



CUP EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

'Join us for a drink of Living Water'



From the Pastor's Desk...

MARCH 2014

Dear CUP family and friends,

There are many variations on how we say the phrase, 'I'll pray for you.' Sometimes, it's little more than a Christian-ese way of saying good-bye when someone is going on a trip or taking a test. Honestly, there are several times where I, at least, say I'll pray for a person or an issue and then never think about it again. Of course, I'm often asked to pray and then never told how the issue resolves, so it can work both ways.

Nevertheless, this is an occasion where I am asking as seriously as possible, ***'Please watch and pray with me'***! I have an opportunity to be a part of some life-changing work in our latest trip to Sierra Leone, but your prayers on our teams behalf will be absolutely essential. Here is our team's itinerary, along with some suggested verses you may want to use in praying. . .

Thursday 3/20-Friday 3/21 – Travel from Pittsburgh to Newark to Brussels to Freetown.

Please pray for good health and good attitudes; the trip with layovers can be grueling. Also – please pray our luggage will arrive on time and with nothing missing. *Genesis 28:15 – 'I the Lord am with you and will keep you wherever you go. . .'*

Saturday 3/22 – Visit to Reformed Theological Seminary in Freetown; travel to Makeni.

Presbyterians from Korea started this school back in the 1980s. Our Presbytery of the Alleghenies has been working on developing a relationship with them and their student body; it is likely that I and some other members of our team will be teaching at least one class. *2 Timothy 2:15 – 'Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.'*

Sunday 3/23 – Preaching in villages around Makeni (Mayetta and Makump)

This will be the first time I will preach in Sierra Leone, or with an interpreter, so I'm a little nervous. Nevertheless, African congregations are very enthusiastic – so pray that I'm understandable, and that many who are there will come to put their trust in Christ as Savior. *Ephesians 6:19-20 'Pray also for me, that words may be given to me to boldly proclaim the mystery of the gospel. . .'*

Monday 3/24 – Exploring Mission opportunities in Gbenekoro

We will be traveling into Northeast SL to scout the possibility of planting a church and beginning a school in this extremely remote area among the Kuranko tribe. The EPC has a missionary pastor and a promise of land to build a church and school, but not much else. We will be meeting with tribal chiefs and other politicians. We will also be actively praying over the people and the land; I'm told Gbenekoro is a center for training sorcerers across the African continent; witchcraft and offerings to 'bush spirits' are extremely commonplace. I'll be teaching the team some basics on spiritual warfare and curses. Singing a verse or two of 'A Mighty Fortress is Our God' would be appropriate today. *Luke 10:17-20*

Tuesday 3/25 – Continue tour and prayer of Kabala and Gbenekoro

We hope to have some good interaction and game time with the children of the villages in this area today. *Mark 10:13-15*

Wednesday 3/26 – Travel to Makeni – Rest and meet with Pastors Dominic and Ruth from Fintonia

I hope to have time to meet one-on-one with Pastors Ruth and Dominic to pass on any letters, pictures, and messages you would like to send to the children we are sponsoring to go to school, as well as give them the Communion trays and plates that CUP used as a church plant 50 years ago. What a blessing to see God's work furthered and how he is using a small church like ours to bring good news into locations that have never heard it before! *1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

Thursday 3/27 – Travel to Rokassa – show Jesus film and teach on salvation

Campus Crusade for Christ developed a film on the life of Jesus from the Gospel of Luke that has been shown around the world in hundreds of different languages since the 1980s. Today we will be showing the film in the village of Rokassa in the Temne language. Most of these villagers will have never seen a movie before; it will likely be their introduction to Jesus' life, message, and ministry as well. I will be teaching with a team of three others to villagers in the afternoon. My topic will be salvation – I need to teach this primarily through visuals, since illiteracy is likely to be over 50%. This is where the genius of the parable teachings of Jesus really shines. *Luke 15, Mark 4:1-9, 14-20*

Cup Church's website cupepc.org

E-mail address for Pastor Scott—scott@cupepc.org

E-mail address for Matt—matt@cupepc.org

E-mail address for Cindy—office@cupepc.org

NOTE: The old e-mail addresses are still functioning,
we can still receive messages

Deep Healing Prayer Opportunities

In the wake of Gary and Kathleen Hixson's time with us, several people have seen or experienced first-hand the dramatic power and love of God that comes in what has been called 'Deep Healing' prayer. Members of the CUP prayer team will be participating in these 2 hour sessions, but **all** content from these sessions will be confidential. Typically, we will have women pray for women and men pray for men.

Sunday, March 9th & March 23rd

6:00-8:00pm Deep Healing Prayer Sessions

If you are interested in joining the CUP prayer team, please contact Pastor Scott.

IN NEED OF PRAYER?

Members of the prayer team are available in the library immediately following worship each Sunday.

Please join us in the library and let us pray with you. If you know of family members or others in the community who are in need of prayer, please encourage them to join us on Sundays.

Prayer request cards are now available in the blue pew pads.

If you have a written prayer request, please fill out the card and drop it in the offering plate or church office and we will pray for you.

If you are in need of prayer throughout the week: Please call the church at 724-843-1594 to speak to the pastor, to have your prayer request put on our prayer chain, or to set up a more convenient time to pray together with the prayer team or one of our elders.

Please remember that all prayer requests will remain confidential!

LENT BEGINS MARCH 5TH

ASH WEDNESDAY

WORSHIP—7:00pm



We are looking to put together a team that will occasionally bake bread and help prepare communion. The Church will supply the recipe. If you are willing to be a part of the team, please see Paula Keefer or call the Church Office..

Pastor Scott will be traveling to Sierra Leone March 20th—March 31st. He would be happy to deliver any letters written to your sponsored children during his trip. Please keep him in your prayers.



NO SHINE DINNER ON
ASH WEDNESDAY

**The Newsletter is
also available online
at our website:
cupepc.org**

*"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." (Romans 5:8)
That's unfailing LOVE.*

Weekly Meetings...

Monday 1:00pm **Bible Study** (Study of Isaiah)

Tuesday 9:00am **Breakfast Bunch**—Hot Dog Shoppe

Wednesday Youth Small Groups 7:00pm

(Youth Guys in the Youth Room, Youth Girls at the Manse)

Second Wednesday 1:00pm **Game Day** (March 12th)

Thursday Morning Woman's Small Group 9:00am

3rd Thursday at noon **Lunch Bunch** (March 20th at Yolanda's)

Saturday Morning Men's Group 7:30am

Continued from page 1

Friday 3/28-Saturday 3/29 – EPC Pastors’ General Assembly in Rokassa

This will be the first time all of our commissioned pastors will be together in one place since they have gone out into the villages. There will be intensive teaching from several of our team members; I will be teaching on how to read the Bible, using Mark’s Gospel as my primary source, and how to pray for people using inner healing techniques and release from demonic oppression. For a country that has gone through warfare, famine, and generations of ‘spell’ casting, this is critically important. Many new Christians and even pastors are tempted to go back to old ways in the face of peer pressure or discouragement. Other topics to be covered will be marriage and family life, ways to grow in prayer, and basic roles for elders. *1 John 4, 2 Timothy 3:16*

Sunday 3/30 – Closing Worship in Rokassa, travel to Freetown

Monday 3/31 – Tuesday 4/1 – Travel to Brussels, New York and Pittsburgh.

Friends, this work is helping to lay the groundwork for what we pray and hope will be a strong Christian presence in northern Sierra Leone and beyond for generations to come. Your prayers will make a powerful difference in the outcome of our mission (2 Corinthians 1:8-11). *Thank you in advance for your faithfulness!*

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Scott

To all of you who prepared and cooked food, directed traffic, moved chairs, handled registration, sang in choir, offered directions, emptied wastebaskets, picked up Oram’s, and a few hundred other things I didn’t mention for the 11th meeting of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies, THANK YOU! The apostle Paul puts it this way: ‘So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.’ (Gal. 6:10) What a wonderful weekend!

MARCH Calendar

March 2 4:30pm Youth Mission Trip Mtg.
March 4 6:00pm DEACONS
 7:00pm WORSHIP
 7:30pm TRUSTEES
March 5 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship
March 6 6:00pm OUTREACH
March 12 1:00pm Game Day
March 18 7:00pm SESSION
March 20 12:00pm Noon Lunch Bunch
 at Yolanda’s (Chippewa)
March 20-31 Pastor Scott in Sierra Leone
March 21 Winter Jam in Pittsburgh
 Every Monday 1:00pm Bible Study
 Every Tuesday 9:00am Breakfast Club @Hot Dog Shoppe
 Every Wednesday 3:30pm “SHINE” After School
 program followed by Family Dinner @6pm
 7:30pm Youth Girls Small Group @ Manse
 Youth Guys in Youth Room
 Every Thursday 9:00am Women’s Small Group
 7:00pm Choir Practice/8:15pm Praise Team
 Every Saturday 7:30am Men’s Breakfast@ Eat-n-Park
 Every Sunday 8:45am Confirmation Classes
 6:30pm Crosscurrent
 2nd & 4th Sunday 6:00pm Deep Healing Prayer Sessions
 (3/9 & 3/23)

CUP LIBRARY NEWS

When preparing a lesson on the topic of serving God by “serving one another in love” for our Shine Kids this past week, I rediscovered a book in our library about Amy Carmichael. She was a Protestant missionary from Ireland to India in the late 19th and early 20th century. During her 56 years in India she began the Dohnavur Fellowship, a place of sanctuary for more than one thousand children and in addition she herself wrote nearly three dozen Christian books. Her biography written by Sam Wellman is available in the youth section of the library.

I decided to see what other stories of the heroes of our faith that our shelves hold and in addition found the following titles.

Bold Under God by W. Phillip Keller

Beyond the Stone Arches by Edward Bliss, Jr.

No Fear in His Presence by David Dawson, M.D.

A Leopard Tamed by Eleanor Vandevort

Hudson Taylor and Maria by J. C. Pollock

These and other books tell the inspiring stories of Christian missionaries who have served in countries around the world. They are available for check out any time the church building is open. Come and check us out.



CHILDREN & YOUTH



EPiC Winter Retreat

The youth group had an awesome time at Seneca Hills Bible Camp with other youth from our Presbytery! We were all encouraged by the sense of community as we came together to worship, play, and learn about God.



First Shine Sunday

The K-2nd Grade group did a great job performing their 'Silent Drama' based on parables from the Bible!



Montana Mission Trip

We have a super exciting opportunity to serve and bring the love of Christ to the people in Ashland, MT; a town located on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation! On site, we will be doing home repair and a VBS program in a community where poverty and unemployment are high and children are often neglected. Please pray for us as we begin preparations for this trip that will take place on August 3-9.

Youth Mall Hunt

We had a great time of fellowship with the Lutheran church. The youth had to hunt for their leaders who were hiding in disguise at the Beaver Valley Mall.

