



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger

February 2012

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Scout Sunday, Feb 5TH

We will recognize the anniversary of Boy Scouting in worship on Sunday, February 5th. If you were or are a Scout, we encourage you to wear your Scout uniform and/or bring any memorabilia you may have.

Submitted by: *Pastor Dan*

“THE STATE OF THE CHURCH”

Pastor Dan will deliver a “State of the Church” address in worship on Sunday, February 5th. If you have any observations about the current state of our church, please let Pastor Dan know. If you want to learn, plan to attend worship on Sunday, February 5th.

Submitted by: *Pastor Dan*

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

A service of worship marking the beginning of the season of Lent will be held in the Sanctuary on **Wednesday, February 22nd at 6:30 p.m.** The service will include the imposition of ashes on the forehead as a mark of repentance and remembrance.

Submitted by: *Pastor Dan*

SERMON SERIES: THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

During the Sundays of Lent, Pastor Dan will preach a six-sermon series on Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount found in the Gospel of Matthew, chapters five through seven. The series will begin Sunday, February 26th.

Submitted by: *Pastor Dan*

WESLEYANS MEET FEBRUARY 7TH

The Wesleyans will meet on Tuesday, February 7th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Room. Taylor Morrison, artist and author, will present the program. All ladies are cordially invited to come for a visit with Taylor, and share refreshments and fellowship.

Submitted by: *Virginia Heald*, President

SIGN UP!

Flowers for the Sanctuary, ushers, and coffee hour refreshments don't appear by magic on Sunday mornings. We rely on our church family to take turns providing them. Look for the sign-up sheets on the divider in the Fellowship Hall, and please sign up to do your part!

Submitted by: *Sue Brenner*, Hospitality

VALENTINE POTLUCK

Sunday, February 12th we celebrate Saint Valentine's Day. We will have a potluck dinner following the worship service.



Please come for a good meal and good fellowship!

Submitted by: *Lois Oakberg*

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

The Christmas Eve offering total was \$2912. This was divided equally between WESTCO for homelessness prevention, and Imagine No Malaria a UMC malaria prevention program worldwide, but in Africa in particular where the disease is epidemic. Thank you for your generosity.

Submitted by *Pastor Dan*

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

This year will be a year of change for Methodists everywhere, all facing reduced budgets:

General Conference (worldwide United Methodist gathering)

- will meet in Tampa, FL, in April 2012
- will consider eliminating guaranteed appointments for clergy
- will consider restructuring of the United Methodist Church and consolidation of several of its general agencies

Jurisdictional Conference (Western U.S. United Methodist gathering)

- will meet in San Diego, CA, in July 2012
- will assign Bishops to Annual Conferences. One Bishop (probably in Seattle) will serve all of Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and Alaska, beginning in September, 2012

Annual Conference (Oregon & Southern Idaho United Methodist gathering)

- will meet in Salem, OR, in June, 2012
- will reduce from 5 districts to 4

Charge Conference (Forest Grove United Methodist gathering)

- will meet in the Fall, 2012, at FGUMC
- presided over by new District Superintendent, Margaret "Peg" Lofsvold

"Holy Conferencing" is an early principle set forth by John Wesley, the 18th century British founder of Methodism. Wesley believed that "holy conferencing" -- Christians conferring together for the sake of peace and truth seeking -- was a "means of grace," even as are Bible reading, prayer, and the sacraments.

Here are some guidelines to Holy Conferencing, which could be applied to many settings of life: Every person is a child of God. Always speak respectfully. One can disagree without being disagreeable.

- ✦ As you patiently listen and observe the behavior of others, be open to the possibility that God can change the views of any or all parties in the discussion.
- ✦ Listen patiently before formulating responses.
- ✦ Strive to understand the experience out of which others have arrived at their views.
- ✦ Be careful in how you express personal offense at differing opinions. Otherwise dialogue may be inhibited.
- ✦ Accurately reflect the views of others when speaking. This is especially important when you disagree with that position.
- ✦ Avoid making generalizations about individuals and groups. Make your point with specific evidence and examples.
- ✦ Make use of facilitators and mediators.
- ✦ Remember that people are defined, ultimately, by their relationship with God – not by the flaws we discover, or think we discover, in their views and actions.

I hope to see you at the "State of the Church" address in worship on February 5th.

In faith and hope,



Pastor Dan

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

Since I last wrote I have made my way through the Gospel of Matthew – still following the advice I gave my grandson for reading the Bible, and continuing to read from The Message which I have decided to use for all of my personal Bible reading in 2012. I'm doing that because the clear and frank language gets the point across to me in new and fresh ways. Also I need to tell you that the older I get and the more I see of the world and life, the more radical I seem to be becoming. I know not everyone is in that kind of place in their life.

The introduction to Matthew says: "Matthew provides the comprehensive context by which we see all God's creation and salvation completed in Jesus, and all parts of our lives – work, family, friends, memories, dreams – also complete in Jesus." He fleshes out more fully the story told by Mark who seems to have been in a hurry to tell us what happened in the birth, life, death, resurrection of Jesus – the Event that reveals the truth of God to us.

By the middle of the 4th chapter Matthew lays out what the message of Jesus Life is.

Change Your Life. God's Kingdom is here now. Follow Me.

Following that comes the Sermon on the Mount, so much of which has baffled Christians across the ages because, I think, it teaches things we simply don't want to follow. The Message gives the Beatitudes in a clear straight forward way and it's more difficult to talk our way around them. You are blessed, he says, when...

- You're at the end of your rope
- You feel you've lost a lot
- You're content as you are
- You have a good appetite for God
- Your mind and heart are right
- You cooperate rather than fight
- Your devotion to God provokes persecution.

Other phrases that really stand out in my mind include these and are sprinkled throughout the Gospel, and continue the theme that Matthew sets in the Sermon on the Mount as foundational words to build a life on. "No more tit-for-tat. Live generously and graciously toward others the way God lives toward you. Love enemies."

"I'm after mercy, not religion. I'm here to invite outsiders, not coddle insiders." When asked if he is the one we've been expecting, or are we still waiting, Jesus replies: "The blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the wretched of the earth learn that God is on their side." And the listener is left to puzzle out the answer.

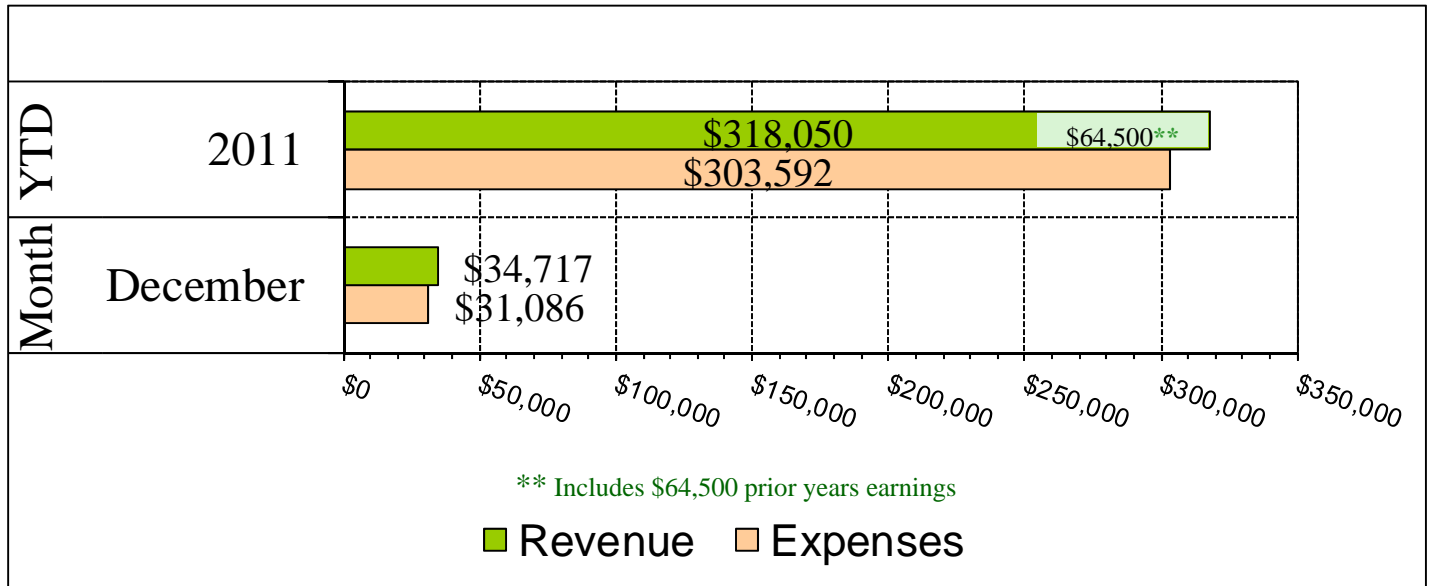
In the story of cleansing the Temple I caught a new phrase in verses 12 -14 of chapter 21. He threw out thieves and loan sharks, anyone buying and selling and the text continues by saying "Now there was room for the blind and crippled to get in. They came to Jesus and he healed them." The religious leaders were outraged at the things he did and said and at "all the children running and shouting through the Temple, 'Hosanna to David's Son!'"

It seems to me that Matthew gives us a portrait of Jesus who is far from content with the status quo, and that gives a lens through which to do our own Bible reading and theologizing. We are called to **Change the World!**

In Christ's Ministry With You,
Deacon Rhoda Pittman Markus

MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Income/Expense Comparison (As of 12/31/2011)



FINANCIAL NEWS

This year brings welcome changes to how we handle some of our financial and accounting functions. For many years, we've been fortunate to have Laura Dionne take care of the church's Treasurer responsibilities. This often has been a very time consuming task. Laura, who has a family and a very demanding job, asked quite some time ago to step down from the Treasurer's position. After much discussion it was decided that most of the Treasurer functions could be better handled by hiring a bookkeeper. We recently contracted with Jeanne Correll, Basic Business Bookkeeping, to take on the bulk of these responsibilities. Jeanne has years of bookkeeping experience and has even worked previously with the accounting system used by our church. She will also be working closely with our own, very capable, Liz Swenson. Laura has graciously agreed to continue to help out during this transition period. If you get the chance, I hope you'll take the opportunity to thank Laura for her years of work in keeping the church's finances in order.

Even with the hiring of a bookkeeper, however, we still need to have someone acting as the Church Treasurer. As noted above, the duties have been substantially scaled back, but a Treasurer is necessary to provide oversight and ensure we are prudently managing our financial resources. Are you someone who could step up to this task? Do you know someone who could? If so, we would appreciate hearing from you.

Submitted by: **Barbara Huson**, Finance Chair

F. G. U. M. C. CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
January		March					4
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	31					
		4	5	6	7	8	
		11	12	13	14	15	
		18	19	20	21	22	
		25	26	27	28	29	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
8:45 a.m. Youth Council 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship: Communion 11:15 a.m. Fellowship 11:30-12:45 p.m. Youth Band, Apostlips Rehearsal	6:00 p.m. Worship Team	7:00 p.m. Wesleyans	3:00-5:30 p.m. Youth Group	6:00-7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Pastor's day off 11:00 a.m. Have December committee minutes in office	Pastor's day off 8:00 a.m. Guitar Group	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Fellowship: Valentine Potluck 11:30-12:45 p.m. Youth Band, Apostlips Rehearsal	6:00 p.m. Worship Team		3:00-5:30 p.m. Youth Group No meetings for SPRC, Finance, Trustee, and Council Committees unless needed.	6:00-7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Pastor's day off	Pastor's day off 8:00 a.m. Guitar Group March Messenger articles due	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Fellowship 11:30-12:45 p.m. Youth Band, Apostlips Rehearsal	6:00 p.m. Worship Team 3:00 p.m. Jennings-McCall Gathering w/ Pastor Dan	4:30—7:30 p.m. St. Bede's Shrove Tuesday pancake supper.	3:00-5:30 p.m. Youth Group 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service	6:00-7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Pastor's day off	Pastor's day off 8:00 a.m. Guitar Group 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Youth Leadership lab	
26	27	28	29				
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Fellowship 12:30 p.m. UMW & UMM 11:30-12:45 p.m. Youth Band, Apostlips Rehearsal	6:00 p.m. Worship Team	NO Elms Gathering w/Pastor Dan	3:00-5:30 p.m. Youth Group				
<----- Pastor Dan away at The Academy for Spiritual Formation ----->							

CHURCH COUNCIL

Last year we had an organization with three sections, Ministry Teams, for our Church operations. Members were reluctant to take leadership roles because they felt the jobs were too large. The Council has now changed the structure to five sections to make the bites smaller. We are calling them the five Fruitful Practices. Also your Council has become smaller and has changed its focus to that of overall direction of our Church. This leaves the organization for week to week operations to the standing committees; Trustees, SPRC, Lay, and Finance; and to the five Fruitful Practices.

The leaders of each of these nine areas will be able to stay focused on their area and not be involved in the overall direction of the Church. Communications and ideas can move more quickly with a directly focused organization and there will be more freedom to try new ideas. Each Practice leader will have a Council member as a contact to get answers from the Council, share ideas, and get direction and support. The Practice leaders will have a budget for their area. You will be able to do what you have been doing but with closer support from the Practice leader.

If you would like to be a Practice leader or know a member who would be a good leader then please talk to me or any Council member. When a potential leader is found the Council contact member for the specific Practice and I will meet with the potential leader, provide them with a Position Description, a list of the areas of the Practice, the budget, and explain how the leader and the Council will work together. The objective is to make our service to God smooth and rewarding.

You have been doing what you enjoy doing and want to do in support of our Church. Wonderful, and that will not change. Making Disciples for Jesus Christ is the UMC mission, we are trying to make our work to that goal more fun and effective with this organization change.

Submitted by: *Harold Jensen*, Council Chair

UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

Here is a list of upcoming UMVIM trips. Some of them still need additional volunteers.

Mission Site	Dates	Sponsoring Church	Contact Info
UMCOR Depot, Salt Lake City	5/6-12/2012	Portland First UMC	Rev. Peggy and Ed Luckman
UMCOR Depot, Salt Lake City	5/7-11/2012	Coburg UMC	Dr. Gary Power
UMCOR Depot, Salt Lake City	6/30-7/7/2012	Forest Grove UMC	Emily Tabb
UMCOR Depot, Salt Lake City	8/27-8/31/2012	Clatskanie-Rainier UMC	Rev. Carol Bowers
UMCOR Sager Bown, LA	10/21-26/2012	Lake Oswego UMC	Nancy White
New York City	3/24-4/1/2012	Boise RUMC youth	Ric Shewell
Rosebud Reservation, SD (Needs vol.)	5/11-21/2012	Newberg UMC	Bob Flaherty
Tanzania	Summer 2012	Monmouth UMC	JoAnn King
Vincent Guierro, Mexico	7/15-21/2012	Boise RUMC youth	Ric Shewell
Peru/Bolivia	October 2012	Boise FUMC	Rev. Steve Tollefson

Please let us know if you know of any other mission trips coming up and contact us if you have any questions!

Blessings,

Western District UMVIM Coordinators

Chuck and Betty Pritchard, b2c2m2@gmail.com, 503-359-9340, cell:503-200-4830

AFTERSCHOOL ALLSTARS AT JOSEPH GALE ELEMENTARY

Several months ago, our congregation adopted Joseph Gale Elementary and began a partnership. The youth loved the idea and after much thought and prayer, felt called to lead an afterschool program for the students at the school. The result of several months of organization, meetings with the staff at Joseph Gale, and fundraising, the Afterschool Allstars was set to begin on January 18th. Due to school closures, we will begin on January 25th.

The program will consist of a snack, singing silly songs, and students choosing Creative Art or Group Building/ Active time. We will conclude with a time for students to share about their week. The purpose behind the Afterschool Allstars is to provide students with the amazing opportunity to have a middle and/or high school mentor (by some of the best youth ever! Yes, I am a little biased) and fill in the gap of art, P.E., and music which has unfortunately been affected by the cuts to school budgets. Alicia McConnell is organizing and leading the Group Building/ Active time and Betty Ludlam will help with Creative Art. John Heun, Alicia McConnell, and I went to the schools and talked to the 2nd through 4th grade students about our program. The students could not believe this program was free and included a snack and art projects. When we discussed the program with the principal, Melissa Carter, we set a maximum of 26 participants. We sent permission slips home on a Wednesday and by the following Monday, we had 63 students sign up. We raised the maximum number of students to 33, and started a waiting list.

My challenge for our congregation: rally together and offer a program where 63 students can participate!!! Currently, I have Marion Gustafson, Betty Ludlam, Addison Hummel, and myself plus 8 youth leading the program. Allowing 60+ students will call for several more adult volunteers, more food for snacks, and more cost for art supplies.

We plan to have this program run until the end of April with the intention of being a yearly program. If you are interested in helping in some way, I will be scheduling an Afterschool Allstar meeting after church sometime in February. Feel free to contact me with questions.

Submitted by: *Emily Tabb*, Youth Pastor

WINTER RETREAT

This year we were not able to attend the Winter Retreat at Suttle Lake, so Carole Heun volunteered to organize our own winter retreat here in Forest Grove. Carole planned meaningful devotions and challenged the youth to find where God was calling them. Thanks to Caroline Dau, Cindy McConnell, Alisa Hampton, Lela Baskins, Bill and Mary Drew, Donna Siddall and Dale and Carole Heun for the wonderful meals!

The most impactful time for me was the march down the streets of Forest Grove in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., while several people stood on the sides of the roads and read his speech. We “marched” to Pacific University where we heard people share about how Martin Luther King, Jr. influenced their life and their mission or ministry. We concluded our experience with Pies for Piece, a non-profit organization that bake and sell pies with all the proceeds donated to Mercy Corps.

What an amazing weekend! Thanks to the Heuns, Beth Hall, and the youth for such an awesome weekend.

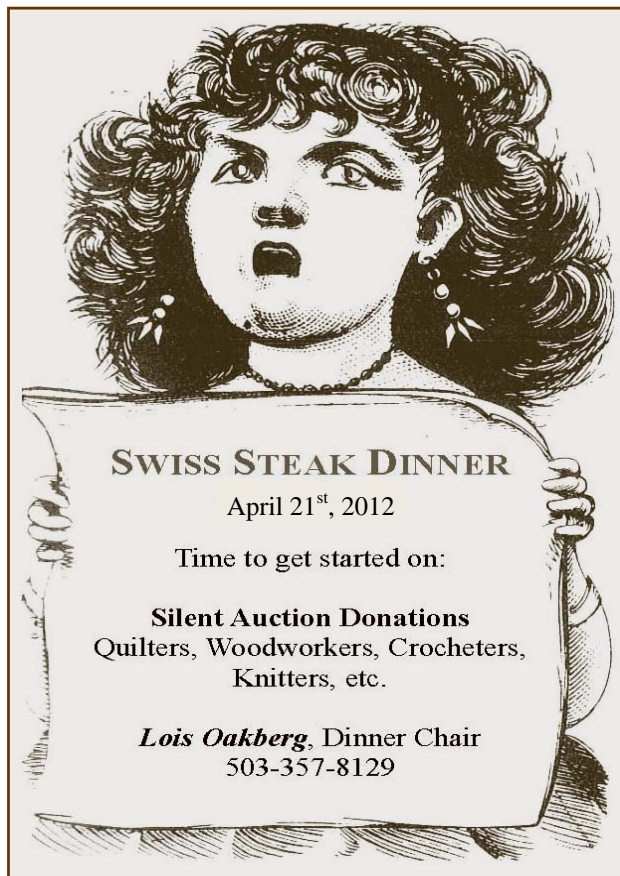


BACKPACK PROGRAM LAUNCHED AT JOSEPH GALE

Thanks to several volunteers who helped get the first backpacks ready for children on January 19. Food for the weekend went home with the children on January 20. The start is small, but by keeping food donations as well as monetary donations coming in the number of children helped can grow more quickly. If you're a member of some other organization in the community, please tell the story of this program and encourage donations from individuals as well as the organization itself. If you need help knowing what to say, please talk to Rhoda Markus. I hear that donations of peanut butter are really coveted!

Submitted by: *Rhoda Pittman Markus*

SWISS STEAK DINNER REMINDER



BIRTHDAYS

Jenny Lyn Englin	February 1 st
Emily Tabb	February 1 st
Caroline Dau	February 6 th
Edythe Westlund	February 6 th
Drake McLeod	February 7 th
Adrienne Dionne	February 8 th
Linda King	February 8 th
Laurie Bond	February 9 th
Betty Pritchard	February 10 th
Alyssa Dionne	February 11 th
Maxine Nichols	February 13 th
Earl Nordgren	February 14 th
Virginia Lamb	February 17 th
Cricket Luczkow	February 20 th
Jan Schrock	February 22 nd
Leah Henriksen	February 24 th
Lilly LaCombe	February 26 th

ANNIVERSARIES

Tom & Donna House	February 14 th
Bill & Lyn Boysen	February 27 th

UMW - UMM MEETINGS

The United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men will share a potluck lunch on **Sunday, February 26th**, at 12:20 p.m., followed by separate meetings and a program. Please join us!

Submitted by: *Lela Baskins*

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Please be sure that the church office has your new address as soon as possible. Thank you.

Submitted by: *Liz Swenson*

SERVING IN FEBRUARY

Lay Leader	Ann Ulum
Altar Guild	Ella Collins
Bus Coordinator	Lois Oakberg, 503-357-8129
Bus Driver	Morris Haney
Ushers & Greeters:	Dick & Trudy Sundstrom, Tom Stewart, Addison Hummel
Coffee Coordinator	Janet Hummel
Fellowship Time	Youth—Sundaes
February 5 th	Volunteers needed
February 12 th	Volunteers needed
February 19 th	Volunteers needed
February 26 th	Volunteers needed
Nursery Supervisor	Melissa Holcomb
Web Master	Jenny Lyn Englin
Kitchen Elves	Carolyn Ashton & Ella Collins
Sound and Media	Steven Wong
Parish Nurse	Patti Rose

MISSION STATEMENT

Do justice.
Love kindness.
Walk humbly with God.

Daniel Wilson-Fey	503-359-4249	Pastor
Rhoda Markus	503-357-3998	Deacon
Emily Tabb	503-707-4971	Youth Pastor
Liz Swenson	503-357-2689	Administrative Assistant
Church Office Hours, Monday through Friday		
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.		
Patty Davie	503-357-3185	Messenger Editor
Bless you for getting your articles to me by the 18 th of each month!		
e-mail: plc2fd@frontier.com		

CHURCH CORNER FLETCHER JOHNSON

“Half my life has been outside; hiking, biking, camping, rafting, kayaking,” explains FGHS sophomore Fletcher Johnson. “In fact, right now my dad and I are building a kayak that will go not only on the Willamette River, but actually out on the ocean. A sea kayak. Pretty exciting,” he adds with the patented Johnson grin.

Fletcher is also active in Boy Scouts. “We take food to the Oregon Food Bank; we have car washes and recycle Christmas trees to raise money for camping and lots of outdoor activities.” Fletcher is on his way to ‘Star’ ranking.

He’s been active in the FGUMC Youth group since 7th grade. He’s most impressed to learn again and again how differently people of various cultures and religions view the Bible. It has given him insight into his own beliefs and perspective into how different people can mean different things when talking about the same subject.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

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