



The Trumpet Psalm 150:3a

Editor Linda Clark
Writer Caroline Ong

Member Spotlight: The Wong Family

Lolo and Dina Wong were both members of a church in Panama City, Florida in the early 90's. Lolo was there on an Air Force assignment, while Dina was a math professor teaching at a community college. Dina recalls a period of time where she was "very popular" and had many dates – and Lolo recalls thinking he had no chance with this godly, beautiful young woman that he admired. As it turned out, Dina was also interested, and in a little over a year the two were married. Now 13 ½ years later, the Wong family includes Caleb (11), Elizabeth (9), Joshua (7) and Matthew (3), all homeschooled.

Lolo was born in Santa Marta, Columbia, and then at age 6, moved with his family to Boise, Idaho (where his family and brother remain). He attended the College of Idaho, studying zoology, and then earned his

DDS from Creighton Dental School. After dental school, he joined the Air Force, which took him to Florida and eventually here to McKinney as a resident in pediatric dentistry at Baylor. While in college, Lolo had a roommate who was a living testimony of believing the Bible and trusting Christ to meet every need. While observing his friend's life, Lolo realized his view of Christianity was flawed; yet he agonized many months over giving his life to Christ. Even so, God was merciful and brought Lolo to faith.

Meanwhile Dina grew up in Mobile, Alabama and was raised in Gulf Shores. She attended church with her family and came to Christ as a child. Dina later earned a degree in mathematics at Mississippi University for women. Dina's parents still

live in Gulf Shores and her sister in Birmingham, while Dina has been "following" Lolo around the US on his various Air Force assignments.

How is God working today? "God is teaching us (sometimes painfully) to be godly parents of four children, to nurture our charges to Christ Jesus. Dina is faithfully homeschooling Caleb, Joshua and Elizabeth in a Christ centered home. She is also dealing with the daily challenges of laundry, dishes, and meals for her husband and the rowdy crowd. Lolo is challenged with the pediatric dentistry residency and tries to keep his head from swimming from all the special needs of children and performing a dental service for them. God is working in us to be a Christ-centered family and trying to rely on Our Lord daily to be filled with joy and His Spirit."



Lolo, Matthew, Elizabeth, Caleb, Joshua and Dina Wong

Pray for the Persecuted Church

LAOS

58 Christians Arrested, 9 Church Leaders Sent to Prison-Compass Direct News
On February 22, Laotian officials arrested 15 Hmong Christian families in Bokeo district, Laos. According to Compass Direct News, the arrests occurred a day before a court sentenced nine Hmong church leaders to 15 years in prison for 'conducting Chris-

tian ministry and meetings that had grown beyond acceptable levels for Communist officials.' Compass reported, "The day before the sentencing, Laotian authorities arrived in Bai Sai Janrenn village in Bokeo district with six trucks in which they hauled away eight Christian families. Authorities also arrested at least seven families from Fai village three miles away." The arrested families make up a total of 58

Hmong Christians. A Christian source told Compass, "It seems they are rounding up all Hmong Christians from Vietnam to send them back to Vietnam. What will happen to them is greatly feared and unknown." According to the Compass report, the nine Christian leaders sentenced to 15 years in prison for Christian ministry were arrested in July 2007, *(continued on page 3)*

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WHY WE WORSHIP THE WAY WE DO (Reading of God's Law)



**Bryant McGee,
Senior Pastor**

We continue our series this month with a look at the various elements of our worship services so we understand why we do what we do. We have reviewed the Call to Worship, Passing of the Peace, Hymn of Adoration, and Prayer of Adoration, the corporate amen, and the affirmation of faith. This month we look at the reading of God's law as it drives us and prepares us to confess our sins.

It is a sad commentary on the church today to visit any number of congregations on the Lord's Day to find very little (if any!) public reading of God's word. The Westminster Confession of Faith, chapter 1, tells us we are to do that which the Bible prescribes and one of those items is the reading of God's word in corporate worship. Paul told Timothy in 1 Tim 4:13 to "devote himself to the public reading of Scripture" so the people of God would be built up in the faith. Part of Paul's instruction to Timothy was due to the fact that the people did not have their own copies of the Scriptures and therefore "faith came by hearing, and hearing through the word of God."

While most of us have multiple copies of God's word lying about our homes, there is still a moving of the Spirit in a corporate setting which cannot be repeated in private, even though we should be just as diligent in our reading privately in devotions.

When visiting my mother-in-law on South Padre Island, I have visited a church that is faithful to liturgy. While the preaching of the word seems very watered down and the general pulse of the church seems to be moving in a liberal direction (as it appears to me), I attend because I know the liturgy will be there and within the liturgy, the word of God will be read publicly. You should be able to see now that we do things in our worship service for a purpose and that purpose is nothing less than the communication of the gospel of grace within the liturgy itself. God calls us into His presence and we respond with singing a hymn of adoration to Him. He speaks to us through the prayer Christ taught us, and we respond with affirming our faith and declaring it as a body. We now come to the reading of His

law because we have seen Him as the One high and lifted up and He speaks His law to us as He communicates what He requires of us. It is natural that our confession would follow (as we will focus on next month) because none of us keep His law.

While God's law is summarized in the Decalogue or Ten Commandments found in Ex 20 and Dt 5, we actually read His law throughout the Old Testament and the New Testament. Any text that lays out the command of God for the people's obedience is defined as a 'law passage.' This is why our Law readings during worship on the Lord's Day can be found in either Testament. Westminster Shorter Catechism #3 says, "The Scriptures principally teach what man must believe about God and what duty God requires of man." We read the Law of God each Lord's Day to be reminded of what God teaches us and what God requires of us. As we do this very thing on the Lord's Day, let me encourage you to reflect on this as we remember the covenantal faithfulness of our God and what He requires of us.

Growing by Grace



1. If you missed the "Kickoff" celebration on March 30th, please see your Elder, so he can give you all the information, or visit the Redeemer website and/or go to the info board in the hallway.
2. If you have not yet completed your **com-**

mitment card, please do so as soon as possible. There are extra cards on the info board and once completed, put it into the envelope, seal it and give it to any officer or put it into the offering plate.

Commitment Cards will be received through the month of April and then after worship on **May 4th**, we will have a fellowship meal to enjoy "**Celebration Sunday**," when the results of the commitment of the congregation will be revealed.

Pray for the Persecuted Church continued from page 1

during a police and military raid of suspected rebels that left 13 innocent Christians dead. The Voice of the Martyrs stands with believers in Laos and encourages you to pray for these believers who have been arrested because of their faith in Jesus Christ. Ask God to give them strength and courage to forgive their persecutors.

[Isaiah 40:31](#)

INDONESIA

Islamic Extremists' Protests Lead to Church Closures - Compass Direct News Protests from Islamic extremists have stopped worship services at two churches in Sumatra and Java Island, Indonesia. According to Compass Direct News, "Love Evangelical Bethel church, near Pekanbaru, Riau province on Sumatra Island ceased Sunday services after about 60 demonstrators from local mosques on February 15 demanded its closure." The Compass report added the protesters, led by Harry Cahyono and Victor Ramaddan, said they were protesting the

church because it did not have a permit for expansion. Compass said, "They (the protesters) wrote, 'do not build without permit' in red paint on the church wall." Rev. Alex Ritonga told Compass his church was the only church in a village of 14 mosques, none of which have permits. He added his church was registered with local Religious Affairs authorities and had been told they were not required to have permits to expand the building. These recent protests against churches in Indonesia are the latest in pressure against believers to stop worshipping. Several churches were closed in 2007. Pray God protects Christians in Indonesia. Ask God to give them creative ways to continue worshipping even though their churches have been closed. [Joshua 1:9](#)

ETHIOPIA

Christians Killed-Voice Of the Martyrs Sources On March 3, Muslim militants killed at least two Christians and wounded dozens in Nen-

sabo town southeast of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. According to The Voice of the Martyrs contacts and reports from International Christian Concern, militants attacked Christians, including women and children, while they were attending a worship service. According to reports, "Eight of the wounded have been taken to the town of Awassa for hospitalization, while others with serious injuries were taken to Black Lion Hospital in Addis Ababa. Among the wounded were a police officer and a Christian whose hand was cut off by the attackers." Reports indicated that the attack was part of a plan by Muslim militants, influenced by the spread of Wahhabism, in the area to wipe out Christians from the Muslim-dominated region. Pray for those mourning deceased believers. Ask God to comfort them. Pray God will protect and guide believers in Ethiopia facing harsh conditions.

[1 Corinthians 15:50-58](#)



Pray for strength and boldness for our brothers and sisters, who suffer for their faith.

Redeemer Day School

Greetings from Redeemer Day School! Spring is here for RDS! We have exciting things planned ahead for our little ones here at school.

The month of April will be full of Spring themes, such as learning how to plant seeds and flowers. We will be learning about the Four Seasons (Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer), as well as study-

ing the different kinds of bugs we see on a daily basis.

We will be going on a nature walk around our church grounds, looking for pretty flowers and unique bugs.

The children will continue to learn Bible stories each week and go to Chapel every Tuesday.

They also learn classic fairy tales and nursery rhymes. This month

we'll be reading "Jack and the Beanstalk" and "The Ugly Duckling."

Easter was a big success last month and we want to thank all the parents who helped us hunt eggs and celebrate the Lord Jesus Christ.

We're still enrolling for the fall of 2008 for the Tuesday/Thursday program for ages 18 months to 5 years old.



**Shelli Phillips, Director
Redeemer Day School**

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Hospitality: Genesis 18



Rolf Meintjes,
Associate Pastor

Hospitality is a biblical category that we, as God's people, have lost sight of. Yet, it must be maintained that this is a concept as well as a way of life that is saturated in Scripture. The events of Biblical redemption are interesting to consider in light of hospitality.

For instance, consider Genesis 18, where Abraham meets the three men, one of whom, Scripture tells us, was the Lord. This passage states, once he lifted up his eyes and noticed the men he said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant." He had a goat slaughtered for them, gave them curds and milk and the calf and had it prepared for them. In other words, Abraham showed hospitality to these men. It is here that these men then deliver the news to Abraham and Sarah that they will have a son that will extend the line of God's people. This son, Isaac, indeed extends the line of God's people to Christ our Savior.

Now, within this very brief article I cannot do the text justice, but let me simply stimulate your thoughts and try to encourage an appreciation for hospitality. I under-

stand that the main thrust of this passage is not to show hospitality, but what if Abraham had been unwilling to host these men? I'm sure Abraham had other things going on in his life, and yet, upon seeing these *strangers*, he drops everything in order to show hospitality to them. It must be pointed out that this is likely the source for the *Hebrews* 13:2 reference which says, "do not neglect to show hospitality, for thereby some have entertained angels unaware." In an agrarian culture there probably weren't many guests dropping by on a daily basis, so it was a big deal when someone showed up at your house. Yet, we often excuse ourselves from hospitality because we see each other more frequently. The problem there is we sacrifice quality for quantity. Hospitality is a deep rooted investment into one another's lives, as implicitly appears in this text. There conversation surrounded the things of the Lord. The news was delivered that Sarah would bear a son in her old age. Without Isaac, the line of faith would have ceased. The means by which this good news was conveyed to Abraham and Sarah

was as a result of their willingness to show hospitality.

At the heart of this matter is the gospel. Showing hospitality requires us to deny ourselves and live sacrificially for the sake of others. Please consider the need for hospitality in our body at Redeemer, and how you and your family can show hospitality. Yet, don't just do so because your commanded to do so, or because it's a good thing, but bear in mind, "the *grace of God has appeared*, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works." (Titus 2:11-13) Hospitality factors in to a grace based life.

Pastor Rolf

Youth Report

The Youth have been busy this winter with doctrinal training and action!

We have been intensively studying the book of I Timothy. With that young 1st century leader, Timothy, we have been learning from St. Paul about how a young person may grow in godly knowledge and humble and righteous living. The focus of Paul's letter to Timothy is on our solid spiritual foundation in Jesus Christ, and how that foundation of love and service for Christ must and will spill over into our lives. What we believe will affect who we are and what we do!

As we study the con-

tent of this rich book of wise advice, Rolf has also been training us in the methodology of Scripture study -- how to study the Bible. We have been learning how to discern broader themes and more particular commands, all within the context of the passage.

On Sunday mornings we have been studying the Heidelberg catechism, and its earnest and foundational words of truth and comfort for Christians throughout the ages.

The youth have been busy putting hands and feet to the gospel. We have helped some of the widows in the church with household assis-

tance and yard work, we have made cookies for a sick church member, and we painted the storage bench in the youth room a psychedelic green, black, and red. The highlight of this winter was the Youth, Parents' and Leaders' Cookout at Hendri and Wendy Meintjes's house, where we enjoyed good food, fellowship, and an awesome game of Dutch table hockey!

Wednesday Youth Group Thing (WYGT) meets weekly on Wednesdays at the church at 7 p.m.

Sunday morning youth Sunday school meets at 9:15 a.m.



**"Train Yourselves
for Godliness"
(I Timothy 4:7b)**

Christ's Sympathy to Weary Pilgrims by Octavius Winslow 1808-1878

The love of Jesus wins us. His glory charms us. His beauty attracts us. His sympathy soothes us. His gentleness subdues us. His faithfulness inspires us. He is the altogether lovely One! Jesus is all that is tender in love. Jesus is all that is wise in counsel. Jesus is all that is patient and kind. Jesus is all that is faithful in friendship. Jesus is all that is balmy, soothing and healing. The heart of Jesus is ever loving towards His children.

Jesus is your Brother, your Friend, your Redeemer. As your Brother, He knows the needs of His brethren in adversity. As your Friend, He shows Himself friendly. As your Redeemer, He has redeemed your soul from sin and hell.

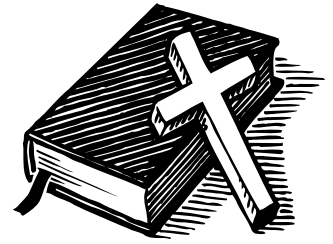
Jesus has ascended up on high to take possession of heaven on your behalf, and to prepare a place for you!

Upon His heart He wears your name as a precious

pearl in the priestly breastplate.

There is not a moment of your time, nor an event of your life, nor a circumstance of your daily history, nor a mental or spiritual emotion of yours, in which you are not borne upon the love, and remembered in the ceaseless intercession of Christ.

The personal attractions of Jesus are all-inviting and irresistible!



Spiritual meditation for pilgrims in a weary land on their way to glory!

Women In the Church by Linda Clark, President

Proverbs 24:3-6 (ESV) *"By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches. A wise man is full of strength, and a man of knowledge enhances his might, for by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory."*

As I was reading this section of scripture again for the umpteenth time, the Holy Spirit "again" showed me a wonderful relationship between the house and the WIC organization. So since it really blessed me "again," I decided to use this month to share the teaching with ya'll "again." Hopefully, I am not the only one who needs things repeated "again" to make them stick!

"By wisdom a house is built..." As we look at the section of the scripture, I want you to think of the house as the WIC and that we're building the WIC by wisdom. So the first question is: What is wisdom? And the answer is found in James 3:17, *"...wisdom from above is first*

pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere." WOW, can you imagine the success of our Women In the Church if we walked in that *"wisdom from above"?!*

"and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches." Think of the rooms as the ladies who form the WIC and this causes the next question: From where do that *understanding and knowledge* come? There are many places in God's Word where *understanding and knowledge* are mentioned, but I will keep it to three for this article. Proverbs 2:2-6 *"...incline your heart to understanding;...call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding;...seek it like silver and search for it as hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."* And Psalm 119:34 *"Give me understanding, that I may keep Your law and observe it with my*

whole heart." And Proverbs 1:7 *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."* So our lesson tells us we must be diligent in our prayers to ask God for *understanding* and also diligent in our seeking *knowledge* as if they are hidden treasure, as both will help us obey God's law. And all of this is the result of our "Fear of the Lord."

"...by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory." We are soldiers in God's Army, waging a war that will only be won on the day we arrive in heaven or when Jesus returns. The terrorists we're fighting (our flesh & Satan) will never give up and we must be soldiers who keep ourselves in shape by walking in wisdom, seeking understanding and knowledge and listening to our many counselors (God, Husbands, Elders, Deacons, Teachers, Leaders etc.).

So develop a fear of the Lord, be diligent to pray for wisdom, understanding and knowledge as you seek them like treasure and follow wise counselors.

1 Peter 2:3-4

"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."

Report from the Diaconate

Redeemer Presbyterian
Diaconate, February 27, 2008,
Meeting Minutes



Submitted by
Steve Buchanan
Clerk

All deacons were present at the meeting held at 7 pm, with Will Wende moderating the meeting, and Steve Buchanan taking the minutes.

Common consent was given for the following items:

1. Jared Page, David Vender, and Will Wende to install new phone system in March.
2. Gary Loney to take inventory of building keys in circulation in the month of March (**Please notify Gary if you have a key to the church, and what the model number is on the key: A, AA, or AA1**).
3. Tabling of addressing the lighting in the Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall until the Growth By Grace expansion commences.
4. Diaconate meetings to be held the last Wednesday of each month.
5. Signs to be installed on the doors of the dumpster area to discourage the Craig Ranch community from filling it with homeowner trash.
6. Diaconate to schedule an additional meeting with Stephanie Hanson to discuss additional opportunities that the church body and diaconate can work together to reach Craig Ranch, Collin County, and the world for God's Glory.
7. Red Cross Blood Drive to be held on Saturday, April 26th at Redeemer.
8. Jared Page to obtain, from several roofing contractors, assessments and estimates of roof damage that occurred during recent hail storms.
9. Steve Buchanan to identify responsibility/procedure for fixing the leaning fire hydrant on the SW corner of property.
10. Researching the cost/best route for expanding and adding older children's equipment to the playground area.

Mercy Ministry Report



Stephanie
Hanson

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Galatians 6:9

First, let me thank Darla Page for her splendid leadership of the Mercy Ministry. She has set an excellent example for us to follow. Let me introduce you to the members of the Mercy Ministry and give you an idea about some of the opportunities we have on the calendar so far for this year.

Members

Kelley Burgess
Edie Cleveland
Stephanie Hanson (chair)
Marilyn Van Pelt
Ross Earley (Elder over Outreach)
Jared Page (liaison to the Diaconate)

Calendar:

March:

Easter Lilies-benefits missions

April: Dried Bean Drive for Community Food Pantry of McKinney 1 and 2 pound bags (larger sizes present storage problems)

July/August: School Supply Drive for the McKinney Community in Schools chapter

October: Dried Bean Drive for Community Food Pantry of McKinney

November:

Prison Fellowship Angel Tree

December:

Prison Fellowship Angel Tree
Salvation Army Kettle Drive
Poinsettias-benefits missions

As requests come forward for opportunities to participate (usually in the weekly announce-

ments), please select those that speak to your heart as part of the Redeemer family and volunteer your time, efforts, prayers, or donations.

One of our committee members, Edie Cleveland, has a desire to participate in Project Linus (<http://www.projectlinus.org/index.html>) a nationwide organization whose mission is to make handmade blankets and afghans for children who are seriously ill or traumatized. But first, Edie would like someone to teach her how to knit. If there is enough interest at Redeemer, we would be happy to organize a group to knit, crochet, quilt and tie blankets and afghans for distribution by the local chapter of the Project Linus.

Thank you so much,
Stephanie

SABBATICAL Musings by Addis Hallmark

It was quite troubling when I read last month's article by Pastor Bryant about his upcoming sabbatical. You may think I had trouble with the fact that he is taking one, when in actuality, I had trouble with the fact that it seemed as if he had to defend his need to take it. Let me explain.

For some reason I have had the opportunity to have several pastor friends over the last 15 years. A few of these men have been quite transparent with me, and I think I have gotten a glimpse into the special nature of the burden that pastors have as they try to fulfill their calling before God. We tend to see a pastor's position as a job much like our own. This, I believe, is one reason we have difficulty understanding the vital nature of a sabbatical rest.

Many of us work long hours, endure constant stress, and deal with the ceaseless nature of caring for children or other loved ones. The magnitude of these burdens can be nearly unbearable, and quite often, we foolishly try to suffer alone through these difficulties. These types of burdens are similar to the burdens faced by a pastor. In that sense, we can understand the difficulty and appreciate the idea that some sort of rest is needed by pastors.

Still, deep in our hearts, we wonder why they can't get by on 2 weeks of vacation like the rest of us. We work hard. We feel overwhelmed. We seem to always be on call as parents. We may not even get 2 weeks of vacation, so why isn't that enough for them? (pastors for the most part DO get by on such short periods of rest, but the burn out rate among pastors suggest that it is not sufficient)

The primary separating characteristic of a pastor is that they have a calling from God to shepherd the hearts of His chil-

dren. We do this with our own children, but they do it with an entire congregation. They are always 'on call'. People constantly expect their time and attention. The pastor must constantly worry and labor over the hearts of men as he strives to see Christ formed in them.

Paul mentions this in his letter to the Corinthians.

2 Cor. 11:27-29

27 I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

28 Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches.

While we may share many common external pressures with a pastor, they have a daily pressure unique to their calling. This internal daily pressure is part of the relentless nature of their burden.

The responsibility is so great that even if this summer was an actual vacation, I would wholeheartedly suggest that Bryant deserves that much rest for his many years of service. Let me also add that many worldly corporations value the retention of their employees so much that they give them 4 weeks of vacation a year. How it is that corporations out do the church when it comes to providing rest? There are even corporations that provide 'sabbaticals' for people after several years of service. While this isn't the norm, I do think it's insightful to recognize the world's recognition of rest after years of service.

Now we should be very clear and point out that a sabbatical is not in any way a vacation. It is a time of resting upon the Lord, and resting in God requires actively pursuing Him. This is a time for Bryant to sink his roots into the rich ground of Scripture deeper than he has ever done in his life. This is a time for Bryant

to pray and commune with God in the most intimate and personal way he has ever experienced. We need our pastor's soul to be nourished by God, and we need his vision of God's greatness to be enriched and expanded so he can return and continue to lead us.

I want to publicly share with you the biggest danger to Bryant during his sabbatical. Bryant is so focused and so hard working, I fear that he will feel compelled to fill every waking minute with activity instead of taking time to rest his physical being while he actively pursues God. It is vital that Bryant feel like he has the freedom to improve the quality of his spiritual life at all cost, even if that means a reduction in the quantity of tangible activities during this sabbatical.

I read recently of a high end custom product that was being produced and I was struck by the craftsman's comment in regard to their success. He said "we are allowed to take as long as we need to make it perfect, without any pressure to increase the quantity of production." We want Bryant to pursue excellence in the quality of his communion with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, without any external pressure to produce some tangible result simply to appear as if he is 'working' during his time of rest. I don't need an itinerary from him. I don't care where he will be. I don't need to see some 'signs' of work. Rather, I want his soul so nourished and enriched by God Himself that we all are blessed by his return.

I would like to challenge every single member of this congregation to make an unwavering commitment to pray for Bryant and Jennifer during this sabbatical. Let us be active and committed to praying for them as they are active in entering into the rest of God.

In Christ,
Addis

Missionary Spotlight



Aaron and Leticia Zapata

Aaron & Leticia Zapata are BEAMM missionaries (BEAMM - Border Evangelism And Mercy Ministries) at the San Pablo Seminary in Ciudad Juarez. Aaron's work is key to the development of trained pastors and lay leaders for future church plants all along the border. They have two grown sons, Aaron Jr. & Marcos, and one daughter, Ana who is married to Marc Carrillo.

Aaron grew up in Yucatan, Mexico in a Christian family. He accepted Christ as Savior at a summer youth camp when he was nineteen. He married Leticia in 1976. He worked as a civil engineer for five years while serving as a lay leader in the church. Feeling a call to become a pastor, Aaron attended Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, MS, where he obtained Master of Divinity and Master of Christian Education degrees.

Since then, Aaron has pastored five churches and has served as president of the San Pablo Theological Seminary in Mérida, Mexico.

Aaron and Leticia have now served with

BEAMM in El Paso for the past ten years. They worked to plant the first Hispanic PCA mission, Oasis, as well as training leaders in the San Pablo Theological Seminary, Juárez Campus, so that this work can be multiplied along the border.

They can be reached at: 353 Belvidere St. El Paso, TX. 79912. Email address: azapata@flash.net

The San Pablo Seminary (Juarez Campus)

In the Fall of 2007 The School of Theology finished the seventh year of life with a Graduation Worship Service on June 9th. Three students received their four-year degree. All three of them are deeply involved in ministry. They received five new students in August. The School of Continuing Education has granted this year fifteen Diplomas in Basic Church Music, fourteen Diplomas in Basic Christian Education and they are looking forward to the class which will receive the Diploma in Basic Reformed Liturgy on November 10th.

The Southwest Presbytery

Aaron was involved in the work of the Officers, Churches and Nominations Committee. He is praying for and studying the Leadership And Ministry Preparation program. (LAMP) LAMP was founded in 1995 and a partnership with MNA began in 2001 as MNA recognized that LAMP offers comprehensive graduate level training for future PCA pastors and is especially effective for church planters. For men who are called to ministry, but who find the traditional seminary route impractical, LAMP is an alternative means of pursuing a theological education. Students do most of the coursework on their own time, and attend interactive, mentor-guided classes at their local church once a week led by pastors and elders. Currently, there are 18 LAMP learning sites across the nation with over 135 students enrolled in the program. The plan is to start a LAMP site at University PCA in Las Cruces, New Mexico in 2008. Aaron has contributed to

(continued on page 9)

Family Missions Trip to St. Louis



St. Louis, Missouri

The families of the congregation of Redeemer have an exciting opportunity to participate in a Summer Mission Trip to St. Louis, Missouri on July 26th through August 2nd of this year.

During this special trip, we will work with New City Fellowship in their Inner City Ministry. We will be helping with some of their spe-

cial work projects and with "Kid's Club," which is something like our local Back Yard Clubs.

The cost of the trip will be \$285 per person.

To help defray the cost for everyone who wants to participate in the mission trip, we will have some upcoming fundraising events

Also, even if you cannot join us in person, please pray about giving financially to the church mission trip. That way, someone who doesn't have the money, but can go, will be able to go with your help.

Kelley Burgess is organizing the trip, so you can ask her any questions you may have.

Missionary Spotlight continued from page 8

the Chihuahua Presbytery (Mexico) in the areas of Christian Education: preparing candidates for Ordination exams, teaching in churches and congregations, and counseling students and couples. As a border-wide Training Coordinator, he also paid a visit to Gary and Carol Nantt in August. Gary is the BEAMM Western Regional Director and is based in Tijuana. There, he participated in a combined Worship Service (Tijuana and Mexicali congregations). Gary and Aaron met with Mexican pastors from the Presbytery in that area to discuss theological education. The need is great!

San Pablo Bible Study Group in El Paso

Their focus is education, worship and missions, with opportunities for Christian fellowship. They are already contributing to the San Pablo Seminary Scholarship Fund.

The Zapatas have asked us to pray for:

1. Juarez Community Center: The purchase of the land for the community center was delayed well beyond the contracted term for completion. The continual delays have led to the cancellation of the purchase. Please pray that God would now show the BEAMM leaders the way forward in acquiring the land that He has prepared for the purpose of building a community center and facilities for the Gracia y Paz church and the San Pablo Seminary.

2. San Pablo Seminary, Juarez: Please pray that God would give strength and wisdom to the San Pablo staff as they seek to fulfill their mission of training excellent leaders. Pray for the students, asking that God would help them in their studies, and prepare them to be effective leaders of His church. There is a great need for scholarships, both for current students and for pro-

spective students who currently do not have the means to attend the seminary. Pray that God would raise up the necessary finances to supply scholarships where needed.

Let's thank God for Aaron Zapata, Wilbert Frias, Dan Young and others who have been teaching and leading the work of the seminary.

Geography Lesson:

Ciudad Juárez, more commonly known as just Juárez, is a city in the Mexican State of Chihuahua formerly known as El Paso del Norte. It stands on the Rio Grande, across the border from El Paso, Texas. 60,000 people cross the Juárez-El Paso border every day making it a major port of entry and transportation for all of central northern Mexico. Mexico is predominately Roman Catholic and it has the second largest Catholic population in the world, behind Brazil. Built in 1921, the second Protestant Church was established in Juarez.



Prayer Requests

A Special Thanks to Redeemer

Redeemer has consistently been an avid supporter of the **HOPE Resource Center of McKinney**. Several members of the **HOPE** board of directors are also members of Redeemer.

Redeemer provides financial support to **HOPE** through mission contributions from our operating budget and we often allow **HOPE** to use our facilities for various meetings. Also, many of our members pro-

vide direct generous financial support to **HOPE**.

Twice each year **HOPE** runs a baby bottle fundraiser at area churches. We ask folks to pick up a baby bottle, accumulate loose change for a few weeks and then return the bottle to their church. In 2007, **HOPE** raised \$8885 from all the churches who supported our 2 campaigns. In the first baby bottle campaign of 2008, a total of \$3255 was raised just from

Redeemer. This represents almost 37% of all funds raised from all churches in the 2007 campaigns.

On behalf of the board, staff and volunteers at **HOPE**, we express our sincere gratitude for Redeemer's generous support of God's work at the **HOPE** pregnancy center. These gifts of time, talent and treasure enable **HOPE** to reach out to the community with this life saving ministry.



HOPE Resource Center of McKinney

Redeemer Presbyterian Church

7820 Silverado Trail
McKinney, Texas 75070

Phone: 972-529-1502

Grace Upon Grace: Receiving as the Body and Reaching Out as Believers.

Redeemer Elders & Deacons

Church Staff:

Bryant McGee: *Senior Pastor*
Rolf Meintjes: *Assoc. Pastor*
Amy Vender: *Admin. Assistant*
Christine Yang: *Music*
Shelli Phillips: *RDS Director*

Ruling Elders & their main

Responsibilities:

Bill Caldwell: *Operations*
Ross Earley: *Outreach*
Ed Kaylor: *Clerk*
Steve Lytle: *Nurture*
Matt Lenhard: *Nurture*
Jeff Anderson: *Education*

Deacons:

Will Wende, *Chairman*
Anthony Broadfoot
Steve Buchanan, *Clerk*
Gary Loney
Jared Page
David Vender