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# KOINONIA

“That the communication (Koinonia)(pronounced:coy no nee a) of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.” Philemon 1:6

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NORWIN ALLIANCE CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2009

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## Tests of Persecution and Adversity

A missionary from Romania said recently that when persecution and adversity came to Christians, 90% of the time he has seen believers pass through these tests with flying colors. The troubles were difficult, but God's people were strengthened. "Consider it pure joy when you face trials of many kinds, because you know the testing of your faith develops perseverance." James 1:2-3 ~ A tough verse, but nevertheless true.

## Tests of Prosperity and Blessing

The same missionary from Romania commented that when prosperity and blessings came to Christians, 90% of the time he has seen believers fail miserably. In good times God's people forgot God. The Lord says, "When I fed them they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot Me." (Hosea 13:6)

John Wesley commented on this trend: "Whenever riches have increased, the essence of faith decreased in the same proportion. For faith must necessarily produce both industry and frugality. And these produce riches. But as riches increase, so will pride, anger, and the love of the world in all its branches." Wesley's hope was for continuous times of spiritual renewal for God's people or else the downfall of faith was inevitable.

Our nation, churches, and you personally may be moving to a time of severe testing. Use these times as an opportunity to trust God. God brings us to our knees in troubles. Being on our knees is a safe place. It is a place near to the heart of God. Our adversity is out time to return to the Lord. Feeling any pains in your soul?

## PRAYER CHAIN

New Prayer Chains are in the process of being put together.

What is the Prayer Chain and what does it do?

Those members and adherents of Norwin Alliance Church who wish to be prayer intercessors for the church family are placed on Deaconess' lists. When the intensive prayer chain is activated (for emergency or critical needs of our immediate church family), your Deaconess will call you for your prayers. This chain is also activated to inform of service closings. All other prayer requests are circulated through the Deaconesses and Elder for prayer.

Not all prayer requests go through the intensive prayer chain. As stated above, only emergency or critical needs of our immediate church family are placed on the intensive chain ~ unless the family specifically requests that the full chain be activated. Some prayer requests are of a personal nature and only the Elders and Deaconesses are contacted for prayers.

When calling in prayer requests, if you want the intensive prayer chain activated, please indicate this when calling. In the same manner, not all requests are printed on the Praise and Petition sheet. We try very hard to honor everyone's privacy. If you would like your request printed on the Praise and Petition sheet, please state this when calling in for prayer.

When called to prayer ~ pray as though the need was for a member of your own family ~ we are all a part of God's family.

If you are not already a part of the Norwin Alliance Prayer Chain and would like to pray for the needs of your church family, please see Judy Himler, Lead Deaconess, so she can add you to a list. Also, if you have any questions about the Prayer Chain, please contact Judy or Pastor Bob.



**CONGREGATION MEETING**

Wednesday, January 21, 2009



The following were elected as Officers and Staff for the year 2009 during the Congregation Meeting in January:

**Ministry Board Secretary**

Cindy Barnhart

**Church Treasurer**

Bob Tierney

**Assistant Treasurer**

Roy Koch

**Board Member-at-Large (2-year term)**

Rachel Slafka

**Alliance Women's Co-Presidents**

Janice Swope and Virginia Wilson

**Elder (3-year term)**

Kevin Craycraft

Dennis Irwin

Bob Lynn

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**By-Law Changes**

It was approved, by the members of Norwin Alliance Church at the January Congregation Meeting, to make changes to our By-laws to bring them into conformity to the By-Laws of the Western PA District of the Christian and Missionary Alliance.

**Ministry Board Members**

The Ministry Board is made up of the following positions and people:

- \* Secretary (Cindy Barnhart)
- \* Treasurer (Bob Tierney)
- \* Assistant Treasurer (Roy Koch)
- \* Lead Trustee (Ken Simmons)
- \* 2 Board Members-at-Large (David Cain and Rachel Slafka)
- \* DMC Director (Carole Sarber)
- \* Lead Elder (Jim Worley)
- \* 2 Elders (Bob Lynn and Kevin Craycraft )
- \* Pastor Bob

Duties of the Board Members at Large ~  
*Members at Large are elected by the congregation to round out representation of the congregation on the Ministry Board. They are on the Board as elected representatives, not as those who are on the Board because of their office of service, such as Treasurer, Elder, etc. All Ministry Board members are amenable to the membership of the church, and are representatives of it.*

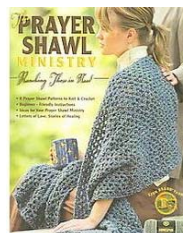
If you have a concern about anything happening within the church or you have a program you would like see started, please bring your concerns and ideas to one of the Board Members-at-Large. They will in turn bring these to the Ministry Board meetings on your behalf.

**Disciplemaking Ministries**

Upcoming Events in 2009

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| February 22 - March 1 | Missions Conference                                   |
| April 26              | Teacher Appreciation Lunch                            |
| June 14               | Graduate/Youth Sunday<br>Church Picnic ~ location TBA |
| June 21 - 25          | Vacation Bible School                                 |

Watch the bulletins and Koinonia's for updated DMC activities.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

Now that we are all settled into the New Year, it is time to get the *Prayer Shawl Ministry* up and running. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, please meet with Mardy Rogers in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 1st after the 10:45 am worship service. At this time we will discuss the purpose of the ministry and decide on meeting dates and times. The *Prayer Shawl Ministry* is an excellent way for Norwin Alliance Church to reach out to the church family and community with shawls to comfort those in need and a good way for crocheters and knitters to fellowship.

If you have any questions, please contact Mardy at 724-863-3210.



On January 16th, the youth participated in a Lock-in at the church. Many enjoyed a night of friendly competitions in pool, ping-pong, chess, and X-box games. OF course there was the usual game of “killer” dodge ball to “liven” things up! We had lots of food, fun, and fellowship but not a lot of SLEEP ~ but that is what this night is all about!

Up-coming Events:

- February 14th ~ *Sonshine Kitchen* ~ 10 am - Noon
- February 25th ~ Pizza Party with visiting Missionary
- Date TBD ~ Snow Tubing



Whether we like it or not, all of us are role models. Our friends and family members watch our actions and, as followers of Christ, we are obliged to act accordingly.

What kind of example are you? Are you the kind of woman whose life serves as a genuine example of righteousness? Are you a women whose behavior serves as a positive role model for young people? Are you the kind of woman whose actions, day in and day out, are based upon kindness, faithfulness, and a love for the Lord? If so, you are not only blessed by God, you are also a powerful force for good in a world that desperately needs positive influences such as yours.

Corrie ten Boom advised, “Don’t worry about what you do not understand. Worry about what you do understand in the Bible but do not live by.” And that’s sound advice because our families and friends are watching . . . and so, for that matter is God.

“We’re Christ’s representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God’s work of making things right between them. We’re speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he’s already a friend with you.” 2 Corinthians 5:20 MSG

Taken from “A Women’s Heart ~ Knowing God Today” published by Parable (2007).

Alliance Women’s meeting for February ~ Monday the 23rd at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there!

**KEEN-AGERS**



Do you have the mid-winter blahs? You have not tried coming to Keen-Agers have you? Try us!! There’s time to talk and visit; we’ll put a smile on your face, feed you, and send you home with lifted spirits. That’s February 26th at 11:30 for a covered dish lunch. Our program varies each month ~ this month we will have a speaker from the Medicine Shoppe.

We’ll be expecting you!

**Fellowship Committee**

The Fellowship Committee plans and coordinates the major social events of the church. In order for events to be scheduled, congregation members are asked to fill a Fellowship Committee Request form to identify the specific needs of your event. The form also helps the Committee evaluate events and make changes or improvements.

Members may contact Mardy through the church office or at 724-863-3210 to obtain a form.



## Missions News

### From your Missions Coordinator

February is upon us and to help us get through winter's doldrums consider making plans to attend our annual **Missions Conference** scheduled for **February 22<sup>nd</sup> through March 1<sup>st</sup>**. We will have a **missionary to Japan, and a missionary to Gabon.**

I am asking everyone to pray with me for a meaningful conference this year. I came across the words to an old hymn and hope that they would inspire you in your prayers.

*"From Greenland's Icy Mountains"*  
By R. Heber, 1819

*From Greenland's icy mountains,  
From India's coral strand,  
Where Africa's sunny fountains  
Roll down their golden sand;  
From many an ancient river,  
From many a palmy plain,  
They call us to deliver  
Their land from error's chain.*

*What though the spicy breezes  
Blow soft o'er Ceylon's isle;  
Though every prospect pleases,  
And only man is vile;  
In vain with lavish kindness  
The gifts of God are strewn;  
The heathen in his blindness  
Bows down to wood and stone.*

*Shall we whose souls are lighted  
With wisdom from on high,  
Shall we to men benighted  
The lamp of life deny?  
Salvation! Oh, salvation!  
The joyful sound proclaim,  
Till earth's remotest nation  
Has learned Messiah's name.*

*Waft, waft, ye winds, His story,  
And you, ye waters roll,  
Till, like a sea of glory,  
It spreads from pole to pole;  
Till o'er our ransomed nature  
The Lamb of sinners slain,  
Redeemer, King, Creator,  
In bliss returns to reign.*

## MISSIONS CONFERENCE

### Sunday, February 22 - Sunday, March 1



**This year's missions conference resources feature three individuals who found Christ through Alliance ministries:**

#### **SPAIN ~ Does he matter to God?**

A Peruvian immigrant to Spain who found Jesus through the youth pastor at an Alliance church

#### **PARAGUAY ~ Does she matter to you?**

An abortionist in Paraguay who came to Christ after one of her "patients" died from an abortion.

#### **MONGOLIA ~ Does she matter to us?**

A Mongolian woman who received healing from a long illness after being prayed for by Alliance missionaries.

**"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."**

Luke 19:10

#### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Sun. 2/22 ~ Service at 7:00 pm

Mon. 2/23 ~ Alliance Women at 10:30 am

Wed. 2/25 ~ Service at 7:00 pm

Pizza with youth and Missionaries

Sun. 3/1 ~ Morning Services with Missionaries

Please watch the bulletins for updated schedule of events during the Missions Conference week. It is



**BUILDING YOUR HOUSE**

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer-contractor of his plans to leave the house-building business and live a more leisurely life with his wife enjoying his extended family. He would miss the paycheck, but he needed to retire. They could get by.

The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favor. The carpenter said yes, but in time it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end a dedicated career.

When the carpenter finished his work the employer came to inspect the house. He handed the front-door key to the carpenter. "This is your house," he said, "my gift to you."

The carpenter was shocked! What a shame! If he had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently.

So it is with us. We build our lives, a day at a time, Often putting less than our best into the building. Then with a shock we realize we have to live in the house we have built. If we could do it over, we'd do it much differently. But we cannot go back.

You are the carpenter. Each day you hammer a nail, place a board, or erect a wall. "Life is a do-it-yourself project," someone has said. Your attitudes and the choices you make today, build the "house" you live in tomorrow.

Build wisely!



Surely goodness and LOVE will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Psalm 23:6

**VIGNETTES by VIRGINIA**

Are you up to a challenge? This writer would like you to take a challenge, with her, while the year is new and fresh. For the last several years, she has chosen a few verses as "Verses for the Year". Included in the list are her life verses (Isaiah 40:28-31, a verse or two from Psalms and Proverbs, and selected verses from Old and New Testament books. Each year the selections vary. And oddly enough - - though it is not really odd that the Holy Spirit speaks through a particular passage when discouraged, puzzled, joyous, or whatever emotion comes to play - - those select verses become especially meaningful to her during that time.

This writer makes several copies of those passages and places them in strategic places around the house and in the car as a reminder and to allow those Scriptural gems to guide her thoughts and actions at all times.

As an example, for 2009 she has chosen: Isaiah 43:2-3; 58:11; Psalms 42:5; Proverbs 11:27 and 12:25 (for our nation and new President); Proverbs 3:3, 26 and 10:9; Joel 2:25-27; and in the New Testament, I John 2:15-17.

With these verses in mind, Pastor Charles Stanley from Atlanta, Georgia has written these words of encouragement and challenge to believers: "Are you (I) a changed person because you (I) have heard that Jesus is alive? There is only ONE who has the ability to redeem the sins of His people. One of the most wonderful aspects of God is the way He loves us (me). He believes in us even when we don't believe in ourselves. (And this is astounding) We worship a God who cries." (Words in parenthesis are the writers for emphasis).

**ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE!!**

