

THE CORNERSTONE CONNECTION

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Scott's Perspective — "The Common Humanity of the Son of God"

The fallacy of moral equivalence involves equating minor offenses with serious wrongdoing. "All sins are equal in God's eyes" --as if the Just and Sovereign Judge of all mankind cannot discern the moral difference between telling a white lie and committing genocide. Yes, all sins need forgiveness, and the blood of Jesus Christ is God's only provision for the forgiveness of all sins. Yes, the person with anger or lust in his heart is as much in

need of God's mercy and grace as the one who commits murder or adultery. But does the sin of murder have more serious and harmful consequences than losing your temper at a bad driver? Of course. Our laws recognize that moral difference.

Moral equivalence denies the existence of a moral hierarchy. All actions deemed wrong are deemed equally immoral.

For example, the fallacy of moral equivalence is used to claim that intentionally killing innocent civilians and children via suicide bombings on civilian buses is no different from accidentally killing noncombatants with a missile or bomb when targeting a military installation in a war.

The fallacy of moral equivalence is also used to demonize a leader or position that one strongly disagrees with. For example, depending on one's political views, equating either George Bush or Barack Obama with Adolph Hitler. The fallacy is easy to see: however much one may disagree with a President's domestic or foreign policies or decisions, no US President has ever come close to committing the atrocities of Hitler or Stalin.

At the root of moral equivalence is the denial of a moral hierarchy. We live in a relativistic

society that is loathe to acknowledge any religious faith or moral value to be superior to any other. All sexual relationships are morally equivalent -- whether married or unmarried, heterosexual or homosexual. The claim that sex between a husband and wife is in any way morally preferable to sex between a cohabiting couple or a same-sex couple is regarded as outrageous and absurd in our relativistic, tolerant society.

In our zeal to make the counter-cultural case for the Uniqueness of Jesus -- we must not compromise the truth of his common humanity.

Nor is there any hierarchy acknowledged among religious holidays. Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa are equivalent holidays that must be given equal respect and attention. Hanukkah is indeed a valid religious holiday -- though by no means the most important holiday in the Jewish year -- but it is certainly not the primary reason for most of the gift-buying binge that takes place from Thanksgiving to Dec. 24. And no one with any discernment whatsoever would equate the impact of Kwanzaa with the impact of Christmas. Yet it is considered politically incorrect and offensive to give any preference to Christmas or the birth of Christ during the "holiday season." Moral equivalence.

Nor is there any hierarchy tolerated among religious faiths or religious founders. Islam is just as peaceful and true and benevolent a religion as Christianity. A Buddhist spinning a prayer wheel or a Hindu presenting an offering of vegetables at a shrine dedicated to an elephant god or monkey god or an eight-armed goddess is no different from a Christian worshipping the one true Creator God through His Son, Jesus. Buddha and Mohammed and Jesus are all religious founders and therefore equivalent. No prophet or guru can be regarded as superior to any other.

(Continued on page 2)

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 3 11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch at Bishops, Moline
- Dec. 5 7:00 p.m. Women's Cookies and Cocoa
- Dec. 6 AM Communion 6:00 p.m. Home Groups
- Dec. 12 5:30 p.m. No Limits to "Nutcracker" 6:00 p.m. 50+ Christmas Dinner and Party
- Dec. 13 Nurse Office Open Deacon Election 6:00 p.m. Home Groups
- Dec. 15 No Limits \$50 deposit due for Missions Trip
- Dec. 18 12:30 p.m. Assemble NS Food Pantry Baskets in ROCK
- Dec. 20 AM Pre-K & K Christmas Program 6:00 p.m. Home Groups
- Dec. 23 6:55 p.m. Jr. & Sr. No Limits Christmas Event
- Dec. 24 11:00 p.m. Candle Light Service at Cornerstone
- Dec. 27 Nurse Office Open AM Pastor Mark preaches
- Dec. 27-31 Urbana 09 Student Missions Conference

In today's culture, it is OK to say that your political party or candidate or health-care reform policy or view on global warming or gay rights is superior to others – that your view is correct and other views are incorrect. But when it comes to religion – all religious beliefs are equally valid. None is truer than another. Jesus and Buddha and Mohammed and Joseph Smith and the Dalai Lama and Deepak Chopra and Bahau-lah are equivalent. No hierarchy. Moral equivalence.

Fully devoted Christ-followers seeking to remain faithful to the biblical truth of the Uniqueness and Supremacy of Jesus Christ are definitely on the defensive in today's society. (Same as in the 1st –century Roman Empire which was also religiously pluralistic and intolerant of any hierarchy other than that of the Caesar.)

The New Testament clearly affirms both the unique deity and common humanity of Jesus. He is both the divine Son of God – the eternal Word-made-flesh – and also the Second Adam – the son of Mary.

In our zeal to make the counter-cultural case for the Uniqueness of Jesus – on the basis of fulfilled prophecies, his virgin birth, his miracles, his sinless life, his atoning death, his bodily resurrection from the dead – we must not compromise the truth of his common humanity.

Jesus was not superman. He was a man. A common, ordinary man. His deity was so well veiled by his common humanity that most did not recognize the glory of God in the face of Jesus. The NT does not emphasize his differentness from the rest of humanity – but rather his likeness and solidarity with the rest of humanity.

“Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—Jesus also became flesh and blood by being born in human form. For only as a human being could he die, and

only by dying could he break the power of the Devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he deliver those who have lived all their lives as slaves to the fear of dying... Therefore, it was necessary for Jesus to be in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. He then could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. Since he himself has gone through suffering and temptation, he is able to help us when we are being tempted.” (Hebrews 2:14-18 – NLT)

Our salvation depends on the full humanity of Jesus.
He was like us in every way.

Even the miracles of Jesus are attributed to being a Spirit-filled man as much as the Son of God.

“You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.” (Acts 10:37-38 -- NIV)

Most of the miracles performed by Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit were also performed by the apostles in the power of the Holy Spirit. Yes, the miracles that Jesus performed were signs pointing to his unique identity as the Son of God. But his miracles were also attributed to living as a true son of God (small “s”) – dependent upon the Father and filled with the Spirit. In Jesus we see what Adam was created to be. In Jesus we see what we are destined to become.

Jesus is our Lord and God. He is also our elder brother. He is one of us. That is the glory of the Incarnation. If we in any way diminish the full humanity of Jesus, then we diminish the glory of the Incarnation.

Financial Report

November has been a good giving month thus far. Giving to the General Fund (church budget) has averaged \$10,024 per week for the first four Sundays. This is slightly above weekly budget (\$9,579), but we are still below budget for the fiscal year. Worship Attendance has also been good, averaging 325 per Sunday.

Giving to the Building Fund has totaled \$5,753 thus far in November. We are on target to pay off our ROCK mortgage by late summer or early fall of next year.

Thank you and God bless you for your continued support of the Lord's work at Cornerstone.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

You are invited to celebrate the birth of Christ at our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on **Thursday, December 24 @ 11:00 p.m.** The service will include several special music numbers, several Christmas carols sung by the congregation, a message by Pastor Scott, the lighting of the Christ candle on the Advent wreath, and a concluding carol as the congregation encircles the sanctuary with their candles.

Though the hour is late, you are encouraged to attend as families (dress is casual, and pajamas are OK – for children).

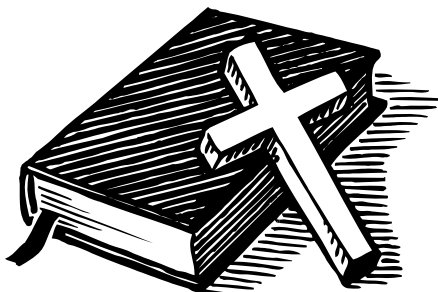
We need some people to contribute special music or a Christmas reading or drama skit to the service. Youth as well as adults are invited to participate. Vocal or instrumental – solos or groups – all are welcome. If you want to take part in the service, please let Pastor Scott or Renae Mohr know as soon as possible.

A Word From Pastor Mark

Life seems to have a way of beating us down. The pounding of pressure to provide, protect and perform can easily take our eyes off of God. And the speed at which our lives are lived is so fast paced. All the pressure and the speed of life fracture our selves or souls so we do not see like God sees. We lose sight of God's plan for our lives and His overarching purpose for His Kingdom to come.

It is a month away from 2010. Do you think that 2010 will have a slower pace than this year? Probably not. And do you think the pressure to provide, protect and perform will be less? I don't think so. Most likely, it will be more difficult in 2010 unless we choose to live differently. The remedy for healing a fractured self or soul is to **S L O W D O W N** and **M E D I T A T E** on God's true and life changing Word. Psalm 19:7 reads, "The revelation of God is whole and pulls our lives together."

Slowing down is not easy when you have several kids in sports or you have a new job that is asking much more from you or your family has health problems or Too many things; too little time. Earlier this week I was joking with a friend who was very busy all day. He expressed his fatigue by saying, "Wow, this was a long day." I responded, "Yeah it was 24 hours long."



As I was reading *The One Year Bible* this morning (23rd) the following passage was part of the selection for this day. It is an excellent passage to meditate on to put clarity on who we are and what God's purpose is. Slow down this Christmas season and reflect, chew, and place in your heart these verses. It comes from 1 Peter 1:18-20 in *The Message*, "Your life is a journey you must travel with a deep consciousness of God. It cost God plenty to get you out of that dead-end, empty-headed life you grew up in. He paid with Christ's sacred blood, you know. He died like an unblemished, sacrificial lamb. And this was no afterthought. Even though it has only lately—at the end of the ages—become public knowledge, God always knew he was going to do this for you."

What are the truths of this passage? What has God done to show His amazing love for you? Was God surprised by sin or was He prepared to deal with it? What kind of life does God want me to live? What value has God placed on me? What priorities need to be changed to live in light of this passage? Life is short. Eternity is long. What am I doing now to invest in my eternity with God?

Christmas Goodie Give-Away

You are invited to join others in extending God's love through acts of kindness this Christmas day. We will be putting together 800+ goodie bags of cookies, fudge and candies and then giving them away in our community. We will be looking primarily to bless those who are working that day. Following the outreach you are invited to join Pastor Mark and his family for a Chinese dinner.

We will be meeting at 1:00 p.m. Christmas day in the ROCK Center. If you are unable to come but would like to make cookies or fudge just let Pastor Mark know. It is going to be a great day!

Needs this Christmas

This is just a reminder of the opportunities we have to bless those who have less. Consider walking by the information tables in the foyer to see where you might be able to bless someone this Christmas.



50+ Christmas Dinner & Party

Saturday, December 12th at 6:00 p.m.

Check upcoming bulletins for details

Pastor Tony's No Limits News

"Do you know what you would like this evening, sir?"

"Yes I believe I do. After reading a lot of overheated puffery about your new cook, you know what I am craving? A little perspective. That's it! I would like some fresh, clear, well seasoned perspective. Can you suggest a good wine to go with that?"

"Uhhh...Is...What? Sir?" responds the waiter.

"Perspective, fresh out, I take it."

"Um... Awe..."

"Very well, since you are all out of perspective and no one else seems to have it in this town...I'll make you a deal. You provide the food, I'll provide the perspective....you tell your Chef Linguini I want whatever he dares to serve me- Tell him to hit me with his best shot."

Doesn't everyone just love a critic. Actually I think that would be a great job. Going from restaurant to restaurant, eating some of the finest food available and giving my evaluation. But that's a different story.

Last night at the North Scott Clergy Thanksgiving service, Brad the youth Pastor from Long Grove Christian Church offered a challenge to see life from a fresh perspective. He used the illustration of the cards we are dealt in life, like a poker hand. Seldom does a game of poker get won or lost in a single hand. It is the culmination of the way you play the individual hands you get that matters. And it is God who is dealing the cards... So no card in the deck is wasted. He has a plan. The challenge is to see the hand dealt the way He sees it and try to play it with His perspective.

This was a very busy weekend with many things to get prepared for. And I was already tired and wanting a break from a busy month of extra events and time spent putting those events into motion. So when I saw that I was going to have to skip my day off this week to travel to the Youth Pastor's Lead team in Eldora for a 24 hour meeting surrounded by 6 hours of drive time, I wasn't sure I really wanted to play that card. But one of my signature themes is responsibility, and I really have a hard time backing out of commitments. Plus, it is always a good time to reconnect with other youth pastors. But with all the things I had to get done, I was tempted to trade that card in for a day off and a few extra hours of preparation time on Friday before the crazy weekend of activities started.

Perspective seldom comes before we step into the game and play the cards we are dealt. I got to engage in discussions that will shape the future of our camp ministry at Pine Lake, talked to a young Youth pastor about some of those 1st year's marriage issues we all have to face. Listen to another colleague share about a student who has just come out of the closet and is now suicidal. Another colleague shared about the struggles he is having with His senior pastor and always being criticized and never quite knowing what he is supposed to do to earn his approval. I am very thankful that I have a great ministry staff that works well together. When you get together with a group of people like this, you get to share your hands and play the game of life together. We sharpen each other and give each other the perspective that often comes only from another person who has had to play that same hand and how it went. And best of all, we get to pray for each other and take our hands to the One Who controls all the game. We laugh, we cry and we hold each other up and help each other see the game from a different perspective and look toward the only perspective that really counts. God's . I am very thankful for the many fellow card players

that God has blessed me with these almost 22 years of ministry. Who have shared their hands, raised the pots, called my bluffs, and yes at times lovingly beat my hands. All along focusing our eyes on The Master Dealer who in His Love deals every card to challenge us to draw...Closer to Him. That is the freshest perspective you could ever taste.

Up Coming Events December

Wednesday 2 nd	No Limits Youth Ministry 6:55 pm – 8:45 pm "Jesus Birth"
Sunday 6 th	Iowa Hawkeye B-Ball Game Leave 2 pm for Iowa City RSVP for the Ballet
Wednesday 9 th	No Limits Youth Ministry 6:55 pm – 8:45 pm "Jesus Life"
Saturday 12 th	"The Nutcracker " River Point Ballet Dinner and Ballet \$15.00 Meet at church at 5:30 Must RSVP by Sunday the 6 th .
Sunday 13 th	Dusty Feet Pastor Tony's 6:00 pm till 7:30
Tuesday 15 th	Deposit Due for Summer Missions Trip \$50
Wednesday 16 th	No Limits Youth Ministry 6:55 pm – 8:45 pm "Jesus Resurrection"
Sunday 20 th	Dusty Feet Pastor Tony's 6:00 pm till 7:00 followed by Sunday Night Football. TBA
Wednesday 23 rd	No Limits Christmas Event 6:55 pm – 8:45 pm.
Sunday 27 th - Thursday 31	Urbana 09 Student Missions Conference.
Wednesday 30 th	No Limits Volunteer Training/ Party 6:30—Youth Room



Quad Cities Dining Tour Books

2009-2010

This year's books are in and are a great value as always — a great present or to treat yourself. These books pay for themselves with just a couple uses. Fine dining like Brass Street Chop House, Brady Street Chop House, Circa 21 Dinner Playhouse, Osaka Japanese to name a few. With over 57 places for casual dining as well fast food and Fun Foods like Whitey's, it is easy to save enough in a year to get back your \$35 investment.

I have never been able to use half the book in a year's time and we always get our money's worth. See any youth or Pastor Tony to get yours while supplies last.

What a great way to help the No Limits Youth Program.

Missions Holiday Offering

Two-thirds of the Missions Holiday Offering will go to our home-grown missionaries and one-third will go to Converge World Relief providing food for the people of Nigeria.

They are now in what is termed the "hungry season." Before harvest many people of Nigeria are living on one meal per day or every other day.

Checks may be made payable to Cornerstone with "Holiday Offering" in memo. Please give above and beyond your regular tithe.

Pastor's Gifts



Cornerstone is blessed to have a strong pastoral staff and capable and godly men. The Deacon Board would like to show our appreciation for them by presenting each family with a monetary Christmas gift.

Let's be a blessing to them as they are to us. Checks may be made out to Cornerstone Baptist with a memo "Christmas Gifts" and can be given to Deac Ryan or any of the deacons: Larry Brewer, Brent Bullock, Jim Ferrel, Stan Howell, Jim McGimpsey, or Ryan Trotter. Please give above and beyond your regular giving.

AWANA Servants Needed

Do you have a spare 1 hours 15 minutes on Mondays from 6:15-7:30 p.m.? Want to make a difference in the life of a child (and your life)?

AWANA could use help from adults and teens (grades 7 & up) to help with this great program.

AWANA is an international, nondenominational, Bible-centered youth organization providing weekday clubs and programs for Kindergarten through sixth grade. The acrostic AWANA comes from the first letters of **A**pproved **W**orkmen **A**re **N**ot **A**shamed (2 Timothy 2:15).

Please contact Nick or Sarah Hansel at 285-5530.

Food Pantry

After all of the giving for Thanksgiving and all of the giving throughout the year, this year's December needs are to give thanks. The Pantry thanks this generous North Scott community for their ongoing support.

As a reminder, during inclement weather months, the Pantry does not open on days which school is cancelled due to weather. Over this holiday season, the Pantry will be closed on Friday, December 18th which is the day of Christmas basket disbursement; Tuesday December 22nd; and on Christmas day, Friday, December 25th.

If you are looking for a way to serve, the assembly of the Christmas food baskets starts at 12:30 on Friday, December 18th in the ROCK Center.

May you have a

Very Merry Christmas

and a Blessed 2010

Perspectives

Is the Bible simply a collection of random stories about God working in world? Could it be that the stories are not random and God has a global purpose? What is God doing in the world today? How does my life fit into God's purposes? What if there was a class to help answer these questions?

We have an awesome opportunity to have a "Perspectives on the World Christian Movement" class coming to the Quad Cities. Many say this is simply the best class available anywhere to really understand God's plan and heart for the world. Having attended the class in Iowa City a couple years ago I couldn't agree more. This is a great class every believer should seriously consider attending, you will not be disappointed!

The class starts January 17th and will meet Sunday afternoons at Harvest Bible Chapel. The class is 15 lessons divided into four sections. They are:

1. Biblical basis – understanding God's passion and purpose for the world
2. Historical perspective – how has the gospel spread

3. Cultural perspective – taking the gospel to different cultures
4. Strategic perspective – Joining God in his work

One student summed their Perspectives experience by commenting "It is probably one of the most important classes a person could take! It is challenging and eye-opening and vital to understanding God's heart and becoming a world Christian."

You can register for the class at www.perspectives.org, there is a fee to cover class materials and speakers. The class provides a great opportunity for some reading and contains some out of class work to better understand God and his heart for the world.

I truly hope you are able to join this Perspectives class; you will be in for an awesome experience!

Submitted on behalf of the Missions Committee by Lee Randall

Sonshine Community Ministries

As I approach Thanksgiving, I know I have much to be thankful for. You, the Body of Christ, have been so generous. Your giving and help thru the \$3000. Challenge, the Soup Luncheon and the Bowl-a-Thon were a real blessing. And, as always, I thank those who give monthly. It is because of all of you (who give thru prayer, finances, volunteering, & donations) that I am able to do what God has called me to do and what I love doing: sharing the gospel and helping families in need.

If you would like to give a gift to a child or buy a Walmart Gift Card for a teen please see me in the church foyer before and after the church service. Also, I have a couple of families

in real need if a home group or ABF would like to "adopt" a whole family.

In December, the children & I will put up the Christmas tree at the trailer on the 6th. All month we will sing Christmas songs and I will be sharing with them the "real reason for the season". The kids' Christmas party will be on the 17th. On the 10th I will have a dinner for the teens. Jamie Johnson will be speaking to the teens that night. I will take the teens to Walmart so they can use their gift cards.

If you would like to hear more about this ministry, please call me at 563-349-2342.

God's GPS

I was recently driving in the Chicago area and depending on Scott's GPS to get me where I needed to go. I had faith that it knew where I needed to go, but it was frustrating to me that the screen would display only the next one or two directional commands. I wanted to know more details than were currently necessary.

This made me think of how we are with God sometimes. As we make our way through life, we often want more information about what's to come than He is willing to give. Why isn't it enough for us to believe that He will get us where we need to go? Why do we think we need to know several directional commands down the road when it won't do us any good right now? Why can't we simply trust?

by Teresa Bivens

As I pray for the many requests that come in over the prayer chains or at prayer meetings, I am reminded that there are many people and families in our midst who are currently going through hard / confusing times and it seems that their "GPS screen" has not changed in a long time. It seems to continually say "trust."

As hard as it may be, it's important to remember that God's GPS is always accurate. His Word is true. He knows where we are and where we're going, and He has promised to be with us all along the way, carrying us if necessary.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6:

December 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:30 p.m. College-Career -Singles at Ideker's	2 6:30 a.m. Men meet at Cracker Barrel, Dav. 6:00-9:00 p.m. Archery 6:30 p.m. NL Vol. Mtg. 6:55-8:45 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High No Limits 7:00 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	3 11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch at Bishop's, Moline 6:30 p.m. Coed Volleyball/ROCK 7:00 p.m. Missions Committee	4	5 7:00 p.m. Women's Cookies and Cocoa
6 8:30 a.m. Prayer AM Communion 2:00 p.m. No Limits to Hawkeye BB Game — RSVP for Ballet 12/12 6:00 p.m. Home Groups	7 1:30 p.m. Moms-In- Touch at M. Crouch's 6:00-9:00 p.m. Archery 6:15 p.m. AWANA (K-6th grades)	8 7:30 p.m. College-Career -Singles at Ideker's	9 6:30 a.m. Men meet at Cracker Barrel, Dav. 6:00-9:00 p.m. Archery 6:30 p.m. NL Vol. Mtg. 6:55-8:45 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High No Limits 7:00 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	10 6:30 p.m. Coed Volleyball/ROCK	11	12 4:30 p.m. Chili Cook-off/ Medical MX Trip/PV 5:30 p.m. No Limits to "Nutcracker" 6:00 p.m. 50+ Christmas Dinner & Party
13 8:30 a.m. Prayer Nurse Office Open Deacon Election 6:00-7:30 p.m. Dusty Feet at Pastor Tony's 6:00 p.m. Home Groups	14 1:30 p.m. Moms-In- Touch at M. Crouch's 6:00-9:00 p.m. Archery 6:15 p.m. AWANA (K-6th grades)	15 6:30 p.m. Singles Game Night in ROCK No Limits deposit due for Summer Missions Trip	16 6:30 a.m. Men meet at Cracker Barrel, Dav. 6:00-9:00 p.m. Archery 6:30 p.m. NL Vol. Mtg. 6:55-8:45 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High No Limits 7:00 p.m. Prayer Mtg. 8:15 p.m. Deacons	17 6:30 p.m. Coed Volleyball/ROCK	18 12:30 p.m. Assemble NS Food Pantry Baskets	19 7:00 a.m. Trustee Meeting at Village Inn, Brady Street, Dav.
20 8:30 a.m. Prayer AM Pre-K & K Prog. 6:00-7:00 p.m. Dusty Feet at Pastor Tony's followed by football 6:00 p.m. Home Groups	21 1:30 p.m. Moms-In- Touch at M. Crouch's 6:00-9:00 p.m. Archery 6:15 p.m. AWANA (K-6th grades)	22 7:30 p.m. College-Career -Singles at Ideker's	23 6:30 a.m. Men meet at Cracker Barrel, Dav. 6:00-9:00 p.m. Archery 6:30 p.m. NL Vol. Mtg. 6:55-8:45 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High No Limits Christmas Event	24 No Volleyball 11:00 p.m. Christmas Candle Light Service	25 Christmas Day	26
27 8:30 a.m. Prayer Nurse Office Open AM Pastor Mark Dec. 27-31 Urbana 09 Student Missions Conti.	28 No AWANA No Archery	29 7:30 p.m. College-Career -Singles at Ideker's	30 6:30 a.m. Men meet at Cracker Barrel, Dav. No Archery 6:30 p.m. No Limits Volunteer Training/ Party No Prayer Mtg.	31 No Volleyball		

December Birthdays:

1	Charles Dreter	
3	Steffan Nass Kris Porter	
4	Lonny Eliassen	
5	Evelyn Shaw	
7	Verne Christopherson Alexander Hackett Kaitlyn Knoche	
8	Wendy Grimme	
15	Garrett Condon Megan Doty Dale Ambrosy	
16	Sydney Birtell Jeannette Long	
17	Bill Hagge Diane Truong	
18	Jason Schwartzhoff	
19	Don Jones Harlan Perry	
20	Dustin Lenz Allen Rice	
21	Samuel Eliassen Ben Youmans Jacob Youmans	
22	Beth Pearson	

December Anniversaries:

14	Joe and Louise Collins	Travis Doty
18	Denny and Peggy Jones	Jan Lindstrom
19	Nick and Sarah Hansel	Gary Phipps
23	Lynn and Barb Conner	Gavin Trotter
27	Larry and Jalois Crotty Cory and Jenny Ferrel Nathan and Carolyn McMurrin	Richard Swanson
28	Kevin and Sena Hagedorn	Mike Aeverweg Cassie Ferrel Jeff Olson
29	Aaron and Laura Schwartz	Denny Jones
30	Larry and Mari Brewer	



Host Families Needed

OPEN YOUR HEART AND HOME to a German exchange student for the coming 2010 spring semester.

Caring host families (with or without children) are needed to provide food, a bed and a loving home for the second semester starting in January. EMF students have medical insurance, spending money for their personal expenses and expect to share their host family's daily life including household responsibilities. They speak English, are well-screened and eager to experience life in America. Their stay here is sponsored and supervised by EMF (Educational Merit Foundation) a non-profit, educational exchange program.

For more information on EMFstudents, please call Marie-Claude Dijoud now at 1-800-467-8363 or visit our web site at www.emfusa.org

The Christmas Story

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her first-born, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is

Come and Be Blessed

We need your help! Praise the Lord, we have well over 20 children each week in the 3 and 4 year old junior church room.

In January, we would like to divide this group so that we can better meet their needs. So far, we have enough leaders for the 4 year old room, but we need 6 more people to help lead the 3 year olds.

Is God calling you? Do you feel Him pulling your heart strings? Are you feeling incapable of teaching 3 year olds? God does not call the able but enables the called. You will be greatly blessed for your obedience.

Please call Mollie Hart at 285-8383.

Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."



When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds re-

turned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2:1 - 20 (NIV)



CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

775 E. LeClaire Rd.
Box 54
Eldridge, IA 52748

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We're on the web!
www.cornerstonebaptistch.org



Winter Retreats

Held at Pine Lake Christian Center, Eldora, Iowa Cost: \$85

Senior High Retreat (9th—12th grade) January 15-17, 2010
Contact Pastor Tony 285-8080

Juniors Retreat (2nd—5th grade) January 22-24, 2010
Contact Marvin Van Ee 285-9145

Junior High Retreat (6th—8th grade) February 19-21, 2010
Contact Pastor Tony 285-8080

Family News

Congratulations to Jay and Kathy Wilke on the birth of a baby girl named Jacqueline Sue, born on November 5th. She weighted six pounds and was 18 1/2" long. Won't big brother, Adam and big sister, Audrey have fun "helping" take care of her!!!

Our deepest sympathy to Matt Schabilion and his family on the death of his mother. May God comfort you during this difficult time.



Come and join us on Sunday Mornings:

Sunday School Opportunities for the Family	9:00 a.m.
Worship Service	10:10 a.m.