

The Trumpet

Psalm 150:3a

Redeemer Presbyterian Church Newsletter

Editor: Linda Clark

August, 2007

Member Spotlight Family:

Jerry & Shelli Phillips



Lifelong Texans, Jerry and Shelli Phillips now live in Allen with their daughter Kendall, who is four, and Gizmo the dog, a miniature Pincher.

Jerry works as an architect for Perkins & Will, while Shelli is the Director of our Mother's Day Out program here at Redeemer. In fact, I'm sure she would love to hear from anyone who would like to help her with MDO as a teacher or aid or volunteer in this special ministry to children and their families.

Jerry's architectural mind is at work even in his spare time, where he fills many sketchbooks with drawings of daily life as a sort of personal diary. Jerry, also, enjoys tennis and running. Shelli's interests include designing and creating (you'll have to ask her what she designs and creates), as well as sewing outfits with matching hair bows for Kendall.

Jerry was born in Fort Worth, but after several moves the family ended up in Cedar Hill. Shelli was born in Duncanville, and her family also moved to Cedar Hill, where both she and Jerry graduated from Cedar Hill High School. Jerry then attended Dallas County Community College before transferring to Texas A&M, where he graduated with a degree in architecture. Shelli attended Mountain View College, then Navarro Junior College and finally Stephen F. Austin from where she earned her degree.

Jerry and Shelli were high school sweethearts in Cedar Hill and their relationship weathered the long distances of their college years. After both moved back to Dallas to start careers, Jerry says: "I wanted to be sure that this was the right girl, so after 8 years of dating we were married in 2000." In fact, Jerry's grandfather, who performed the marriage of his parents, as well as, his brother and sister-in-law, performed the wedding for Jerry and Shelli.

Shelli grew up Baptist and recalls often attending church as a family when she was young. However, during her middle school years they stopped going. She returned to church during college, working in a church nursery in a small congregation in Nacogdoches, where she felt close to the Lord again. The pastor of that small church continued to mentor her through the mail even after she graduated college. When she and Jerry married they knew they wanted to start a family and find a church home. After several tries with frustrating results, Jerry's cousin, our very own Darla Page, invited them to attend a "little church that held services in an elementary school cafeteria." As soon as they visited Redeemer, both Jerry and Shelli knew this would be their church home.

Jerry equates his spiritual journey to building a house. "The foundation is built first, hopefully it

is a strong foundation. Then comes the structure in the form of the walls and a roof with the pretty finishes applied last. My strong foundation was set in place by my family. I was raised in an Assembly of God church of which my grandfather was the pastor. My family (immediate and extended) has always relied on God for strength and support. Through the good times and the bad times, I have always known that God was with me and watching over me during my life, even though during high-school and college, I strayed away from Christ and the church."

Jerry continues his analogy with the building of walls and the roof, as God continues to work in their lives today. "After Shelli and I were married, we moved to Allen in the hopes of starting a family and getting back into the church, so that we could start a strong foundation for our daughter's life. I really found God again during this process, realizing what He has done for me and my family. The real turning point for me was when I was baptized alongside Kendall, my daughter. I started to study God's Word with the help of a fellow member of RPC and take part in the EE team; both have taught me a world of knowledge about God's sovereign power. I am very thankful that God has been with me all my life and the foundation has lasted, so that I may build upon it the walls and roof and one day, apply the finishes."

Written by Caroline Ong.

Report from the Session

August Birthdays

The Session met on June 19, 2007 in the library at RPC at 7:00pm.

- 1- Minutes from April 17 and May 19 were approved.
- 2- Commissioners RE Earley and RE Kaylor were elected for the North Texas Presbytery meeting at PCPC on August 24-25, 2007.
- 2- Interviewed Chris Bryant for possible internship at RPC
- 3- Met with the Building Advisory Committee chairman Stewart Teasley. Discussion was held to explore several options on relieving the overcrowding in the Education building. A report from the committee will be forthcoming with more defined options and costs.
- 4- Reviewed the reports from each Elder.
- 5- The Keller's requested an evening service to baptize Chloe because of family scheduling in attending a morning service. Session approved an evening service for July 22, 2007.
- 6- Informational meeting was approved for July 15, 2007 to present the approved 2007-2008 budget to the congregation.
- 7- Session approved the hiring of a part-time Administrative Secretary for the church office to begin in August for 20 hours per week.
- 8- Session approved the purchase of a new baby grand piano. TE McGee will notify Christine who has contacts at UTD on a lower price.
- 9- The Session decided not to meet in July unless necessary. The next scheduled Session meeting will be August 21, 2007 at RPC.
- 10- Dr. McGee will be on vacation the month of July. Pastor Meintjes will preach a series on the Beatitudes from Matthew 5.

Clerk of the Session
Elder Ed Kaylor

Margaret Ingram 8-1

Laura Meintjes 8-3

Justin Heuss 8-4

Stephen Dechert 8-5

Bryant McGee 8-5

Amy Buchanan 8-8

Amy Wende 8-12

Jill Cook 8-15

Will Wende 8-15

Lynda Teasley 8-17

Alex Vaughn 8-17

Stephanie Hallmark 8-18

Steve Buchanan 8-20

Walter Kerr 8-20

Amanda Kunzman 8-21

Doris Smith 8-21

Connie Caldwell 8-22

Wendy Stem 8-22

Bill Caldwell 8-23

Brett Bryner 8-23

Jennifer Nessel 8-25

Tim Armstrong 8-27

Katelyn Arp 8-29

Sarah Dickson 8-29

J. R. Ingram 8-29

Lisa Cox 8-30

Tina Meintjes 8-31

Our new Missionaries in Uganda

Following is a letter from the Ebys, our newest missionaries Redeemer is supporting, so you will have an idea what they are doing in Uganda and how you can pray for them.

Dear praying friend,

Thanks for praying for us over the last two months. Since we missed June, this is a larger Update. The Lord has been very gracious to us in a very busy time. Here's what we have been up to:

1. May 28 to June 8 was our Seminary module. Dave taught Ministry of the Word (Preaching) Part 1 and The Christian Workers Personal Life. The students were very responsive. Dr Henry Krabbendam then taught the last course of the module, Personal Evangelism. A big praise was the provision of textbooks for the students to purchase at very low prices. A couple of churches, the Banner of Truth and Serve International made several of the books available at no cost, not only helping our students, but providing the beginning of our bookstore which we hope will minister to the larger Ugandan church and community. No quality bookstore in the country has yet been discovered. One of Dave's passions is to start one.

2. June 14 to 17, our intern team of 12 was in Gulu, (about 250 miles north of Kampala), where we joined an American team of 12 led by Pete Anderson from Trinity Presbyterian Church in Hawaii. *The Lord's Resistance Army* has been killing and kidnapping people and kids for about 20 years in Gulu. We visited a couple of Internally Displaced People camps, which the government has set up to help the Acholi people, who have had to flee their homes to preserve their lives. There are some 1.5 million internally displaced people in Uganda, all due to Joseph Kony and the LRA's activity. The people were very humble and very poor. Dave preached the gospel to about 200 people in three days, just going door to door and visiting the people in their huts and at one school. The first worship service of the new church had 208 kids in attendance and about 200 adults. It was great. All the people had amazing stories to tell. Our translator/ guide for our evangelism group was Daniel, age 23. When the rebels attacked his home about 2 years ago he ran out of the hut and barely escaped. His parents were killed and now he takes care of his 6 sisters with a part-time job in which he earns about \$2.50 a day. His younger brother was abducted and has not been heard from for two years. The hearts of our team members were really touched by the suffering and humility of these dear Acholi people.

3. We had a wonderful time the week of July 2 to 8, with the Oak Mountain Presbyterian Church (Birmingham AL) medical team of 15, a team of 8 from Eastwood PC in Montgomery (including their pastor, Aaron Fleming) and a team of five MTW interns. What a privilege for these three American teams to join with a large group of 50 Ugandans from three churches in the Rwenzori/Western Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Uganda to plant a new Presbyterian church in Kagadi, a town of about 15,000 about a 6 hour drive from Kampala. What a joy to see a new church planted in a very needy area. It was the largest team Dave has worked with in Uganda. The complementary gifts and the unity was fun to watch. The free medical clinic treated 819 people in four days. The non-medical team members went door-to-door doing evangelism. The joy of Uganda is the openness of the people to the gospel. The Lord honored our labors and we were able to leave a fledgling church under the care of two young evangelists appointed by the Presbytery. The three churches and pastors from the Presbytery were overwhelmed with gratitude and joy for the labors and partnership of the three American teams.

One of Dave's highlights was visiting the famous cult leader Bisaka, a former Roman Catholic who now claims to be God. Twelve members of the team visited his large compound and about two hundred of his followers (he claims to have thousands in Uganda). We sat for an hour and an half before the 77 year old man with rotting teeth to hear his superficial arguments against the Bible and his foolish claims to be the almighty. In spite of his constant objections to the gospel from his entourage of about 20 leaders, the local radio station, which recorded the interview, reported that we were the first group to ever visit Bisaka with the purpose of preaching the gospel to him. Evidently our efforts were an encouragement to local Christians as many called the radio station to say so.

4. We have had a great 6 weeks hosting and working with the six, now five (one came for one month) MTW interns. They have been very adaptable to Uganda and have enthusiastically entered into the ministry here. They have had a variety of experiences working in the slums of Kampala, among AIDS widows and orphans, in a middle class area of the city to prepare for a church plant coming in August, teaching the Children's Catechism to a primary school run by Zana Community Presbyterian Church, working among three tribal groups (and learning about different tribal cultures) in two villages/towns and directly involved in evangelism leading to the first worship services of two new Ugandan Presbyterian churches. I think all have had a positive experience. and all have done very well in adjusting to and ministering in a new cultural situation that is truly beyond the comfort zone but has constantly provided "true Ugandan experiences."

Thanks for praying for us. We have had a very busy two months. Dar has been busy hosting, cooking, baking, serving delicious meals and making people feel comfortable in a foreign land. The Lord has been faithful.

In the Lamb,
Dave and Darlene

Associate Pastor's Page: What is Covenant Theology? The Covenant with Abraham Continued

One of the distinctives at Redeemer, in conjunction to Covenant Theology, is our form of church government. With a representational plurality of elders, there are levels of accountability which includes the role of our children as part of the covenant community. Dr Miller helps explain the dynamics of this important relationship.

10. Another objection, often urged with confidence, against infant membership and baptism is, that, *if they are well founded, then it follows, of course, that every baptized young person, or even child, who feels disposed to do so, has a right to come to the Lord's table, without inquiry or permission of anyone.* Upon this principle, say our Baptist brethren, as a large portion of those who are baptized in infancy are manifestly not pious, and many of them become openly profligate; if their caprice or their wickedness should prompt them to go forward, the church would be disgraced by crowds of the most unworthy communicants. This objection is founded on an entire mistake and a recurrence, for one moment, to the principles of civil society, will at once expose it. Every child is a citizen of the country in which he was born: a plenary citizen; there is no such thing as half-way citizenship in this case. He is a free born citizen in the fullest extent of the term. Yet, until he reaches a certain age, and possesses certain qualifications, he is not eligible to the most important offices which his country has to confer. And after he has been elected, he cannot take his seat for the discharge of these official functions, until he has taken certain prescribed oaths. It is evident that the state has a right, and finds it essential to her well being, by her constitution and her laws, thus to limit the rights of the citizen. Still no one supposes that he is the less a citizen, or thinks of representing him as only a half-way citizen prior to his compliance with these forms.

In like manner, every baptized child is a member, a plenary member, of the church in which he received the sacramental seal. There his membership is recognized and recorded, and there alone can he regularly receive a certificate of this fact, and a dismissal to put himself under the watch and care of any other church. Still, the church to which this ecclesiastical minor belongs, in the exercise of that *"authority which Christ has given, for edification and not for destruction," will not suffer him, if she does her duty, to come to the Lord's table, until he has reached an age when he has "knowledge to discern the Lord's body" (1 Cor. 11:29), and until he shall manifest that exemplary deportment and hopeful piety which become one who claims the privileges of Christian communion.* If he manifests an opposite character, it is her duty, as a part of her stated discipline, to prevent his enjoying these privileges, just as it is her duty, in the case of one who has been a communicant for years (when he departs from the order and purity of a Christian profession), to debar him from the continued enjoyment of his former good standing.

In short, the language of the apostle Paul, though originally intended for a different purpose, is strictly applicable to the subject before us: *"The heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from the servant, though he be lord of all; but is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father"* (Gal. 4:2). In a word, in the church, as well as in the state, there is an order in which privileges are to be enjoyed. As it is not every citizen who is eligible to office; and as not even the qualified have a right to intrude into office uncalled; so youthful church members, like all others, are under the watch and care of the church; and the time and manner in which they shall recognize their baptismal engagements, and come to the enjoyment of plenary privileges, Christ has left his church to decide, on her responsibility to himself. No one, of any age, has a right to come to her communion without the consent of the church. When one, after coming to that communion, has been debarred from it for a time, by regular ecclesiastical authority, he has no right to come again until the interdict is taken off! Of course, by parity of reasoning, one who has never yet come at all, cannot come without asking and obtaining the permission of those who are set to govern in the church.

This view of the subject is at once illustrated and confirmed by the uniform practice of the Old Testament church. The children of Jewish parents, though regular church members in virtue of their birth, and recognized as such in virtue of their circumcision, were still not allowed to come to the Passover until they were of a certain age, and not even then, unless they were ceremonially clean. This is so well attested by sacred antiquarians, both Jewish and Christian, that it cannot be reasonably called in question. Calvin remarks, that "the Passover, which has now been succeeded by the sacred supper, did not admit guests of all descriptions promiscuously; but was rightly eaten only by those who were of sufficient age to be able to inquire into its signification."

The same distinct statement is also made by the Rev. Dr. Gill, an eminent commentator of the Baptist denomination. "According to the maxims of the Jews," says he, "persons were not obliged to the duties of the law, or subject to the penalties of it in case of non-performance, until they were, a female, at the age of twelve years and one day, and a male at the age of thirteen years and one day. But then they used to train up their children, and inure them to religious exercises before. They were not properly under the law until they were arrived at the age above mentioned; nor were they reckoned *adult* church members until then; nor then neither unless worthy persons; for so it is said, 'He that is worthy, at thirteen years of age, is called a son of the congregation of Israel.'" (*Commentary on Luke 2:42.*)

The objection, then, before us, is of no force. Or rather, the fact which it alleges and deprecates has no existence. It makes no part of the paedobaptist system. Nay, our system has advantages in respect to this matter, great and radical advantages, which belong to no other. While it regards baptized children as members of the church, and solemnly binds the church, as well as the parents, to see that they be faithfully trained up *"in the nurture and admonition of the Lord"* (Eph. 6:4), it recognizes the church as possessing (and as bound to exercise) the power of guarding the communion table from all the profane approaches, even of her own children, and so regulating their Christian culture, and their personal recognition of Christian duty, as shall best serve the great purpose of building up the church as "an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Eph. 2:22).

Women In the Church

Well Hello Ladies!

Your WIC Board and Council have been busy this summer getting organized for the upcoming year. Our scripture for the year is **1 Peter 3:3-4**, *“Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold or putting on fine apparel—rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.”* Now if that isn't the very opposite of our culture here in McKinney, Texas, USA. Of course, Peter isn't saying we're to walk around looking like “bag ladies”, but that our goal is to exhibit the Fruit of the Spirit through our lives and to live modestly.

We have scheduled the Fall Kick-off for Thursday, September 13, at 7:30 pm, at the church. So be sure to mark your calendars! We will have a very special speaker, who we are sure will challenge and encourage each of us. Her name is Lorraine Brock with Get Organized. We will have some flyers for everyone, so you can invite your family and friends to come with you.

We have also scheduled a Spring Retreat for April 4 & 5, that's a Friday night and Saturday morning. We decided this year to go for an overnight retreat and it will be at Turtle Hill Lodge and Conference Center in Muenster, Texas. Supper, breakfast and lunch will be provided in the cost of the weekend, which will be \$60.00 each for 4 ladies to a room. If you want to have less ladies in a room, then the cost will increase. At the moment, we are waiting on our Speaker to confirm, but I am sure you will be pleased.

Our upcoming Women's Studies are as follows:

1. Tuesday evenings at the Plano home of Cecilia Andis. Cecilia will be leading a study of the book *Humility, True Greatness* by C. J. Mahaney. A fantastic little book to challenge you to get your focus off the human audience and on to the One whose attention can be captured by a heart of humility.
2. Wednesday mornings at the church, Teri Lytle will be leading a study of the book *Feminine Appeal: Seven Virtues of a Godly Wife and Mother* by Carolyn Mahaney (C. J.'s wife). This is a fantastic book of practical and heart warming advice by which you will be wonderfully blessed.
3. Thursday evenings at the church, Linda Clark will be leading a study of the book *Living By the Book: The joy of Loving and Trusting God's Word* by James Montgomery Boice. This very special book will help you to learn from, love, trust and obey God's words.

We will have sign up sheets in the foyer beginning August 5, for each class and it is important that you sign up, so the books can be ordered and plans made for the first class. The classes will begin Tuesday, September 18, Wednesday, September 19 and Thursday, September 20. For times you need to check with the leader of the group you plan on attending.

Pray for the Persecuted Church

COLOMBIA Two Pastors Martyred – VOM Sources / Assist News Service

On July 5, two Pentecostal pastors were shot and killed by suspected members of the guerrilla group, Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), in the village of El Dorado. According to the latest reports, Pastors Humberto Mendez and Joel Garcia were taken from their homes by a group of men wearing camouflage clothing. Their bodies were found the next day. Pray God comforts and provides for these families. Ask that the Holy Spirit would convict the hearts of the persecutors and draw them to Christ. Pray for believers in Colombia. **Hebrews 13:5-6, 1 Peter 5:7, Psalm 23**

CHINA More than 100 Christians Expelled – China Aid Association

Between April and June 2007, more than 100 foreign Christians accused of being involved in illegal religious activities were expelled from China. It is believed the campaign, called Typhoon No. 5, is part of the Chinese government's efforts to prevent foreign Christians from engaging in mission activities before the Beijing Olympics in 2008. China Aid Association (CAA) reports, "This is the largest expulsion of foreign missionaries since 1954 when the Chinese Communist government expelled all foreign religious workers after taking power in 1949. At least five different mission agencies and sources within the Chinese government report that in February, the government launched a massive expulsion campaign against foreign Christians." Pray for believers in China. Ask God to reveal himself to Chinese authorities and bring them into fellowship with Him. **1 Corinthians 15:57, Psalm 32:7**

INDIA Pastor Charged Under New Anti-Christian Law in Andhra Pradesh – VOM Sources

Pastor Devampu, was beaten by Hindu radicals in the presence of police in Kanipackam, Andhra Pradesh. He was arrested and charged under Indian Penal Code 295, and the law GO 747, which bans non-Hindus from being in 12 temple towns in Andhra Pradesh State. Pastor Devampu has been ministering in Kanipackam, which has one of the 12 temples, for the past two years. Pray Pastor Devampu will be released. Pray for protection for Christians in India. Ask God to touch the hearts of the persecutors and draw them into the knowledge of Him. **Psalm 91, 1 Corinthians 15:58**

AZERBAIJAN Pastor's Trial to Begin this Month – VOM Sources

Pastor Zaur Balaev's trial is set to begin later this month. He faces a criminal charge of "resisting government representatives," which carries a maximum three-year prison term. The authorities claim the pastor set a dog onto the police who raided the church's Sunday service on May 20, 2007. Pray for this pastor and his family. Ask God to protect them and other Christians in Azerbaijan. Pray God uses their testimony to draw non-believers into fellowship with Him. **Philippians 4:13, Hebrews 4:14-16**

Wonderful opportunity to see a DVD made by Voice of the Martyrs. It covers a trip by some young people to smuggle bibles to the underground church in Viet Nam. It is available to anyone who would like to borrow it. All you need to do is contact Linda Clark and let her know you would like to watch it. As you read this, some of our youth will have seen it during the youth retreat in July. It will really encourage your faith and show you how some of our brothers and sisters on the other side of the world are living their faith.

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 through sending actual letters to them for encouragement.

AN ODE TO OUR WONDERFUL FRIENDS AT REDEEMER

**To say “thank you” to each of you today
Only scratches the surface of what we want to say!**

**Our love for each who had a part,
Unlimitedly comes from deep in our hearts.
Recalling the gifts, the cards, and the meal,**

**Will always be with us, and in our love sealed!
Oh, how perfect our memory will be,
Now as we reflect on our Golden Anniversary.
Dr. Bryant, Pastor Rolf, the service and all,
Every little part in our thoughts are installed!
Remember, we will, the rest of our days
Friends at Redeemer with so much praise!
Utterly wonderful was the whole time;
Lasting memories will be sublime.**

**From the children’s choir, hymns, roses, and prayers,
Real messages of grace that came from ‘upstairs’.
In the Sanctuary Choir, and the music they presented;
Each one of them must have, from heaven, been sent.
No other words have been coined thus far,
Describing to all how wonderful you are!
Stephen, the photos you took of the squad;
And Curtis, the framing of “This House of God”.
Then to those of the kitchen crew,**

**Rendering delicious dishes, forever anew.
Each role in the ‘play’ that you did perform,
Did make your friendship so much more warm.
Every day we will praise Christ up above;
Each minute, please know, our hearts are full of love!
May all of you know you are a gift from the Lord;
Everlasting friendship as shown in His word!
Remember always the joy you have given;**

**To Ralph and me, you are all gifts from heaven!!
Doris Smith**

Redeemer Presbyterian Church

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Redeemer Elders & Deacons:

Teaching Elder:

Pastor:

Bryant McGee

Worship

Associate Pastor:

Rolf Meintjes:

Youth & Family

**Ruling Elders & their main
Responsibilities:**

Bill Caldwell:

Operations

Ross Earley:

Outreach

Ed Kaylor :

Clerk & Nurture

Tim Yates

Education

Deacons :

Curtis Blagburn, Chairman

Anthony Broadfoot

Bob Burgess, Clerk

Mike Lovelace

Jared Page

Will Wende

**Check out some of the past
Trumpets on our
Church web page**

At

www.redeemer-mckinney.org

And some other Web pages:

www.northtexaspreswic.org

www.persecution.com