

GRACE NOTES

News from and about Grace Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan

April, 2008

Our Mission Trip to Jackson MS

This past week, I led a group of 31 people to Jackson MS to hear from and work with our friend Dr. John Perkins. There were 9 people from Grace Church: Emmanuel Phillips, Eileen Kooreman, John Kooreman, Leah Yoder, Brianna Owens, Markeda Gray, Amanda Dekker, Rachel Spears and myself. The balance of the group was high school students and leaders from Lagrave CRC.

We left at 5AM on Saturday April 5, beginning a 14 hour trek to Jackson. We



worshipped at the church in Mendenhall that was founded by Perkins. On Monday we began our work for the week which mainly consisted of cutting up a tree and breaking up a driveway. On Friday April 4, tornadoes had done damage to Jackson, including throwing a huge tree into a home owned by the Perkins Foundation. It did severe damage to the home. One of the teams spent much of the week cutting this tree away. We enjoyed devotions each morning and evening. The morning devotions and teaching were led by John Perkins or a member of his staff. I attended a 5:30 AM Men's Bible

study led by Dr. Perkins. That was an experience that I hoped would happen and it was great.

The highlight for me was meeting and speaking with Charles Evers, the brother of Medgar Evers, an assassinated civil rights leader in MS. Medgar was shot by Byron De La Beckwith in his driveway in the presence of his wife and young children. We watched the movie "Ghosts of Mississippi" and I recommend it to you. It is the story of the trial of De La Beckwith, in which he was finally convicted of the killing of Evers. Both Medgar and Charles are responsible for an impressive record of achievement



in civil rights in MS. He is a genuine hero and it was a thrill for me to meet him and speak with



him about his fascinating life. He wrote a wonderful book of his life entitled "Have No Fear".

We celebrated my son John's 23rd birthday (see picture above)

I have done this trip to Jackson now five times since 2001. Each time, I have done it over spring break but if I do it again next year, I am thinking of going down in June with families of Grace Church. I would like to organize it to coincide with an annual event in Jackson, celebrating the life of Medgar Evers. The event held every year over several days, includes , performances by blues and reggae artists. Each year Charles Evers best friend, BB King headlines the concert. Take a look at: <http://www.chittlincircuit.com/content/view/116/1/>



if you are interested in such a trip, let me know.

Pastor Kooreman

Nominating New Elders and Deacons

This year Council appointed the following individuals to the Nominating Committee (NC): Pastor Kooreman, Chris Overvoorde, Nicky Pinder and Mildred Pinder, and charged them with the following responsibilities:

The NC shall review the needs for additional elders and deacons as well as committee chairpersons.

The NC will initiate a selection process which will include seeking the input of the congregation using the membership list, and collect recommendations from the elders and deacons. A "gross list" of potential office-holders will be prepared by the NC and presented to Council for their review. Council members may indicate to the NC any people who should be removed for confidential reasons. List of potential committee members will be assembled by the NC.

The NC will begin making personal contact with potential office-holders working from the prioritized list, seeking candidates as needed.

The congregation will be informed of the process and the timeline. The time line will be as follows: In February the Administrative Committee recommends a Nominating Committee.

In March the Council approves the Nominating Committee membership. Elders recommend candidates from their care list. Deacons recommend candidates from their list. Congregation responds to the membership list.

In April the NC recommends the "gross list" to Council. Council adopts a prioritized list. NC begins the contact of potential candidates. Committee memberships are reviewed.

In May NC reports back to Council. Final list of candidates is adopted by Council and recommended to the Congregation. In June July new office-holders are installed and new committee chair persons and members are appointed.



Retiring Deacons, Helen Brent, Ron De Waard and Roger Wagemaker, not pictured



Retiring Elders: Bob Bosch, Terry and Meridith Treman Post, Tom Hoeksema Mike Bruinooge

Mike Bruinooge Rides

A bicycle tour from "Sea to Sea" to raise money for poverty relief: that's what the Christian Reformed Church in North America is sponsoring this summer. About 125 riders will go the whole way, leaving Seattle on June 30 and ending August 30 in Jersey City. The route is divided up into three



sections: Seattle to Denver; Denver to Grand Rapids; and Grand Rapids to Jersey City. So another 90 people, including me, will ride one or two of these sections. I'll join the tour in Grand Rapids, leaving for the two week ride to Jersey City on Monday, August 18.

I'm excited! Raising money is one of the purposes of the ride. The other is to celebrate the unity of the church as riders from churches around the U.S. and Canada—not just Christian Reformed—attend celebration rallies

each Sunday and raise awareness of the good work that is being done to end the cycle of poverty in communities on our continent as well as around the world.

One of these rallies will be held in Grand Rapids at 3:00 pm on August 17, at Fifth-Third (Whitecaps) ball park. All the riders will be there. And Shane Claiborne, author of *The Irresistible Revolution*, will speak. We expect as many as 8,000 people to attend, and I hope lots of Grace Church members are in that number.

As a rider, I'll have to train well this spring and summer. But I also need to raise \$4,000 from sources available to me—especially my home church. (Those who go coast to coast have to raise \$10,000.) Can you help as a Grace Church member? I hope so. I'll be showing you how you can do so as we get closer to the time of the event. Some Grace members who know about the event have already made a gift—for which I'm very grateful!

Three quarters of the donated funds will go to three organizations: 1) The Christian Reformed World Relief Committee for relief and development in poor countries around the world, 2) Partners Worldwide, a group that supports small businesses in poor countries, and creates jobs, and 3) Christian Reformed World Missions, which trains Christian leaders in poor communities. And one quarter of the funds will be made available to churches and organizations who submit proposals for anti-poverty work in North America.

Most of the costs of the tour will be covered by corporate donations, which for 211 riders includes food, campground registrations, support crew, sag & equipment trucks, and more. Our goal is to raise \$1,500,000 above the costs of the tour. For more information you can check this web page: http://www.crcna.org/pages/sea_front.cfm. *Mike Bruinooge*