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~ **COOKIES NEEDED FOR SIM TRIP** ~

Just dough or unbaked balls/logs preferred, but will also be taking baked ones (they just take more room and don't stay fresh as long) or boxes of brownie or cookie mixes. Please leave in the church kitchen marked plainly for SIM. Please note that the missions trip is earlier this year so we will need the cookies by Friday, January 30. Thank you very much! – *Ginny Moser*

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**Flowers for the Crossroads Ministry Center:** Please sign your name on the new Flower Calendar in the Missions Center if you would be interested in supplying an arrangement for our Worship Gatherings in 2009.

**Please notice:** A large rocking chair is needed for the Children's Ministries. Please contact the church office if you have one that would be available.

▶ **UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES** ◀

- Jan. 26** **MOPS** (9:00 a.m., FH)  
**Jan. 30-Feb.1** Senior High Winter Retreat (Miracle Camp)  
**Feb. 1-7** SIM Missions Trip (Charlotte, NC)  
**Feb. 7** Living Faith Class (7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Home)  
**Feb. 8** Welcome to Ebenezer Luncheon (11:45 a.m., FH)  
**Feb. 15** College Students' Meal (11:30 a.m., FH)  
**Feb. 15** ABF Teachers/Officers Meal (4:30 p.m., FH)  
**Feb. 18** Congregational Meeting (7:00 p.m., Sanctuary)  
**Mar. 1** Communion Service (10:15 a.m., CMC)  
**Mar. 2** Evening Sew (6:00 p.m., CMC)  
**Mar. 3** All Day Sew (9:00 a.m., CMC)  
**Mar. 7** Senior High/Agape Class (7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Home)  
**Mar. 14** Men's Fellowship Breakfast (7:30 a.m., FH)  
**Mar. 15** College Students' Meal (11:30 a.m., FH)  
**Mar. 29** Hymn Sing (7:00 p.m., Sanctuary)  
**Apr. 4** Ambassador Class (7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Home)  
**Apr. 18** Wild Game Event (5:00 p.m., CMC)  
**May 2** Berean Class (7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Home)
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**Please give your attention:** The Benevolent Fund has been depleted due to the deacons helping several families from our church and the community who were in need during the past year.

### Shoes in Church

I showered and shaved. I adjusted my tie.  
I got there and sat in a pew just in time.  
Bowing my head in prayer as I closed my eyes.  
I saw the shoe of the man next to me touching my own. I sighed.  
With plenty of room on either side I thought, why must our soles touch?  
It bothered me, his shoe touching mine. But it didn't bother him much.  
A prayer began: Our Father I thought, this man with the shoes, has no pride.  
They're dusty, worn, and scratched. Even worse, there are holes on the side!  
Thank you for blessings, the prayer went on. The shoe man said a quiet Amen.  
I tried to focus on the prayer but my thoughts were on his shoes again.  
Aren't we supposed to look our best. When walking through that door?  
Well, this certainly isn't it, I thought, glancing toward the floor.  
Then the prayer was ended and the songs of praise began.  
The shoe man was certainly loud sounding proud as he sang.  
His voice lifted the rafters his hands were raised high.  
The Lord could surely hear the shoe man's voice from the sky.  
It was time for the offering and what I threw in was steep.  
I watched as the shoe man reached into his pockets so deep.  
I saw what was pulled out what the shoe man put in.  
Then I heard a soft clink as when silver hits tin.  
The sermon really bored me to tears and that's no lie.  
It was the same for the shoe man for tears fell from his eyes.  
At the end of the service as is the custom here.  
We must greet new visitors and show them all good cheer.  
But I felt moved somehow and wanted to meet the shoe man.  
So after the closing prayer I reached over and shook his hand.  
He was old and his skin was dark and his hair was truly a mess.  
But I thanked him for coming for being our guest.  
He said, my name is Charlie I'm glad to meet you, my friend.  
There were tears in his eyes but he had a large wide grin.  
Let me explain, he said wiping tears from his eyes.  
I've been coming here for months and you're the first to say hi.  
I know that my appearance is not like all the rest.  
But I really do try to always look my best.  
I always clean and polish my shoes before my very long walk.  
But by the time I get here they're dirty and dusty, like chalk.  
My heart filled with pain and I swallowed to hide my tears.  
As he continued to apologize for daring to sit so near  
He said, when I get here I know I must look a sight.  
But I thought if I could touch you then maybe our souls might unite.  
I was silent for a moment knowing whatever was said  
Would pale in comparison I spoke from my heart, not my head.  
Oh, you've touched me, I said and taught me, in part;  
That the best of any man is what is found in his heart.  
The rest, I thought, this shoe man will never know.  
Like just how thankful I really am that his dirty old shoe touched my soul  
You are special to me and you have made a difference in my life.  
I respect you, and truly cherish you.  
**Someday you might feel like you have no friends at all.**  
**Christ cares about you and always will.**  
**God Bless You!**



# EBENEZER

## Emissary Weekly

January 18, 2009

### Opportunities of the Day

- 9:00 a.m.** Adult Bible Fellowship  
Sunday School (2-year-olds – High School)  
**10:00 a.m.** The Good News Hour (2-year-olds-K, Room B10)  
**10:15 a.m.** Worship Gathering – Pastor Dick (CMC)  
**5:00 p.m.** **Chili Festival & Wacky Talent Night** (CMC)  
**7:00 p.m.** Junior & Senior High School Small Groups
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See you tonight at our annual

## Chili Festival & Wacky Talent Night

at 5:00 p.m.

In the Crossroads Ministry Center

*For a fun evening with lots of great homemade chili!*

**Please bring:** ☺ A salad or dessert to share.

☺ A toiletry or cleaning item to share with the Community Assistance Program (Ex: shampoo, deodorant, laundry detergent, toilet paper, etc.)

☺ **A FRIEND!!**

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**Missionaries of the Week: Daniel & Lynn Plett** serve in Slovak Republic with Trans World Radio. Daniel works in the office of TWR. They write, *Thank you for this year of participation in our ministry, whether in prayer, finances, or encouragement.* They see God working in the extensive outreach of TWR in their region. Please send an encouraging e-mail note to the Pletts at [thepletts@zoznam.sk](mailto:thepletts@zoznam.sk).

## Attendance and Giving

### Attendance on January 11:

Sunday School & ABF	(9:00 a.m.)	322
Worship Gathering	(10:15 a.m.)	398
Evening Fellowship Service	(7:00 p.m.)	135

### Giving on January 11:

	<b>\$9,431.35</b>
Benevolent Fund	140.00
Building Fund	430.00
Christian Education Fund	145.35
Current Expense Fund	4,307.00
Missions Fund	3,585.00
New Building Fund	824.00

**In the Hospital:** Luke Lugibihl, Ruskin, FL.

**You are invited to a Ribbon Cutting** and 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House. The Et Cetera Thrift Shop, Ten Thousand Villages & Book ReViews will be open this afternoon from 2:00 - 4:00. The day marks the actual date that the thrift store opened 35 years ago. Refreshments will be offered.

**Reminder:** There will be a Wild Game Committee meeting tomorrow night at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

**The ladies of Ebenezer Mennonite Church** are dedicating the comforters and quilts in front of the church on the stage to our pastors and missionaries who are members of our church and serving our Lord Jesus Christ on the mission field. They are Pastor Dick & Cheryl, Pastor Jim & Pat, Pastor Wade & Hannah, Michael & Maren Boehm, Kerry & Krista Wright, and Tim & Tiffany Gallant. One is reserved for Paul & Julie Diller who will be going to the mission field in the future. We ask you to uphold them in your prayers for guidance, wisdom, and safety as they serve our Almighty God. As they use the blankets may they feel the warmth of the prayers of God's people and feel the presence of our Lord. May the colorful quilts and comforters remind them of God's beauty and His love. – *The Sewing Committee*

## Opportunities of the Week: January 19-25

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. Walking Program – CMC

- Monday 6:30 p.m.** Ladies' Walking Program  
**7:00 p.m.** Wild Game Committee Meeting (FH)
- Tuesday 6:15 a.m.** Men's Bible Study (FH)  
**6:30 p.m.** Ladies' Walking Program  
**8:00 p.m.** Ebenezer Men's Basketball Game (CMC)
- Wednesday 9:00 a.m.** Game Time (FH)  
**6:00 p.m.** Wednesday Night Supper (CMC)  
**7:00 p.m.** Adult Bible Study & Prayer (112)  
 Children's Ministry (ages 2-grade 6)  
 Ladies' Bible Study (B17)  
 Men's Bible Study (115)  
 Music Ministry Rehearsal (Choir Loft)  
 Prayer Group Meet (114)  
 Small Group Meet (Pastor Jim's home)
- Thursday 6:30 p.m.** Ladies' Walking Program  
**7:00 p.m.** Open Gym (CMC)
- Sunday 9:00 a.m.** Sunday School & ABF (Various classrooms)  
**10:00 a.m.** The Good News Hour (ages 2-K, B10)  
**10:15 a.m.** Worship Gathering (CMC)  
**5:00 p.m.** VBS Committee Meeting (Library)

### ~ Helpers for Sunday, January 25 ~

- Nursery:** Ron & Sue Epp, Jason & Kim Fritsch, Mark & Kay Spallinger, Bev Stockman, Renea Zimmerman  
**The Good News Hour:** Alaina Bixel, Kay Spallinger, Bev Stockman, Kaitlin Thompson

### TODAY'S GREETERS

Don & Vicki Kirkendall, *Missions Center*  
 Mike & Deb Hilty, *Crossroads Ministry Center*

**Year-end reports** and proposed budgets for 2009 are due next Sunday, January 25. All boards and committees should submit their annual reports for 2008 and proposed budgets for 2009 to the church office for inclusion in the 2008 Annual Report. The annual congregational business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18.

**Ladies' Bible Study** will be beginning Wednesday, February 4. We will begin an in-depth study looking at Daniel's life as he faced the same kind of pressures and temptations Christians encounter today and also some thrilling Biblical prophecy. Come join us on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., in Room B17, for *Daniel: Lives of Integrity, and Words of Prophecy*, by Beth Moore. Please let Rhonda Thompson, 567-204-2384 know if interested. We need to order books, yes homework, but no grades!

**Campus Life Meal Deal**, Friday, January 23, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Meal includes a quarter pound hot dog or large BBQ pork sandwich, bowl of homemade soup, chips, cookie, and drink. \$5.00 suggested donation. Meal will be held at the Campus Life Room in Bluffton. You may carry out or dine in.

**Welcome to Ebenezer Luncheon:** You may have been attending Ebenezer Mennonite Church for several months, weeks, or perhaps visited us for the very first time today. Whatever the case, we want you to know that we are glad that you have chosen to worship with us. On Sunday, February 8, the Outreach Committee of Ebenezer invites you to a *Welcome to Ebenezer Luncheon* at 11:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall (Rooms 112-114). It will provide you an opportunity to find out more about us, our families, and the ministries of the church. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 419-358-8588. We look forward to visiting you you!

**A Grand New Day 2009 Event:** There are a limited number of tickets available for the Women of Faith Conference which will be held in Columbus on April 24 & 25. The tickets are floor seats toward the center. To secure yours please contact Angela Steiner at 419-643-8260 or e-mail at angelasteiner@embarqmail.com.