

# COVENANT CHRONICLE

## A NEWSLETTER FOR COVENANT CHURCH PCA OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS

### Pastor's Note

Dr. Paul Sagan



The Romans named the month January after their God Janus. Janus had two faces: one looking forward and one looking back.

Without bowing to worship the false god of change, it is important for us as a church and individual believers to reflect on what God has done in 2013, take inventory, and look forward to what God will do at Covenant Church in 2014.

In the midst of many challenges, we saw some great blessings in 2013. We had many significant times of ministry and encouragement in the Lord. The highlight of the year was the particularization of our daughter church, Covenant Presbyterian Church of Ft. Smith on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

The year 2014 promises to be a year of challenge as well. The Elders and Deacons will be meeting in conference January 17 and 18 to prepare the budget and goals for the year. Be in earnest prayer for the leadership of Covenant as we face significant challenges in discussing the 2014 budget. Following closely on the heels of our congregational meeting to report the budget will be the 2014 Missions Conference for world missions. The main thrust of this newsletter will focus on the annual Missions conference rapidly approaching.

God has made us to be future-oriented. In Christ we have a glorious future:

*But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

Phillipians 3:13b-14 ESV

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*Our purpose is to glorify God by  
loving Him and loving people.*

# 2014 Mission Conference Planned

Lee Mekkes



## MISSION CONFERENCE GOALS

The Mission Committee is finalizing plans for the 2014 Mission Conference, February 2-9, 2014. The program is focused on the goals established by the Mission Committee for this Mission Conference. These goals for the 2014 Mission Conference are

1. To educate the congregation in mission activity around the world;
2. To motivate the congregation to become more involved in missions; and
3. To develop a greater congregational participation in the "Faith-Promise" campaign to support our missionaries.

In order to move forward toward the Mission Conference goals and the "GO FOR THE GLOBE" theme chosen for the conference, everyone should be involved in some way. "GO FOR THE GLOBE" is also reflected in the missionaries that the Mission Committee recommends for support by our church in 2014.

## GLOBAL MISSION REPORTS

On Friday evening and Saturday morning of the Mission Conference, global mission reports will present various strategies of missionary activity throughout the world. Some of the reports we hope to include:

- God's Perspective on the World Christian Movement
- Voice of the Martyrs
- Wheels for the World
- Campus Crusade for Christ
- The Church in Afghanistan
- Covenant Church Missionary Reports

## NEW INNOVATIONS

New Innovations in the 2014 Mission Conference will include a Sunday-to-Sunday schedule; a special Mission Conference choir; and a theme song based on the conference theme. The "kick-off" will begin on Sunday, February 2 with Reverend Stephen Atkinson of Christian Witness to Israel as keynote speaker. During the second weekend of the Mission Conference, our guest speaker will be Josiah Bancroft from World Harvest Mission, whom we supported for many years as a missionary to Ireland. Josiah will be delivering the key messages Friday, Saturday, and during Sunday services on February 9.

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM BROCHURE

A program brochure with the complete 2014 Mission Conference schedule details will be distributed late in January, so The Covenant Church Family can make their plans to attend the activities of the conference.

## Mission Conference Choir

Lee Mekkes

A special Mission Conference choir is being planned for the 2014 Mission Conference. With the conference scheduled for February 2-9, 2014, the choir will be organized and practices will start this month. The plan is to present the Mission Conference theme song and a special musical number at both the February 2 and 9 11:00 AM services.

Based on the recent talent survey and the people who sang in the Christmas Musical two years ago, plus known singers in the congregation, a choir of over 30 voices could be a reality.

Three rehearsals are planned on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM starting on Wednesday, January 15, 2014.

Interested singers, teenage and above, should sign up for the Mission Conference Choir as soon as possible. This is necessary to purchase the quantity of music required prior to the start of rehearsals. If for some reason you cannot sign up during the sign-up period, please call the church office to register your desire to participate.

## Faith-Promise Giving

Ken Hargis

As the Mission Conference approaches, the congregation will hear and read about the "Faith-Promise" concept of mission giving. The concept of Faith-Promise giving for missions originated with, Oswald J. Smith, founder and pastor of The People's Church in Toronto, who was captivated by A. B. Simpson, founder of the CMA (Christian & Missionary Alliance). Calling his idea "Faith-Promise," his church has become widely known as one of the most mission-minded churches in the world--all funded through the "Faith-Promise" concept. The Session of Covenant believes Faith-Promise giving for missions to be sacrificial giving above and beyond our regular

giving for the sake of the Gospel beyond our doors. God has used this method of giving to greatly advance the cause of world missions.

The Mission Committee considers this job one of the most challenging in the church. We have 17 missionaries depending upon our church for support, and have no funds available other than what is raised during the annual conference. In other words, the Missions Program at Covenant Church for 2014 is dependent upon how God moves our congregation to pledge their financial support through the "Faith-Promise" campaign.

## Announcements

**Fly Tying Lessons** - The Anglers Fellowship will offer 3 lessons on fly tying, beginning this Thursday, January 16, at 5:30pm, and continuing on consecutive Thursdays (January 23 and 30). Please see Dennis Smith or Bob Winkelman for further details.

**Wednesday Activities** - Our regular schedule of Youth Group, Catechism Class, and Prayer Meeting should resume this week (January 15), as well as rehearsal of the Mission Conference choir at 7:00pm.

**Soup Cook Off** - Mark your calendars for the Annual Soup Cook Off on January 26, at 5:00pm. Winners will be chosen!

# Financial Summary

Ken Hargis

	<b>General Fund Jan-Dec</b>	<b>Faith Promise Apr-Mar</b>
Contributions	\$ 253,221	\$ 40,273
Expenditures	\$ 271,613	\$ 47,273
Balance	\$ 18,392	\$ 6,985

<b>Mortgage</b>	
Balance Jan 2013	\$ 67,500
Designated Gift	\$ 51,000
Balance Jan 2014	\$ 16,500

Note: This report does not include designated giving for CWI, Covenant Fort Smith, and Marshall Jacks Seminary Support, we will be presenting those numbers in full as soon as possible.

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