

# The Lamp



...as a light shining in  
a dark place.  
2 Peter 1:19

November 2006  
Volume XXXVI  
Number 11

## THE COMMUNION PRAYER BY ONE OF THE TWELVE

In a once darkened room, lights from oil lamps danced upon his face,  
The perfect one who led our prayers for simple food and everyday wine  
As we with Him ate the Last Passover Supper, by Him made divine.  
I then laid my head upon His breast, so... Now you know who I am.  
My name is John Bar-Zebedee  
And when He called us from our nets and the sea

We did not know this revelation:  
The Word made flesh,  
The flesh made bread,  
The bread broken in our stead,

So, listen now to the voice of one once dead, you chosen redeemed of every nation.  
This bread is a sign that you were purchased. Because of this bread, prophets wept  
And wise have men knelt and Caesars melted into the ground,  
Governments have been heaved upside down and barbaric hordes laid down their swords.  
Why, even time has bent the knee, measured by the birth of my Lord of Lords, *En Anno Domini*.

Those are the things one can see.

Those one cannot see would curdle your blood and curl your hair,  
For by of this meal and for your sake ten-thousand angels must defend your soul  
And legions of demons seek your death and the screams of battle are beyond belief,  
So it is by mercy you draw your breath. You, friends are bound to the past in a vast redemptive plan.

While you eat this communion feast, beside you lie the bodies of martyrs

Who did not deny and beside you sit your children who watch

The every blinking of your eye  
And it is for them, too and for their eternal life span

That we eat the body and drink the blood of God's victorious atoning Lamb.

Well, you have been kind and lent your ear to this witness from the ages.

But, before I drink with you and fade back into these pages, and so that you may know

The weight and worth of what you have heard and what has been done on your behalf,

Suffer me now this final word:

Brothers and sisters. Oh, families redeemed! The sword has been lifted from your necks.

Your guilty sentence, just and true, He has vanquished!

And your reprieve is life anew. So, the cup will now be passed.

Let us drink this wine together. We will not taste what we deserve,

So, again we pledge our breath to Him,

To the Holy One,

We gratefully serve!

May the redeemed cry, Amen!

### What's Inside



#### Website of the Month

A website chosen for your  
edification and enlightenment.



#### Ministry Highlights

Bryan Watson gives us an up-  
date on what is happening in  
Foreign Missions.



#### Calendar of Events

A calendar highlights special  
dates along with listings of  
special events and birthdays for  
the month of November.

# Foreign Missions Update



*Bryan Watson*

GREETINGS TO MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST:

It's so hard to believe that it's been a year since I last wrote to you for this article in the Lamp. Many things have changed in our Foreign Missions ministry and I don't think they will stop changing very soon. As you recall, for the past many years, our church body has had a relationship with three foreign missions: the Averys in Africa; the Jovanovics in Croatia; and Steven Taliaferro in the Ukraine. It was only the past few years that we began to support Steven, who grew up in our church.

In the past year, we discontinued regular financial support to the Jovanovics in Croatia, and the Averys in Africa. However, we did raise, through a special contribution, over \$2000 for the Jovanovics earlier this year, and will be hosting a dinner for the Averys in November. We continued financial support to Steven in the Ukrainian ministry. A few months ago, Steven made a decision, after much thought, prayer, and deliberation, to return stateside and work on the ministry from this end feeling his talents would be better utilized in the "behind the scenes" work. In time, he accepted a position with Childrens' Hope Chest Organization. This was especially exciting because Steven modeled everything he's been doing in the Ukraine after Childrens' Hope Chest's work in Russia. To learn more about Childrens' Hope Chest, please visit their website: <http://www.hopechest.org>.

Most recently, Steven had been scheduled to address and update the congregation in late October with George Steiner of Childrens' Hope Chest and cancelled. In the past two months, Steven has made two trips to the Ukraine in addition to a trip to Colorado, Childrens' Hope Chest main offices. Steven has requested our prayers for God to offer His guiding hand to Steven and show him what path he is to take. The work with Childrens' Hope Chest is not going as he had envisioned, and he is feeling very torn about what he should do.

So, brothers and sisters, I ask for your prayers for Steven and for us. Also, please consider attending the dinner for the Averys on Sunday, November 5th for what's sure to be fun, food, and fellowship.

Team Kids are doing their part on another foreign missions front as well. They've started a project of collecting pennies for a bicycle for a missionary in Asia. The goal is to provide funds for a sturdy Indian-built bicycle for a missionary to travel between villages carrying Bibles and tracts for teaching about Jesus. Keep up the great work, kids!! To learn more about the "Gospel for Asia" work, please visit their website at: [www.gfa.org](http://www.gfa.org)

Blessings to all,

Bryan

## *Contribution Counters*

Jerry Scott & Weldon Womack

# Church Crossroads



*Ron Cox*

ONCE AGAIN I AM WRITING ABOUT OUR CONGREGATION BEING AT A CROSSROADS IN ITS HISTORY. Over the last several years I have written about several major events in our lives together and the opportunities that have come from those. All of these events took place because people took the time to pray about them, and work diligently to ensure they were implemented well. For example, just a few years ago we moved into new facilities on a ten acre tract that is ready for expansion when we need it. Later, several members of our congregation were commissioned to study the biblical principles of leadership for the church. This study resulted in a well written document that set out the leadership structure for our congregation. From that deacons were appointed for the first time in many years. The elders then set out a vision for the congregation emphasizing our desire to know Christ and the power He has in our lives. We have emphasized that vision to the congregation regularly through publications, sermons and currently through a thirteen week series from the Gospel of John being led by the elders during Sunday class time and the worship service.

NOW WE ARE AT ANOTHER CROSSROADS IN THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION. Mike McAlister is no longer our preaching minister, and for the first time in almost 30 years, there is no one in that assigned role on a full time basis. We should all be praying for the McAlister family as they move into the next phase of their lives. And, likewise we should all be praying for the congregation ...the family of Christ here in Friendswood... as we, too go into the next phase of our lives together. The elders have been meeting regularly, praying fervently, and setting in motion a process for selecting the new preaching minister to be undertaken in this important time. A transition team will soon be appointed. The members of this team will be responsible for identifying and working through most of the steps and timelines associated with the search for a new preaching minister. This group will oversee a process of self-evaluation to determine both the role of the body and the role of the new preaching minister. It is only after this process is complete that a search committee will be established and the search for the new minister will begin. It is anticipated the congregation as a body will be asked what your expectations are for our congregation, and for the preaching minister. Second, a prayer group is being established specifically charged to pray for the congregation, for guidance on what the Lord wants for us at this place and for the evaluation, search and appointment. This is a deliberate process that will take time, patience and prayer before it is completed. Please continue to pray for the leadership and for these people who will accept assignments on these three important teams.



## Announcements



### *Friendswood Community Prayer Breakfast*

Date & Time: Saturday, November 18th at 7:10 a.m.  
Location: FRIENDSWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Program: Giving Thanks • Speaker: Skip Negley  
Cost: \$5 - Reserve your breakfast by contacting Ed Hoskins.

### *“Thanksgiving Turkeys for the Mathis Family”*

It is time to start collecting the frozen turkeys and/or hams for the Mathis family's Thanksgiving. We hope to collect at least 15 in order to provide them with extended food for the children they care for.

*Collection Deadline: Sunday, November 19*

To donate a turkey or ham, contact Hazel and Ted Jagen or Sandy Wells. (Cash donations also accepted)

### *AOM Fund Raising Dinner - November 5, 2006, at 6:00 p. m.*

Ed and Vernelle Hoskins will be hosting a fund raising dinner for African Outreach Ministries (AOM) with Allen and Janelle Avery in the Fellowship Hall of the Friendswood Church of Christ. Please make plans to be our guest and hear about their exciting work. The Averys have spent more than thirty years in Africa and are presently living in South Africa and taking the gospel to people there and in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Botswana.

*We need your RSVP (Home 281-482-7239, Cell 281-734-0357)*

### *Ladies' Day - Reflecting God's Glory*

Saturday, November 11 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. • Memorial Church of Christ (900 Echo Ln., Houston, TX).  
Speaker: Cassandra Martin • Catered lunch and babysitting provided at no cost. Please provide a sack lunch for your child.

Our featured website of the month is the home of Probe Ministries at [www.probe.org](http://www.probe.org). This site has an abundance of resources and articles dealing with how the Christian faith interacts and impacts the culture we live in. Topics seen on their home page range from Reasons to Believe, Cults and World Religions, Faith and Culture, Faith and Science, Faith and Politics ... well, you get the picture. It looks like an organization that is Bible based and is looking to make a difference in our world.

Take a look at their website at [www.probe.org](http://www.probe.org). I think you'll benefit from it. (the fact that it is Texas based doesn't hurt either)

# November 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 QUILTING NIGHT 7:00 P.M.	3	4
AOM FUNDRAISING DINNER 6:00 P.M.	5	6	7	8	9	10 FUSION BEACH RETREAT
12 FUSION BEACH RETREAT	13	14	15	16 QUILTING NIGHT 7:00 P.M.	17	18 FW COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST @ FW CHURCH OF CHRIST 7:10 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.
Fusion FUNDRAISER LUNCHEON 12 NOON Fusion SNL @ THE BERGERS 5:00 P.M.	19	20	21	22	23 OFFICE CLOSED - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	24 25
26	27	28	29	30 QUILTING NIGHT 7:00 P.M.		

## Happy Birthday!

1 - David McGinn, Sherry Harrison, Bobbie Connevey  
6 - Macy Taliaferro  
7 - Matthew Kingham, Pat Sullivan  
8 - Hazel Jagen  
10 - Adam Reeder, Paul Cravens, Clint Sullivan, David Williams, Tyler Sullivan

12 - Adam Fowler  
13 - Julia Simpson  
15 - Rick Bradshaw  
17 - Madison Byerly  
19 - Neema Khonsari  
20 - Chloe Kovitz  
21 - Shirley Bockart  
22 - Juanita Thomas  
23 - Delishia Hollingsworth

24 - Jeff Kovitz  
25 - Steve Counterman, Stephen Walker  
26 - Forrest Norman  
27 - Debbie Kovitz  
28 - Paul Wells  
30 - Carmen Walters, Doris Griffin, Justin Bruner



THE CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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