From the Senior Pastor’s Desk

By Freddy Fritz

God’s Purpose for Me

Later this month we will have our annual Missions Conference. Be sure to mark the weekend of February 19-21, 2016 on your calendar. We are thrilled to have the Reverend Tom Cannon as our Missions Conference speaker. He is the Coordinator of Reformed University Fellowship, our denomination’s outreach arm to students on university campuses in this country, and also starting in other countries of the world. We will all be challenged as we consider the Missions Conference theme about “The Mission of God and the Hope of Man.”

As we anticipate the Missions Conference I thought that it would be good to remind ourselves of one of God’s purposes for us as Christians. Simply put, one of God’s purposes is, “God wants me to be a messenger of his love.” This is the church’s purpose of mission stated in a personal way. Once a person becomes a Christian, God calls every one of us to become messengers of the Good News of the Gospel. The apostle Paul put it this way in Acts 20:24, “But life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about God’s mighty kindness and love” (The Living Bible). This is an important responsibility of every Christian. Paul also said in 2 Corinthians 5:19–20a, “For God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself, no longer counting men’s sins against them but blotting them out. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others. We are Christ’s ambassadors. God is using us to speak to you” (The Living Bible).
In heaven we will be able to worship God, fellowship with other believers, continue to grow in Christ, and serve each other. The one thing that we will not be able to do in heaven is tell unbelievers the Good News of the Gospel. That is why God doesn’t immediately translate us from earth to heaven upon our conversion.

So, as we participate in our upcoming Missions Conference, let us consider how God may be calling each one of us to be messengers of his love. Perhaps it is to go on the Cherokee Missions trip this summer. Or perhaps it is share the Good News of the Gospel with your neighbor, or family member, or colleague, or friend. Whatever it is that you do, may God richly bless you as you grow in your ability to be a messenger of his love.

Calling All RVers

Are you looking for an opportunity where you can make a difference and use your recreational vehicle (RV) in service to the PCA? MNA SecondCareer can help. For example, Ridge Haven, the PCA’s Conference and Retreat Center located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina is looking for RVers to come and help with a variety of handyman and landscaping tasks. To learn more about this and other opportunities to serve, check out our website at www.pcamna.org/second-career or contact Barbara Campbell at bcampbell@pcanet.org (804-339-5005).

Women's Ministry

By Ginny Bremer

Thank You

A big thank you to everyone who made the “Soup’s On” Sister to Sister a warm and loving fellowship gathering. Thank you to the soup makers: Sherrie Kaw, Barb Hess, and Suzanne Swenson. Thank you also to Suzanne for her meditation, to Sherrie who gave a testimony, and to everyone who attended and brought something to share for the buffet table. A special thank you to Sandy and Stephanie Justice who came early for set up and stayed after for clean up. Your willing hands and loving hearts are appreciated.

Continued on Page 5
Live and in color from the Missions Committee

I’m excited to tell you about the upcoming Missions conference. We will, like every year, have a time of fellowship and updates, but this year is special. This year kicks off the first annual barbecue contest for the Saturday night banquet. Instead of just catering a meal, we will putting together a competition for Pulled Pork Barbecue. I believe with the variety of styles and regions the contestants come from, we will be having our taste buds more than satisfied. Each entry will be tasted by a panel of three judges and the winner will receive a trophy and more importantly, the bragging rights until next year. The style and sauces are totally up to the contestant on whether to use a store bought rub and or sauce, or homemade (Personally, I would go all homemade). Your contestants this year are: Kevin Nobles, James Barber, Brian Carrier, Billy Jeffries, and last but not least Chris Coffey. When you see these folks please encourage them, but more importantly come out and not only be a part of this conference, but also be at home with your Church family. These type of events not only educate us about missions and it’s critical role and need in this hurting world, but also give us a chance to grow together. These events allow us to become more of a family style unit that is bound together by love, truly caring for each other, and that is so much more than just a membership slip of paper.

It’s also time to ramp up and put together the team that will go on the short term missions trip to Cherokee this summer. This trip not only has a far reaching effect on the children and teens we teach, but it has just as many effects on us as team members. I personally saw children come out of their hardened shells that hide their hurts when our team taught VBS. It was truly amazing to see the kids come alive with a little care and attention. The kids just crave it and, more importantly, they respond to the message of Jesus very well. Seeds are being planted there every year. The year I went, I saw one of the shyest men I have met come out of his comfort zone and speak in front of a crowd of people, and teens that were unsure of their ability just thrive with the Holy Spirit’s aid. There is not one person that has gone on the trip that does not have a good story or experience to share.

It may not seem to be a very big activity but the trips into town to the Dairy Queen will be some of my all time favorites as the team is all together and enjoying each other and telling about the day’s events. It is a fantastic way just to hang out and literally chill out. While there, you also will get to meet some of the other Church team members and build relationships with them.

All in all it is a fantastic way to grow in an area that you may never have considered. The only real qualifications you need to go on the trip are a true desire to help and love some great kids, showing and telling of God’s Love and be able to breathe. That’s it. Be alive and willing to love the kids and tell them about Jesus Christ.

The missions team is asking you to prayerfully consider going, but if you’re not able would you please pray for the team and its success and safety. Please see any missions committee member or write in on the Welcome Card and put it in the offering plate on Sunday.
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2—Phil Lear  
3—Sherrie Kaw  
3—Rock Roque  
9—Grace Nobles  
10—Michelle Lok  
11—Luana Isaac  
12—Josiah Massie  
13—Caroline Coffey  
13—Zeke Hawkes  
13—Jessica Renae Hunter  
15—Chris Atkinson  
15—Diana Weinel  
15—Tyler Wyss  
16—Margaret Mitton

17—Alisa Carrier  
17—Alex McNulty  
17—Melissa Noel  
21—Jimmy Barber, Jr.  
21—Todd Bayley  
21—LeeAnn DeStefano  
21—Charlotte Page  
25—Jon Fritz  
28—Marianne Cali

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

14—Mr. & Mrs. Fred Gordon

Missionaries Supported by TBPC

Mission to the World
Peter & Lauren Dishman
Esaié & Natacha Etienne
Ken & Tammie Matlack
Carla Stevens

Reformed University Fellowship
Jeff & Jenny Lee

New Harvest Missions International
Nathaniel & Cherita Adawonu

Serving In Missions
Rene & Lili Palacio

Wycliffe Bible Translators
Don & Judy Vander Ploeg
Kevin & Gertrude Nicholas

Ven Con Nosotros Church
Dr. Oscar & Elizabeth Alvarez

PRCC
Chaplain Ted Hamm
Chaplain James Cochell
Women's Ministry (Continued from page 2)

A heartfelt farewell thank you to Melissa Noel for the many years that she did invitations, flyers, programs, and anything else we requested for our WM events. She did so always with willing hands, helpful suggestions, and wonderful results!! We could not have done our events without her!! So often she was proactive and prepared before I even mentioned my request, and she never made me feel like a pest, which indeed I was. Thank you, thank you thank you!!

February Event

There are no planned February events. I encourage everyone to support the Missions events that are planned.

Looking Ahead

I will be passing the leadership of Women’s Ministry to Suzanne Swenson some time in March. The Session has approved her to that position in a recent Session meeting. She will then be the “go to” person for WM requests and ideas. Please be of assistance in any way you can as she transitions into the many responsibilities of the WM coordinator position.

Our next WM Sister to Sister gathering is scheduled for April. Deborah Donaldson has graciously offered her home as the event location. Tentatively it is scheduled for the second Saturday in April, but stay alert to future notices on the WM bulletin board and the Trumpet articles for the exact details.

We will have our next WM 15 on February 14th in room 23 following worship. Please attend to share ideas and help plan future events.

Truth Matters

By Joe Burns

Is That True?

“Our problem is not that there isn’t a common moral ground but that we would rather stand somewhere else”

J. Budziszewski in What We Can’t Not Know

According to Mothers Against Drunk Driving, 53 seconds is the average gap between deaths resulting from drunk-driving crashes. That puts the total drunk-driving killings in any given year at barely shy of 10,000.¹ Ten thousand! That’s about a quarter of Wesley Chapel’s population. What, then, was so notable about one particular accident in Burleson Texas the night before Father’s day in 2014 that accounted for four of those 10,000?

¹It wasn’t the scattered-glass and cork-screwed-metal violence of 16 year-old Ethan Couch’s pickup. Likewise, the 70 miles per hour lane-hopping chicken matches on a narrow two-lane road has no doubt happened uncountable times in inestimable places before that night…and since. Yes; the driver was just barely old enough to get a license, but that’s not unusual either.¹ The reality that it took just a splinter of time to forever change the lives of so many people is excruciating…and yet excruciatingly unremarkable.

The remarkable moment in this tragedy didn’t arrive until 178 days later. It was in a small Tarrant County Texas courtroom well
after a prosecutor requested 20 years imprisonment for Couch and moments before Judge Jean Boyd’s gavel sounded. For killing four people and seriously injuring two others, Ethan Couch was sentenced to ... 10 years’ probation! Why no prison time for such a senseless and deadly crime? It appears Judge Boyd’s decision was heavily influenced by the ‘expert testimony’ of psychologist Dick Miller that claimed Couch suffered from “affluenza”.

Most Americans were likely unaware of the word “affluenza” at that moment, although according to Webster’s it’s been around since 1978. Dr. Miller, whose testimony most likely set the stage for the reduced sentence, described it as a state of mind common in children from wealthy families who never learned the difference between right and wrong because they rarely, if ever, suffered the consequences of doing wrong. In effect, the defense made the case that it’s unfair to severely punish someone for doing something they didn’t know was wrong.¹

Well, there was ample evidence in the Couch family history that Ethan’s upbringing fit that mold exactly. Asked during a deposition when she last disciplined Ethan, his mother said she couldn’t remember ever disciplining him. He badgered his parents continuously until they allowed him to drive by himself beginning at age 13. He lived alone in a 4-thousand square-foot house his parents left behind for him when they moved to a 7-thousand square-foot house 30 minutes away. His father paid $100,000 dollars to enroll him in a resort-style rehab program after his drunk-driving crash. When Ethan failed to adhere to the provisions of his probation, his mother spirited him away to Mexico in hopes of allowing him to avoid prison. Even then, after he killed four people, she continued to shield him from suffering the consequences of that reprehensible behavior.¹

¹The media and public outrage that followed was strident and in pitch-perfect harmony. Nobody, it seems, saw things the same way as Judge Boyd. Even Dr. Miller later confessed to a TV host that children like Couch were at one time simply called "spoiled brats". That divide only widened when the public learned that Judge Boyd came to an altogether different decision in a similar matter 10 years earlier. When 16-year-old Eric Bradlee Miller stood before her bench in 2004, he was charged with stealing a truck while drunk and causing a crash that killed a young father. Once the jury

found Miller guilty, Judge Boyd sentenced the teen to 20 years in prison...not just 10 years of probation.¹

Now, there were clear differences in the facts of the cases and the defendants themselves. Miller stole the truck he drove that night, a felony which heightened the potential consequences for him.¹ Couch used his own truck to kill and maim his victims. Even so, the most obvious difference is Miller clearly didn’t suffer from “affluenza”.

There is yet an even more startling outcome arising from the Couch case that should give Americans a smidgeon of comfort and hope. Nobody, not one, has spoken out—at least not loud enough for Professor Google to note—testifying to their belief that Judge Boyd’s ruling was the right thing to do. That, ladies and gentlemen, is absolutely remarkable. We live in a culture that denies absolute truth exists. We often hear declarations like ‘One man’s good is another’s evil’, or ‘what’s true for you may not be true for me’ or ‘who are you to say homosexuality, cheating, adultery, abortion, lying...is wrong?’

Moral relativism salted by political correctness has a numbing grip on our culture today. It’s a fundamental tenet of the worldview that denies the existence of God and His laws in favor of the autonomy of man. But if absolute truth doesn’t exist, how could anyone expect true and consistent justice to reign? America’s response to the Couch verdict shows unequivocally that we want true justice. We just can’t seem to acknowledge that true truth exists and is unimpeachable.

There are some truths, however, that nearly everyone agrees on. Francis Schaeffer is remembered for one: if you see an elderly lady trying to cross a busy street, you have three choices. You can ignore her plight, you can help her, or you can shove her into the oncoming traffic. Which is the wrong choice? Schaeffer’s is an illustration of the existence of absolute truth.

It seems Ethan Couch has given us another. After all, nobody is disputing the clear reality that Judge Boyd’s sentence was patently wrong. Well, nobody but five so far: Ethan, his mother, two Couch attorneys and Judge Boyd. Not quite universal, but it’s at least a sign of hope and a tool for igniting discussions with our moral-relativist friends.

God’s word teaches true truth exists, is absolute and is easy to recognize. As Jesus told Pilot: “Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice” (John 18:37, ESV). Keep listening closely and telling others about The Truth.

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¹ http://tinyurl.com/ct5ht5s
² Photo: http://tinyurl.com/2d4k8yl
³ http://tinyurl.com/nh9w9wf
⁴ http://tinyurl.com/zd6wlgy
⁵ http://tinyurl.com/nh9w9wf
⁶ Photo: http://tinyurl.com/j5tybz2
⁷ http://tinyurl.com/zd6wlgy
⁸ http://tinyurl.com/hhxz568
⁹ ibid
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<td></td>
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<td>1 11a Staff Meeting; 6:30p WBS- Evening</td>
<td>2 9:30a ESL; 7p Outreach Team Meeting and Missions Committee Meeting</td>
<td>3 9a WBS-Morning; 6:15p Dare 2 Declare Rehearsal; 6:30p Kids of the King Rehearsal and Prayer Meeting; 7p Pioneer Club; 7:15p Adult Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>6 7:45a Men’s Bible Study</td>
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<td>7 8:45 Adult CEF, Youth &amp; Children’s Sunday School; 10:30a Worship Service; 12p Session Information Meeting; 5p PHOS Youth Dinner</td>
<td>8 11a Staff Meeting; 6:30p WBS- Evening</td>
<td>9 9:30a ESL; 7p NTCA Board Meeting</td>
<td>10 9a WBS-Morning; 6:15p Dare 2 Declare Rehearsal; 6:30p Kids of the King Rehearsal and Prayer Meeting; 7p Pioneer Club; 7:15p Adult Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>13 7:45a Men’s Bible Study; 9a Men’s Ministry Team Meeting</td>
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<td>14 8:45 Adult CEF, Youth &amp; Children’s Sunday School; 10:30a Worship Service; 12p Missions Conference Luncheon; 5p PHOS Dinner and Meeting; 5p PHOS Youth Dinner</td>
<td>15 11a Staff Meeting; 6:30p WBS- Evening</td>
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<td>17 9a WBS-Morning; 6:15p Dare 2 Declare Rehearsal; 6:30p Kids of the King Rehearsal and Prayer Meeting; 7p Pioneer Club; 7:15p Adult Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>18 7p Session and Diaconate Meetings</td>
<td>19 7p Missions Conference Dessert</td>
<td>20 7:45a Men’s Bible Study- 6p Missions Conference Dinner</td>
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<td>23 9:30a ESL</td>
<td>24 9a WBS-Morning; 6:15p Dare 2 Declare Rehearsal; 6:30p Kids of the King Rehearsal and Prayer Meeting; 7p Pioneer Club; 7:15p Adult Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>29 11a Staff Meeting; 6:30p WBS- Evening</td>
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The Sunday Schedule

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<td>Worship Service</td>
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<td>Christian Education &amp; Fellowship for Adults</td>
<td>Worship Service</td>
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