



Leader's Digest



Free* Retreat

*includes lodging and food

@ Ludlow Falls Camp



Bring your own equipment!

See the website for details.

Men's

Lumberjack Retreat

October 21-22, 2011

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Camp Dates to Move in 2012

After much deliberation, it was decided that the dates for Camp Meeting and RENEW should be switched, beginning in 2012. This will also mean that Journey Youth Camp will now also be a week earlier.

Next year's Camp Meeting is now scheduled for July 21-29, 2012 with Rev. Jeff Getz, Director for the Eastern Region of the

Missionary Church, Rev. John Gregory, Senior Pastor at St. Mark Missionary Church in Mishawaka, Indiana, and Dr. Dennis Engbrecht, Senior Vice President of Bethel College confirmed as our speakers.

RENEW is now scheduled for August 2-5, 2012, with Rev. Dave DeSelm, founding pastor of Fellowship Missionary

Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana, coming as our camp speaker.

Also in 2012, we will have only one youth camp, Journey, which will begin on the first Sunday of Camp Meeting, July 22 and run through the next Saturday morning, July 28. Pastor Chad Seabright, itinerant evangelist with Enkindle Ministries, (Continued on page 3.)

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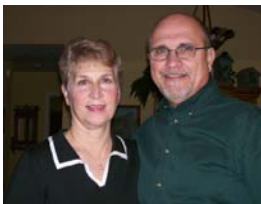
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From Our District Superintendent



Cost or Investment

Let me share a little

history. In the early days, Sierra Leone, West Africa was known as the “white man’s graveyard” because of the many missionaries who died there. At a chapel service in 1909 at Nyack College, NY (then the Nyack Missionary Training Institute) young people were asked if they would be willing to go to replace those who gave their lives for the sake of the Gospel.

My wife’s grandmother, Grace Kennedy, was one who stood to indicate her willingness to go. They were told to pack their belongings in a box large enough to be buried in because it was very possible they would not return to America. She ended up meeting my wife’s grandfather, David Rupp Sr. and they were married over 50 years, serving as missionaries in Guinea and Sierra Leone almost all of those years. Both of them are buried in Archbold, OH.

Fast forward to the last weekend in June this summer. Last month I shared how we had a reunion of former missionaries to Sierra Leone. We were able to bring our cook, Pa Foday Mansary to the USA for our time together. It was a great weekend but ended with a

real challenge to all of us present.

Sunday morning began with Rev. Gareth Wiederkehr sharing his story. In May 1975, Gareth, housefather at the boarding school in Kabala, took Jr. and Sr. High students about an hours drive from the school to visit the graves of early Christian and Missionary Alliance missionaries who had given their lives for the sake of the Gospel, those my wife’s grandmother came to replace.

They had prayer around the graves asking God to use them to reach others. As the students stood there no one knew what was coming. In two months Gareth and Treva’s oldest son, Wayne, was

dead of blood poisoning. He had been bitten by a squirrel and died three days later. On the Sunday of our reunion Gareth shared how he struggled after Wayne’s death. Gareth said he had a long talk with God and asked why God had taken his son. Gareth said he felt God say “I didn’t know I had to ask, didn’t you give him to me when he was born.” Gareth said that conversation settled it, and when Satan came to tell him to turn his back on God, the matter was over and Gareth and Treva were able to live in peace, trusting God to take

care of the matter.

At this point on Sunday morning our African cook, Pa Foday Mansary shared “the rest of the story.” He and the other workers at the school attended Wayne’s funeral. One of the teachers was challenging those present. As she talked she pointed her finger around the room and said “This was Wayne’s time. What if tomorrow is your time? Would you be ready?”

Foday said as her finger passed around the room he



Foday Mansary & Gareth Wiederkehr

felt it stopped on him and did not move. He said he knew he was not ready to meet God at that time in his life.

I don’t remember if it was during the funeral service or soon after, but Foday gave his heart to Christ. When Foday finished speaking there was not a dry eye in the tabernacle.

We worked with Foday at the school just over a year after he became a Christian. Even as a young Christian Foday demonstrated a heart for God that impressed me. My respect for Foday grew as he shared of God’s work in his life since we left Sierra Leone in 1992. He has helped begin seven Wesleyan churches in (Continued on page 3.)

Camp Dates 2012 *Continued from page 1*

will return as youth camp speaker. Even though SOAR will not take place in 2012, we will provide youth activities

for the teens on the grounds during RENEW.

Please take a moment to

reserve camp dates on your 2012 summer calendar. You won't want to miss even one day!

New Community Closes on New Property

After a long and arduous eleven year process, New Community Church in St. Marys has finally found its permanent church home, closing Wednesday, September 28 on a beautiful church building on the southeast corner of town. The church is nicely situated on

approximately 12 acres of land which will provide for future expansion as the church body grows.

The church rejoices that God has led them to the perfect place where ministry can branch out to the entire community.



Redeemer Hosts 2nd Annual Community Gathering

The people of Redeemer Community Church in Toledo hosted a Community Pig Roast, Saturday, September 10, with about 130 neighborhood guests coming to visit and find out more about the church. Pastor Jeff

McKinnon shared, "Everything went perfectly! The weather was nice, the people of the church served, and neighborhood people showed up. It couldn't have gone any better!"



Cost or Investment *Continued from page 3*

the town of Kabala. The last one is right across the road from his house and averages 150 on an average Sunday.

Gareth and Treva could not know what going to Sierra Leone would cost them in terms of the death of their son. But was it a cost, or was it an investment in the life of Foday and others? I talked with Gareth after the Sunday

service at the reunion. Gareth said he would not trade what God has done. No, he would not have chosen to have his son die, but when he saw the way God was able to use Wayne's death for His glory and how God used Foday to touch others, Gareth would not wish Wayne back.

There are many times when trials come; bad things do

happen to good people. But we have to ask if it is a cost – or an investment. This is true in much less dramatic issues. When we use money for outreach, do we see it as a cost or an investment? When I have the opportunity to take time to build a relationship with my neighbor, is it a cost or an investment? What are you and I willing to invest to reach others?

From Our Director of District Ministries



The End is Near?

History is littered with individuals who have claimed to know the

exact date that God intended to destroy the world, bringing judgment on mankind for sin. If you don't believe me, just do a Google search. The most recent individual to do this is radio evangelist, Harold Camping, who first claimed that May 21, 2011 would be the day, only to recalculate and determine that October 21, 2011 is the new real date. Apparently May 21 was only a "spiritual coming" that ushered in the last five months of the final judgment which will culminate on Friday, October 21, 2011. The end, this time, will be quick, complete and final.



I don't know where you plan to be on Friday, October 21, 2011, but I plan to be at our camp's Lumberjack Retreat, clearing away brush and chopping wood. Do I think the world will end on October 21? Probably not, but should I be ready if God were to call me home? Definitely!

Does talk about the end of the world bother you? It does a lot of people. As a Christian, it seems like destruction is

the natural consequence for man's sinful existence. It's inevitable based on God's Word. As Christians, we know the end of the world is God's judgment. As Christians, we shouldn't see it as the end of something, but rather a new beginning, a life where we now see all things clearly.

Back in January, 2009, Fox News printed an article by Paul Wagenseil entitled *Five Ways the World Can End*. In it, Wagenseil maintained that even though natural catastrophes seem to constantly occur on our planet such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and tsunamis, weather extremes, such as global warming or a new ice age will never end mankind.

So what are the five things according to Wagenseil that could very well end the world...

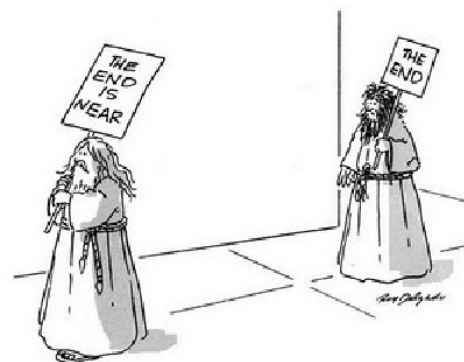
1. A massive asteroid impact. It would take an asteroid the size of a small planet to snuff out life on Earth.
2. Massive volcanic eruptions. Giant fissures in the ground would simply open up, oozing lava that would spread in all directions for hundreds of miles, releasing huge amounts of deadly gas, smoke and soot in the atmosphere.
3. Nuclear war. A full-scale nuclear war between superpowers would kick up

large amounts of dust, smoke and soot which would conceivably blot out sunlight for months or even years, causing mass extinctions as most plants would die and animals would starve.

4. Black hole. This would not be a pretty picture as earth, as well as the sun and other planets would be "slowly sucked into the black hole, one by one, like water going down the drain."
5. The expanding sun. According to Wagenseil, "if all else fails, the Earth will almost certainly come to an end in about a billion years when it falls into the expanding sun and we all become toast."

As I read over this list, a few things came to mind. First, if I had to chose, I'd rather be asphyxiated by poisonous gas than burned up like a marshmallow.

The second thing I noticed was that God's name was never mentioned in connection with earth's final end, but His *(Continued on page 5.)*



The End is Near? *Continued from page 4*

judgment can be seen in each of the scenarios. Of course, nuclear war is our own doing, brought on by our sin, but the other four are natural phenomenon under the control of the Creator.

Finally, the article served as a great reminder that one day the end will come. God will bring it about. It will be a day of judgment. Quite frankly, as I look around our world today, I'm surprised that we're all still around. But I guess scripture is right when it says that, "God is not willing that any should perish," and that "God is slow to anger and abounding in love, and relents from sending calamity."

While some spend all their time trying to save the planet by going "green," let's not forget that as Christians, we are also challenged to save the people on the planet. It's really not an either-or command. We are to be good stewards over all God has given us and we are to save lost souls. But what good is a pollution-free planet if everyone on it is destined for hell.

What I find ironic is that while most of the world wants to preserve life on this planet, as we know it, the apostle Peter writes about our "speeding up" the day when life on earth will end.

Peter writes, *"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will*

be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat." 2 Peter 3:10-12

Will God destroy the end of the world one day? Yes! Are you prepared to meet your God whenever that day might be? I hope so. I'm reminded of Wes Leonard, the sixteen year old basketball player who scored the winning basket in overtime for undefeated Fennville High School, only to fall down dead on the court during the victory celebration.

Jean and I are in the process of updating our will. We don't plan on dying for awhile, but one never knows. We want to be prepared for the kids in case the unthinkable happens. We take such concerns regarding what we leave behind when we die, why not take the same precautions for where we will spend eternity? Will there be a place prepared for me there?

Finally, what am I doing to speed the day? Am I looking forward to it, as Peter says. Am I living a holy and godly life? Am I telling others about Him?

The end is near! Let's speed it up!

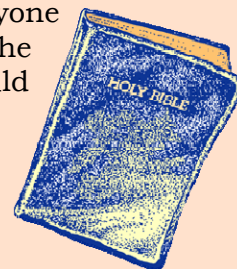


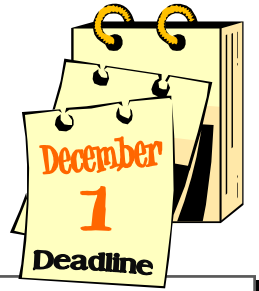
Coming Events

- ✓ **October 8, 2011**
Youth & Kids Quizzing Begins
Grace Missionary Church, Celina
- ✓ **October 14-15, 2011**
Women's Fall Retreat
Hope Hotel in Fairborn
- ✓ **October 21-22, 2011**
Lumberjack Retreat
Ludlow Falls Camp
- ✓ **November 12, 2011**
Youth & Kids Quizzing Begins
Pleasant View Missionary Church
- ✓ **December 2, 2011**
Pastors & Wives Christmas Dinner
Union Chapel Missionary, Lima
- ✓ **December 10, 2011**
Youth & Kids Quizzing Begins
Pleasant View Missionary Church
- ✓ **December 28-30, 2011**
3DYC
Grand Wayne Center, Fort Wayne, IN

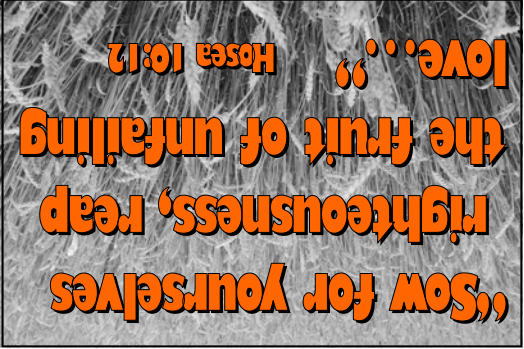
Community Bible Study Begins at DayView Care Center

Recently, a Community Bible Study was begun in the Dining Commons of the Assisted Living area at DayView Retirement Village in New Carlisle. This interactive adult Bible study meets every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM and is open to anyone who lives in the area and would have an interest in an in-depth study of God's Word.





3DYC is back this year!
Registration: \$117
Hotel Lodging: \$83 per night



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