



Crossview Covenant Church

# TIDINGS Newsletter

November 2011

## CROSSVIEW COVENANT CHURCH

*Honoring God by reaching out and building a community of disciples for Jesus Christ.*

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**CROSSVIEW**  
COVENANT CHURCH

2000 Howard Drive  
354 Carol Court  
N. MANKATO, MN 56003  
(507) 387-5606  
www.crossviewcovenant.org

#### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Carol Court  
M-F: By Appointment

Howard Drive  
M-Th: 8:30am - 4pm  
F: 8:30am - 3pm

Contact us at:  
church@crossviewcov.org

## Not Forgotten

by Pastor Chris Pappenfus

**In January of 2011** I was made aware of a proposed Vision Trip to the Democratic Republic of Congo sponsored through Covenant World Missions. I was immediately intrigued and began praying that it may be God's will for me to join this team.

My wife Allison gave her blessing and Crossview responded with generous financial support and many prayers. As September approached and I prepared to leave, I found myself drawn back in my memory to the year my family spent in the Congo as short term missionaries. Most of my memories are rooted in pictures; tragically many encounters have long since drifted out of my mind as I was only seven at the time. There is a familiar saying among missionaries and adventurers alike: "Africa gets in your blood." I can agree. The places and more significantly the people of the Ubangi region of Congo hold a particular affection for me.

The holistic ministry, being realized by the CEUM (Communauté Évangélique de l'Ubangi-Mongala), requires that the Covenant Church of Congo not only be about the task of evangelism and discipleship, but also involved in education, health care and community and economic development. The CEUM is working hard to advance the discussion of reconciliation, admitting that Africa, and the Congo in particular, has deep tribal rifts that must be reconciled and is only possible through the miracle of new life in Christ. The CEUM is advancing the role and place of women in society, halting a long repressive tradition that devalued women as worthless in comparison to men. They are not only planting new churches (not uncommon work for denominations) but also building hospitals, schools, bridges, and economic infrastructure. Upon anything that sin has touched, resulting in destruction, disease, poverty, and hopelessness, the CEUM is shining the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. An emergency C-Section carried out in one of the CEUM hospitals

*(continued on page 2)*



photo © Karen Hallberg

### GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL REPORT (7/1/2010 - 9/30/2011)

Budgeted Income	\$328,134	Account Balances
Actual Income	\$285,527	as of 9/30/2011
Budgeted Expenses	\$319,129	General Fund: \$62,917
Actual Expenses	\$297,678	Designated Fund: \$127,306
Actual Shortage/Excess	-\$ 12,151	

Amount needed weekly to meet the budget: \$24,551  
Average giving per week through 9/30/2011: \$20,743

**June 30th was the end of our 2010-11 fiscal year. Our 2011-12 fiscal year began July 1st.**

## ***Not Forgotten (continued from page 1)***

is lifted up to God in prayer and received as Christ's presence in the life of this woman and her child. Orphans are finding a home, a meal, and an education all in the name of Jesus through the hands of committed Covenant Christians in the Congo. Villages cut off from society due to inadequate government infrastructure are gaining access to commerce because the CEUM is building bridges, repairing roads, and creating small business loans. The list goes on and on.

I had heard of the work of CEUM but I couldn't have imagined the scope. I was inspired by the leadership of the CEUM and wholly caught up in their passion and vision of God's redemptive work in the Ubangi. While the desire is there, the resources needed to advance the gospel are stretched razor thin. We met many teachers, pastors, doctors, and nurses that had not been paid in months because the families they are serving are unable to pay. Hospital, school and church buildings that were looted during the wars are still not back to their pre-war functionality.

Everywhere we visited we saw need, but more importantly, we saw potential and we saw the Gospel.



**The Paul Carlson Partnership** bears the name of a former Covenant Missionary Doctor who served in the Congo and was killed in a hostage situation in 1964 as he was trying to escape his captors.

(Read more at: [www.paulcarlson.org/who-we-are/history/learn-more-about-paul-carlson/](http://www.paulcarlson.org/who-we-are/history/learn-more-about-paul-carlson/)). Dr. Carlson had many opportunities to leave the hospital where he was serving and move to safety. Instead he chose to stay and serve the people God had called him to serve. He did so with his life. It is in that same spirit that the Evangelical Covenant Church of America has chosen to partner with the Covenant Church of Congo. As our sister congregation in that region we have committed to serving alongside our Congolese brothers and sisters in a way that advances the Kingdom of God and brings the redeeming message of the Gospel to everything touched by sin. The Paul Carlson Partnership provides finances, expertise, consultation, prayer and much more to our sister congregation. As I represented you, Crossview Covenant, throughout the CEUM I was received with open arms, I was greeted by one pastor who said, "We are so happy you have not forgotten us."

This year's Heart of Compassion offering will be given to the CEUM and their work in the Congo through the Paul Carlson Partnership. Heart of Compassion Sunday will be November 6th and features an interactive Congo exhibit in Great Room A. Just as you so generously supported me in prayer and finance for my trip to Congo, I now ask you to consider giving to the work of the CEUM. The Democratic Republic of Congo is near the top of the list in regard to the most impoverished nations and the Ubangi region of Congo is often regarded as "the forgotten corner." I would ask you to prayerfully consider joining with me and my family in supporting the Paul Carlson Partnership and sending a very tangible message to the Covenant Church of Congo, "No, dear brothers and sisters, we have not forgotten about you."

### **The Covenant Church's Ministry in Congo**

From 1937 until 1997, Covenant World Mission's efforts in Africa meant working in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In 1997, civil war resulted in the evacuation of all Covenant missionaries. Evacuations due to civil war or unrest occurred in 1960, 1964, 1991, and 1997. In 2000, as peace returned to the area, Covenant missionaries started to make visits. After this time of visits, several missionaries lived there for extended periods, working with CEUM ministries, Paul Carlson Partnership project management, and mission trips. Between 2006 and the summer of 2010, there was no resident missionary presence, but missionaries met regularly with CEUM leaders and partnership continued with the Covenant Church of Congo. In 2010, the CEUM invited seven resident Covenant missionaries to work alongside the CEUM's gifted church leadership.

With more than 208,000 members, the CEUM works in the northwest part of the country and also the capital city of Kinshasa. The CEUM's ministries include evangelism, church growth, discipleship, pastoral training, development, men's and women's ministries, printing and communication, mission, Christian education, medical work with five hospitals and ninety-three clinics, and schools for more than 80,000 students.

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#### **For More Information:**

**Covenant World Mission Website (Congo)**

<http://www.covchurch.org/mission/locations/africa/congo/>

**Covenant World Mission Blog**

<http://blogs.covchurch.org/worldmission/>

**Paul Carlson Partnership**

<http://www.paulcarlson.org>



## Heart of Compassion:

*Supporting the Persecuted Church*

**Sunday, November 6th**

**Both Worship Services**

**Featured Speaker: Jim Sundholm**

Former Executive Director of Covenant World Relief  
*and*

**An Update from the Congo by Pastor Chris Pappenfus**

including ways we can partner with the churches in this war-torn region.

**Special Offering for the Paul Carlson Partnership.**

There will also be interactive exhibits  
and a "Taste of Congo" with samples of common Congolese foods.

## MEN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

by Matt "Lou" Letourneau

**G**reetings Ox Men and Church Family!  
We excitedly look forward to this month and what God is doing in the lives of men. October's Men's Month of Prayer was excellent. The men who were able to be in attendance definitely felt the Holy Spirit's presence in their prayers and in their lives. Then, men came together for the monthly Ox Meeting and studied the topic of Prayer which rounded off the month excellently.



On **Thursday, November 10th** @ the Howard Drive building, the Ox Men will be having their 2012 Vision Meeting. Men will be coming together to pray, review 2011, plan the Men's Christmas Party, and to put down tracks for 2012 meetings, fellowship, and service opportunities. The meeting will be held at 7:00pm...Ox Men are encouraged to come to the meeting.

Save the Date: **Tuesday, November 22nd** @ 7:00pm is the next Ox Monthly Meeting. We will be taking off the gloves and looking at Stewardship of the resources that God has given men. We look forward to seeing you then for a great evening of food, fellowship, and time in God's word. Brothers in His good yoke!

*Matt. 25:14-30*

# stewardship

7 pm  
nov. 22  
the ox

[oxkato.BLOGspot.com](http://oxkato.BLOGspot.com)

# Children's Ministries at Crossview

## Fall Into Fun Recap

Over 150 children and adults had a great time at this year's Fall Into Fun on October 31st! Children enjoyed hayrides, trunk n' treat, a "chocolate" river, and much more. Thanks to all who helped out, especially those who stayed late to clean up all the candy wrappers!



## Sing Along with Flipside



Each week our students in Flipside Sunday School (kindergarten - 6th grade) worship and praise Jesus with a live band! Here are some of the songs we've been singing this fall in Flipside...why not download a few of them and worship together during the week as you travel around town or hang out at home!

**Blessed Be Your Name** by Matt Redman and Beth Redman

**Three In One** by Mark Altroggee

**Let the Praises Ring** by Lincoln Brewster

**God is Great** by Marty Sampson

**Every Move I Make** by David Ruis

**Trading My Sorrows** by Darrell Evans

**Counting On God** by Jared Anderson

# a Night in Bethlehem

**A Hands-On Holy Land Experience**

**Friday, December 9th (6pm - 8pm)**  
Crossview Covenant Church - Carol Court Campus

Ready to take your family back in time? Join us at a **Night in Bethlehem** and "travel back" to ancient Bethlehem! You'll taste, see and smell what daily life was like when Jesus was born. This event is free for all to attend and visitors are welcome.

If you are interested in helping with this event or donating materials please contact DeAnna Petersen at 387-5606 or [dpetersen@crossviewcov.org](mailto:dpetersen@crossviewcov.org).

# FANTASTIC FRIDAY

Friday, Nov. 11th (6pm - 7:30pm)

This is an open play night at church designed for children 0-6 years old, but all children are welcome.

Meet in the Great Room  
@ Howard Drive.

# Children's Ministries

# MOVIE NIGHT

**Friday, November 18th**  
**6pm @ Crossview**

**For children grades 4 and up.**

# UPCOMING EVENTS @ CROSSVIEW

For more details on these and other events, please visit <http://www.crossviewcovenant.org/calendar/>

## NOVEMBER

- 6 Heart of Compassion Sunday (pg 3)
- 8 POP In Book Club
- 10 Project Days
- 12 Resonate
- 12 Piecemaker Quilters
- 13 SERVE C.L.A.S.S.
- 15 Gentle Shepherd Banquet (pg 6)
- 17 Women Ministries Creative Night
- 18 C.H.A.O.S.
- 20 Waffle Fundraiser
- 22 Men's Ministry "The Ox" (pg 3)
- 23 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service (pg 6)

Visit the student ministries website for the more details: [www.crossviewstudents.org](http://www.crossviewstudents.org)



- Nov 04 – Senior High Nerf Wars (6 - 9pm at CC)
- Nov 13 – North Park Pizza Lunch (12 - 1pm at HD)
- Nov 16 – Senior High Acquire the Fire Early Bird Reg. Due
- Nov 20 – Waffle Fundraiser (NOTE NEW DATE!!!)
- Nov 21-25 – Blaze Week
- Nov 30 – Summer Trip Deposit Due



### POP (Pals of Print) In Book Club

Tuesday, November 8th  
7pm @ Crossview

"POP" in & enjoy great fellowship and discussion! Open to all.

Discussion Book: *"The Happening: Nickel Mines School Tragedy"* by Harvey Yoder

### Women Ministries Creative Night

Thursday, Nov. 17th • 7:30pm

We are making fabric covered journals/notebooks. Each participant will make one "composition" size notebook (7 x 9.5) and one compact notebook (4.5 x 8.5). Cost is \$5 (or \$3 if you provide your own fabric – 1 fat quarter). Materials needed: sharp fabric scissors

Sign up is required, and class size is limited to 15. Look for sign up and samples at the Welcome Desk.

Contact Heidi Burns with questions at 385-7812.

### CROSSVIEW COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Sudanese Pastor David Gong, who is finding our winters hard on his back, is looking for a new or used (in good condition) snow blower. If you can help, please contact Diane Borth (507) 380-8903.

Mark & Barb Bjelland are looking for renters for their home in St. Peter until they return from sabbatical (Nov. 1 - summer 2012). 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, spacious 2-car garage. Contact Mark at [mbjellan@gustavus.edu](mailto:mbjellan@gustavus.edu) for more information.

# Christian Community Events

## **The Minnesota Valley Chorale**

Sat, Nov 12 (7:30pm) - Christ the King Lutheran Church ■ Sun, Nov 13 (3:00pm) - Centenary UMC

Tickets: In Advance: adults = \$12, Seniors & Students = \$10

At the Door: adults = \$15, Seniors & Students = \$12

For more information (625-8927)

## **Gentle Shepherd Ministries Annual Banquet**

Tuesday, November 15, 6:30pm at Crossview Covenant Church, 2000 Howard Drive

A FREE dinner buffet will be served. Hear testimonies and special music by Pastor John & Marilyn of the "I Believe in Miracles" TV program. A free will offering for Gentle Shepherd Ministries will be received. RSVP by calling Jerry David at 507-327-1480.

## **The Looney Lutherans (with original cast members of the Church Basement Ladies)**

Sunday, Nov 20th, 2011 at Hosanna Lutheran Church, 105 Hosanna Ave, Mankato

5:45-6:45pm - Pie and coffee ■ 6:45-8:15pm - Program

Tickets are \$20 each (tax-deductable contribution to VINE Faith in Action). Send payment to VINE, 1618 Third Avenue, Mankato.

## *Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service*

**Wednesday, Nov. 23rd (7pm - 8:30pm)  
at Crossview Covenant Church (Howard Dr)**

Join Messiah Lutheran Church, Belgrade Avenue Methodist Church, Holy Rosary Catholic Church and Crossview Covenant Church as we give thanks to the Lord!

Non-perishable food items will be collected for the ECHO Food Shelf.

A monetary collection will be taken for:

**Lutheran Social Service Youth Drop-In Center** - Mankato is a rural community in Southern Minnesota in need of a drop-in center for youth. The drop-in center would serve homeless, runaway, at-risk youth and young adults up to the age of 21. The drop-in center would provide a warm meal, clothing, showers, and personal hygiene products. In addition to providing access to services and basic needs, the center would create a safe place where youth and young adults can gather and interact with their peers in a positive setting.

**United Way Back Pack Food Program** - The Back Pack Food program is a pilot program being initiated by Feeding Our Communities Partners, with support from Greater Mankato Area United Way. This program is focused on ensuring that students have nutritious food when school is out. This program is available to students in kindergarten through sixth grade at area elementary schools in Mankato, Minnesota.