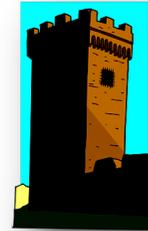


FORT DES MOINES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Love God Love People Serve Everyone

WWW.GODSFORT.ORG



Office:
515-285-1254

Fort Connections

Service Times:
Sunday School- 9 AM
Worship- 10 AM

Mike Demastus

July 2015

Racism in the Bible...

The Bible does not even use the word race in reference to people, but it does describe all human beings as being of “one blood” (Acts 17:26). This of course emphasizes that we are all related, as all humans are descendants of the first man, Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45), who was created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26–27). The Last Adam, Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:45) also became a descendant of Adam. Any descendant of Adam can be saved because our mutual relative by blood (Jesus Christ) died and rose again. This is why the gospel can (and should) be preached to all tribes and nations.

The inevitable question arises, “If the Bible teaches all humans are the same, where was the church during the eras of slavery and segregation? Doesn’t the Bible actually condone the enslavement of a human being by another?”

Both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible mention slaves and slavery. As with all other biblical passages, these must be understood in their grammatical-historical context.

Dr. Walter Kaiser, former president of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and Old Testament scholar, states:

“The laws concerning slavery in the Old Testament appear to function to moderate a practice that worked as a means of loaning money for Jewish people to one another or for handling the problem of the prisoners of war. Nowhere was the institution of slavery as such condemned; but then, neither did it have anything like the connotations it grew to have during the days of those who traded human life as if it were a mere commodity for sale. . . . In all cases the institution was closely watched and divine judgment was declared by the prophets and others for all abuses they spotted.”

If I have despised the cause of my male or female servant when they complained against me, what then shall I do when God rises up? When He punishes, how shall I answer Him? Did not He who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same One fashion us in the womb? (Job 31:13–15)

Those consistently living out their Christian faith realize that the forced enslavement of another human being goes against the biblical teaching that all humans were created in the image of God and are of equal standing before Him (Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:11). Indeed, the most ardent abolitionists during the past centuries were Bible-believing Christians. John Wesley, Granville Sharp, William Wilberforce, Jonathan Edwards Jr., and Thomas Clarkson all preached against the evils of slavery and worked to bring about the abolition of the slave trade in England and North America. Harriet Beecher Stowe conveyed this message in her famous novel Uncle Tom’s Cabin. And of course, who can forget the change in the most famous of slave traders? John Newton, writer of “Amazing Grace,” eventually became an abolitionist after his conversion to Christianity, when he embraced the truth of Scripture.

[This article is excerpted from an article written by Ken Ham of Answers in Genesis entitled, Are There Really Different Races? November 2007]

As I was reading my daily Bible segment, the thought struck me: the Bible is certainly a “one book library.” Sex, violence, romance, treachery, joy, disaster, wonderful faithfulness, and repeated man’s intransigent disobedience and unbelief is an epic of God’s faithfulness and man’s self-inflicted wounds. The Old Testament sets the stage for the most wonderful happening that is beyond the imagination of man—the Promise kept, the coming of Christ and our seeing God among men. There, to, in the New Testament, is the tragedy of God’s people rejecting the Promised One but the Joyful Good News that all of us can have a Savior not just a “chosen people” is the world’s best Happy Ending! If you would like to try several different translations, to get shadings of the familiar Good News—the Bible collections of the Library is on the north wall, top shelf.

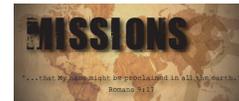
Missions Ministry Update

By MargE DeRuyscher

I must confess that this article is not the above title. I’m retiring, and as far as I know, there’s no successor to write the column. Back in the fifth grade, our teacher was big on mythology—Greek and Roman. I don’t remember which the “Swan Song” was but the story was that at the end of their lives, swans sang a song of hope. I don’t expect to die right away, but I am retiring (a practice death?). Here is my “Swan Song.”

First of all: The Rowedders, the Hodsons, and Jim Meisch deserve a 21 gun salute for their faithfulness in working to make the Mission Ministry viable (and for transporting me to the meetings so faithfully when we moved to the church).

Second: The Mission Ministry is essential to the life of the church. Our first and most important priority of the Fort Des Moines Church of Christ is to tell the world about Christ’s saving power (Romans 10:14-15). A Missions Ministry of concerned Christians can monitor and evaluate the work being done by those whose work we support and those who ask for our support. I have talked long and loud about making it easier for the church as a whole to have interest and say in who are our messengers of salvation and their effectiveness. Instead of a sermon the congregation as a “committee of the whole” could meet at regular worship time every three or four months and refresh our minds of the work that is the purpose of our church and learn of the battles won and lost, so that our prayers-and offerings for the Lord’s work, can be more effective. We may be able to make good missions program great.



Borne Again Ministry is our July mission of the month. The ministry is in need of some supplies for the work in Mexico:

The items below will be used to make health kits:

New Hand Towel (15” x 25” up to 17” x 27”)
 New Washcloth
 Band Aids (3/4”)
 Bath Sized Bar of Soap in Wrapper
 Toothbrush in Wrapper
 Nail File
 Fingernail Clipper
 Toenail Clipper

The items below will be used to make school kits:

Notebooks (approximately 8 ½” X 11” wide ruled (210-250 sheets) spiral or bound)
 Eraser (2 12”)
 Blunt Scissors
 Hand Pencil Sharpener
 Unsharpened Pencils with Erasers
 30 cm Metric Ruler
 Crayons (Only 24)

Fort Facts

Total Income for May: \$15,325.43

Total Expenses for May: \$13,224.46



CIA has a couple of new faces! Justin and Lindsay Hunerdosse have taken over as the new CIA directors! They are continuing, with Mike's help, to have youth group, for ages 6th grade-college, over the summer. They are already starting to plan for the fall and beyond. They will also be having a Sunday School Class for the CIA starting September 13th!



Kingdom Kids is lead by Jim and Cleo Meisch and Julie Bantz! It is for kids ages 5 years old- 5th grade. They will be starting up their program again September 9th! Sunday School Classes for these ages will also begin on Sunday, September 13th! Bev Heuton and Dorothy Dahlberg will be teaching K-1st grade, and Cleo Meisch will be teaching 2nd-5th grade!



JAM (Jesus and Me) is a NEW children's ministry for 2 year olds -4 year olds. Starting Wednesday, September 9th they will have a class JUST FOR THEM! They will also have a Sunday School class, starting September 13th, both are taught by Shannon Demastus! If you are interested in helping out with JAM, please talk to Shannon!

There will also be an ADULT CLASS on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings lead by Mike! Sunday's and Wednesday's are going to be for the ENTIRE family!! More information will be available next month!

The food pantry is in need of some items. Please refer to the below list and pick up a few extra items when you go grocery shopping.

tomatoes (whole / diced), mixed vegetables, peas, carrots,
potatoes, ravioli/spaghetti o's, milk, farina, meal helper
(hamburger, tuna, chicken etc.), hot cereal, dried beans, juice



Mark your calendar now...

The dates for VBS are July 10th-12th!

We would LOVE to have 20-30 kids attend! Please pray about who YOU can invite!!

It is easy to get your children registered:

Call the church at 285-1254

Email: secretary@Godsfort.org

go online at <http://Godsfort.org/vbs>

Pick up a registration for m on the back table in the Sanctuary!



Birthday

7/3 Johnny McCuddin
 7/5 Linda Saylor
 7/7 Timmy Croy
 7/19 Jennie Abel
 7/20 Marge DeRuyscher
 7/27 Austin DeYoung
 7/29 Ivan Eggers
 7/30 Forrest Glick

Anniversaries:

7/14 Luther and Jennie Abel

Special Dates to Remember

7/9 Elders/Deacons Meeting
 7/10-12 VBS!
 7/19 Karl Borne will be here during Sunday School
 7/19 Board Meeting
 7/21 Missions Meeting

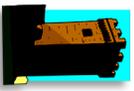
Server Schedule

| | 07/05/15 | 07/12/15 | 07/19/15 | 07/26/15 |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Greeters | Jack/Ramona | Teressa | Doug/Sue | Terry/Bev |
| Scripture | Miles | VBS | Roy | Kirk |
| Praise Team | Mary/Mike | VBS | Nate/Demastus | Abels/Hoodjer |
| Offering Meditation | Lonnie | VBS | Ramona | Richard |
| Communion Meditation | Jacob | VBS | George | Doren |
| Server | Terry | Miles | Roy | Mike K. |
| Closing Prayer | Geroge | VBS | Jim | Lonnie |
| Stewardship | Shawn/Kirk | Dale/Terry | Bruce/Miles | Richard/Doren |
| Nursery | Nate/Melissa/Tammy | Cameron/Shannah | Kirk/Ashley | Roy/Celeste |
| Jr. Church | Julie #39 | No Jr. Church | Diane #40 | Cleo #41 |
| Communion to the Sick | Jim | George | Cameron/Shannah | Nate |
| Communion Prep | Roy/Celeste | Roy/Celeste | Roy/Celeste | Roy/Celeste |
| Security | Karl | Richard | Mike | Jim |

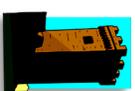


Mowing for July:

7/3 Nate Shanks
 7/10 Doren Hulet
 7/17 Kevin and Mary Rowedder
 7/24 Karl and Diane Kasier
 7/31 Bob Saylor



July 2015



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|------------------------------|----|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 CIA | 9 Elders/Deacons Meeting @6:00 | 10 VBS! | 11 VBS! |
| 12 VBS Closing Program! | 13 | 14 | 15 CIA | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Karl Borne at The-Fort | 20 | 21 Missions Meeting @7:00 | 22 CIA | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 Board Meeting | 27 | 28 | 29 CIA | 30 | 31 | |
| | | | | | | |