



Light

MAY 2011 Volume 61 Issue 4

MAY IS FOR

MISSION

PRAY

SEE

ACT

May 8th—Dr. Dino Crognale, from Tenwik Hospital in Kenya, will speak on **“We Treat—Jesus Heals”**

May 15th— Partnership Sunday and **“Water as Life: Bethel’s Engagement with Charity Water”**

May 22nd—Jan Maseda from LSSCCC **“Partnering In Our Own Neighborhood”** Food Pantry Sunday

May 29th— **“Who Is My Neighbor?”** Join us as we work on two different neighborhood projects

Seeking to be a relevant presence of love,
compassion & acceptance to everyone in the community.

17500 Burbank Blvd., Encino, CA 91316-1718 • 818.788.2653 • www.bethelencino.org

Over the Month of April we examined the last week of Jesus life. His compassion for his friends even those that were to betray him and his heart for the forgotten were exemplified on Holy Wednesday. On Maundy Thursday we encountered a God that seeks to serve, and calls us to serve. We visualized a shared meal and a broken Jesus who was struggling to do God's will. Good Friday led us to understand the fullness of what love means when it is lived to its completion. Every step of Jesus' life we see consistency in love, lived in service of others. This is part of what it means to live missionally in the world. Jesus saw the needs around him, took them to God and acted out of compassion.

One of Bethel's core values is living missionally. As a community we talk a lot about this idea, but the month of May we will move beyond speaking into action. Follow with us into the way of Jesus; see, pray, and act compassionately. This will be our mantra all through May.

As a recap, a brief description of the missional church "is a body of people **sent on a mission** who gather in community for worship, encouragement, and teaching from the Word that supplements what they are feeding themselves throughout the week."*

Part of living missionally means moving from:

- From programs to processes
- From demographics to discernment
- From models to missions
- From attractional to incarnational
- From uniformity to diversity
- From professional to passionate
- From seating to sending
- From decisions to disciples
- From additional to exponential
- From monuments to movements
- From services to service
- From ordained to the ordinary
- From organizations to organisms**



As we move through this month we will teach, learn, and live mission. Join us as we work with our partners: Tenwick Hospital in Kenya, Charity Water, Lutheran Social Services, and our neighbors.

Peace and Hope,

Pastor Rustin

*(Dan Kimbell)

** (Stetzer/putman)



Momentum

President's Message

What is momentum and what does it mean to have it? As defined in the dictionary- momentum is: force or speed of movement; impetus, as of a physical object or course of events.

Momentum is a very positive thing. In the world of sports, teams with momentum seem to find their way to good records, which lead to playoffs, and to teams with the most momentum... championships! In the world of politics, a little momentum in a small state like New Hampshire or Iowa can change the course of history and who is elected president of The United States.

So, what does momentum mean to a church? If the momentum is negative, you'll see dwindling attendance, shrinking school enrollment, a general lack of energy, and little or no outreach. This is what happened at Bethel between 1992 and 2005. The congregation dwindled over that thirteen year period and the elementary school eventually closed. By 2005 there were very few children in church on a Sunday and no Sunday school. However, my good friends, Bethel now has its "game" back and we have very positive momentum! We are energized, passionate about outreach and being missional, plus we have very good numbers in both Sunday worship and preschool enrollment. Not only did we have 184 folks in attendance on Easter, which was the highest since about 1992, but we also had over 50 children in Sunday school! How cool is that?

Anyway, please forgive me for getting excited about the positive momentum we are experiencing at Bethel. Many committed people have worked so hard to get us back on track over the past six years...it feels good. It's easy for church leadership to focus on numbers when they are headed in a positive direction. However, what's truly important is that we continue seeking to be a relevant presence of love, compassion & acceptance to everyone in the community! Thanks for listening...

God's best,

Richard

Community Care Centers

HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED

LSS Community Care Centers... helping people in need

In April, we engaged our community's help in continuing our fight against hunger. Over 70 bags were collected from our April Food Drive to donate to our local LSS Community Care Center in Van Nuys. Emergency assistance programs such as LSS are important commodities in today's times. Providing food such as hot meals, brown bag lunches or grocery bag food from their on site food bank is just one of many ways LSS reaches out to help homeless and low income families. Others services available through LSS are:

Free haircuts and hygiene (individual and family) kits once a month

Mobile Health Clinic every other Tuesday

Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition program - provides vouchers for healthy foods and support for new mothers.

Clothes Closet - for adult male, female, infants and children

Winter Emergency Program - provides winter shelter for homeless during cold months of the year

Veterans Employment - provides computer training, job placement and retention services to Veterans seeking employment

Food Stamp Program - helps families with filling out application and sending to County or approval of eligibility

Utilities Discount Program - helps families to enroll in the Telephone Lifeline and/or the Energy Discount program, obtain discounts on gas and electric bills

Provide English as a Second Language classes

Provide Financial Literacy Classes -assists in establishing realistic financial goals and the practice of regularly saving money in order to transition into affordable housing

Computer classes

Community Urban Garden - provide plots, seeds, fertilizer and water for nearly 30 community families as part of the self sufficiency program

It is predicted emergency assistance programs will remain in demand. But with our help, LSS can continue helping people in need. May 22nd, Food Pantry Sunday: Jan Maseda, Area Director of LSS in Van Nuys will be our guest speaker with an enlightening message you won't want to miss!

Peace be with you,

Shelin



Gospel

The first four books of the New Testament are called "Gospels".

The word "gospel" means simply "good news." 1 Corinthians 15:1-7, "Now I am making known to you, brethren, the gospel which I bring to you, which you accepted also, in which you stand, through which you are saved...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.

The Good News is that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was raised from the dead. The resurrection is indispensable! Apart from His resurrection, His death would have no saving value. "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain—you are still in your sins" - 1 Corinthians 15:12-19.

His resurrection distinguishes Him from all other spiritual leaders. Others have lived, taught, performed miracles and died. Jesus Christ is the only one who died for our sins, has been raised, and now lives as the Savior of the world.

The Good News moves us to mission. We loved because he first loved us, not as an act of devotion but as an act of outpouring from what we received. The gospel gives us "life to the fullest" which like a cup bubbling over, spills out on the world around us.

Jesus declares - "I have come that you might have life, life abundant". Therefore, living missionally is our intentional placement of the overflowing presence of God in our lives.

We thank God, who gives us victory over sin and death through Jesus Christ our Lord! Through Him we can be ever ready and enthusiastic about the Lord's work. - Amen

In His Service,

Genise
Outreach Chair

DINO CROGNALE, M.D.



Why We Serve

The average life expectancy in Kenya is 58 years. One out of every 12 babies die in the newborn period, and 12 percent of children die before the age of 5. This is partly explained by the fact that there are 25 times more doctors in the U.S. than there are in Kenya. People are needlessly suffering, dying of easily preventable and treatable diseases.

Throughout the Bible and throughout history, God speaks out against injustice. He challenges His people to address the wrongs in society. “Say no to wrong. Learn to do good. Work for justice. Help the down-and-out. Stand up for the homeless. Go to bat for the defenseless” Isaiah 1:16-17 (The Message). He calls us to action, not just to pray but to do. To give of ourselves—our time, our energy, and our resources—in order to bring justice and peace and to help the poor and oppressed. We serve in response to this call. We believe everyone has been called to address these issues, but not everyone has been called in the same way. The important thing is not where you serve, but that wherever you serve you are sharing God’s love and hope with those around you. We cannot, however, use this as an excuse to ignore the suffering and poverty in the greater world. As believers, we are called to have the heart of God. Surely, this horrendous physical and spiritual suffering must break His heart. God has called us all to take part in His solution.

Our strongest desire is to help alleviate this suffering. We are excited to have the privilege of bringing God’s love to the people of Kenya in a very practical way, by caring for their medical needs while bringing the news of God’s unconditional love and grace. **Why do we serve?** We serve because we can think of no better way to live life to the fullest than to spend it serving God and the people of Kenya.

Where We Serve

We serve at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya. It’s a really amazing place! The best way to check it out would be to visit their website (www.tenwekhospital.org). It’s hard to get a sense of all that goes on and the incredible impact it has on the individuals and the community just from looking at the website. It helps to realize that behind every one of the 3,000 surgeries, 10,000 hospital stays, and 120,000 outpatient visits per year, there is an individual story of how someone’s life was touched by the care of the people at Tenwek.

What We Do

As family physicians, our primary ministry is caring for patients who come with a tremendous variety of both physical and spiritual needs. We share our experience of God’s love and hope in our lives as we relate to our patients. We also teach young Kenyan doctors to provide compassionate, quality healthcare to their own people through the family practice residency program. Additionally, we have the responsibility of home schooling our children. When we are not in the hospital we disciple youth, through a youth ministry God allowed us to start in our local church.



It's hard not to think about water today. In the western world, we face growing concerns about our stewardship of the world's most precious resource. There's talk of shortages, evidence of reservoirs and aquifers drying up, and of course, plenty of people who simply don't care.

But forget about us.

Most of us have never really been thirsty. We've never had to leave our houses and walk 5 miles to fetch water. We simply turn on the tap, and water comes out. Clean. Yet there are a billion people on the planet who don't have clean water. It's hard to imagine what a billion people looks like really, but one in eight might be easier. One in eight people in our world don't have access to the most basic of human needs. Something we can't imagine going 12 hours without. Here, we'd like to introduce you to a few of those billion people. They are very real, and they need our help. They didn't choose to be born into a village where the only source of water is a polluted swamp. And we didn't choose to be born in a country where even the homeless have access to clean water and a toilet.

We invite you to put yourself in their shoes. Follow them on their daily journey. Carry 80 pounds of water in yellow fuel cans. Dig with their children in sand for water. Line up at a well and wait 8 hours for a turn.

Now, make a decision to help. We're not offering grand solutions and billion dollar schemes, but instead, simple things that work. Things like freshwater wells, rainwater catchments and sand filters. For about \$20 a person, we know how to help millions.

Start by helping one.

water changes everything



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Synod Assembly
Burbank Airport Marriott
May 20-21
Call the church office
for more information





We Need Your Recipes

We are putting together a new community cookbook and would love to share your special recipes.

Send them to:

bethel_encino@sbcglobal.net
or bring a hard copy by the church office.



BRING A FRIEND
SUNDAY

Help grow Gods kingdom;
bring a friend to church.

Every third Sunday
is your opportunity to invite
that person you been thinking
about bringing for a long time.

REMEMBERING OUR VALUES

Love, Acceptance and Compassion for Everyone

Community

Transformation & creativity

Following the Way of Jesus

Relationship with God & Humanity

Grace at all Costs

Excellence and Consistency



SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:15am

Sunday School & Nursery Care every Sunday

Pastor: Rustin Comer

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Website: www.bethelencino.org • Email: bethel_encino@sbcglobal.net



Bethel Preschool

818.788.8269

Email: blecec@sbcglobal.net

NEW WAYS TO GIVE

One of Bethel's goals is to make giving of your time, gifts, and money as accessible as possible.

So we have created a way to give online. Go to our website and click on "give & serve"

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