

The Trumpet

Psalm 150:3a

Redeemer Presbyterian Church Newsletter

Editor: Linda Clark

May, 2007

Member Spotlight: Adam & Amanda Kunzman



Adam & Amanda make their home in Allen with their four children: Dima (14) attends Lovejoy MS, Marisa (10) is homeschooled, Alaina (8) attends Lucas Christian Academy, & Juliana (6) attends Lovejoy ES. The six human Kunzmans also share their home with Patches, a Welsh Corgi; Brownie the bunny, and Todd the turtle.

Adam works as a DLP manager for Texas Instruments (you'll have to ask him what that is), while Amanda is a homemaker and teacher of Marisa.

In his free time, Adam enjoys skiing & sports with the kids. Amanda enjoys spending time with friends & family, traveling & reading. She will put her organizational skills to work this summer as the registrar for our VBS program.

Adam is an only child born in Chicago, and then lived in central Illinois near Lincoln. He later attended Iowa State, earning a degree in Computer Engineering. A job with TI brought him to Dallas; he also earned a Masters Degree in Computer Science Engineering from UT

– Arlington.

Amanda is a native Texan, born in Orange and raised in Lufkin. She is the oldest of three children. She earned a Psychology degree from Baylor University, and moved to Dallas to work for a balloon manufacturer (an interesting combination: psychology and balloons).

Both Adam and Amanda accepted Christ as children. Adam was only eight when he became unhappy with the church he and his family had been attending, and began seeking out what the Bible had to say about salvation. Amanda was also raised in the church, and became aware of her sinfulness and need of Christ at the age of nine.

Adam's parents divorced while he was in college. His mom now lives in Denton and is active in Denton Bible church, while his dad lives near Des Moines. Amanda's parents also divorced but both live near her hometown of Lufkin. Her younger sister and brother live with their families near Houston.

After both ended up in

Dallas working, Adam and Amanda met in the adult singles class at Highland Park Presbyterian Church. Adam introduced himself to Amanda several times, finally she "firmly told him who she was and that he no longer needed to introduce himself to her." They became friends, and within a few months began dating.

How is God working today?

Adam: While I can be upset with my children for what they do from time to time, I do the same with God as well. While His anger is justified, I stand amazed that he continues to shower me with graciousness and realize I should do likewise.

Amanda: God continually shows me He is faithful and I can believe what He says because of who He is. No matter what changes occur or have occurred in my life, He is constant and unchangeable and I can rely on Him. When I feel lonely or frustrated or when things make no sense to me, He understands. As I go forward, I can see truly, His mercies are new every morning.

An Opportunity to Trace the Steps of Paul's Missionary Journey

My cousin once had the incredible privilege of visiting the Holy Land several years ago, and I remember one comment he made after his return that has stuck with me for many years. Upon his return, he said to me, "I don't think I'll ever read the Bible, especially the NT, the same way having been where I just was." He said that there was nothing like actually seeing for himself things he had only read and imagined in his mind. Reading about the Mount of Olives is quite different from standing on the Mount of Olives. I can truly understand his comment.

That being said, RPC has a wonderful opportunity to participate in a spring / summer 2008 trip to Greece to trace the steps of one of Paul's missionary journeys. Stewart and Lynda Teasley took this trip back in 2004 and have been informed that it will be redone in 2008. Stewart presented the info to the session to determine if this was something that might be presented to the members of RPC for their prayerful consideration. To help "get a feel" for this trip, I asked Stewart to pen a short article/summary of their 2004 trip – please find that below.

On May 1, Stewart and I will be having lunch with David and Elizabeth Sparks, the "tour guides" for this trip. Our plan is to present this article to you here to begin the process and then after our lunch with the Sparks and gaining more information, we will have informational meeting. The Sparks will be invited to this meeting and you can come and get more info as you seek to make your decision.

Having just started a study of the book of Acts, I can see how some may have the

same experience as my cousin, as we continue in a study of the book and eventually get to the chapters that deal with the places of the trip. It really could change the way we read these wonderful words of Scripture.

Grace and peace,
Bryant

Following the Apostle Paul

In the spring of 2004 Lynda and I were privileged to take part in a very special trip to Greece with our church in California. The trip is called "*Following in the Footsteps of the Apostle Paul*" and is led by David and Elizabeth Sparks of Carrollton. David, a Presbyterian Pastor, narrates the tour and leads a daily worship service and Elizabeth is a native Greek who works all the trip logistics.

The tour follows the Greek portion of Paul's second missionary journey. You can find the tour itinerary starting in Acts 16:11. We visited Neapolis (now Kavala) where Paul landed in Greece and then we went to Philippi and stood beside the stream where Lydia was baptized. In that day's worship we had a very moving symbolic baptism at the stream. Then we saw the jail cell where Paul was imprisoned as well as the Roman ruins of Philippi.

We stayed several days in Thessaloniki (Acts 17:1-9) and did a side trip to Berea (Acts 17:10-15) where we had worship in a courtyard with a mosaic of Paul. Nearby we visited a restored Jewish ghetto from World War II.

On the way to Athens we visited the Byzantine monasteries at Meteora. They are perched on top of rocks with sheer cliffs. In Athens we stayed in a hotel with a

full view of the Parthenon. We walked to the hilltop and held worship at the Aeropagus (Acts 17:22-31) where Paul skillfully addressed the Athenians.

There was a full day side trip to Corinth where we saw the ruins of some of the places described in Acts 18. One of the most emotional worship services was the communion held in these ruins using the words of I Corinthians 11: 23-26; it felt as though Paul was addressing us directly.

Then we went on a 4 day cruise of some of the Greek Isles with a stop in Ephesus where we held worship in the stadium where Paul's life was threatened by a mob as described in Acts 19. We visited the scenic islands of Mykonos, Santorini and Crete. Another worship highlight was a service held adjacent to the chapel on the Island of Patmos where John had his vision and was inspired to write the Book of Revelation.

This trip/tour is truly a faith building experience that enables one to appreciate Scripture in a new light. The Sparks also do tours for high school and college students. As we were looking for a church home in this area we visited Grace Presbyterian Church in Plano not knowing that we were there on youth Sunday. Student after student gave testimony about the impact that their Greek trip had on their lives; some committed their lives to Christ on the trip and all had their faith deepened.

You can learn more about this ministry at their website:

www.footstepministries.org.

Stewart Teasley



Pastor's Column

“GRATITUDE FOR GIVING”

For the past few months we have been focusing on biblical stewardship as the officers of the church call on us to examine ourselves and our level of giving to the general and building funds. This month we will end the series with this final article.

1 Chronicles 29:11-14 (NIV): *Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.*

William Allen White, a famous newspaper editor in Emporia, Kansas, once gave a 50 acre tract of land to the city for a park. At the dedication he made the strange statement that there are “three kicks in every dollar.” He explained, “One kick is when you make it – and how I love to make a dollar! One when you save it – and I have the Yankee love for saving! The third kick is when you give it away – and the biggest kick of all is the last!”

David would have agreed. His great prayer is remarkable. He and the people of his kingdom have just completed an incredible building campaign on behalf of the temple. They have given generously and sacrificially. Yet David expresses thanks to God! He expresses such deeply felt gratitude that he and his people are able to give generously to the Lord's temple. What a profound paradox! – Gratitude for the ability to give!

The lessons here are vital. David teaches that our ability to give comes from God. He teaches that what we give comes from God. And he teaches that the biggest kick is to give back to Him.

Mark 12:41-44 (NIV): *Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything-- all she had to live on."*

Prayer:

“Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. In Jesus' Name. Amen.”

Soli Deo Gloria!!

Bryant

Associate Pastor's Page

What is Covenant Theology?

The Covenant with Abraham Continued

Saints of Redeemer, as we continue to study the notion of infant baptism in conjunction with the Covenant of Grace with Abraham, Dr. Samuel Miller continues to shed light on common objections raised against paedobaptism.

6. Again; it is objected, that *baptism can do infants no good*. "Where," say our Baptist brethren, "is the *benefit* of it? What good can a little 'sprinkling with water' do a helpless, unconscious babe?" To this objection I might reply, by asking in my turn, "What good did circumcision do a Jewish child, helpless and unconscious, at eight days old? To ask the question is almost impious, because it implies an impeachment of infinite wisdom.^[1]

God appointed that ordinance to be administered to infants. And accordingly, when the apostle asked, in the spirit of some modern cavilers, "What profit is there of circumcision?" He replies, *much, every way* (Rom. 3:1-2). In like manner, when it is asked, "What profit is there in baptizing our infant children?" I answer, *Much, every way*. Baptism is a sign of many important truths, and a seal of many important covenant blessings.

Is there no advantage in attending on an ordinance which holds up to our view, in the most impressive symbolical language, several of those fundamental doctrines of the gospel which are of the deepest interest to us and our offspring; such as our fallen, guilty, and polluted state by nature, and the method appointed by infinite wisdom and love for our recovery, by the atoning blood, and cleansing Spirit of the Savior? Is there no advantage in solemnly dedicating our children to God by an appropriate rite, of his own appointment? Is there no advantage in formally binding ourselves, by covenant engagements, to bring up our offspring "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?" (Eph. 6:4). Is there no advantage in publicly ratifying the connection of our children, as well as ourselves, with the visible church, and as it were binding them to an alliance with the God of their fathers? Is there nothing either comforting or useful in solemnly recognizing as our own that covenant promise, "I will establish my covenant between me and thee, and *thy seed after thee ... to be a God unto thee and to thy seed after thee?*" (Gen. 17:7). Is it a step of no value to our children themselves, to be brought, by a divinely appointed ordinance, into the bosom, and to the notice, the maternal attentions, and the prayers of the church, "the mother of us all?" (Gal. 4:26). And is it of no advantage to the parents, in educating their children, to be able to remind them, from time to time, that they have been symbolically sanctified, or set apart, by the seal of Jehovah's covenant, and to plead with them by the solemn vows which they have made on their behalf?

Verily, my dear friends, those who refuse or neglect the baptism of their children, not only sin against Christ by disobeying his solemn command; but they also deprive both themselves and their children of great benefits. They may imagine that, as it is a disputed point, it may be a matter of indifference, whether their children receive this ordinance in their infancy, or grow up unbaptized. But is not this attempting to be wiser than God? I do not profess to know all the advantages attendant or consequent on the administration of this significant and divinely appointed rite; but one thing I know, and that is, that Christ has appointed it as a sign of precious truths, and a seal of rich blessings to his covenant people, and their infant offspring; and I have no doubt that, in a multitude of cases, the baptized children, presented by professing parents who had no true faith, but who, by this act, brought their children within the care, the watch, and the privileges of the church, have been instrumental in conferring upon their offspring rich benefits, while they themselves went down to everlasting burnings. If I mistake not I have seen many cases, in which as far as the eye of man could go, the truth of this remark has been signally exemplified.

Let it not be said that such a solemn dedication of a child to God is usurping the rights of the child to judge and act for himself, when he comes to years of discretion; and that it is inconsistent with the privilege of every rational being to free inquiry, and free agency. This objection is founded on an infidel spirit. It is equally opposed to the religious education of children; and, if followed out, would militate against all those restraints, and that instruction which the word of God enjoins on parents. Nay, if the principle of this objection be correct, it is wrong to preoccupy the minds of our children with an abhorrence of lying, theft, drunkenness, malice, and murder; lest, forsooth, we should fill them with such prejudices as would be unfriendly to free inquiry.

The truth is, one great purpose for which the church was instituted, is to watch over and train up children in the knowledge and fear of God, and thus, to "prepare a seed to serve him, who should be accounted to the Lord for a generation." And I will venture to say, that that system of religion which does not embrace children in its ecclesiastical provisions, and in its covenant engagements, is most materially defective.

Infants may not receive any apparent benefit from baptism, at the moment in which the ordinance is administered; although a gracious God may, even then, accompany the outward emblem with the blessing which it represents, even "the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5). This, indeed, may not be, and most commonly, so far as we can judge, is not the case. But still the benefits of this ordinance, when faithfully applied by ministers, and faithfully received by parents, are abundant nay, great and important every way. When children are baptized, they are thereby recognized as belonging to the visible church of God. They are, as it were, solemnly entered as scholars or disciples in the school of Christ. They are brought into a situation in which they not only may be trained up for God, but in which their parents are *bound* so to train them up; and the church is bound to see that

Women In the Church

“O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.”

Psalm 34:3 (NASB)

Luke 5:16 Jesus “*often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.*”

Mark 1:35 “*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*”

Mark 6:46 “*After leaving them, He went into the hills to pray.*”

Luke 6:12 “*...Jesus went out into the hills to pray and spent the night praying to God.*”

Something to think about:

If Jesus, the Son of God, the sinless Savior, our High Priest, thought it was important to make time to pray, wouldn't it be wise for His redeemed brothers and sisters to do the same?

Prayer Helps:

1. One of my favorite is the Puritan prayer book *The Valley of Vision*. I use it every morning during my prayer time and it has been a wonderful help to keep my flesh focused and not flitting around.
2. Redeemer has a prayer sheet each week to help with whom and for what to pray.
3. Each month *The Trumpet* has a page on the Persecuted Church and how to pray.
4. On at least one day a week, use the Psalms to help you do nothing but praise God for who He is and what great things He has done for you.
5. We, also, have a prayer chain, which you can join. Just call Kelley Burgess to join.

My prayer is that Redeemer will become a church of praying disciples, who will use our Savior's example and make prayer a priority of every day. God uses prayer to help us grow in our fellowship with Him and to grow in our faith and He uses us for His work through prayer. It is an exciting opportunity to be used by God! Come on and *Magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together!!*

From one who is doing better than she deserves!

My prayers are for you,

Linda Clark

May Birthdays

Jason Arp 5-3 Adam Kunzman 5-7 Garrison Anderson 5-09 Rachel Keller 5-11 Richard Vaughn 5-11

Melissa McGee 5-13 Kendall Phillips 5-13 Chandler Blagburn 5-18 John Magnuson 5-19 Wendy Meintjes 5-19

Margaret Reynolds 5-20 Caleb Buchanan 5-23 Cody Dagley 5-24 Janie Smith 5-24 Tim Yates 5-24

Anthony Broadfoot 5-26 Carrie Bryner 5-26 Phil Westbrook 5-27 Clayton Blagburn 5-28 Rebekah Broadfoot 5-31

Pray for the Persecuted Church

"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world." (James 1:27)

ETHIOPIA Bible Students Arrested; Church Leaders' Houses Raided - VOM Sources

- **JIMMA** - On March 22, two Bible school students were imprisoned on the accusation of attempting to kill an imam. They were released one week later with after paying a fine. A court hearing was scheduled for April 2, 2007.
- **BAMBASSE** - April 2, the home of evangelist Tolosa Megersa was raided by local Muslims. Six of his cattle and sheep were killed. Five days later, the home of Full Gospel Church leader Lemmu Abdissa, was also raided. All of his property was destroyed, including 4,000 kilograms of grain.

Thank God for the release of the two students. Pray those who have lost property will be encouraged and rest in knowing they have "better and lasting possessions." **Hebrews 10: 34-37**

INDIA Pastors Imprisoned; Church Building Demolished - VOM Sources/ Global Council of Indian Christians

- **GALIMERA TOWN** - Pastor Jeremiah Majhi held a three-day evangelistic meeting in his church in April, 2006, following which he baptized 20 new believers. While he was baptizing them, some members of anti-Christian Hindu groups came and beat him and the people who were being baptized. They destroyed his church and house. The attackers filed false charges against Pastor Jeremiah saying he was smuggling drugs and other materials. The authorities arrested him along with his nephew and have held them in prison since April 26, 2006. Bail applications have been presented and rejected. A new hearing is expected April 14, 2007.
- **GUNTHAPUT VILLAGE** - On March 30, a mob of 300 Hindu militants completely demolished a church building in an attempt to kill Pastor Shri Chetti. According to a report from the Global Council of Indian Christians, during the demolition, the militants demanded that all Christians leave the village and said they will not allow any Christian worship centers in the area. The church has been suffered persecution in the past when Hindu villagers burned down their building.

Pray these believers will continue to meet despite losing their property. Ask God to encourage them and for the persecutors to know Christ's love forgiveness and blessing through the testimony of these Christians.

Romans 12:14, 21

PAKISTAN Five Christians Charged with Blasphemy – VOM Sources

Five Christians have been charged with blasphemy under Pakistan's blasphemy laws 295-A and 295-C, in Toba Tek Singh, Pakistan. Daniel, an 11-year-old Christian boy, refused to play with his Muslim friends, resulting in them beating him. When Daniel's family confronted the attackers, the Muslims called the police and made a false report saying they had blasphemed the name of the Holy Prophet. Now Daniel's family- Rashid Masih, Salamat Masih, Sahba Masih Motta, Bao Masih and Sheela Masih-is living under threat of attack by Muslim extremists. The Muslim family told other Muslims at a religious gathering that the Christians had disgraced the Holy Prophet, tore a holy sticker and beat it with a shoe. This has led to tension in the city. Christians in the area fear Muslim extremists will attack the family. There was fear there would be attacks during celebrations leading up to Easter Sunday. If convicted under blasphemy laws 295-A and 295-C, the family faces three years imprisonment, a fine and the death penalty, or life imprisonment and a fine. Pray God protects these believers and provides a way of escape for them. **Psalm 41:2-3**

www.persecution.com

[The Voice of the Martyrs official homepage](#)

[Learn about Christians who suffer for their faith around the world, and find out how you can stand with them.](#)

Continued from Associate Pastor's Page

they be so trained, as that the Lord's claim to them shall ever be recognized and maintained. In a word, by baptism, when the administrators and recipients are both faithful to their respective trusts, children are brought into a situation in which all the means of grace; all the privileges pertaining to Christ's covenanted family; in a word, all that is comprehended under the broad and precious import of the term *Christian education*, is secured to them in the most ample manner. Let parents think of this, when they come to present their children in this holy ordinance. And let children lay all this to heart, when they come to years in which they are capable of remembering and realizing their solemn responsibility.

7. A seventh objection which our Baptist brethren frequently urge is, that, upon our plan, *the result of baptism seldom corresponds with its professed meaning. We say it is a symbol of regeneration; but experience proves that great majority of those infants who are baptized, never partake of the grace of regeneration.* The practice of Pædobaptists, they tell us, is adapted to corrupt the church to the most extreme degree, by filling it with unconverted persons. To this objection we reply:

That baptism is not more generally connected or followed with that spiritual benefit of which it is a striking emblem, is indeed to be lamented. But still this acknowledged fact does not, it is believed, either destroy the significance of the ordinance, or prove it to be useless. If it holds up to view, to all who behold it, every time that it is administered, the nature and necessity of regeneration by the Holy Spirit; if it enjoins, and to a very desirable extent secures to the children of the church, enlightened and faithful instruction in the great doctrines of the gospel, and this doctrine of spiritual cleansing in particular; and if it is, in a multitude of cases, actually connected with precious privileges, and saving benefits; we have, surely, no right to conclude that it is of small advantage, because it is not in all cases followed by the blessing which it symbolically represents.

How many read the Bible without profit! How many attend upon the external service of prayer, without sincerity, and without a saving blessing! But are the reading of the scriptures, and the duty of prayer less obligatory, or of more dubious value on that account? In truth, the same objection might be made to circumcision. That, as well as baptism, was a symbol of regeneration, and of spiritual cleansing: but how many received the outward symbol without the spiritual benefit? The fact is, the same objection may be brought against every institution of God. They are all richly significant, and abound in spiritual meaning and in spiritual instruction; but their influence is moral, and may be defeated by unbelief. They cannot exert a physical power, or convert and save by their inherent energy. Hence they are often attended by many individuals without benefit; but still their administration is by no means, in respect to the church of God, in vain in the Lord. It is daily exerting an influence of which no human arithmetic can form an accurate estimate. Thousands, no doubt, even of baptized *adults* receive the ordinance without faith, and of course, without saving profit. But thousands more receive it in faith, and in connection with those precious benefits of which it is a symbol. This is the case with all ordinances; but because they are not always connected with saving benefits, we are neither to disparage, nor cease to recommend them.

But if baptism is a symbol of regeneration; if it holds forth to all who receive it, either for themselves or their offspring, the importance and necessity of this great work of God's grace; if it binds them to teach their children (as soon as they become capable of receiving instruction) this vital truth, as well as all the other fundamental truths of our holy religion; if, in consequence of their baptism, children are recognized as bearing a most important relation to the church of God, as bound by her rules, and responsible to her tribunal: and if all these principles are faithfully carried out into practice: can our children be placed in circumstances more favorable to their moral benefit? If not regenerated at the time of baptism (which the nature of the ordinance does not necessarily imply), are they not, in virtue of their connection with the church, thus ratified and sealed, placed in the best of all schools for learning, practically, as well as doctrinally, the things of God? Are they not, by these means, even when they fail of becoming pious, restrained and regulated, and made better members of society? And are not multitudes of them, after all, brought back from their temporary wanderings, and by the reviving influence of their baptismal seal, and their early training, made wise unto salvation? Let none say, then, that infant baptism seldom realizes its symbolical meaning. It is, I apprehend, made to do this far more frequently than is commonly imagined. And if those who offer them up to God in this ordinance were more faithful, this favorable result would occur with a frequency more than tenfold.

Here again, Dr. Miller helps us to understand just how important and meaningful it is for us to baptize our infants. There really is a benefit for them by being baptized. Its not mere ritual, but a true sacrament.

Rolf

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Pastor:

Bryant McGee

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Associate Pastor:

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