

The Joy of Being Revived in Jesus!

Newsletter for Partners of Chesapeake Community of Hope Lutheran Church

A Testimony from Wayne Smith

I remember when Pastor Steve (Oil of Heaven) asked for all the members of the congregation who have pain that need healing to stand around the room and then had everyone else divided up among them. Each person called on the Holy Spirit to come and heal the person in need if it was His will. I struggle with this, [because I] didn't think anyone off the street could have this gift. I've seen this done on TV and haven't put much into it. I've also seen people fall over during prayer and wondered if it's real or not.

When we did healing prayer earlier in the day, one on one with someone you didn't know, I felt nothing. I saw some changes in the other person but still wondered, "What's really happening?" It made me wonder if something was wrong with me. I have chronic pain throughout my body, but really bad in my right leg. So when we gathered in groups of four, I asked them to pray over it. When the first person prayed, I don't think I felt much of anything at all. Interestingly, the woman said she saw a light on my face. When the second person finished praying, my leg still hurt though I felt peaceful; that's as best as I can describe it. When the third and final person finished, the pain seemed to ease up.

Again it was/is hard to describe and I wasn't sure if it was physiological or it was really happening. Well its several days later and my leg feels a lot better. It hurts sometimes, but it's a different pain, if that makes any sense. Usually because I work it harder than I ever did because I don't feel the chronic pain! I forget about the leg unless I do something physical and think, "Hey, that didn't hurt, it actually feels pretty good!" *Even if the pain returns today I'd be OK with that because the way I am able to get around this week, to quote a cliché, is truly priceless.*

Pastor Jeff's note: Having known Wayne for six years, he has chronic arthritis with lots of metal in his bones.

(Continued on p. 5)

From Pastor Jeff:

Surprised by the Power of the Holy Spirit!



"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Luke 11:11-13

In this newsletter you will read a few of the several testimonies we received from those attending our "Catch the Wind of the Spirit" conference. We brought in Pastor Steve Stutz, an LCMS pastor from Houston, and three laywomen, a group called "Oil of Heaven ministries". It was a great time of worship, Bible study, prayer and experiencing the presence of the Holy Spirit.

One of the neat things about the conference was the breadth of attendees. We held this conference first for our own congregation as we were trying to grow in a balanced understanding of how God wants to use all the gifts of His Spirit *today* just as He did in the early church.

(Continued on p. 3)

**Takin' Jesus to the
streets! (still!)**

Page 2

**Update from
facility Search
Committee**

Page 4

Good News Club takes off for its Second Year!



As the 2011-12 school year kicks into gear, so does our second year with the Good News Club. Cedar Road Elementary School is the recipient again of being able to share the Good News of Jesus in music, Bible story, games, the Gospel message and small group prayer time each Monday from 2:30 - 3:30. Karen Higgins heads up several volunteers who mix with and love on these kids. Six of the children have no church home at all, while six attend CCOH. The others we are unsure of.

Summer Tweens Camp a blast of faith building!



August brought another Tweens Summer Camp with an opportunity for our 6th-8th graders to learn about Jesus and their faith in Him.

Tweens on service project cleaning up the apartment complex where families in transition from homelessness live.

Topics included:

1. What am I saved from? (Hell)
2. What does a Christian look like?
3. Why don't Christians always look like Jesus did?
4. Can I trust God to work in my life?



Ken Dahm and Josh Wuertz teach Sarah Akulin about trusting God!

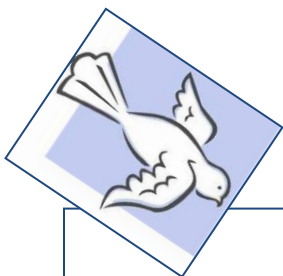
The Oil of Heaven Team:

Shannon, Pastor Steve, Roxanne, and Michelle



Participants pray for one another's healing.

One of the beautiful aspects of the conference was the "hands on approach" to the participants learning to pray for the Holy Spirit to heal one



"Surprised..." (Continued from p. 1)

We also invited people from throughout the LCMS southeastern district, as well as other churches in our community. The exciting thing is the variety of ages of people that were touched. Everything from lifelong Christians in their 70's to teens. One woman was in a car accident two years earlier and was unable to bend down on her knees due to excruciating pain. On Friday evening I was in the back of the church when I heard "Praise Jesus! Praise Jesus!" The Lord healed her knees and she was "walking on her knees" with tears in her eyes. (She did the same thing Sunday morning in front of the church.)

We encourage you to read on through this newsletter some of the testimonies people had. Not all were physical healings. Some people simply experienced the love of God in a way they had never experienced before. I can tell you that now, one month later, we still have people who are "transformed" in their faith, their zeal for Jesus, to share Him with others, and to expect God to move in our midst.

Yes, you could say we were "surprised by the Holy Spirit". But more than that, we are now more hungry than ever to see the work of Jesus accomplished here and throughout the world! Thanks again for your partnership in all HE is doing among us And through us!

Roxanne



Pictured is the Search Committee:
*Greg Swenson, Buzz Halleen, Rena Campbell,
 John Warren and Gregg Smith.*

Update from Facility Search Committee

CCOH's Facility Search Committee has been looking for property or a facility that CCOH can use as its "mission headquarters" for the future.

Many properties have been identified and one in particular is receiving particular attention. Our realtor has identified a property in our target area that is not on the market currently and as a result is confidential. Our team has developed a potential plan to use this non-traditional property and is submitting a phased plan to the owner in order to get an idea if it is something the Lord is providing and whether or not we should pursue it. Please keep us in prayer regarding the need for a facility and the direction the Lord would lead us.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

CCOH families have continued to test God and trust Him with their treasures during 2011. The turnaround from our congregational meeting on September 8, 2010 has been a Holy Spirit thing and has *stayed consistent!* For the first ten months of 2011 we are at 98 % of our budgeted goal, which is the best CCOH has ever done. Praise the Lord for this turnaround!

Private Partners continue to meet the shortfall between what our congregation spends for kingdom work and what it gives. YTD private partners have given \$28,000. Personally, I can share that *I never imagined needing assistance at this point in CCOH's life cycle.* Yet as the Lord continues to grow our people and progress is made, I am reminded to let God be God and depend fully on Him. Once again we express our sincere gratitude that the Lord would provide partners who continue to support His work at CCOH! Thank you so much for your kingdom participation here!

2011 Tithes - 11/9/11

Tithes Given: \$147,500 = 98% of budget goal, YTD.

2011 CCOH Goal: \$175,000 in tithes. (On target to reach \$170k)

Attendance: Avg = 86 / wk.

2010 YTD: Avg = 78 / wk.

2011 Goal: Reach avg of 125 / week

Prayer Requests

1. A **new worship location** in the middle of Great Bridge and/or Deep Creek.
2. For God to **fan into flame** the gifts of the Spirit that He has given to us individually and corporately.
3. A crystal clear focus on building up the **children's and Tweens** ministry in 2012.

Pastor Jeff and Karen headed to India with Mission India!

God has opened an exciting door for Pastor Jeff and Karen to go on a mission trip with Mission India on Jan. 31-Feb. 7. Mission India is a non-denominational ministry founded by Pastor John DeVries in which hundreds of thousands of native Indian people are converted to faith in Jesus each year! Mission India focuses on 3 areas of ministry: children's prayer and Bible clubs, adult literacy ministries (2/3 of adult women are illiterate in India), and church planting.

Mission India has a unique relationship with Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod pastors and provides this trip each year. For more information on Mission India, see *Missionindia.org*.



(Continued from page 1)

Wayne's Testimony

He has always been in chronic pain and is the last person to claim being pain free from just a "psychological" effect. The difference one month later in his joy for Jesus and focus on mission is incredible!

Testimony from Bob Moser:

(Pastor Jeff's note: Bob is 68 and retired military. He is a member of our mother church, Hope Lutheran in Virginia Beach. Note the overflow effect for Bob after the conference in a visit to the emergency room visit with his wife.)

Pastor Jeff,

It was clear to me that the Holy Spirit was present. Lois received 'some' healing for her back. I am not convinced that neither she nor I was prepared for the experience. This is one of those opportunities which you must prepare for to receive full benefit. You have to review your faith, get a 'right spirit' with the Holy Spirit and let the rest flow according to God's will.

Following the session, I will state that I am more at peace and feel more relaxed, I presume, because working with the Holy Spirit gives you that peace. Offered the opportunity again, I would work through Acts to watch the Holy Spirit in action with the early church. I am glad that I attended and need to 'kick it up a notch' to a level which is acceptable...

When I took Lois to the ER, I held her hand and said, "Come Holy Spirit." Her response was, "What did you say?" I did not repeat, but I believe that the ER experience was healing, not only for her back, but also for her urinary problem. First if you do not succeed all the way, try, try again. In this case there was (1) no wait, (2) quick diagnosis, (3) rapid application of medications and an overall quick road to recovery. I felt the Holy Spirit was present in that experience and, as you well know, ER experiences are seldom pleasant - this one was.

Thanks for the support and the invite. If this ever occurs again, we need more press. I feel certain that I could have dropped a couple invites at Bible Study Fellowship.

V/R Bob

The Buzz from Buzz

(CCOH President Michael “Buzz” Halleen)

Three simple but powerful words - **Come Holy Spirit**. This simple invitation is having a transforming impact on Chesapeake Community of Hope. During our recently completed “Catch the Wind of the Spirit Conference” we invited the Holy Spirit to be released in our lives, individually and collectively as a congregation. It is amazing to see how God is healing physical ailments, emotional pains, and growing our faith.

Now, when I read through the Bible and come upon the word “Spirit”, it has a completely different meaning. Instead of an intellectual understanding of the Holy Spirit as part of the Triune God, I now feel a connection to God that results in a stronger sense of power and peace that I can tap into at anytime. A simple example - I was at work, not always a spirit filled place, and was dealing with some issues that were making me feel anxious, excited, and troubled. As I sat eating lunch with a group of people in our conference room, I closed my eyes and silently said, “Come Holy Spirit.” With those three words, my anxiety was lifted and a sense of peace filled me up.

Galatians 5:25 says, *“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”* As Chesapeake Community of Hope moves into 2012 this is our continued goal – To Stay in Step with the Spirit. We continue to seek God’s guidance in all areas of our ministry. Specifically, we are seeking guidance for our search committee and our Children’s/Youth ministry. The search committee is exploring options for a facility that can be used for both our office and worship. We also have dedicated people serving our youth, but are seeking a central coordinator with the spiritual gifting to further grow these young people into disciples for Christ.

Please join us in thanking God for the Gift of his Holy Spirit and praying that we keep in step with the Spirit. Thank you for your continued support to grow God’s Kingdom through Chesapeake Community of Hope.

Must Read... (or watch)

When God’s Spirit Moves!

(A six lesson DVD and Bible study by Pastor Jim Cymbala of Brooklyn Tabernacle Church). It’s a 5 out of 5!

Some of the testimonies we received from “Catch the Wind of the Spirit” include:

Physical healings:

- Migraine headaches due to head, face, and gum pain healed. “After being prayed for I felt no pain, soreness or headaches and still none to this day.” [Colette Cogliandro]
- Knees healed. [Pam Jack]
- Back healed [Carol Campen]
- Chronic leg pain removed. [Wayne Smith]

Emotional healings:

- Lifelong feeling of being alone healed after prayer. [Colette]
- Lifelong disappointment with God (because He didn’t heal her physically from paralysis). Striving to *feel* the truth [about God] she knew was true. “This weekend I realized that perhaps pain is God’s greatest gift to me. Now I can focus on comforting others seeking Jesus and longing for God’s love.” [Anna]
- The Holy Spirit touched a young woman who had believed in Jesus her entire life but never sensed God’s love for her. After being filled with the Holy Spirit she said, “I now realize that I need to yield my life to Jesus.”

Encouragement from learning to pray for others:

- After praying for someone and seeing them pain free [Ken]

Where do we go next?

After you read about our conference, you may have some of the same questions we have? One key question is, “Where do we go next?”

First, I can tell you that this conference didn’t just “happen”. It was prayed for. Fervently. We have been praying for months that God would begin moving in our hearts and displaying His “realness” in our lives. He began moving in small but clear ways prior to the conference.

So what do we do next? Well, we continue with our Wednesday night prayer night, and it has been powerful! One of our leaders said last Wednesday, “After tonight prayer time has moved from what I’m *supposed to do* to *what I want to do*! Imagine people *wanting to come to a prayer meeting*!”

We also continue to build on expectancy. We need to spend time in God’s Word, in prayer and asking Jesus to do His work amongst us. Instead of “keeping busy for God”, we are asking God to work through us. It’s not about what we want, it’s about the Holy Spirit showing us what Jesus wants to do. (Amazingly, that’s exactly how Jesus lived!) As people pray, they find their own hearts enlarged and healed in many ways. We are beginning to experience more of what Ephesians 3:20 says: “*God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His great power that is at work within us.*”

So it’s a journey. We will keep praying and learning how to use our gifts. And we ask that you join us on that parallel journey! To God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be all the glory!

Pastor Jeff



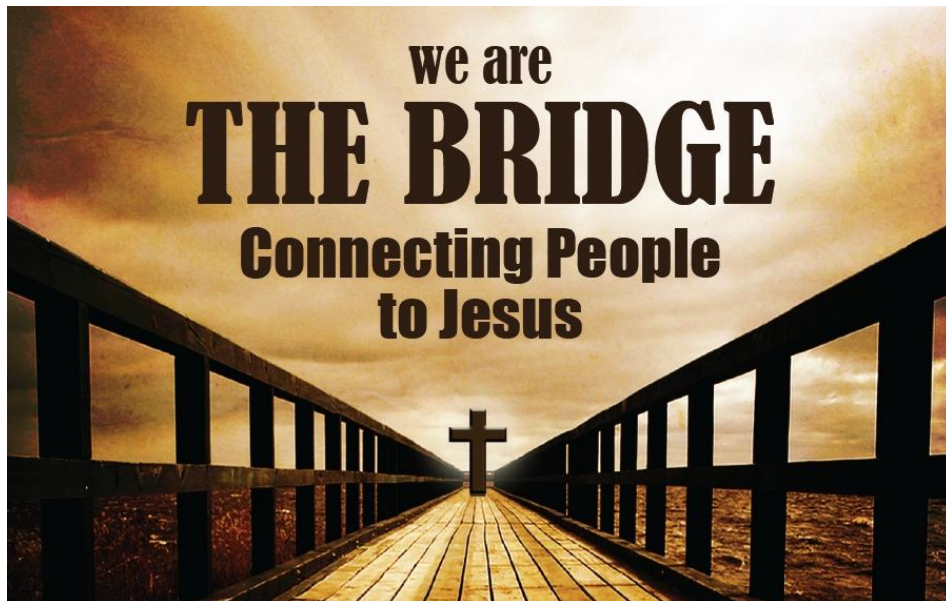
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... because everyone needs Hope