shepherding

Committee Chair, Clerk, Chair of Deacons, Deacon Liaison for Treasurer (Also expected that

full council will have input also)

-Roles:

-Discussions with current pastor regarding ongoing church ministry needs. Pastor

John will assemble a report with his reflections during January 2010

-Assessment of congregational needs

-Identify vision for growth/future

-Identification of strengths and weaknesses

-Completing church evaluation form required

by CRC denomination

-Plan to start these actions during a

December,  
2009 meeting.

-Plan to report progress on above activities during April, 2010 congregational meeting.

**B. Establish a Search Committee (6-8 people, some from council, some outside)**

- Estimate 8-12 months to do the job—but widely varies

- Goal would be to start this committee in May, 2010

- Membership to be representative of congregational demographics.

-Purpose to contact, interview, and recommend for congregational approval pastoral candidates that meet WCRC needs.

**C. Social and Assistance Planning committee- (3-4 people)**

- Purpose: coordinate celebration of events, social activities, assistance for retiring pastor and family.

-This committee should be appointed soon

-Elders need to have more discussions on possible membership.

The elders hope to keep the congregation updated using bulletin announcements, Cross Connection articles, and congregational meeting reports.

## WCRC Care Committee

**By Leslie Sytsma**

The Wheaton CRC Care Committee consists of seven members this year. Generally, our charter calls for six members, but we were fortunate at the beginning of this church year to have three women express a desire to be on the Committee. Pam Eiten, Heidi Slinkman and Irene DeWolf joined us to fill the shoes of two retiring members (Bonnie Groen and Erica Plaisier). The other members of the Committee are Stephanie Disselkoen, Marie DeHaan, Jane Gabrielse and Leslie Sytsma.

We meet every other month to discuss needs, generate ideas, etc. In December of each year, each member is responsible for baking 6 to 8 dozen cookies and we get together on an evening and prepare cookie plates for the widows and widowers of our church. We then try to arrange a date to drop off the plates of cookies and where possible, also arrange a visit.

The main objective of the Care Committee is to provide meals to our church community. We arrange for meals for those who are sick or hospitalized, have recently had babies, or otherwise. And if requested, we are also responsible for providing meals at funerals.

Finally, the Committee arranges for weekly grocery shoppers for Sue Van Berkel. Generally we like to set it up so that a regular shopper will shop for her every other month (but only once during the month). It requires calling her at the beginning of the week to see if she has any immediate needs, and then setting up a date sometime during the week to shop for her. While the shopping itself requires very little time, it's always nice if the shopper can visit with Sue when delivering the groceries. She really appreciates visits. If anyone is interested in shopping for Sue, please contact Leslie Sytsma.

If you have any needs or questions, please feel free to contact one of the Care Committee member.

## Missions –

### “Christmas Praise... Answered Prayers”

**By Grace Huitsing**

*MALI: Evy Smith and Christine have begun work in the villages around another area known as*

*Backass. Since this area receives some non-governmental help, our friends are focusing on visiting, playing tapes, and talking about Jesus. Here's Evy's account of a recent visit:*

An older man offered to show us the Fulani part of the village. We drove for another three kms and arrived at a compound. Two men came to the truck and greeted us and welcomed us. We were given a mat to sit on and then we told them who we were. We said that we were teachers of the Tawreeta, Jabuura, and Linjila (Old Testament, Psalms, and Gospels). We came in peace and if anyone was interested in knowing more about these books and Jesus, we'd be willing to talk with them. The two men told us that they had been listening to the tapes on the radio that talked about Jesus for a long time. They asked, 'WHY DID IT TAKE SO LONG FOR YOU TO COME?' We said, 'WE'VE COME NOW'.

The Christians in this area have been faithful in praying for their neighbors and it's plain that Christ is at work. Pray that this curiosity about Jesus will lead to faith in Him and that we would find others who want to know more. Praise Him for this good reception.

*From Ann Vanderaa. In an earlier letter, Ann wrote about the first Fulbe teaching conference in their area. Her good friend and sister in Christ, Kumba, was also able to be there. Ann wrote:*

It was one of the first times she'd had fellowship with other believing women. Kumba is an open believer and has dearly paid the price in her village. In our discussion that week, she mentioned 3 women that had come to her asking about Jesus. They'd said that they were all married to strict Muslim teachers. In fear and hope, they'd asked her if she thought they could continue to pray the Muslim prayers but be secretly praying them to Jesus, believing him in their hearts. They wanted to follow Jesus, but what were they to do? If their husbands found out, they'd be thrown out of the family, lose all their children, and be outcasts. I'll turn this around and ask you, the reader of this letter, 'How would you have answered these women?'

Two other teaching seminars have been held,

one sensitive to the problems faced by seekers and new believers, and the other to search the Scriptures and pray as to what the future of the Fulani church could look like.

Exciting stuff! Please pray for these believers. There are not very many of them. They are precious and often live in very difficult circumstances in regards to their faith and witness. These first fruits bear a large burden. They are the future of the Fulbe church in Mali. May God pour his Spirit and blessing on each one of them.

*GUADALAJARA: In years of ministry, Wayne and Sandy DeYoung have been able to share the good news in the UP, Puerto Rico, Honduras, Dominican Republic and Haiti, and feel extremely blessed for the privilege. They write:*

Our next greatest blessing is seeing the national leaders we work with catch the wind in their sails and start sharing their faith everywhere they go...in the streets, at the open markets, at schools, on the public buses, in hospitals, prisons, and in their neighborhoods.

Marily is one of those special evangelists that I will never forget. She has led her family members and many others to Christ, including her husband, during the past year. She just breaks out crying when she talks about the lost. She has started numerous Bible studies during this past year. She often shares in the open air market where she has a weekly booth and people listen. She is so faithful in ministry and attends every church meeting possible. She loves the new believers with a depth of love that I have rarely seen in 40 years of ministry. Her passion is contagious.

She was an orphan, daughter of an alcoholic father who abandoned her at 4 years old along with her new-born brother. She was a 14 year old bride and mother who ran away and abandoned her own daughter (and later reconciled). She knows lostness as few do. She learned to read just 4 years ago. Last week she was testifying how she witnessed to one of the tough, calloused thieves of the neighborhood and he listened to the gospel message. She was thrilled! We prayed in our church group that the Lord through his Holy Spirit would change this young man's life.

Thanks for your prayers that more Christians here will catch the wind in their sails and reach out to the millions of lost here in Guadalajara.

# Insights and Encounters

**By Jack Kremers**

Life goes by in stages - childhood, adolescence, a young person, a middle-age person, and now, old-age. This final stage became painfully aware to me when a few years ago I realized that I could no longer compete with my children and grandchildren in backyard sports and games. Memories told me that I was still capable but actions failed me. Sore muscles and poor reflexes delivered the message.

But this loss of physical participation is providing some new directions and opportunities. Dorie and I enjoy visiting our spread-out family and new places and making new friends. The slower pace provides time to reflect and discover new insights while enjoying a fresh vision of the beauty of God's world, the presence of loved ones and interaction with them. Every person provides a glimpse of God's being as uniquely imaged in that person. Every cultural expression is a facet of God's blessings upon this world.

This new stage has provided some insights that surprise me. Two of them relate directly to our church community. They are elements of life that have always been there like the seven-day week and the months that so quickly become years and decades. The surprise is not newness but the recognition of meaning and priority in things we take for granted.

I am surprised by the importance of the local church and Sunday worship as the essence of living each day. Each day is a new gift from God. He seeks in that gift our worship. It is so much easier to see daily life as worship when

we have time to see His hand at work. Those earlier stages of life were so filled with my own efforts that it left precious little time to see the big picture. It wasn't and it isn't about me, it's about God and the coming of His kingdom. The church provides the ultimate expression of this picture through our Sunday worship experiences. It is a picture of His kingdom and is a great contrast to the daily scurry of the world. The whole week is put in perspective when I acknowledge Him and receive His blessings through the Word and sacraments. The church doesn't tell me what to do but it connects me with His Spirit so that God tells me what to do.

The second insight is the recognition of the critical role I play in the coming of His kingdom. Again, it isn't about me and my efforts, it's about what God does through me. This is where that old concept I learned in my earliest days, that is, the covenant God makes with us, becomes real.

It has always been very easy to skip over the lengthy genealogies in the Old Testament. A long list of names meant little to me. But now I sense how someone writing my history would in a similar way place me in the story of what is really happening on earth today. The story in the Old Testament is about how God was preparing and causing the world to receive and know His Son. Every one of those many names in the genealogies is part of that story and their presence there is the most significant part of their life. We don't hear much about their jobs or resumes but they were the ancestors of the most important person to ever live.

Today God continues to build His kingdom. The meaning of life is our role in this new genealogy. Scott, Steve and Susan, their spouses, Cindy, Janet and Ted, and our grandchildren, Lauren, Justin, Joshua, Brian, Caroline, Sanne, Caspar and Adele are our children. It is my prayer that this list will go on for many generations just as my ancestors prepared and provided for my being on this list. I thank God for His faithfulness through my parents, grandparents and their ancestors and for His church that provided the center for the covenant blessings He has promised.

## **By Eric Lenting**

Last Thanksgiving we had the opportunity to visit Chile. While doing some research about the trip, I stumbled across lots of information about Easter Island and the Moai statues that dot its landscape. There are, I think, 887 of these large sculptures and much research has been done on the how, what, why and who of these things. One guidebook seemed to go on forever about how mysterious they were, calling them one of the world's great wonders and then went on hypothesizing how these statues could have come to be.

If I were walking along and spotted these Moai, what would I think? Certainly, given their shape, organization and similarity, I would conclude that somebody made these. They weren't formed randomly and they were not placed there randomly. That seems obvious. If someone asked me about them and I said, "Well, it looks like some rocks exploded and then they ended up formed into similarly shaped faces and lined up in a row", I would probably be ridiculed.

If you spotted a cystoscope on the ground, you might pick it up (gross) and even though you might have no idea what on earth it was, you would know that it was made by someone and had some function. You, almost certainly, would not conclude that its construction and its location were random, something that just happened to be in your path.

Yet, that seems to be what many folks believe about people and our origin. Somehow, this mass of stuff (don't ask these people how the stuff got there) in just the right amount and under just the right conditions exploded in just the right way to form life. Some folks would want us to believe that the human body evolved randomly. Even with electron microscopy and the ability to witness the incredible organization and coordination of the cellular activities happening on a molecular level in millions of cells at any given moment, many highly educated people still won't admit to a Creator.

I remember being very nervous as I entered medical school, wondering what conclusions I

would reach about creation after studying the human body in incredible detail. Would I come to the conclusion that evolution indeed makes lots of sense? I was truly concerned about what medical school was going to do to my faith and beliefs. Science fascinated me and provided answers to almost everything I wondered about but I worried what the scientific community would do to my view of a creator. Fortunately, my view of a creator is stronger than ever. I am fascinated by the intricacies of the human body. Things we thought we knew and had proven just a decade ago have been discarded in light of new and amazing discoveries. Proteins we never knew existed are being discovered to have integral roles in processes we can hardly fathom.

I've always thought it would be a cool Cadet project to take apart a Hot Wheels car and put all the pieces in a container with a firecracker and then have the kids explode those pieces over and over until the pieces became a car again. How long would it be before they realized that even with the exact materials to build the car it wasn't ever going to be a car again? I think even the youngest among them would figure it out pretty quickly. (We will probably need to take out a pretty big insurance policy and have parents sign a lengthy waiver before I am allowed to be a Cadet leader.) Many highly educated people, in essence, still believe that is how humans came to be. All the material was there. It exploded and here we are, a random consequence of an explosion. They continue to deny the existence of The Creator. My fallen self wants to ridicule them, but in reality I feel sorry for them.

That brings me to Romans 1:20, "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities- his eternal power and divine nature- have been clearly seen, being understood from what was made, so that men are without excuse." Paul makes it clear that no man has an excuse for denying God's existence. The evidence is in plain view. Paul goes on to say, "Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles." "They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things

rather than the Creator-who is forever praised."

It frustrates me that scholars studying something as simple as a group of rock statues can infer many simple, obvious truths about their origin, but when they look at the human body, an infinitely more complex and organized thing, they choose to ignore those same obvious inferences and instead believe a much more unlikely theory that all this stuff somehow existed, blew up and by chance formed self-sustaining life.

There is NO excuse for denying God's eternal power and divine nature. I hope and pray that every day even the simplest things, like a group of rocks, can serve to remind us and provide an opportunity for us to marvel at and praise God for all that He has created.

### **By Jim DeHaan**

The following four insights were written by Albert Wierenga upon my reflections on my mother's contribution to a 50th Anniversary church banner:

#### **A Banner**

Something new from something old.  
As old pieces of cloth can become a beautiful quilt or banner.  
So a patchwork of people coming together in a common good can be beautiful.  
Ultimately, may we experience the greatest renewal of all when by God's grace we hear the words:  
well done thou good and faithful servant.  
Something new from something old.

#### **A Piece of Cloth**

From something old to something new  
Pieces and patches  
Placed parallel or perpendicular  
Precarious or precise  
A thing of beauty  
We call a quilt  
Has evolved  
Reflecting time, energy, and emotion

## A People

From something old to something new  
People form places  
From far and near  
Prompting pleasantries  
All with a past  
Now  
Placed together  
Parallel, Precarious, Proper, or Precise  
But most of all now placed  
In the presence of God  
Let purity prevail  
A thing of beauty we call a church  
Has evolved  
Reflecting time, emotions, and love

## A Person

From something old to something new  
A person past  
A person present  
A person playing, providing, and participating  
But most of all  
A person praying  
And preparing for a place, promised and  
prepared  
By God  
A place of beauty we call heaven. Is,  
Reflecting perfect Praise and Peace  
In the presence of God.

From and by.  
Albert Weirenga

## By Tena Hamster

Many childhood memories are warm and joyful.  
But others are much more traumatic.

My dad died when I was about 5 yrs old. He owned a mustard factory and a grain mill. He had a severe case of pneumonia and the Germans would not give him any medicine. One day, he insisted on going to the factory to see how his men were doing. On the way, he dropped dead of a massive heart attack. He was buried in the local cemetery.

I lived in fear that my mother would die as well and leave me and my brother, Wolter (4 yrs old), alone. Out of fear, I clung to my brother

constantly.

The Germans had run over the Netherlands and, of course, struck terror in the hearts of everyone. They especially targeted my uncle who was part of the underground resistance.

One afternoon, there was a loud knock on the door. German soldiers swarmed into our home and searched every room. They put a gun into the back of my mother and accused her of hiding my father. When she said that he had died, they laughed and took her to the station. They left Wolter and me sobbing and terrified in the hall as we watched her being dragged away. We huddled together, uncertain of what would happen to her and to us.

After a little while, out of sheer exhaustion, our sobbing slowed down and my brother started humming. Softly, I joined in on our favorite song:

Daar ruist langs de wolken een lieflijke naam  
die hemel en aarde verenigt tezaam.  
Geen naam is er zoeter en beter voor 't hart,  
hij balsemt de wonden en heelt alle smart.  
Kent gij, kent gij die naam nog niet,  
die naam draagt mijn Heiland, mijn lust en mijn lied.

The clouds seem to whisper a lovely name.  
While heaven and the earth sing out loud.  
No name is sweeter, it calms the heart.  
It soothes the wounds and heals the soul  
Haven't you heard that name yet?  
That name is my Savior, my passion, my song.

Several hours later, my mother finally convinced the Germans that my father had died and his body was in the cemetery. She was released and came home. We hugged each other with tears of joy. She told us that we were good kids and assured us that God is always here with us. He has his arms around us and is taking care of us.

He certainly was with us that day and still is today.

# Theo's View

**Editor's Note:** This is the fourth in a series of insights on our spiritual journey that Theo left us.



*If Neatness is Next to Godliness...*

## Gwaïmen Center

**By Mary Sytsma**

*Editors Note:* After reading the e-mails she sent back during her recent visit to the Gwaïmen Center, I asked Mary to introduce us to some of the women and children she met. This is the fifth in that series.

### Tara Musa

Statistics don't really speak to me. I can read the numbers, understand the difference between incidence and prevalence, and see the trends. I get all that. But they don't speak to me. I can't picture a million orphans in Nigeria. (The actual statistic is 1.2 million in 2008.) But I can picture the ones whose faces and stories I know. I can't put my arms around 1.2 million, but I can put my arms around Patience and Rejoice, Emmanuel and Vincent, Dorothy and Kezia. And the best part is that I can do that

when I go to Nigeria in January. But all of us can do that even from here. We are doing that.

We can remember them. We can think about them. We can pray for them. We can give money to the Gwaïmen Centre so they can eat and go to school. We can send them aspirin and vitamins and treats. We can hurt when they hurt. In the last few weeks, Tara Musa died. He was about 13, an orphan who lived with his grandmother. He helped her by cutting firewood, planting ginger, and washing the dishes in the river. His favorite Bible story was about Joseph and the coat of many colors. His favorite song begins, "Joy, joy, joy, in my heart is ringing."

I remember him because he came to the center one afternoon with the head of his family, a tall regal looking man in traditional dress. Abigail talked to the family chief for a while, but then she turned to Tara. She sat down next to him. She passed her hand over his head. She asked him if he was hungry. What 12 year old boy would say he wasn't? I have a picture of him eating the leftovers of the kids' lunch out of a cooking pan.

As far as I know, Tara was not HIV positive, even though both his mother and father died of AIDS. He got sick in the last few months with a mysterious illness which the doctor in the village couldn't figure out. He simply died. He was just getting old enough to be of some help to his grandmother. I can try to imagine her grief. He is not a statistic, but his death is not unusual in Nigeria.

Tara's story speaks to me. I grieve for his grandmother and those who loved him. I mourn the lost potential of Tara and so many others like him. I know he died knowing Jesus. The song he loved to sing says, "See what the Lord has done for me, died just to set me free, in my heart a melody, joy, joy, joy."

He also died knowing he was loved. Abigail and the others at the Gwaïmen Centre put their arms around him and fed him. They encouraged him and looked out for him. They could give him Tylenol to ease his fever. Tara could go to school. He could go to the clinic to find out his status. He could learn about Jesus.

And by supporting the work of the Gweimen Centre, we helped to make that possible. We put our arms around him too. We said that he mattered to us. We were part of his story.

Children aged 0 to 14 living with HIV: 220 000 [170 000 - 370 000]

Deaths due to AIDS: 170 000 [130 000 - 270 000]

Orphans due to AIDS aged 0 to 17: 1 200 000 [640 000 - 4 100 000]

## Humor Me

***Church signs often use pithy comments to remind passersby of important truths. But in a southern town, the comments degenerated into a battle of the billboards between Our Lady of Martyrs Catholic Church (OLM) and Beulah Cumberland Presbyterian Church (BCP). (Ed. Note: These are real signs, I have the photographs.)***

October 5, 2008 OLM  
**"All Dogs Go To Heaven"**

October 12, 2008 BCP  
**"Only Humans Go To Heaven – Read The Bible"**

October 19, 2008 OLM  
**"God Loves All His Creations, Dogs Included"**

October 26, 2008 BCP  
**"Dogs Don't Have Souls – This Is Not Open For Debate"**

November 2, 2008 OLM  
**"Free Dogs Souls with Conversion"**

November 9, 2008 BCP  
**"Converting To Catholicism Does Not Magically Grant Your Dog A Soul"**

November 16, 2008 OLM  
**"Catholic Dogs Go To Heaven, Presbyterian Dogs Can Talk To Their Pastor"**

November 23, 2008 BCP  
**"Dogs Are Animals – There Aren't Any Rocks In Heaven Either"**

November 30, 2008 OLM  
**"All Rocks Go To Heaven"**

***Following are statements from a test about the Bible written by children in a Catholic elementary school.***

1. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.
2. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark.
3. Noah build an ark and the animals came on in pears.
4. In the first book of the bible, Guinnessis, God got tired – so he took the Sabbath off.
5. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.
6. Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.
7. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert.
8. Moses went up to mount Cyanide to get the Ten Commandments.
9. The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
10. Moses died before he ever reached Canada.
11. Joshua lead the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.
12. The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
13. David was a Hebrew king who was skilled at

playing the liar.

14. David fought the Finklesteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.

15. Solomon had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

16. When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.

17. When the three wise guys came from the East side, they found Jesus in the manger.

18. St. John the blacksmith dumped water on Jesus's head.

19. Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule which says to do to others before they do one to you.

20. The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels.

21. The Epistles were the wives of the apostles.

22. One of the opossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.

23. St. Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached Holy Acrimony which is another word for marriage.

# Kids Korner

1. On what was John the Baptist's head put to give to Herodias' daughter?

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2. What happened to the men who threw Sadrach, Meshach and Abednego into the fiery furnace.

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3. What does James say shall save the sick?

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4. What was John the Baptist unworthy to untie?

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5. Why did Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem?

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6. What happened to the waters of Marah when Moses threw a tree in.

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7. What was given to Paul to keep him humble?

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8. For what did Esau sell his birthright?

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9. What did Jesus say the rich man must sell to have treasures in heaven?

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10. What was found in Benjamin's pack?

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11. What kind of tree did Jesus condemn?

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12. What parable tells of the son that leaves home and wastes all his money?

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## Look it up

1. Matthew 14:8

2. Daniel 3:22

3. James 5:15

4. Mark 1:7

5. Luke 2:1-4

6. Exodus 15:23-25

7. 2 Corinthians 12:7

8. Genesis 25:34

9. Matthew 19:21

10. Genesis 44:12

11. Matthew 21:19

12. Luke 15 :11-32

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Note: If you are between the ages of 7 and 12 any time during the calendar year 2009, sign your name and put your answers in my mail box (Gabrielse) by Sunday, December 13th.

### Running Totals

Sarah Dykstra		24
William Fan	95	
Kathryn Kniecik	34	
Dakota Nickols		12

Once again, we have a contest for a \$25 gift certificate to be awarded in the January, 2010 issue. Don't miss an issue.