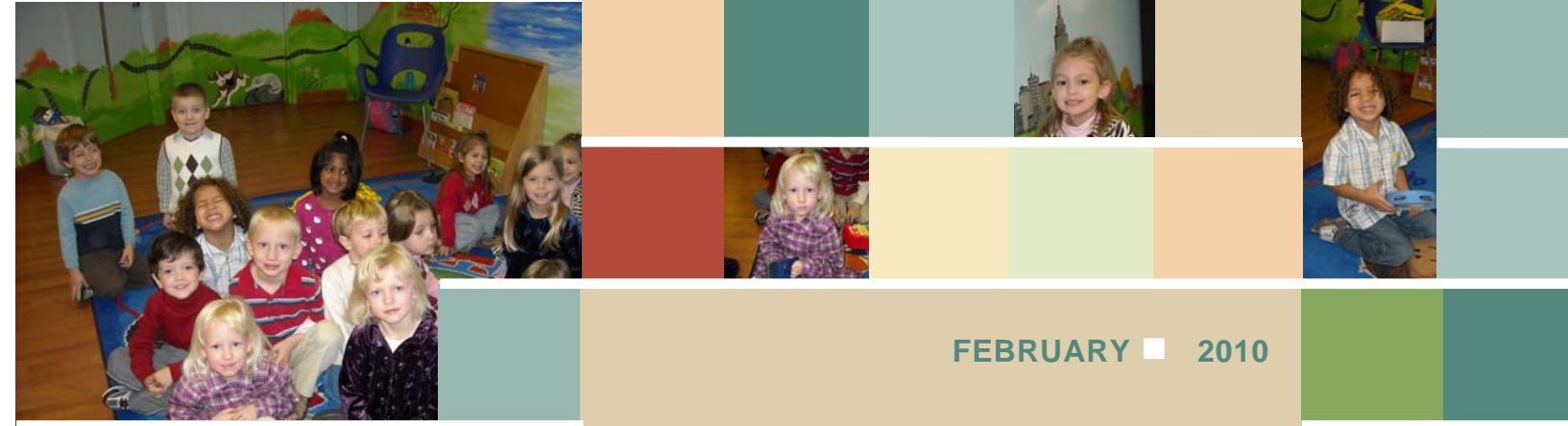




WEST COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF GOD  
 13431 N OUTER 40 RD  
 CHESTERFIELD, MO 63017

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Chesterfield, MO  
 Permit No. 4  
 Zip Code 63017



FEBRUARY ■ 2010

# the Connection

West County Assembly of God

## What's Inside:

KIDS NEWS  
 PAGE 2

SOLID ROCK  
 YOUTH  
 PAGE 2

NEWS FROM  
 THE LIBRARY  
 PAGE 3

MISSIONARY  
 UPDATES  
 PAGE 4

### A Christian Response To Disaster

The earthquake in Haiti reminds us that, "[all of] creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time." At the time of writing, the official death toll has topped 100,000, along with tens of thousands of injured. The human suffering stretches our ability to comprehend. The pictures of children without parents, of broken bodies, and of tortured minds leaves us in awe of the magnitude of this disaster.

As we expect, everyone is searching for answers. Danny Glover blamed the earthquake on global warming, while others find solace in the science of shifting tectonic plates. Pat Robertson attributed the earthquake to God's judgment upon Haiti for their "pact with the Devil." Others have put off the question of why in favor of mounting an initiative to help alleviate this terrible suffering.

The perennial question of suffering dogs us and exposes our limited understanding of God's interaction with the world he created. How should we respond? What should we say, and to whom should we say it? I won't claim to give an exhaustive answer to those questions, but rather I would like to give you two things to think about that might provide a good starting place.

One, unless we are willing to deny large portions of Scripture or do interpretive gymnastics, we must affirm that the God of the Bible judges sin. It's inescapable. God warned his people that he would judge their sin. The prophets proclaimed oracles of judgment against the nations. Although a judging God makes our culture bristle, a God who did not judge injustice and wickedness would not be a good God and would not provide us the hope that some day He will make all things right.

Two, God's judgment has a redemptive purpose, rather than simply being vindictive. God's judgment brings the opportunity for repentance and life. When Israel wandered too far away, God disciplined them, which led them to turn to Him. In the Old Testament, God repeatedly turns away from his anger because the cries of suffering people move him to mercy. So whatever else we say about God's judgment, we must remember that God does not delight in punishment, but he uses it to bring people to Himself.

In the end, the biggest problem is not that we believe in God's judgment, but how we understand and communicate that to a suffering world. Trying to determine whether something is a "natural disaster" or an act of divine judgment is difficult, and when we're quick to say one way or the other, it can generate serious friction. A more biblical approach would be for prophets to listen to God and proclaim what disasters are coming so that when they happen the world knows why.





December was a great month of activity for us in KIDZWORLD! Those of you in our church sent us as "Carol-a-Grams" to many of your friends and family! We traveled to over 18 homes singing wonderful Christmas Carols. We even had the opportunity to stand in the midst of a barn filled with horses on a snowy, cold evening singing "Silent Night."

The Royal Rangers and M-Pact ministries had the privilege to share Christmas Carols with those in the Nursing Home Facilities during the holiday season, as well as, share in a fun Christmas Party together. The entire KIDZWORLD had a Christmas Party together and we painted ornaments, played some crazy games, and had a blast sharing the special season together.

In the Elementary Kidz Church, we "went to" Bethlehem for Christmas! All the kids dressed up in outfits and we portrayed the story of Christ's birth as it was spoken to us. It was a sweet, meaningful moment.

I am so excited about this coming year! I feel like it is a year God wants us in the KIDZWORLD to truly take each ministry we are doing to a deeper level. What a wonderful thing it will be that as we teach about Creation in Sunday School, that we have a doctor from our

church visit the classroom and talk about the intricate details of the human body and how it is uniquely and perfectly designed to function. It had to be created – not evolved – due to the complexity. Or imagine our M-Pact Girls working on their Cooking Badge and preparing food for a homeless shelter or a family in need. The sky is the limit on how we can make our weekly ministries even more applicable to our daily lives and those around us. This year is about developing our discipleship ministries to their fullest capacity, developing our outreaches to their fullest potential, and organizing our volunteers and KidzWorld to their fullest effectiveness. It's going to be an amazing year! Join us for the ride this year! Come be a ministry volunteer!

Pastor Tina



The ministry of cards and letters would be a blessing to the following people:

Helen Fields  
Meramec Bluffs  
40 Meramec Trails Dr.  
Ballwin, MO 63021

Delores Paddon  
Richmond Terrace Retirement Ctr.  
1633 Laclede Station Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63117

Irene Holschen  
10231 Finch Rd.  
Potosi, MO 63664

Ephrem Aldridge Bononi, son of Brian & Dawn Bononi, was dedicated on December 27. Grandparents are Barry & Lynne Aldridge & Larry & Cathy Bononi.

Rebecca Rose Rhine, daughter of Tiffany & Len Rhine was dedicated on December 27. Grandparents are Barry & Lynne Aldridge & Leonard & Janice Rhine.

Silas Hastings Stiller, son of Adam & Misty Stiller, was dedicated on December 27. Grandparents are Barry & Lynne Aldridge & Mark & Judy Stiller.

Congratulations to Marcia & Mark Frick on the birth of Nathaniel Alan on Dec. 14. Proud grandparents are Ernie & Marie Roberts.

Kaitlyn Nicole Powers, daughter of Julie & Eric, was dedicated January 10. Proud grandparents are Debbie & Dennis Powers and Terry & Beverly Strandquist.

Marline McKinley passed away January 10. Services were at WCAG on January 16.

Brian, Logan & Brittany Hunt; Bobby Lowe and Herb Bowles were baptized in water on January 17.

## A Look Into March

March 5	Adventurer's Dinner
March 6	RR Pinewood Derby
March 12	Kidz Night Out
March 13	Youth Paintball
March 14	Annual Business Meeting
March 19	Crop N Craft
March 26	LFTL Banquet

## WCAG Financial Update

	December 2008	December 2009	Budget 2009
Tithes & Offerings	\$128,577	\$110,751	\$187,861
Year-to-Date	\$1,241,335	\$1,169,362	\$1,212,000
Missions Giving	\$34,896	\$41,023	\$55,447
YTD Missions Giving	\$479,857	\$346,162	\$294,630
Receipts	\$138,208	\$111,917	\$154,763
YTD Receipts	\$1,513,085	\$1,387,921	\$1,227,074
Disbursements	\$123,696	\$138,566	\$133,563
YTD Disbursements	\$1,545,258	\$1,382,803	\$1,257,323
Excess/(Deficit)	\$14,512	(\$26,469)	
YTD Excess/(Deficit)	(\$32,173)	(\$3,882)	

## Solid Rock Youth

December was a fun month of activities and services! One of our highlighted events was our New Year's Eve Bash. We gathered at the church for a fun night of activities: sock stealing, boxing, laser tag, underground church, food, AND at midnight we saw "THE MAN IN LIGHTS" drop from the



gym ceiling! Check out the pictures—it was amazing!

We jumped right into the New Year by beginning the Fine Arts Ministry season. Fine Arts give our teenagers opportunities to develop their God-given gifts and abilities for ministry and service. It's a phenomenal ministry. We have teens registered to do dramas, human videos, vocal solos, choir, Spanish sermons, drawings, photography and much more. Very exciting! Over the next several months you will be able to enjoy the various ministries of our students, so be sure to not miss Sunday morning services.

In April, we are looking forward to an amazing youth retreat which will be held at Lake Williamson Christian Center in Illinois. Be watching for details for this upcoming event.

Thank you so much for all of your support and love that you have poured out to Holli and me, and to Maddison and Jaxen. We are blessed to be here and are excited at what God has ahead for us as a church!

Pastor Joel

## Special needs for the Cuauhtémoc Mexico missions trip 2010

Our 23rd Mexico Missions Trip is here! This year we are revisiting Cuauhtémoc, Mexico. In 2006 we were given the opportunity to build a church for the growing congregation in Cuauhtémoc, Mexico. The upcoming project will entail building a two-story school for the same church, and we need your help! Below are several items that we need to make the trip more productive.

**First, we need your prayers.** Please commit to pray for the people who are able to go. Pray for their safety in their traveling and in their construction of the building. Also, please pray for the pastor and congregation that they can be used to reach the lost in the community.

**Second, we need your help financially.** During these tough economic times, the need is even greater for your help with scholarships so people can fulfill their desire to help the church in Cuauhtémoc.

If you are able, please consider a donation to help those who want to go but cannot afford all or part of the expense.

**Third, we are calling all cooks!** We also need volunteers to help us in Mexico by preparing cookies and treats for the people who are able to go with WCAG to Cuauhtémoc. Please help by bringing one or two batches of cookies or some sort of treat to help feed those hard workers in Mexico. Treats will need to be dropped off in the church kitchen and marked "Mexico trip" no later than Sunday, February 7, 2010.

# February Birthdays

Don Stookey	Feb 1	Robert Blackwell	Feb 10	Mickey Button	Feb 22
Michael Lucas	Feb 2	John Lanham	Feb 10	Woojin Jeong	Feb 22
Herb Bowles	Feb 4	Ann Levasseur	Feb 10	Tommy Koelling	Feb 22
John Christian	Feb 4	Wilma Gilley	Feb 11	Anna Moffatt	Feb 23
Samuel Klarich	Feb 5	Amanda Rehr	Feb 12	Pastor Jared Stoner	Feb 23
Jonathan Klarich	Feb 5	Marilyn Knoepfel	Feb 14	Beverly Strandquist	Feb 23
Joyce DeBoard	Feb 6	Pat Winn	Feb 14	Gabrielle Sander	Feb 24
Kim Ownbey	Feb 6	Mary Lou Kretschmar	Feb 16	Michelle Arrington	Feb 25
Terry Strandquist	Feb 6	Stacy Newton	Feb 18	Sylvia Conti	Feb 25
Megan Andrews	Feb 7	Caroline Cordell	Feb 20	Donna Walker	Feb 25
Cathy Andre	Feb 9	Bob Sander	Feb 20	Abey Thomas	Feb 26
Wade Schott	Feb 9	Ernie Roberts	Feb 21	Joshua Cox	Feb 27

## Prayer Intercessor

February 2010

**“Prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God” (Acts 12:5).**

- 1 Pastor Jared, Keri, Katie, and Jacob Stoner and their ministry
- 2 Our missionaries Jane Christiansen, God 4 Girls; Marvin and Rosie Gilbert, South Africa
- 3 Pastor Louie, Kathy, Nicole, Samuel, and Shawn Salazar and their ministry
- 4 Men and women serving in the military
- 5 All the church volunteers, shut-ins, and a cure for cancer
- 6 Grandparent’s Prayer meeting
- 7 Adult Sunday School classes
- 8 Our missionaries Tom and Susan Coleman, Yemen; Tom and Judy Sims, Metro Vision
- 9 Deacons John Verdon and Barry Aldridge
- 10 Living Stones and Small Groups
- 11 Solid Rock ministry
- 12 Kidz World ministry
- 13 First group leaving for Mexico mission trip
- 14 Three-year, Four-year, and Kindergarten Sunday School classes
- 15 Pastor Emeritus John and Connie Wilson
- 16 Our missionaries Stephen and Kim Sobey, Nicaragua; Sally Johnston, Campus Crusade for Christ
- 17 Pastor Tina Green and her ministry
- 18 President Obama and the leaders of our country
- 19 Elders Paul Arrington and Nelda Schloeman
- 20 Second group leaving for Mexico mission trip
- 21 Pastor Mike and Gail Dollard and their ministry
- 22 Our missionaries Herb and Karen Johnson, Philippines; Michael and Beryl McNamee, Convoy of Hope, Europe
- 23 Pastor Joel, Holli, Maddison, and Jaxen Paine and their ministry
- 24 Church choir and orchestra
- 25 Ladies Book Club
- 26 Paula Lucas, Church Librarian, and her helpers
- 27 Church office staff: Joan Newton, Ellen Hartley, Marla Arrington, Lolly Parson; and Sheala Vast-Binder
- 28 Dan and Carol Walker, Full Life Community Church; West County Christian School, ministries supported by WCAG

## News From The Library

Paula Lucas



There is a library display table set up outside the library for new titles added, such as the ones listed below. You are encouraged to sign out any that capture your interest. Hope you will take time to browse those and maybe stroll on over to see the main collection of materials. As we go into another year, I would encourage you to make suggestions for titles you feel should be in our library. Your suggestions are always welcome.

Added titles for this month:

Adult collection:

- Designed by God: honest talk about beauty, modesty and self-image*, by Regina Franklin. 155.2 Fra  
*Money and marriage God’s way*, by Howard Dayton. 306.8 Day  
*The Quotable Oswald Chambers*. On the reference shelf R 080 Cha  
*The Justice Game*, by Randy Singer. Fic Sin

And in the children’s collection, these books from the Living Lights series:

- The Berenstain Bears faithful friends; The Berenstain Bears give thanks; The Berenstain Bears love their neighbors; and, The Berenstain Bears play a good game*. All under E Ber

Plus these books from the Little Blessings series:  
*What is the Bible?* By Kathleen Bostrom. J 220 Bos

*Who made the world?* By Kathleen Bostrom. J 231.765 Bos

A reminder: the **WCAG library is open on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30**. If you want to access the library any other time, a key is available in the church office. To check out materials, simply sign the card provided in each work and deposit it in the white box next to the computer monitor. Feel free to call me with any questions you may have concerning the library, 636-391-7260, or email me at [library@wcag.org](mailto:library@wcag.org)

## Small Groups Open

We have several small groups open.

- Larry and Cindy Dodd meet at the church on Tuesday evenings. Their topic is, “Messiah and the Seven Feasts of Israel”.
- Mike and Dia Finder meet at the church on Sunday evenings. Their topic is the Epistles of John.
- Rich and Sharon Grant meet every other Sunday evening at their home in St.Charles. Their topic is “That the World May Know: Prophets and Kings.”
- Sue Hays meets at the church on Wednesdays. Her topic is “The Harvester’s Handbook.”

If you are interested in any of these please call Pastor Mike at the church office.

Jim George has begun a new adult Sunday school class on the Ten Commandments and they are presently meeting in the conference room. *All are welcome!*

## What Are We?

We pray, we greet with a hug, we learn new skills, we teach each other, some sew, some cut fabric, some tie kids’ quilts, some make stuffed animals, some crochet or knit hats, scarves, or prayer shawls. And we giggle a lot. Then we all go to lunch. What are we...?

### We are the Spinners of Joy of WCAG.

Come join us in the Faith Center dining room every second Monday from 9-11:30 a.m. New hands are always welcome. Materials and instruction are available. For more information call Nancy Kennedy at 314-780-7893.



# February 2010

January 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

March 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	05:00p Deacons' Meeting 07:00p Schloeman Living Stone	06:00a Men's Brkfst/Bible Stu 06:45p Dodd's Small Group	09:45a Bible Study/Prayer 05:00p Strength & Stretch 05:45p Family Night Out 06:45p M'pact & Royal Rangers 07:00p Bible Study, Youth 07:00p Choir, Prayer	07:00p Heaven's Anglers	07:30a Men's Bible Study 06:00p Ignited 06:30p Adventurer's Dinner	08:00a Grandparents' Prayer 08:00a New Member Class and I
7 08:15a & 11am Worship/Communi 09:00a Orchestra Rehearsal 12:45p Joint Board Meeting 06:00p Young Marrieds' Sm Grp 06:00p Young Adults Small Grp 06:30p Love Dare Class 06:30p Finders' Small Group	8 09:00a Spinners of Joy	9 06:00a Men's Brkfst/Bible Stu 07:00a Elders' Meeting 06:45p Dodd's Small Group	10 06:00a Men's Bible Study 09:45a Bible Study/Prayer 05:00p Strength & Stretch 05:45p Family Night Out 06:45p M'pact & Royal Rangers 07:00p Bible Study, Youth 07:00p Choir, Prayer	11 06:30p Youth Valentine's Banq	12 07:30a Men's Bible Study 06:00p Millner/Alexander Wedd 06:00p Kidz Night Out	13 06:00a Mexico Mission-Week 1 09:00a JBQ Invitational
14 06:00a Mexico Mission-Week 1 08:15a & 11am Worship Service 09:00a Orchestra Rehearsal 06:00p Young Marrieds' Sm Grp 06:00p Young Adults Small Grp	15 06:00a Mexico Mission-Week 1 08:30a Office Closed-Presiden 07:00p Schloeman Living Stone	16 06:00a Men's Brkfst/Bible Stu 06:00a Mexico Mission-Week 1 09:00a Adventurer's Outing 06:45p Dodd's Small Group	17 06:00a Mexico Mission-Week 1 09:45a Bible Study/Prayer 05:00p Strength & Stretch 05:45p Family Night Out 06:45p M'pact & Royal Rangers 07:00p Bible Study, Youth 07:00p Choir, Prayer	18 06:00a Mexico Mission-Week 1	19 06:00a Mexico Mission-Week 1 07:30a Men's Bible Study 06:30p Crop & Craft	20 06:00a Mexico Mission-Week 1 06:00a Mexico Mission-Week 2 09:00a JBQ Meet
21 06:00a Mexico Mission-Week 2 08:15a & 11am Worship Service 09:00a Orchestra Rehearsal 06:00p Young Marrieds' Sm Grp 06:00p Young Adults Small Grp 06:30p Finders' Small Group 06:30p Adv Rangers	22 06:00a Mexico Mission-Week 2	23 06:00a Mexico Mission-Week 2 06:00a Men's Brkfst/Bible Stu 09:00a Newsletter Mailout 06:45p Dodd's Small Group	24 06:00a Mexico Mission-Week 2 09:45a Bible Study/Prayer 05:00p Strength & Stretch 05:45p Family Night Out 06:45p M'pact & Royal Rangers 07:00p Bible Study, Youth 07:00p Choir, Prayer	25 06:00a Mexico Mission-Week 2 07:00p Ladies' Book Club	26 06:00a Mexico Mission-Week 2 07:30a Men's Bible Study 05:00p Youth FA Rehearsal	27 06:00a Mexico Mission-Week 2
28 08:15a & 11am Worship Service 09:00a Orchestra Rehearsal 06:00p Young Marrieds' Sm Grp 06:00p Young Adults Small Grp 06:30p Adv Rangers						

# Novation Church

DAVID & SHERRI GODBOUT

Sherri and I want you to know how much we appreciate your faithful support, both in finances and in prayer, over the course of 2009. We know that it is through partnership that the Kingdom of God moves forward.

Cedric and Cheree gave their lives to the Lord at their kitchen table in early October of this year. They and their three children had just been reunited after being homeless for the past few months, with the kids staying with different family members.

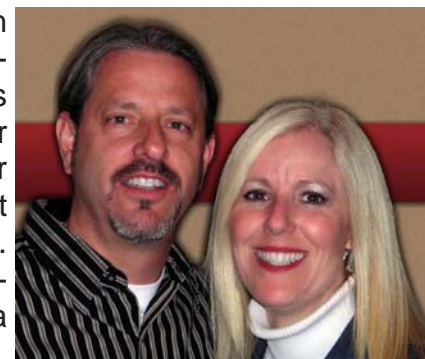
Cedric, who has worked in various restaurants for

the past 12 years, lost his job just two weeks after he and Cheree committed their lives to the Lord. But I commend them—not once did I see it shake their new-found faith. “I am glad that I put my life in God’s hands,” Cedric said, “because even though my job is gone, I still have a sense of peace.” His biggest concern: providing some type of Christmas for his wife and children.

A local church heard about the family’s new faith and wanted to be a part of what God was doing. In fact, their gen-

erosity was so overwhelming that we were also able to provide a great Christmas for the children of three single moms who have also recently committed their lives to and families to the Lord!

This is an example of what we couldn’t do without our faithful supporters. We made sure that these parents understood that though the church was a part of providing this Christmas blessing, it was their decision to align their life with God that brought his blessings. Know this: your investment is making a difference.



## Caring Connection

ROSE HINTON

Christmas is the season for giving and I am so blessed by your monthly support. As I reflect over the year, I thank God for the opportunity to touch the lives of our missionaries through the ministries of Caring Connection.

However, I also realize how vitally our missionaries need prayer. Some of them face intense spiritual warfare; others have physical needs or emotional struggles such as loneliness and discouragement.

I would ask that you consider becoming a part of the Prayer Net. It allows you to receive a weekly emails with urgent prayer requests from missionaries around the world. To receive this service, you can email the Prayer Coordinator at the following email: [worldmissionsprayer@agmd.org](mailto:worldmissionsprayer@agmd.org)

On a personal note, I was diagnosed with colon cancer on December 7. I am very thankful the doctors caught it early and it has not affected of my other vital organs. I will be having surgery the second week of January. Please pray for a fast recovery.

