

# PARISH UPDATE

A Monthly Newsletter for Friends and Members of Church of Our Saviour Parish  
 2405 Clearview Drive • Glenshaw, PA. 15116 • 412-486-5171 • 412-487-4520

## NEWS & NOTES

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 5 ..... Jeri Ruby
- 7 ..... Susan Stark
- 13 ..... Cindy Gilch
- 14 ..... Juliann Trischler
- 16 ..... Joshua Perry
- 20 ..... Walter Brown
- 26 ..... Carol Bergstrom

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 20 ..... Jim & Edie Wiggins
- 27 ..... Bill & Pauline Loria

### ALPHA Update

We are past the halfway point in our ALPHA course as of this newsletter. All those who are participating are benefiting from the excellent teaching tapes by Nicky Gumbel and enjoying the fellowship and stimulating discussion of the small groups (with wonderful meals included). The retreat is taking place on Saturday, October 30 at the Martina Spirituality Center. Please continue to pray for all the participants and the Alpha team that God will bring us the full measure of his blessing. Many thanks to all those who have helped out in preparing and delivering meals as well as all who have pitched in for set-up and clean-up or in any other way.

### Pray for the Persecuted Anglican Church

*Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them; and those who are ill-treated, since you also are in the body.* Hebrews 13:3 (RSV)

November 7-14, 2004 is a week designated for prayers for the persecuted church around the world. As we were privileged to hear from Michael Yemba on October 1 about the sufferings of the Church in the Sudan and in Saudi Arabia and the perseverance of the saints there, let us remember to lift up our brothers and sisters in prayer daily. But during this week of prayer for the persecuted church, let us be intentional about learning more about the sufferings of our Lord through His Church around the world. Visit [www.idop.org](http://www.idop.org) to learn more about the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church and specific ways you can pray and help.

### R.A.F.T. Project

Thanks to everyone who donated to the RAFT project. The Recovery After the Flood Team is still taking donations to help a family affected by the flood. Stay tuned, volunteers will be needed as we identify specific needs.

## From the Rector

# Let's Get Real About Prayer

*Dear Fellow Disciples,*

Most of you know by now that I'm not real keen on fluffy religious talk. I like subject matter that makes Biblical sense and has practical Christian life application. So in this short piece on prayer, I want to get down to the nitty gritty on personal prayer times.

Many of us have a hard time squeezing personal prayer time into our busy schedule and for us "hands-on" people, it's even harder, yet scripture is clear that prayer is standard equipment in the Christian life, not an option. Jesus said, "When you pray," not "if you get around to praying." And he not only taught about it, he modeled it. "Very early in the morning ... Jesus went to a solitary place to pray" (Mark 1:35). So how is your personal prayer time? Let me suggest four practical tips to help it out.

1) Pick a place – Remember the old expression, "prayer closet?" For some it used to be a literal closet that was used for nothing else but prayer. Not a desk where you normally get distracted with other things. Find a place that you can call your prayer space.

2) Set an amount of time – To begin with it may be 10 – 15 minutes, especially if this is a new endeavor for the morning time. Make it realistic and easy at first, the time may increase as you get into it.

3) Set a time of day – Any time will work but morning seems to be the most fruitful time and helps set the tone for the day. It's amazing what a 10 minute morning prayer time can do to get us off on the right foot.

4) Develop a pattern – A typical prayer time includes the following: reading scripture (Daily Bread, Psalms, Proverbs, next Sunday's readings), acknowledging God's holiness, thanksgivings, forgiveness, intercessions for others, our own petitions, and listening.

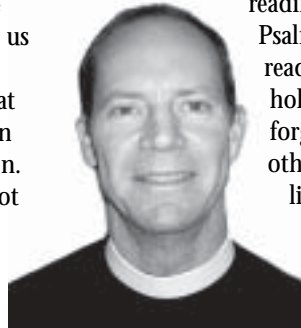
If you have your own routine, keep it up, this is only a guide. In any case, my hope is that we will all be consistent in prayer.

Listed below are other prayer opportunities at the church. Please take advantage of them:

- Intercessory Prayer Group Tuesday 6:00-6:30 p.m. (during Alpha)
- Prayer Chain, Contact Virginia Hetzel
- Sunday Prayers of the People
- Sunday healing prayer during communion
- Wednesday healing service

May God bless us and others as we seek Him in prayer,

Joseph



*Joseph*



## Calendar of Events

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- Sunday** ... 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I  
 9:15 a.m. Adult Ed.  
 10:30 a.m. Family Service & Children's Ministries
- Tuesday** ..... 6:00 p.m. Intercessory Prayer time
- Tuesday** ..... 6:30 p.m. Alpha Course
- Wednesdays** ..... 12:00 noon Healing Service and Lunch
- Thursdays** ..... 7:30 p.m. Worship Team Practice
- Saturdays** ..... Nov. 13, 7:30 a.m. Men's Group

### SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

- Fri. & Sat. November 5, 6** ..... Diocesan Convention (no men's group)
- Sunday, November 7** ..... Bring Shoe Boxes to Church
- Monday, November 8** ..... Vestry Meeting
- Saturday, November 13** ..... Men's group, 7:30 am
- Sunday, November 14** ..... Holy Baptism – Jason Wiggins & Shoe box blessing
- Sunday, November 21** ..... Patronal Feast – Breakfast 9:15 am
- Thursday, November 25** ..... 9:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Day Service
- Sunday, November 28** ..... The First Sunday of Advent

*Please pray for the all the parishioners in the bulletin.*

## The Church of Our Saviour

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### For More Information:

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## From Sudan with the Love of God

On Friday evening, October 1, 2004, fourteen of our parishioners at the Church of Our Saviour were privileged to share a meal with Michael and Rose Yemba and to hear from Michael about his experience as a Christian in the Sudan and in Saudi Arabia as well as his current ministry with the "lost boys" of the Sudan. Michael's story is like something from the Acts of the Apostles. Let me share it with you.

Michael was born and raised as a Christian in the southern Sudan where the people are poor and all the resources, including food, are controlled by the central Islamic government. Food is used as an incentive for converting to Islam. The Christians have largely resisted the pressure to abandon their allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ, facing death and deprivation, enduring slavery, war, and degradation, and surviving "by crying out to the Lord". Michael, the oldest of seven children, went to Khartoum as a young man to try to find opportunities for work. He was convinced by a man to go to Saudi Arabia and work there.

Michael lived and worked in Saudi for 15 years and became involved with the underground church there. During this time, he knew of several Christians who were betrayed to the authorities and were tortured for their faith. They all knew that "today could be my day" and were willing to accept that day when it came. One morning Michael's day came when authorities burst into his home and arrested him. He was four months in prison where he, too, was tortured. "It wasn't easy," Michael said, "but I did it." He was able to witness the love of Christ to his prison guards, one of whom told him one evening, "I'm sorry, Pastor Michael, there is nothing more I can do for you. Tomorrow you are to be executed." But the next day came and Michael remained alive. Four times he was scheduled to die and each time the Lord intervened. Finally they moved him to a cell with no air circulation hoping that the desert heat would kill him. They



would not even open the slot in the door to give him the slightest relief. He cried out to God, knowing that the heat was going to kill him and surrendering himself to the will of God. When he finished praying, cooler air began to flow down from the ceiling, giving him the relief he needed for the rest of his time in prison.

Eventually, Michael was released and told to leave the country within 24 hours. If he went back to the Sudan, he would be killed as a traitor for spreading the gospel in a Muslim country. He had no where to go and did not know what he and Rose would do. Then he had a phone call from the American ambassador to Saudi Arabia, who listened to his story and went to see the Saudi officials on Michael's behalf. Michael was then given two weeks to leave the country, during which time he oversaw the appointment of new leaders for the 300 churches that he was responsible for. When he had another phone call from the American ambassador who told Michael that he had found a sponsor for Michael and Rose to come to the United States. Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry is that sponsor.

Michael is currently enrolled at Trinity in the Masters of Mission and Evangelism (MAME) program which he will complete in the spring. Already an ordained minister, Michael also works with the Sudanese refugees, known as the "lost boys", who were separated from their families during attacks on their villages and spent years wandering the countryside seeking refuge. Eventually some of them made it to camps in neighboring countries. Many others died of disease, crocodiles, and starvation. About 4,000 of these boys are living in the United States but they receive very little orientation and help in resettlement. Michael seeks to provide them with pastoral care and spiritual leadership to prevent them from losing themselves in the materialistic cultural in which they live. Jesus is Lord! Ministries is the support organization for Michael's work. Look for more information in your bulletin and this newsletter on how you can assist this work.

## Touch a Child's Life through Operation Christmas Child

The collection for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes this year will be on November 7 and 14. The boxes will be blessed during the 10:30 am service on November 14 and then sent on to the final destinations. Please pick up a brochure or two and participate in this outreach to the poor children of the world. Besides being the only gift that some of these children will ever get, it also opens the door for the gospel of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit to change people's lives. Let me share with you two examples.

A 9 year old boy in Romania named Emilian received a shoebox at a Christmas party he was invited to at a church in a neighboring village. After reading the literature that Samaritan's Purse puts in each shoebox, he gave his life to Christ. He began to witness to his parents and pray for them. His father had forced the mother into prostitution to make money. Emilian was thrown out of the house. But because of the witness of her son, Emilian's mother also came to know Christ as her Lord and Savior. Because of the change in her, many people in Emilian's village also



accepted Christ into their lives and a church was planted. Emilian's father became very sick and the people of the church came and prayed for him. He recovered and he too became a Christian. Because of one shoebox, a new church of over 20 people was planted in a village in Romania where there was no church and who knows how many other people's lives will be changed by that church over the years.

Another place where Operation Christmas Child distributed shoeboxes for the first time last year was in the school in Beslan in Russia that was recently attacked and captured by terrorists and where so many people died. In the pictures in the aftermath of the attack there were Samaritan's Purse large cardboard boxes and empty shoeboxes with brightly colored wrapping paper. Who knows how many of the children, teachers, and parents were changed by gospel? Perhaps some of those who died are now with Jesus in paradise because of shoebox. Who knows how God will use the shoebox that you send out on November 14?

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Edited by: Joseph Martin and David Young

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