

St. Paul Lutheran Ministries
2916 N. McKee Rd.
Merced CA 95340



“Connecting people to Jesus”

[www.stpaul
merced.com](http://www.stpaulmerced.com)

PAID

PERMIT #590
MERCED, CA

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

Mission: “Connecting People to Jesus”

MINISTRY STAFF

Senior Pastor
Rev. Jonathan Lange

HMong Ministries
Rev. Kou Seying

Deacon: Matt Cone

Children & Youth Min. Dir.
Christie Elliott

School Principal
Ben Elliott

Pre-School Director

MISSION & MINISTRY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Mary Rahn
Treasurer: Jack Van Loan
Secretary: Kathy Hogston
Linda Cone, Keri Good ,
Gary Mortensen, Paul Smith

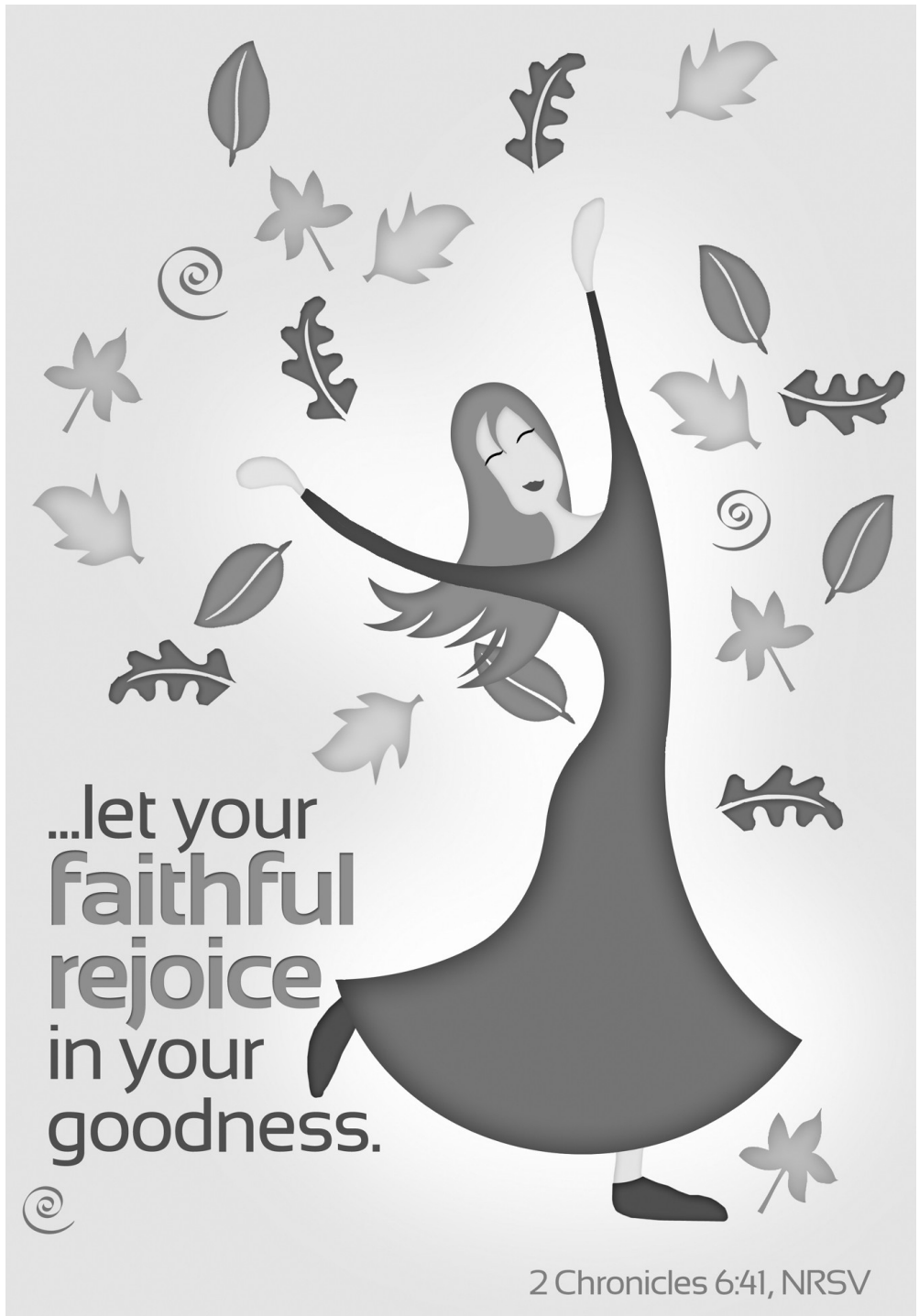
Elders: Dave Bultena, David
Lundin, George Morton, Larry
Sorge, Gary Hogston

How to reach us:

2916 N. McKee Rd
Merced CA 95340

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...let your
faithful
rejoice
in your
goodness.



2 Chronicles 6:41, NRSV

AUGUST

2011

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

	1 Noon TLC library 6pm-8pm Discovery Club training - library	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:30 A.M. Combined Worship Service	8 7pm Elder Board Mtg. Library	9 6:30pm Habitat Mtg. Library	10 10:30 am Senior Bible Class 6:30p.m. Back to School Ice Cream Social Parish Hall	11 7pm Bible Study- Cone's Home	12	13
14 9:30 A.M. Combined Worship Service Teacher Dedication	15 8:30 St. Paul School begins 9:30am Chat'n Chew OMC	16	17 10:30 am Senior Bible Class	18 7pm Bible Study - Cone's Home	19	20
21 9:30 A.M. Combined Worship Service	22	23	24 10:30 am Senior Bible Class	25 7pm Bible Study - Cone's Home	26	27 3rd Annual Mog-Jog 8am St. Paul
28 9:30A.M. Combined Worship Service 2pm Rescue Mission Dinner	29 6pm-8pm Explorer Club Training Library	30	31 10:30 am Senior Bible Class			

WORSHIP SEVICES:



**BIRTHDAYS
&
ANNIVERSARIES**

BIRTHDAYS

- Aug 2 Marilyn Anderson
- Aug 6 Dolores Hutton
- Aug 7 Ethlene George
Marlene Glusing
- Aug 8 Sarah Ford
Peyton Sawyer
- Aug 9 Michelle Shepherd
- Aug 10 Melissa Blaylock
- Aug 12 Jean Hetland
Ron Elliott
- Aug 13 Fay Peters
- Aug 16 Nicole Cook
- Aug 17 David Martin
Ruth Osorio
- Aug 18 Richard Randall
- Aug 19 Gary Mortensen
- Aug 20 Hershel West
Desmond Thompson
- Aug 21 Christina Randall
Hanna Severson
Elizabeth Boyer
- Aug 26 Louise Stastny
- Aug 27 Edwin Hair
- Aug 30 Paul Cook

ANNIVERSARIES

- Aug 6 Lorry & Dolores Hutton
- Aug 15 Bob & Ethlene George
- Aug 18 John & Janie Sundgren
Ben & Christie Elliott
- Aug 23 Charlie & Betty Jo Rodgers
- Aug 24 Jonathan & Tami Lange
- Aug 25 Guy & Terri Foote
David & Kristi Martin
- Aug 26 Paul & Anna Smith

GREETERS

9:30 A.M.



- August 7 Doris Alexander
- August 14 Don & Elaine Kock
- August 21 Ralph & Rose Martin
- August 28 Lorry & Dolores Hutton

COMMUNION SET UP

9:30 A.M.

- Lorry & Dee Hutton
- Greg & Sandy Bishop & Kitty Lynn



COMMUNION SERVERS

9:30 A.M.

- Larry Sorge & Syl Braa

READERS



9:30 A.M..

- August 7 Irene Pearson
- August 14 Karen Chastain
- August 21 Janice Sorge
- August 28 Kent Christensen

ACOLYTE

- August 7 Lexi Thompson
- August 14 Ben Davidenas
- August 21 Noel Blaylock
- August 28 Grace Mello





Merced County Young Life

MercedCounty.younglife.org

"I believe in Jesus and I want to follow Him!"

These were the words of one of our campers on the sixth day at Woodleaf. After hearing of the love of God and seeing it lived out in so many ways, this young lady, a soon-to-be senior in high school, stood up at the "Sugar Barrel" (the ice-cream shop at Woodleaf) and said these words for the first time. I was blessed to be there, blessed to pray with her, and blessed to see the population of eternity go up by one. That's one young life that will never be the same.

Thanks for your support, your prayers, and your hopes ... lives were changed eternally at Woodleaf last week. Between mud relays, swimming pool dances, Blob contests, and carnivals, we had the best week of our lives. Thank you for helping to make it possible.

I leave on Friday for 3 1/2 more weeks at Woodleaf. This time around I'll be serving as other Young Life Areas from throughout the west bring their groups to camp. Join with me in praying that many more young people will decide to follow Jesus. In the meantime, there are some important dates that I need to share with you. Please mark these in your calendars!

- September 2 (Friday) - **5th Quarter** YL event at Golden Valley after the first home football game.
- September 12 (Monday) - Our first **Young Life Club for Golden Valley**
- September 23 (Friday) - Young Life **Golf Tournament** at Stevinson Ranch
- September 24 (Saturday) - Young Life **Luncheon**

Over the next month, we are looking for "Team Captains" for our Golf Tourney and "Table Hosts" for our Luncheon. A Committee member may call you, or you can [click here to e-mail Carrie Alexander](#) (our Committee Chair-person) and let her know you'd like to be involved. Please help us ... God is moving in our Area and Young Life is playing a key role in reaching out to unchurched, disinterested kids. Join me in helping to make it all possible.

The hard work is worth it when you hear a young person stand and say, "I believe in Jesus and I want to follow Him!" Who will be next?

Celebrating new life in Christ with you,

Spence Boelter

Area Director, Young Life Merced County

PO Box 1176 | Atwater, CA 95301 | 209 628 4576





Mission Statement: Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with God and people everywhere, from all walks of life, to develop communities with people in need by building and renovating houses, so that there are decent houses in decent communities in which every person can experience God's love and can life and grow into all that God intended.

This local organization needs volunteers who are committed to this Mission Statement and willing to serve especially in the area of construction for our new Habitat home to start in early September.

If you are or know a recently retired contractor or someone with significant experience in home construction, who could share or take over the actual construction supervision, you need to call Lyle Allen to arrange a meeting to discuss our needs in detail. Lyle's phone number is 723-2671 or email lallen3903@aol.com

If you are skilled in a specific area (carpentry, painting, electrical, plumbing, etc., call Lyle so you can be notified when we are at that part of the build.

Others willing to help wherever needed can join the regulars who work on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon. (will start in September)

If you are willing to be one of these volunteers, please contact Lyle or Jan Sorge, 209-769-1884 or email merced-hostel@juno.com.



WHAT IS LWML??

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

or also called Lutheran Women in Mission. . . .

Lutheran Women work together to accomplish many things for our church, our community and our world!

St. Mark Lutheran Church in Hawaii. \$15,000. PAID This project will renovate the current facility for storage and efficient work space in their food pantry. They serve an average of 50 families every Saturday, many of them homeless. They have provided food for the homeless for the past 12 years.

HMong Outreach Ministry in Stockton, St. Andrews. \$6350.00 PAID This project will provide Catechisms, Bibles, Hymnals, Evangelism brochures and Leadership manuals and books for a new site at St. Andrews.

The next project is for Mt. Cross Lutheran Camp Ministries for \$25,000 to complete the funding of bathroom/septic improvements for this primary retreat facility and adult level team building equipment. Our Zone 3 has adopted 7 rooms to furnish them with complete matching bedding for each room. Four volunteers are going over to sew valances for the windows from the bed skirts and pillow shams to match all the rooms. Extra donations are welcomed to provide pictures and mirrors in each room to make them welcoming and provide a pleasant overnight stay for retreats.

Donations can be given to our treasurer Irene Barbour Pearson or give to Jan Sorge, Zone 3 LWML President.



KEEP FILLING UP THOSE MITE BOXES - BRING AND TRANSFER or SIMPLY DROP A DONATION TO THE LARGE MITE BOX IN THE NARTHEX.. . EVERY PENNY COUNTS!



We will not meet in August. Our next meeting will be Monday, September 19, noon in the church

CHAT, CHEW & Craft

Yes it will soon be time for the Harvest Dinner and Country Store. You know how quickly the days pass. Chat, Chew and Craft will meet on Monday, August 15 in the OMC at 9:30 a.m. We welcome all of you, even if you just want to chat rather than craft. We hop if you aren't coming to this great group, you are working at home on items for the Country Store in November.



Fellowship Hour Hosts needed For the fellowship time after the Worship service

Sign-up sheets are on the card table in the parish hall – please volunteer to enable guests and members to have an opportunity for fellowship.

NO signups – NO refreshments

THE KITCHEN MUST BE LEFT CLEAN AND IN ORDER FOR PRE SCHOOL ON MONDAY

A St. Paul Lutheran Ministries Cookbook is available.

Cost is \$10 each, make checks payable to LWML. Proceeds will be used to purchase round lightweight tables for the church parish hall and the school will use their funds for technology equipment. Available after every worship service or in the church or school office Monday through Friday.



Church Archives



1987

The officers were Paul Yelton - President; Joe Brown - Vice President; Florence Folkman -Secretary; Clark Kellogg - Treasure; Terry Hibbs - Education; Keith Watters - Evangelism; Brad Reed - Stewardship; Bill Hiller - Property; Carole Legan - Youth; Bert Berthelsen - Spiritual Life.

The Building Committee Members planning the new facilities on McKee Road were: John Wallace, Guy Petzold, Jan Sorge, Guy Foote, Gladys Watters, Ron Lund and Sharon Petzold.

On February 8 the Congregation voted to hire Denominational Building Service (DBS) to be the construction managers of the project from design to opening of the doors.

Sale of the 23rd Street Property was approved by the Merced County Board of Supervisors on February 24.

Denominational Building Service (DBS) and the Building Committee presented their final floor, color renderings and budget through a slide presentation to the Congregation on May 3.

May 5 the Voters approved the floor plan, the elevation and the budget up to \$800,000.00. the new facility would cover 12,970 square feet.

August 30 Ground Breaking Services were held at the McKee site in the almond orchard on the property. Rev. Clarence H. Eisberg turned the first shovel of dirt in the name of the Holy Trinity; members of the Building Committee each turned over a shovel of earth; the Junior High Choir sang the anthem.



The school day begins at 8:30 a.m. The first day of school classes will be dismissed at 12:00 noon.

There will be a special dedication of the teachers on Sunday, August 14 at the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Plan to attend this special time of dedication.

A great year is planned with lots of activities. Check the school calendar for all of the upcoming events for the year.



Our third annual **Mog-Jog is being held on Saturday, August 27th** and we would like you to be a part of it. Our first annual Mog-Jog was held two years ago in order to help our wife, daughter, sister and friend Brenda Bressler Mognis (suffering from leukemia) and her husband Jon head up to Stanford hospital so that she could receive a bone marrow transplant. Sadly, after receiving her transplant Brenda suffered a severe brain hemorrhage and did not get come home to her family. Brenda had such an amazing spirit and a giving heart we know she is with her Savior and is our "angel" in heaven.

One of Brenda's dreams was to start a Scholarship Fund at St. Paul Lutheran School so that any child, no matter there financial background be able to attend our school. We were able to start the "Brenda Mognis Scholarship Fund" with memorial monies received from Brenda's funeral and were able to add to it by the generosity of many who attended our auction this year. We want to continue Brenda's dream by making the Mog-Jog an annual event. A portion of the proceeds will also go to the Cancer Society to keep research alive for this dreadful disease.

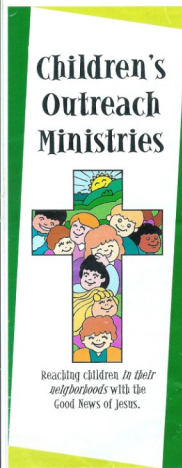
(See the previous page for details)

PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

We have had a wonderful summer. My only complaint is that is has come and gone so fast. But we have had a lot of fun with the kids playing in the water, cooking, reading and picking and eating veggies from our garden. Although we have yet to taste one of our tomatoes as the kids pluck them all off to play with before they get ripe. Summer Daycare is always a fun break for the teachers as well as the kids.

As sad as it is to see the summer end we are looking forward to the new school year. Our teachers have been busy cleaning and setting up their classrooms. We have been blessed with many new friends for the coming school year. We will be opening the Ladybugs classroom to join the Butterflies, Bears and Bunnies classes this year! This school year is going to be awesome. We look forward to all God has planned for us and our families.



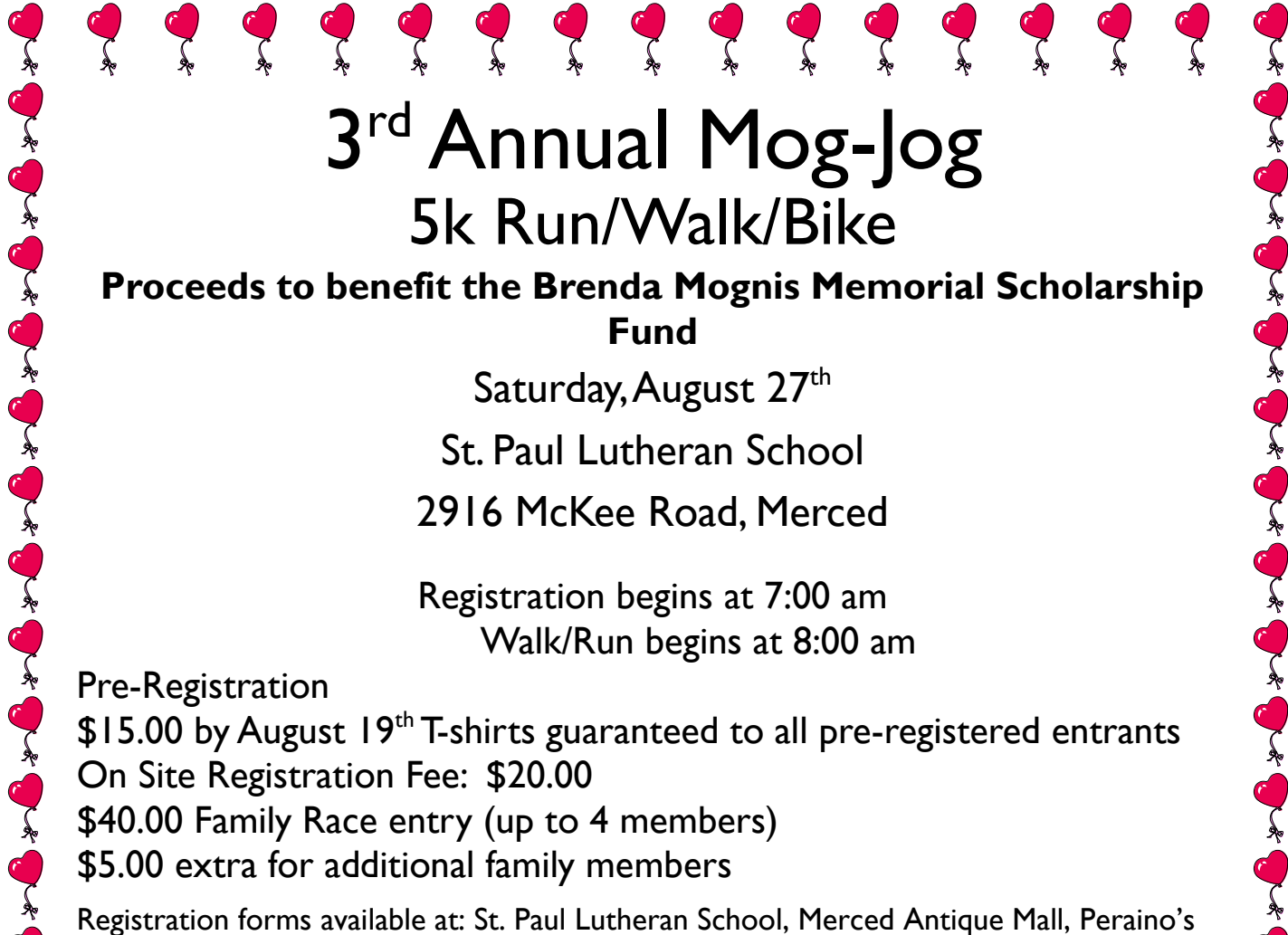


CHILDREN'S OUTREACH MINISTRIES

We will be concentrating on training volunteers for sharing Jesus with elementary students on Monday, August 1 at our church library.

Listen to hear if God is calling you to volunteer an hour a week in a public school to share Jesus! A team of four people is ideal – music, games, crafts, Bible Storyteller, attendance clerk - all are needed – share your talents! Materials are provided for lessons and Bibles for each student.

Mark your calendar for Monday, Aug. 1 at 6-8 p.m. in our church library. Contact Jan Sorge, 722-6101 or 769-1884.



3rd Annual Mog-Jog 5k Run/Walk/Bike

Proceeds to benefit the Brenda Mognis Memorial Scholarship Fund

Saturday, August 27th

St. Paul Lutheran School
2916 McKee Road, Merced

Registration begins at 7:00 am
Walk/Run begins at 8:00 am

Pre-Registration

\$15.00 by August 19th T-shirts guaranteed to all pre-registered entrants

On Site Registration Fee: \$20.00

\$40.00 Family Race entry (up to 4 members)

\$5.00 extra for additional family members

Registration forms available at: St. Paul Lutheran School, Merced Antique Mall, Peraino's

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

“THE SENDING PLACE”

Mission Trips Available in 2012

Ghana - Jan. 25-Feb. 6

Thailand - Feb. 1-13

Cambodia - Feb. 8-17

Training for all teams will begin August 20, 2011 at 4764 Duckhorn Dr., Sacramento. If you are out of the area, you can train right where you live, with our training kit. For information see the website at www.TheSendingPlace.com.

Email: thesendingplace@hotmail.com

Phone: 916-685-2331 or 877-3sending.



MISSION OPPORTUNITY SUNDAY, AUGUST 28TH.

Meet at the church at 2 p.m. to cook and serve dinner for the folks at the Merced Rescue Mission. The women and children eat at 4:15 p.m. followed by the disciples and men. Help is always appreciated and share your love of Jesus with these folks who need to see JESUS' LOVE IN ACTION! **Call Jan Sorge 769-1884 to volunteer.**

BIBLE CLASSES AND SUNDAY SCHOOL



Adult Bible Class
Sunday Morning 8:15 a.m.
“Revelation”



Sunday School

Children's Sunday School
Will be taking a break for the summer
And will resume in the Fall.

Child care available in room 2

Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School
Will be taking a break for the summer.
Look forward to September when it will

Wednesday 10:30 A.M.
Law & Gospel Lifelight Study
Pastor Lange

Thursday 7 to 8 P.M.
Old Testament Study
Cone's Home

that moved to Minnesota from our ministry in Fresno came to the seminar at King of Kings. God had used this seminar to bring clarity to the good news of Jesus in their spiritual struggles. The result was the unexpected.

There are many wonderful details of God's handiworks in this process that we will not be able to share in this brief newsletter. However, be assured that we will share fully when we return home.

We designed our seminar so that there are plenty of times to interact informally. The informal time is just as important as the formal presentation time. God used many individuals to minister to these not yet Christian families. Each day, one can sense that the families are closer and closer to confess Christ.

After the seminar, a man from this group of families invited Maykou and I to visit him in his home. This was another important step to bringing Christ to these families. He had an older brother that he wanted to meet us. He was also opened to the possibility of his family becoming Christian too but it's not without reservation.

We felt good about the Sunday night visit after a very long day of preaching and teaching at two different congregations. Yet, there was no sign of anything beyond the point that they appreciated the seminar and the visit that made many more things clearer about faith in Christ.

It took another visit in another home in another town that God would reveal this man's confession to us. Needless to say when he asked us to come to his home to remove all his animistic paraphernalia saying that he was ready to become a Christian we were all filled with inexpressible joy. It brought tears of joy to everyone especially his wife since she had been wanting to become a Christian already for awhile but had to wait and be respectful of her husband's own spiritual journey as Hmong customary requirement demands.

So, Friday, July 22nd we held a service of deliverance in his house filled with members from King of Kings and the extended families. Deacon Vue and Deacon Leng assisted in the service. It was

It is difficult to fully appreciate the overwhelming joy of becoming a Christian from the point of view of the converts. Free from the bondage of Satan, from the bondage of sins, and now a new life in Christ has begun. This event had given us the long time Christians an opportunity to feel their pain and their joy because we were privileged to see the process unfolded over several days of up and down emotions.

These new Christians reaffirmed in us how important our leadership training has been. A leader trained in another part of the country was used to influence families 2000 plus miles away. The end result many more are praising God in heaven and on earth. The other seminar at Hmong Lutheran Church yielded a different result but quite important too from the point of nurturing the long time Christians to strengthen them in their faith.

HOW DOES GOD PROVIDE FOR THIS TRIP

Again how God provides for this trip fits the theme "**expect the unexpected.**" It began with Vicar Cheng unexpectedly calling a gathering of ministry leaders from Fresno and Merced to hold a dinner-prayer for a safe journey for us the night before our trip in our home. Several individuals gave generously more than adequate to pay for the first leg of our journey. From a worldly perspective, no sensible person would embark upon a 10,000 miles trip without a budget in place for it. Well, I guess we are not sensible people in that sense because we do not operate from a worldly perspective. We acted on the basis of faith and the spiritual needs of God's people across the country.

So far, God has been gracious to us. The people of God have been generous. At this ministry midpoint (not mileage wise), we have adequate financially to get us to the next stop. We give God thanks and praises!

Contact Information: Rev. Kou Seying
Joy of Harvest Ministries
2916 N. McKee Rd
Merced, CA 95340

JOY OF HARVEST MINISTRY JOURNEY

What a privilege and honor for me and my family to take this leap of faith and embrace a coast-to-coast 10,000 miles ministry journey for the sake of the Gospel. This newsletter article was written at the end of our nearly two weeks ministry in St. Paul, Minnesota. By the time you read this newsletter, we should be finishing the Indiana portion and on our way to Florida for the last scheduled seminars.

The recurrent theme for this ministry journey seems to be, **“Expect the Unexpected.”** Right away, June 30th, we met our first unexpected event as we were preparing to depart Merced on the July 1st. We did not get the rental vehicle that we requested so that it would be conducive to our long trip. What we received was a SUV that did not have adequate luggage space. The best that the rental office in Merced could do was to send us to the Sacramento Airport to exchange it for a minivan.

After assuring us that a minivan would be available in Sacramento, the unexpected continued. No minivan was available in the system there either being a July 4th weekend and the unexpected 3½ hours trip to Sacramento due to a major accident on I-5 north of the Lodi interchange.

The agent in Sacramento was being very helpful; we appreciated her very much. She was able to locate a minivan via her dispatch radio. We were relieved. Yet, the unexpected continued once again. This initial minivan was not in the best condition for this long trip due to the high mileage. She located another one that would be much better with low mileage. However, it was due for maintenance. Unexpectedly, a brand new Grand Caravan became available if we were willing to wait *“five minutes”* for the crew to remove all the plastic covers. Of course, we were elated saying, “Go, go, go, we’ll wait.”

Five minutes turned out to be more like 30 minutes, but at the point we didn’t care. We were just glad that we had a brand new vehicle for the trip. We were informed that it only has five miles on the

turned 1 mile on the odometer as we rolled a couple of feet to get out of the rental lot.

Our first ministry stop was the Portland, Oregon area after all the unexpected delays had forced us to spend an unexpected night in Medford, Oregon. We ministered to many families in Oregon. We pray that God would open the hearts of a couple there that have been considering the ministry for many years, but different circumstances had prevented them from moving forward. We simply wanted to reconnect with them personally to see where they are in their own journey in the quest to serve the Lord. We had a beautiful July 4th weekend in Oregon enjoying all the beauties of God’s creation there as well.

Our next ministry stop was Stanton, NE to reconnect with old friends in the pastoral ministry. As the result of our stop there, Faith Lutheran Church VBS offering was designated to support our ministry, especially the distribution of the book, *A Child’s Garden of Bible Stories*, which we had translated and was published recently. The drive across Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, South Dakota, and Nebraska were breathtaking. We were just in awe of all the natural beauties.

We finally arrived in St. Paul, MN on July 12th and began a rigorous two weeks schedule. We were much loved in St. Paul due to our history there. As soon as people knew that we were in town, our schedule filled up very quickly.

Our first seminar at King of Kings bore much fruit for God’s kingdom. Again, the unexpected continued. We did not anticipate that the majority of the attendance would be the not yet Christians. We expected members (Hmong) from King of Kings to attend the three days events. However due to prior commitments, many of the members were not able to attend the major portion of the seminar.

Our prayers have always been that God would send those individuals that He wants to be there to hear the Good News of Jesus in all of our seminars/conferences. So in a sense, we had prayed always to expect the unexpected. We just did not know



Living Our Life for God

I hope you are having a good summer! Our family has enjoyed time with friends and family, and seeing new parts of God's beautiful creation, and now another school year is about to begin.

Our St. Paul School begins the school year with the dedication of faculty and staff on August 14, and classes begin the next day. Yet as our children or grandchildren head off to school, it's important to remember that we, parents and grandparents, have the ultimate responsibility to educate our children.

This is especially important when it comes to the spiritual education of our children. Sunday School and KICK and going to a Christian School are all ways children can grow in the Lord, but the most lasting life lessons are the ones they will learn at home. And often what is seen is more important than what is heard.

I want to pass on to you something Pastor Ken Klaus wrote in a Lutheran Hour Ministry devotion sent out by email earlier this summer. It has to do with the subject of our worship and our life as followers of Jesus. He wrote:

“For some, going to church is on the schedule. Of course, just going to church isn't always the answer. Take for example, Jesse James.

He killed a man in a bank robbery and shortly thereafter was baptized at Kearney Baptist Church. Then Jesse James killed another man, a bank cashier, and joined the church choir.

He even taught hymn-singing. Jesse James liked church, but he couldn't always go.

On two Sundays, he robbed trains.

There are a lot of people who are like Jesse James. They go to church around Christmas time or Easter, but they really don't let a little thing like faithful worship influence their lives the other days of the year.

For them, church is one thing; living is something else. I'm glad God doesn't work that way.

The Lord doesn't say, "Well, I think I'll give My blessings on certain days and then do what I want the rest of the time." No, God keeps His blessings and His love coming. Because of the sacrifice of His Son and the glorious victory Jesus has given to all who believe on Him, we are given both a Savior and an ongoing and faithful Friend.

Day after day, year after year -- maybe that's why He's God, and so many of us are serious sinners, like Jesse James.”

God is faithful even when we are not. May His faithfulness, seen most clearly in the gift of Jesus Christ, lead you to recommit yourself to faithful worship attendance as the summer months come to an end, and to live out your daily life in ways that teach your

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*“Let my teaching
fall like rain and
my words descend
like dew, like showers
on new grass,
like
abundant
rain on
tender
plants.”*