

# The P.C.R.C. Press

"I PRESS ON  
TOWARD THE  
GOAL TO WIN  
THE PRIZE FOR  
WHICH GOD HAS  
CALLED ME  
HEAVENWARD IN  
CHRIST JESUS"

PHOENIX CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

August 2011

PHILIPPIANS 3:14

*Praise be  
to the  
God and  
Father of  
our Lord  
Jesus  
Christ,  
who has  
blessed us  
in the  
heavenly  
realms  
with every  
spiritual  
blessing  
in Christ.*

*Ephesians  
1:3*

## Sink or Swim?

People's stories about learning to swim often sound like this: "My dad tossed me into the water. I didn't have a choice — I flailed around until I found myself swimming!"

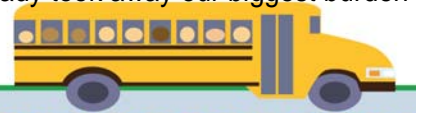
But an elderly Christian tells a variation of this story: "Wanting to teach me to swim, my father threw me off the dock into the lake. I sank." But then he goes on: "So my father jumped in with me."

The storyteller's wisdom shines in his application: "God doesn't toss us into life and leave us alone to sink or swim. By sending Jesus, God jumped right in with us to save us from death, hold us protectively and help us navigate life."



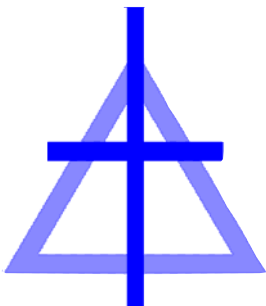
**Let go!** Much attention is being paid to the heavy backpacks kids now lug to school. My fifth-grader's backpack weighs nearly 20 pounds — more than one-quarter of her body weight! This year I bought my kids backpacks with wheels. Problem solved? Wrong. They continue lugging the packs on their backs. I don't understand it — or do I? We adults carry heavy burdens. They pile up and weigh us down. But we don't have to carry our troubles. Jesus tells us to let him shoulder the load. Jesus already took away our biggest burden by dying on the cross.

—Kari Myers



### INSIDE This Issue:

Sink or Swim?, Kids Page, OOPS!	1 - 2
The Ingredients of True Community-Part II, CBI News, Volunteer Sched.	3 - 4
WISE projects in Kaoma	5 - 6
Church Mouse, Calendar	7 - 8



# HERO Sandwich

To celebrate the Bible's many heroes, make this sandwich for a picnic.

**What you need:**

- An adult to help
- Shredded lettuce
- Olive oil and vinegar
- Seasonings (salt, pepper, oregano)
- Italian crusty bread (six inches per person)
- Mayonnaise
- Sliced meat
- Sliced cheese
- Sliced tomato
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Toothpicks
- Tape



**What you do:**

1. Drizzle shredded lettuce with oil and vinegar; sprinkle with seasonings.
2. Cut bread in half lengthwise and spread mayo on both halves.
3. On bottom half, layer meats, cheese, tomato and lettuce.
4. Top with other half of bread. Cut in half.
5. Cut paper into small triangles. Write your favorite Bible heroes' names on them.
6. Tape the triangles to toothpicks to make pennants. Stick in sandwich halves. Enjoy!



## action-packed faith

The greatest "super men" who ever lived put their faith into action.

**Directions:** Match each Bible character to the correct description.

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| Noah     | 1. This disciple wrote a gospel, recounting many events in Jesus' life.  |
| Stephen  | 2. This man responded to God's commands, including the order to move. God made many promises to this man and his descendants.                |
| Abraham  | 3. This man was eager to rebuild Jerusalem. He helped the people protect their city, reminding them that God was on their side.              |
| Luke     | 4. This man, who became king of Judah at a young age, obeyed God's laws and helped people repent.  |
| Nehemiah | 5. God saved this honest, hard-working man from destruction by having him build a place of safety for his family and every kind of creature. |
| Josiah   | 6. This man stood by God's Word, showing strength of character even when faced with persecution and death.                                   |

On the lines below, write your name and describe how you're a "hero" for God. What are some ways you put your faith into action?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: Noah 5, Stephen 6, Abraham 2, Luke 1, Nehemiah 3, Josiah 4.

God grades on the cross, not the curve.

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 Marsha Frieling  
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From a worship bulletin in Sycamore, GA

Hymn:  
 "O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sin"

What an interesting wish list to sing about.





## The Ingredients of True Community

## Part II

One strange herd! Don't you feel like that's a great description of the church sometimes? A mix of people with different personalities, different backgrounds, different ideas sometimes, who might never hang out together— except for the one thing that we have in common: we love Jesus. And in one way or another, we have been transformed by His amazing love and mercy. Because of that, we hang out together. But even more than that, as the film (*Ice Age*) illustrates in a cute way, as a “herd” of Christ followers, we look after each other—even if we might look a little strange at times.

When the church is working right, it becomes a place where our old nature and our old instincts begin to die and we start thinking completely different about the people around us. People who we might never have associated with before, or people who we never would have thought we would befriend, suddenly become our brothers and sisters. And we find ourselves wanting to bring in more and more of those who might not belong anywhere else—we find a place for them. And our herd, our community, becomes a place of love and service; a place where people experience the transforming power of Jesus at work in their lives.

If there is one theme that permeates Paul's letter to the Philippians, it's this theme of sacrificial love and service. It's the way that Paul introduces himself and Timothy right in the first sentence in 1:1, where he says, “Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus.” It's at the heart of chapter 2; the famous passage which describes how Jesus, the King of kings and Lord of lords descended to become one of us; even more than that, he descended to become our slave, serving us.

All this servant and sacrifice talk sets the stage for the section of his letter that we just read where Paul talks about his friends, Timothy and Epaphroditus. These are wonderful verses tucked away inside his letter that remind us that Paul was not writing some kind of theological dissertation. This is a letter; a letter from a friend to a group of friends. From a very real person with real problems, feelings and character, to a real group of people with their own unique character and issues.

We know that when Paul wrote this letter, he was in prison. But we don't know exactly where. Our best guess is that he was in Caesarea. Other scholars suggest that he was in Ephesus. Though we don't know where he is, we do know that he is in a bad situation. He is far from his home. Far from his friends. Unable to carry out the calling that he is so passionate about, which is to share the message of Jesus with whoever he can, wherever he can. And in this prison, he feels an incredible sense of distance from his friends in Philippi, people that he cares deeply about.

But he has not been completely alone. Things are not all bad. What makes this section so meaningful is the impression that two of his very good friends, Timothy and Epaphroditus, have been around. And what we see in these verses is how they have served as connecting points between him and the church in Philippi. They have blessed him as friends right there in prison. But they have also been a link between him and his faraway friends.

We see this in the way that Paul speaks about Timothy. In verse 19, Paul talks about how he hopes to send Timothy to them as soon as possible. You'll notice that in his description of Timothy, the servant theme comes right to the front again. Listen to how he talks about Timothy in verses 20-23: “I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me.”

*(Continued on page 7)*

*(The above article is Part II of a sermon provided by the CRCNA website.  
Parts III - V of Rev. DeRaaf's sermon will appear in the next three issues of our newsletter.)*

## Crossroad News...

By Stacy Ladenburger

LONDON, UK—Crossroad Bible Institute announces the opening of CBI United Kingdom, its inaugural European distribution center. This twelfth CBI satellite campus serves prisoners in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Overseeing CBI UK is Matthew Savage, also director of The Bible Network, the UK funding partner of Bible League International. Savage is establishing a strong instructor base while the initial group of students, incarcerated at Magilligan Prison in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, begins the program. The students have been highly supported by their chaplain, who requested the program's implementation in his facility.

With approximately 147 per 100,000 people in prison, England and Wales have the highest incarceration rate in Western Europe. Since 1993, the prison population has increased from 41,600 to nearly 85,000. Scotland has a similar rate of incarceration, with 139 per 100,000 people imprisoned, and, after its slight decrease in the 1990's, Northern Ireland's prison population has begun rising as well. Recidivism poses a significant problem; two-thirds of those that

## Crossroad Opens First European Distribution Center

reenter society return to prison within two years.

Those of African-Caribbean and African descent are even more disproportionately represented in UK prisons than in their American counterparts, make up fifteen percent of the UK prison population but only two percent of the general population. Islam is over-represented as well, with Muslims constituting twelve percent of those incarcerated in England and Wales.

At a recent prison ministry conference in London, Ministry of Justice officials commented on the government's increasing reliance on voluntary and faith-based organizations. One representative noted that Christian organizations are "holding the hope" in this field.

With this governmental reinforcement, the support of prison chaplains and authorities and eleven more facilities poised to offer the program, CBI UK has tremendous potential for growth and impact. Savage comments, "We plan to recruit more volunteers in the coming weeks so that we are ready to receive many more student enrollments. With the help of faithful

*(Continued on page 7)*

### So – you think you know everything?

- *Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.*
- *No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver or purple.*
- *The winter of 1932 was so cold, Niagara Falls froze solid.*



<u>July</u>	<u>Nursery AM Service</u>	<u>Little Lambs</u>	<u>Library</u>
3rd	Jill & Caitlin	Kate & Courtney	Florence
10th	Barb, Mandy W & Breanna	Raquel & Amanda VH	Marie
17th	Sandy & Deb V	Sara M & Rebekah K	Marsha
24th	Rebecca VH & Kristen	Elizabeth & Breanna	Beth
31st	Carol & Rebekah K	Sheila & Ethan	Betty
<u>August</u>			
7th	Barb , Mandy W & Caitlin	Amanda VH, Courtney & Breanna	Ruth
14th	Jill , Andrea F & Nicole	Rebekah K , Raquel & Jenna	Florence
21st	Sandy, Lynola & Deb V	Kate, Andrea R & Amanda K	Marie
28th	Carol, Kristen & Sara M	Elizabeth, Ethon & Caitlin	Marsha



## WISE projects in Kaoma

By Evan Haglund

In 2002, Margaret Indopu lived in Kaoma, Zambia, a rural agricultural community in the country's Western Province. She was happily married, caring for her husband and the couple's eight children.

Her husband moved to the nation's capital city, Lusaka, to seek work. There, he met another woman; shortly thereafter, he moved back to Kaoma with his new "wife," expelling both Margaret and their eight children from the family home. As is far too common an experience in rural parts of the country, Margaret found herself homeless, unemployed, and uneducated, with eight children to care for.

God, having a special plan for Margaret, intervened in her time of despair. She obtained a home built by Habitat for Humanity, and also met a Habitat volunteer, Lynn Twitchell, from the State of Maine. Margaret soon realized that it was her mission, having been spared from a life of poverty and despair, to give back to others. Working with Ms. Twitchell and her non-profit



organization, WISE ("Women's Initiatives that Strengthen and Empower"), Margaret founded the Kaoma Women's Empowerment Center, an organization dedicated to improving the plight of women and children in the Kaoma area. Since its founding in 2002, the Center has overseen the distribution of water to numerous deserving families in Kaoma, including the drilling of bore holes in outlying areas and connecting water taps to local water lines. It has provided economic opportunities to numerous women by providing land to farm and training in sewing and basket making skills.

The Center provides education to women in such areas as AIDS awareness and other health-related issues. It has provided scholarships for dozens of high school students and numerous college students, and is currently sponsoring 26 high school students and 3 college students.



In June of this year, I joined seven other individuals to travel to Kaoma to see for ourselves the work of WISE and its projects in Kaoma. An underlying philosophy of WISE is that the best development work is done through the formation of relationships, rather than the simple giving of things. Accordingly, our time was spent, in large part, in developing these same relationships, meeting and getting to know the people of Kaoma. I met Margaret and several of her children. Notably, her children followed in her footsteps, and were also active in the Kaoma Women's Center. I also met Progress, one of the first recipients of a college scholarship from the Women's Center. The concept of "giving back" resonated with this young man. After successfully obtaining his college degree in business, he eschewed economic opportunities in Lusaka to

*(Continued on page 6)*

(Continued from page 5) **WISE projects...**

return to Kaoma, where he now owns his own store, and also volunteers in managing some of the revenue-generating activities of the local orphanage.

I spent most of my time working at the boys' branch of the orphanage. This entailed a three-mile hike through town from our guest house to the boys' dorms on the other side of town. I found myself playing a lot of soccer (and, amazingly, it was referred to as "soccer," and not football). I also tutored several children in their math and English studies, and read countless books to the elementary school children.



Using my legal skills, I helped the Center complete a report to the District Commissioner, as well as plow through the red tape required for the Center to purchase additional farm land from the provincial government.



To call my experience in Kaoma profound would be an understatement. The hope and enthusiasm of the children was amazing, and contagious. The relationships I made will, I hope and pray, last a lifetime. I met one orphan, Mubita, who is in his senior year at high school, projected to graduate with the highest honors. His ambition is to go on to college to become a journalist and, hopefully, to someday attend college or graduate school in the United States. I have agreed to sponsor Mubita for college, but he is only one of thousands of children who simply need a small boost from others.



I would love to share more with anyone who is interested. I can be reached at 480-296-1942, or [elhaglund@cox.net](mailto:elhaglund@cox.net). In addition, I brought back numerous handmade baskets, the proceeds of which are returned directly to the Women's Center as income for the women who made them.

More information is available at WISE's website, [www.WISEZambia.org](http://www.WISEZambia.org). I can also answer questions regarding sponsorship of a child for high school or college.

—Evan Haglund



A happy life consists not in the absence, but in the mastery of hardships —

—Helen Keller

IF YOU HAVE ANY TIDBITS OF INFORMATION, ADDRESS THEM TO THE CHURCH MOUSE & PUT THEM IN THE NEWS-LETTER / C. MOUSE MAIL SLOT (AFTER ALL, I CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE.) (The identity of the Church Mouse is a secret.)

Peacock today; feather duster tomorrow.

## Church Mouse reporting for duty...



We heard that some of you were able to attend Aaron (Faber) and Kate (Hill's) wedding. Sure hope Carol and Marv have some pictures to show around at Coffee Time.

Pastor Weidenaar's *Short Course on the Heidelberg Catechism* has got all the Mousettes chattering. So have his "kid talks." We didn't know our distant relatives (rats) were in the Bible!

Our newest babies...

Lincoln Gregory Austhof  
Born June 1, 2011  
&  
Andrew William Botma  
Born July 20, 2011

As many of you know, we've lost a friend. On June 27, 2011, Charlotte Kamstra died leaving behind her husband Pete, children Charlotte, Peter, Bill and families. We rejoice that Charlotte is now in the presence of God.

Soon we should be hearing about the Crossfire Youth Group's trip to Indiana and Ohio! Maybe

they will have pictures, too.

—Your Church Mouse

"We heard that Lloyd and Jeanette H had a nice visit with their kids and grand-kids this past month. Good thing they," **(the kids)** "went back to Texas before the real heat got here. It's summer now, so anything goes heat-wise."

*This tidbit appeared in last months newsletter, but I didn't make it clear that the kids were visiting Lloyd and Jeanette here in Phoenix. Sorry for any confusion.*

(Continued from page 3) **True Community...**

One of the important pieces of background information that his helpful to know about the letter to the Philippians is that one of the issues that the Philippian church was struggling with was over bad teaching by self-focused teachers. There were people at work in the community who were trying to gain power and authority over everyone and were willing to talk down Paul in order to get what they wanted.

His response to the leadership crisis in Philippi is to send two of his friends to them to address the situation. In these two friends we see the ingredients of true community.



(Continued from page 4) **CBI News...**

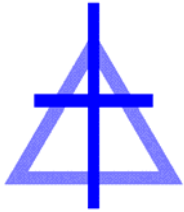
volunteer Instructors, we aim to make these valuable courses available to all."

Dr. David Schuringa, CBI president, expresses his support of the new satellite: "We continue praising God for the way that this ministry is expanding internationally. I look forward to seeing the impact of CBI United Kingdom."



Phx Christian Reformed Church  
2438 East Earll Drive  
Phoenix, AZ 85016

PLACE  
POSTAGE  
HERE



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In addition to our regular services and study groups, mark your calendar for...



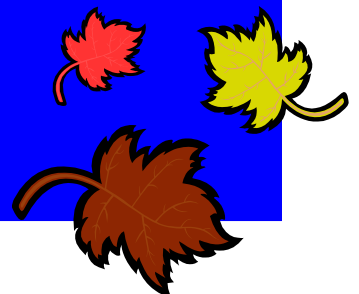
September

Labor Day

Patriot Day

Grand-  
parents  
Day

Fall



First Day of School  
(for PCS PreK-8 Students)  
August 17th

Guest Speaker ~  
Rev. James Hildebrant  
Sunday Morning Worship Service:  
August 28

Happy 95th Birthday, Coby Keizer  
August 29