

# **Connections – A Newsletter from First Baptist Church**

**May 2011**

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## **From the Pastor's desk:**

The psalmist states this wonderful truth in Psalm 32:10:

“Many are the woes of the wicked,  
but the LORD's unfailing love  
surrounds the man who trusts in him.”

NIV

The Hebrew word translated “unfailing love” in the NIV is the word “chesed” in the Hebrew. The King James Version translates this word “mercy.” The New American Standard Bible uses the English word “loving kindness.” This single Hebrew word is a sermon in itself. The word “chesed” refers to the covenantal love of God for His people who live in covenant with Him.

The psalmist states the obvious about people who do not live in a covenantal relationship with the Lord. The fact is that they experience many woes or hardships. Some of those woes come at the wicked from other wicked people and some come at them from their own bad choices but whatever the source, life for the wicked is full of these woes.

On the other hand, the life of those who choose to live in covenant with the Lord, the psalmist assures, will be surrounded with loving kindness (mercy, or unfailing love). Does this mean that those of us who

know the Lord and walk in fellowship with Him will never experience hardship? No! But then we do experience difficult issues in our life the loving kindness of God is there to remind us that we are His and He loves us and absolutely nothing on earth can separate us from that covenantal love of God that is best seen in what God has done for us in the cross of Christ.

## **Coming soon:**

### **Vacation Bible School**

The dates for VBS are set for the evenings of June 19-23. Our theme this year is going to be Gold Rush: Discovering the Rock of Ages. Anyone interested in participating: games, drama, music, crafts, snacks, teaching, decorating, publicity, prayer... should let me or someone else on CE know. We will be having a planning meeting soon.

We have a website just for VBS. The web address is

<http://answersvbs.com/vbs/FBCVC/>

You can register your children on line using this website. There is a link to this website on the church website as well.

### **Use your gifts and talents!**

The **Music Committee** is looking for people with musical talent to provide special music in our worship services. Can you sing or play an instrument? Contact Merlin Van Bruggen or Lynn Karges to get on the schedule for special music.

The **Trustees** have recently had motion sensitive and light sensitive spot lights installed on the outside of the church building. We hope this will provide greater security for children who are trying to get into or out of the building when it is dark outside.

### **How's the round up going?**



Barka (Blessing) and Barkidi (I am blessed). This cow was purchased by a pastor in the Winnipeg area and given to a community of Christians in Nigeria who are of the Fulbe tribe. These Fulbe are all former Muslims who have come to follow the Lord Jesus. For the Fulbe, cattle are a way of life but this group of Fulbe lost most of their cattle in a civil war and as a result of their confessing Christ. The civil war was in 2001.

Those who fought with the Fulbe hit them where it hurt most. They killed many of their cattle. Then when these Fulbe openly confessed Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, their extended family took most of the rest of their cattle away from them. This small community of Fulbe Christians is slowly rebuilding their herd and we want to help them. As a church we are collecting funds and every time we have enough to buy a cow we will send the money to these brothers and sisters in Nigeria so they can buy a cow on behalf of First Baptist Church. A young cow costs about \$700 (US). Your tax deductible donation can be made payable to First Baptist Church.

We have already sent \$2,800 to Nigeria to buy four cows. Our goal at this point is to buy ten cows then see what other projects we might assist the Fulbe people with.

### **We can help!**

The FBC Diaconate has established a Deacons Fund to assist people who are in financial need. If you or someone you know has a financial need, please feel free to get hold of Pastor Jim or one of the deacons or deaconesses and let them know about the need. The Diaconate will take it from there.

### **A special thanks!**

Thank you to all of you who worked hard to make Lorraine Wiedmeier's funeral so uplifting and heartwarming to the family. This is what it means to be a church family.

Please continue to keep Andy Wiedmeier in your prayers and whenever you are in Fargo, stop by and see Andy at Villa Maria on south University.