

# INTOUCH

June 19, 2011

## Beyond Your Walls

By Margaret Manning

*And you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem,  
and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth...*

### THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY – JUNE 19

#### Father's Day

*God's richest blessings*

*on all the Fathers among us and to us!*

- 12:15 PM LUNCHEON WITH THE GOODMANS Fellowship Hall  
*Please join us for time with Craig and Ruth  
Good food and God's good news about their work with MAF*
- 12:30 PM Nursing Home Ministry meets in Fellowship Hall
- 2:00 PM Nursing Home Ministry serves at Osborn Health & Rehab
- 6:00 PM EXCEL High School will not meet this week (Summer Camp)
- 6:00 PM SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER Library (205)

MONDAY – JUNE 20

EXCEL SUMMER CAMP at Forest Home Camp in California

- 9:00 AM Women's Aerobics – "Kick Boxing" Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY – JUNE 21

EXCEL SUMMER CAMP

WEDNESDAY – JUNE 22

EXCEL SUMMER CAMP

- 9:00 AM Women's Aerobics – "That's A Stretch" Fellowship Hall
- 6:45 PM EXCEL Junior High will not meet this week (Summer Camp)
- 7:00 PM EXCEL High School Small Groups will not meet until August 3<sup>rd</sup>

THURSDAY – JUNE 23

EXCEL SUMMER CAMP

- 9:00 AM Women's Aerobics – "Cirque Du Soleil" Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 PM Young Adults Ministry The Tessmer's home

FRIDAY – JUNE 24

EXCEL SUMMER CAMP

- 9:00 AM Women's Aerobics – "Dance It Off" Fellowship Hall
- 5:30 PM Expected return of EXCEL Summer Camp attendees CBC

SATURDAY – JUNE 25

- 10:30 AM Messianic Bible Studies 209
- 12:00 PM GriefShare Reunion Potluck Family Room

SUNDAY – JUNE 26

- 9:00 and 10:40 AM MORNING WORSHIP Sanctuary

Dr. Tim Savage

GOSPEL FOR LIFE

**"Identifying with the Crucifixion and Resurrection"**

Philippians 3:10-14

- 9:00 AM Nursery (birth – 18 months) 301-304
- 9:00 AM Children's Discipleship (19 months – gr. 6) 101-103, 201, 203, 206
- 9:00 AM Adult Fellowship Classes 208, 209
- 9:00 AM Teleios: *Peacemakers-Biblical Principles* Library (205)
- 9:00 AM Intergenerational Class: *Lord Teach Us to Pray* 207
- 10:40 AM Nursery (birth – 18 months) 301-304
- 10:40 AM Children's Church (19 months – gr. 6) 101-103, 201, 203, 206
- 12:15 PM BIBLICAL CONCERT Sanctuary
- Dr. Guy Whatley  
Organ
- Two Sets of Variations on Hymn Tunes by Bach*
- 6:00 PM FUEL (EXCEL Junior High & High School) Fellowship Hall  
*Camp Testimony and Praise*
- 6:00 PM SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER Library (205)

The season of Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian community. For Christians who celebrate Pentecost Sunday, a celebration is the order of the day to commemorate the birth of the church and its growth in numbers and witness. The book of Acts records the events surrounding the momentous day: the violent wind from heaven, the appearance of tongues of fire, and the miraculous gift of languages that caused the Jews who had come to Jerusalem for the Feast of Harvest to wonder if the disciples were drunk.

The ancient feast of Pentecost celebrated by the nation of Israel, however, was a celebration of harvest. The weeks of sowing were completed and now it was time to reap the gifts of the land. That the Spirit would be poured out during this Hebrew festival is no coincidence. Jewish pilgrims from many different lands had gathered for this feast and were astounded as they heard their native dialects and languages being spoken by a small group of Jesus-followers. These were the languages representing every region of the known world. The harvest was not just of crops, but of peoples—peoples far beyond the boundaries of Jerusalem.

And this is exactly what Jesus had promised would happen with the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The good news of the Messiah would go out beyond the walls of Israel to the "remotest parts of the earth." What is often not realized—as modern people living in a pluralistic and multicultural world—is that taking the gospel to the remotest parts of the earth would have been bad news for those who believed the Messiah was only for Israel.

To understand why this mission of the Holy Spirit was so radical, we have to understand how religious Jews viewed Gentiles in the first century. Gentiles were unclean and Jews had no dealings with them. Jesus was often criticized for ministering to Gentiles or to Samaritans—half-breeds—who were also despised by the Jews. This background gives understanding for a conflict in the earliest Christian community in which the Hellenistic Jews (Jews from Greece) were angry at the native Hebrews for overlooking their widows in the serving of food.<sup>1</sup> Outsiders in general were treated with inferiority.

It also helps us understand the strange vision of the great sheet covered with unclean animals that appeared to the disciple Peter. In the vision, Peter is commanded to "kill and eat" what would have defiled him according to Jewish law. Peter cries out when he is told to kill and eat, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean!" This was not merely a protest against a new dietary law; Peter could not conceive of bringing the gospel to those he would have considered unclean. The narrative tells the reader that at the same time of this vision, Cornelius, a Roman soldier was praying—praying as it turned out for Peter, his reluctant evangelist.

As a result of this vision, Peter later declares about the Gentiles, "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the one who fears God and does what is right is welcome to God. The word which God sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ...of him all the prophets bear witness that through his name everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins."<sup>2</sup>

Peter ministered to those who were considered outside the bounds of God's grace. And when he returned to Jerusalem, the Jews took issue with him over his "eating with the uncircumcised." Peter explained the events and the Jews eventually declared, "God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life." The gospel had pushed outward beyond the walls of Jerusalem! The words of the prophet Joel were being fulfilled: "In the last days, God says, I will pour forth my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, and your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams" (Joel 2:28-32).

Continued . . . .

In this season of Pentecost, I marvel at the irony of God calling Peter, and later Paul (who was Saul of Tarsus a "Hebrew of Hebrews") to be "apostles to the Gentiles." God was calling them to reach out with the good news that God was saving those deemed unlikable, unworthy, and far outside the promises and plan of God. Whether or not we celebrate the season of Pentecost, we might wonder about the ones in our lives we might be tempted to consider "Judeans or Samaritans" or those "who dwell in the remotest parts of the earth." The same Spirit who changed the world by changing the minds of a handful of disciples beckons still, pushing us outward beyond our own walls.

<sup>1</sup> See Acts 6:1.

<sup>2</sup> Acts 10:34-36, 43.

Margaret Manning is a member of the writing and speaking team at Ravi Zacharias International Ministries in Seattle, Washington.

**HERE IS AN EXCEPTIONAL IDEA FOR FATHER'S DAY!** Many men are interested in the excitement of worldwide flight. We have the privilege of first-hand stories from Craig and Ruth Goodman, who work with Missionary Aviation Fellowship. This agency provides disaster relief, emergency transportation, and travel to remote areas of the world with its large staff of pilots, mechanics and support team. **Today, after the morning worship service, we will welcome the Goodmans' and enjoy lunch together in Fellowship Hall,** provided for all who wish to join us, as we hear the latest from Indonesia, DR Congo, Haiti, and other places where the needs are greatest. If you will join us, please let us know how many to expect. You may email us at [nvl22@cox.net](mailto:nvl22@cox.net), phone 602-795-6678, or fax 623-977-3732. We wish you a Happy Father's Day! And encourage you to spend some of it rejoicing with us in God's amazing ways in MAF. You will not be disappointed.

**THE YEARLY SELECTION PROCESS** of the individual or individuals God would bring forward to serve this body in the capacity of Elder is coming to a close. The names of Gary Balok and Tom Reimers are presented to the membership for prayerful review and consideration as Shepherding Elders. Prior to affirmation, the membership may respond, within the next weeks, in writing (signed) to the Elder Board if there are any potential concerns that might detract from the appointment of either of these nominees.

## SEARCH ME, O GOD

*"Search me, O God, and know my heart:  
try me, and know my thoughts."*

Psalm 139:23

Search me, O God, and know my heart today;  
Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.  
See if there be some wicked way in me;  
Cleanse me from every sin and set me free.

I praise Thee, Lord, for cleansing me from sin;  
Fulfill Thy Word, and make me pure within.  
Fill me with fire where once I burned with shame;  
Grant my desire to magnify Thy name.

Lord, take my life, and make it wholly Thine;  
Fill my poor heart with Thy great love divine.  
Take all my will, my passion, self and pride;  
I now surrender, Lord in me abide.

O Holy Ghost, Revival comes from Thee;  
Send a revival, start the work in me.  
Thy Word declares Thou wilt supply our need;  
For blessings now, O Lord, I humbly plead.

*Words:* J. Edwin Orr, 1936. Orr wrote these words at a revival meeting in Ngaruawahia, New Zealand, taking less than five minutes to put them down on paper. *Music:* the words are set to MAORI, Maori tune.

*Dear Pastor Ron and our brothers and sisters at CBC,*

*On behalf of the Roosevelt Community Church Kenya Mission Team, I would like to sincerely thank you for the outpouring of support you showed us for our Rubio's fundraiser. The restaurant had a line outside before they even opened! Rubio's had one of their busiest Sundays ever and proceeds from that business has helped us raise all the money needed to build a fence and an additional classroom for our partner community in Lakartinya, Kenya.*

*Thank you for helping us by promoting this in your newsletter and placing fliers in the bulletins. It would not have been a success without you. Praise the Lord!*

*Sincerely, Alden Powers*

*PS: Please keep us in your prayers, as we leave for two weeks. Pray for God to be at work in this community, for transformation and for our safety.*

**PLEASE BE IN PRAYER** for the nearly 50 EXCEL Junior High and High School students, and staff, who left early this morning for five days of Summer Camp at Forest Homes Camp in California. They will be joining others of their same age range – Junior High in one camp location and High School in another – for days and nights filled with relevant biblical teaching, gathered worship, new friends, engaging conversations, and fun-filled lasting memories. By God's grace may they draw closer to Him, discover their true identity in Him, and be encouraged to live their lives as committed Christ followers with the joy of the Lord their strength.

**EXCEL "FUEL" (Combined Junior High and High School)** will meet on Sunday evening, June 26<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Everyone of that age is invited to share in and hear about Summer Camp Testimonies and praise God for all that He provided and accomplished.

**NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup>, OUR ORGANIST, GUY WHATLEY** will present a Biblical Concert featuring two sets of variations on hymn tunes by Bach. The first: **Von Himmel Hoch** "From Heaven Above to Earth I come (BWV 769) deals with Christ entering our lives. The second **Sei gegrüßet, Jesu gutig** "Hail to Thee my Jesus Holy" (BWV 768) deals with our ongoing life in Christ. As always this concert begins immediately after the 10:40 service in the Sanctuary

**A NEW HEARING ASSISTANCE SYSTEM** for use during our worship services has been installed. At the present time, there are a limited number of receivers, so they will be given out on a first-come, first-serve basis each Sunday. You should pick up a unit from the narthex before the service and return it immediately following the service. Please let us know what you think of this new hearing assistance system by completing the cards available with the units.

**A JUNIOR HIGH BOWLING PARTY** will be held on Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at AMF Squaw Peak Lanes, 3049 East Indian School Road, Phoenix. Please bring \$10 for two hours of bowling, shoes, soda and pizza.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE MUSLIMS IN CENTRAL ASIA?** What are you doing to help? Probably a lot more than you realize! Although this region is closed to American Kingdom Workers, we are mobilizing Ukrainians to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Why can Ukrainians share with them and others can't? How is God directly reaching them? Come join us for lunch! **Doug and Marina Landro** would love to share this information with you. There will be a time for Q&A. Lunch will be served just after the second service on July 3<sup>rd</sup> in Fellowship Hall. RSVP if possible to Fran Landro, 480-945-2509; but don't stay away if you were unable to do so. We at CBC support their work, so through them you are a part of this ministry! Join us and hear what impact you are having in central Asia!!!

### CBC GIVING TO DATE, 2011

Budgeted Need for June 2011	\$107,516.00
Last Week's Giving	\$ 19,401.00
June Giving to Date	\$ 47,621.00
Remaining Need for June 2011	\$ 59,895.00