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CUP EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

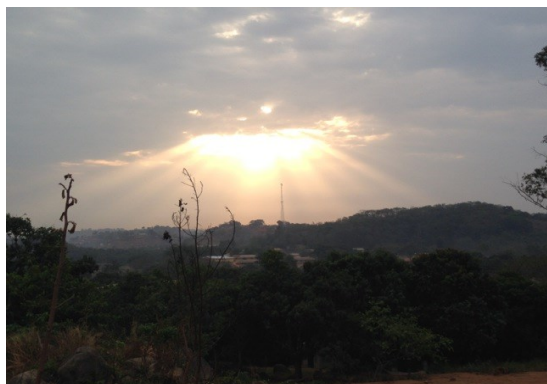
*'Join us for a drink of Living Water'*



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## From the Pastor's Desk...

APRIL 2014



Sunrise over Kabala

Dear CUP family and friends,

What a blessing it has been to spend the past two weeks with our brothers and sisters in the faith in the West African nation of Sierra Leone. I was part of a 8 member mission team from the Presbytery of the Alleghenies, who went to explore the possibility of planting new churches and schools in the Northwest portion of the country among the 'unreached' Kuranko tribe, as well as further efforts to provide improved medical care to the extremely underserved rural populations.

I will be doing an extended talk ***Sunday, April 13, at 5:00 p.m.*** to share with you in greater detail about our trip and what God and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church are doing. But let me share with you just a few of the highlights:

First, our time in the Kuranko village of Gbenekoro was a spectacular success. A team first visited this village two years ago. The chief had invited Eduations (our educational arm of the mission) to the community, he was away at a neighboring village helping to fight a fire when the team arrived. The members of the village were very unsure of these 'strange' white people, and apprentices of the village sorceress appeared to be attempting spells on those who were waiting for the chief. While the visit ended on the high note, with the promise of a return visit, we really weren't sure what to expect when we arrived. The reception was MUCH warmer. We soon learned that a young pastor by the name of Abraham had been coming to visit and reach out to the Gbenekoro youth. The Christian message was beginning to be understood and welcomed. As the old chief told Rev. Dean Weaver, our team leader, 'When you love our children, you show that you love us.' In addition (through a translator) he stated (with a straight face!) that he was so happy to hear of our desire to bring a Junior Secondary school and a church to the village, 'I feel as though I am being tickled on the inside by a little girl.' Not exactly the most common analogy for us, but he got the message across!

Next, our time with Pastors Ruth and Dominic in the village of Rokassa was outstanding. Fintonia was far and away the furthest village from the gathering of EPC churches; it took their contingent of 35-40 people THREE DAYS in a large truck to arrive. Nevertheless, they came in high spirits. They received our gift of the communion set and letters to the children with joy. Our time of celebrating the Lord's Supper on March 30 marked the first time the Fintonia church joined in communion. Over 30 men and women were baptized from Fintonia, including the Muslim Imam (mosque leader) who had come down to Rokassa to learn more about Christianity. This is an incredible breakthrough for the gospel, not only in the village, but in the entire district. Dominic and Ruth are hoping our area churches can provide more funding for chairs and Bibles, because they are running out of both!

Finally, our overall relationships with the new African pastors and the members of our Presbytery is growing. God is building bonds of trust and understanding. It is our hope to send teams in the future with a specialized focus of one or two villages – including Fintonia. I hope and pray that some of us from Cup church will be in that number! Jesus taught us, 'Freely you have received; freely give.' (Matthew 10:8) When we give as the Lord has given to us, amazing things happen. THANK YOU for the faithful prayers and support so many of you have offered on this mission. The Kingdom of God is on the move!

Blessings,

Pastor Scott

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Cup Church's website [cupepc.org](http://cupepc.org)

E-mail address for Pastor Scott—[scott@cupepc.org](mailto:scott@cupepc.org)

E-mail address for Matt—[matt@cupepc.org](mailto:matt@cupepc.org)

E-mail address for Cindy—[office@cupepc.org](mailto:office@cupepc.org)

NOTE: The old e-mail addresses are still functioning, we can still receive messages. Some people are still having trouble accessing website through Google, try MSN Explorer.

### 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, April 13th & April 27th**

**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!*



**SUNDAY April 13th PALM SUNDAY**  
8:30am PANCAKE BREAKFAST  
10:30am WORSHIP



**THURSDAY April 17th TENEBRAE 7:00pm**

**FRIDAY April 18th GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY SERVICE**  
12:00pm (Chippewa United Methodist Church)

**SUNDAY April 20th EASTER SUNDAY**  
10:30am WORSHIP



**APRIL 13TH (PALM SUNDAY)**  
**DRAMA / PLAY**  
During Worship 10:30am  
(8:30am PANCAKE BREAKFAST)

**APRIL 16TH (WEDNESDAY)**  
**NO SHINE**

### EASTER SUNDAY IS FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY!

Postcards are available to hand out as an invitation to family, friends, and neighbors.



The Newsletter is also available online at our website:  
[cupepc.org](http://cupepc.org)

### 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** (April 9th)

**Thursday Morning Woman's Small Group 9:00am**

3rd Thursday at noon **Lunch Bunch** (April 17th at Grand Valley Inn)

**Saturday Morning Men's Group 7:30am**



Group from Fintonia leaving for 3 day journey back home



Kitchen for Rokassa General Assembly



Baptizing Fintonia Iman



Presenting Communion Set to Pastors Ruth & Domenic

### APRIL Calendar

<b>April 3</b>	<b>6:00pm OUTREACH</b>
<b>April 8</b>	<b>7:00pm WORSHIP</b>
	<b>7:30pm TRUSTEES</b>
<b>April 9</b>	<b>1:00pm Game Day</b>
<b>April 13</b>	<b>8:30am Pancake Breakfast</b>
	<b>10:30am Palm Sunday / SHINE</b>
	<b>5:00pm Fintonia Mission Talk</b>
<b>April 17</b>	<b>12:00pm Noon Lunch Bunch</b>
	<b>at Grand Valley Inn</b>
	<b>7:00pm Tenebrae</b>
<b>April 18</b>	<b>12:00pm Community Good Friday</b>
	<b>Worship @CUMC</b>
<b>April 20</b>	<b>10:30am Easter Sunday</b>
<b>April 22</b>	<b>7:00pm SESSION</b>
<b>Every Monday 1:00pm Bible Study</b>	
<b>Every Tuesday 9:00am Breakfast Club @Hot Dog Shoppe</b>	
<b>Every Wednesday 3:30pm "SHINE" After School</b>	
program followed by Family Dinner @6pm	
7:30pm Youth Girls Small Group @ Manse	
Youth Guys in Youth Room	
<b>Every Thursday 9:00am Women's Small Group</b>	
7:00pm Choir Practice/8:15pm Praise Team	
<b>Every Saturday 7:30am Men's Breakfast@ Eat-n-Park</b>	
<b>Every Sunday 8:45am Confirmation Classes</b>	
6:30pm Crosscurrent	
<b>2nd &amp; 4th Sunday 6:00pm Deep Healing Prayer Sessions</b>	
(4/13 & 4/27)	

### CUP LIBRARY NEWS

As Easter approaches, a couple of our library books have caught my attention and they also may be of interest to you.

The first one is *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel. Strobel was an award-winning journalist and legal editor at the Chicago Tribune. He has a Master of Studies in Law degree from Yale Law School. Now this former skeptic of the Christian faith is a teaching pastor at Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago. By retracing his own spiritual journey he cross-examines many experts of the faith who are recognized authorities on Jesus with tough questions. The book reads much like a novel with its quest for the truth about the historically compelling figure of Jesus, but Strobel decides it is not fiction.

Read to see what your verdict will be.

Another book of interest in our library is *The Passion of Jesus Christ* by John Piper. There are fifty short chapters in the book and in each Piper presents a reason why Jesus came to die. The author gathers these fifty reasons or purposes from the New Testament and shows us that the whole meaning of the Bible leads to these answers.

Come and check out what our library has to offer!



# CHILDREN & YOUTH



## Montana Mission Trip

We are super exciting to bring the love of Christ to the people in Ashland, MT; located on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation! On site, we will be doing home repair and a VBS program. We are expecting that this will be a life-changing trip for our youth. Please pray for us as we begin preparations!



## Winter Jam

A time of worship, encouraged hearts, and otherwise rocking out for the Children & Youth!



## Confirmation Class

The 6 youth in the class have been on a journey through the Bible and what it looks like to live for Christ.

The are currently preparing their statements of faith to be presented on Sunday, June 1st.



## Shine Sunday -Puppets!

