

# Chapters

*A Journal of God's Reign at Calvary Baptist Church*



**STANDING. MOVING. GOING.**



# ONE HEART, MANY HOMES

by Brian & Lauri Dix

WE HAD WORKED HARD TO TRAIN THEM. THEY WERE READY. OUR TASK OF WORKING OURSELVES OUT OF A JOB WAS NEARING COMPLETION.

It was one of the hardest things we had ever done in our years of ministry. Lauri and I had wordsmithed the letter to be read to our church body, written in our adopted language, in an attempt to explain...but we still felt that few would truly understand. In fact, we weren't sure if we really understood. How could it be that God would so clearly call us to this spiritually desperate land...to dedicate ourselves to learn its poetic language, to adapt to its customs, to enjoy its cuisine, to love the Portuguese people...only to direct us away after nearly two decades and bring us back to our original homeland? In Portugal, we had become proficient, we had become fruitful, we had gained the respect and trust of people, we felt comfortable and adept, we knew the gig. Would God call us now to abandon all of this for something unrelated? Would our investment in Portugal be wasted for the future? And, what of the church...would it go on strong? What of our missionary colleagues...would our leaving bring undue discouragement? (After all, we've

been on the other end of that!) And, what about our Portuguese co-workers? Would our departure be used by the enemy to discourage them? These were real concerns.

Yet, it had become very clear that God was moving us. Actually, He had it all planned out long ago. Back in 2006, we learned of a health concern that Lauri was facing and we began to evaluate its implications for our continuance in church planting and in Portugal. Gradually we came to the realization that we needed to make a change. God brought comfort through His Word, with scriptures like Isaiah 25:1, "O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things, things planned long ago." (NIV) and Psalm 138:8, "The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O LORD, endures forever—do not abandon the works of your hands." Our theology told us this was going to be OK, but it took time for our hearts to catch up.

Gratefully, as we analyzed things more objectively, we began to see that God was in this move. Our church plant was healthy and leadership was rising rapidly from within. Truthfully, it was better for us to leave in order for these to flourish. We had worked hard to train them. They were ready. Our task of working ourselves out of a job was nearing completion.

We felt the same about our field-wide team. Our veterans were highly capable. Our newer missionaries were growing in their language skills and becoming effective in the culture. There were new recruits due to arrive soon. The number of national pastors and leaders was increasing and they were assuming more leadership. If there is ever a good time to leave a mission field, perhaps this was it. After all, we are all on temporary assignment anyway, are we not? And it is His work, is it not? As one seasoned church planter quipped: "I've never left a church where the Holy Spirit didn't stay." Perhaps we are more expendable than we thought.

So, if God was pulling us out of Portugal, the question quickly came: "If not Portugal, Lord, where do you want us to serve? Will you just put us on the shelf? Is there possibly a way in which our investment over the past 20 years could continue to be useful?"

We began to pray...gradually more fervently. We sought out several key people through whom God provided good counsel. We discovered that we were far from alone in this process. And then there were those who prayed, unseen and unnumbered, and somewhat uninformed as to the details. While we so desperately desired to peek around the blind corner of God's providential plan, it was the strength of God's praying people that sustained us. King Jehoshphat's prayer reflects our feelings: "For we are powerless...We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." (2 Chron. 20:12b). We found

this a difficult posture to maintain but a freeing one when sustained.

Knowing that we would be leaving Portugal in May of 2010, we had a goal to determine the next step by the end of February, 2010. This deadline was approaching and things were still unclear. One late-February Wednesday afternoon I was in my office quite discouraged when I received a call from Allan Cuthbert. He was not pushy, simply inquiring. Over the previous months we

Usually these wheels turn slowly but amazingly, within a week all necessary approvals were in place and our decision was overwhelmingly confirmed. Praise God for His clear guidance!

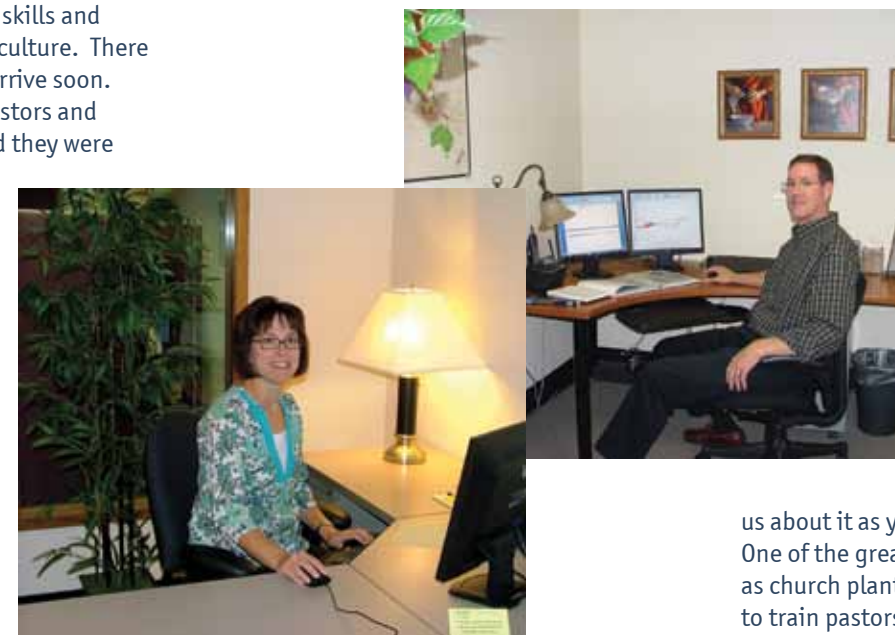
This meant selling all our belongings and moving back to Grand Rapids, the location of the HIS offices. It also meant that we could once again be involved in our "home" church, Calvary Baptist! Looking back over the past 20 years we see God's hand in uniquely preparing us for this task. Our extensive

contact in Lisbon with people from numerous different Portuguese-speaking cultures (Brazil, Mozambique, Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, etc.) will serve us well as we help Bible Colleges in these countries implement on-line programs to train church leaders.

We are excited about the HIS vision. Ask

us about it as you see us in the hallways! One of the greatest hurdles we faced as church planters in Portugal was how to train pastors for the churches that were being started. The vision of HIS is to create accessible quality theological/ministry training through on-line distance education. We believe this will provide a globally cost-effective, viable solution in moving church leaders from the pew to the pulpit.

So though you might overhear us singing the worship songs in Portuguese, using a "portuguesism" vs. the appropriate English phrase, accidentally greeting you with a "holy" kiss on the cheek, or even shedding a few tears as we remember our Portuguese church family, please remember that our hearts are shared spaces. Though filled with longing to be in both of our "homes" at once and constantly expanding to include new rooms, new cultures, new places, and, best of all, new people, we are still glad to be home...right where we are.



Lauri and Brian in their offices at HIS

had had numerous conversations about working with Horizon International Schools (HIS), but this time I was more open than ever. The timing of his call was of God. We talked for over an hour. The next day I was on the phone with our key counselors. And, after a few days of intense prayer, we made our decision to join HIS. Understanding that we work under the authority of others, we made this desire known to them.

*"While we so desperately desired to peek around the blind corner of God's providential plan, it was the strength of God's praying people that sustained us."*

## MEET THE LIGHT & LIFE AND JOURNEY ABFs

by Shannon Popkin

Cancer. It falls like a load of bricks, and those beneath can quickly become weary.

The Light and Life ABF knows something about this weariness. They learned how to care for their teacher, Chester Harris as he walked with his wife, Donna beneath the heaviness of cancer. After losing Donna, Gary and Kathy Wells, and Bob and Deb Grandmason (along with some input from Chester) presented a series of lessons called Crisis Care to the Light and Life class. Through all of this, the class became better equipped to care during crisis.

This summer, Rachel Battey learned that she has breast cancer. Being a young mom with three boys, the strain on her family has been immense. Her husband, Dave, needed to temporarily step out of his teaching role in the Journey ABF. And through God's prompting, the Light and Lifers were ready and willing to reach out to the Journeymen, and bolster the faith of their younger brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Since July, the two classes have joined

### LIGHT & LIFE ABF

**Teacher:** Chester Harris

**Deacon:** Gary Wells

**Class Leader:** Bob Grandmason

**Age Group:** Mid 40s to late 60s

**Room:** 54

forces. Chester Harris teaches, and the leadership is shared by both classes. When asked what they like about their two-in-one class, here is how several responded:

- Tim Wells said, "I like Chester's voice. I feel like I'm hearing directly from God!" (Voices don't get much deeper or richer than Chester's!)
- Rachel Heagle said, "It's been like coming home to live with your parents for a while." And then her dad, Gary Wells, chimed in, "Except you don't get to bring your laundry."
- Deb Grandmason said that it's been

great to see the two classes meld together, even though it's temporary.

- Mikki Fullerton said that she's enjoyed all of the 'mommy wisdom' that more experienced moms from the group have shared with her.
- Dave Battey said, "Double treats is never a bad thing!"
- John VandenToorn said, "It's been great to form new friendships and to cement former friendships."

The Light and Life class began back in the '70's in the cafeteria at Calvary's Ottawa campus and was first called the Alpha class. (We're glad they haven't become the Omega's!) Charter members include the Lothamers, Blochers, and Chester Harris. Over the years, the group has been both split and combined with other classes, and about three years ago became known as 'Light and Life'.

The Journey class began about twelve years ago as a young married class called 'CIA'. They've now given up their cover and taken the name 'Journey', as they do life together. (And I noticed



Ken & Carolyn Van Dorp enjoy an ABF event



Journey ABF members Wells, Clausens, and Bancinos enjoying time together.

### JOURNEY ABF

**Teacher:** Dave Battey

**Deacon:** Brandon Mouw

**Class Leader:** Jay Clausen

**Age Group:** mid 20's- mid 30's

**Room:** 54

that many of them are traveling with diaper bags these days!)

Combined, the group is quite large, but they are making the best of tighter quarters. There is a warm, friendly atmosphere as they meet together in room 54 each Sunday. During class time, Chester has been teaching an overview of the Old Testament, and is just beginning Jeremiah. Chester says that his syllabus is a bit nebulous, but members are obviously enjoying the pace.

The class is working to connect both as

a large group, and as two class groups during these months together. Prayer requests are emailed weekly, and members connect both in and out of class. As a whole, the group has worked hard to care for the Batteys. Stacy Ellens set up a website on which the Batteys can post daily needs that others can 'claim'. This helps the ABF to serve in an organized way. Dave and Rachel are so thankful for the support. Rachel said, "I'm thankful for what my kids are learning about gratitude. When a gift is shared, we enjoy it!"

The class has an overwhelming sense that God has put them together for this season. They are excited about the ways that they are able to serve each other, and the ways God has equipped them to do so.

## Chapters

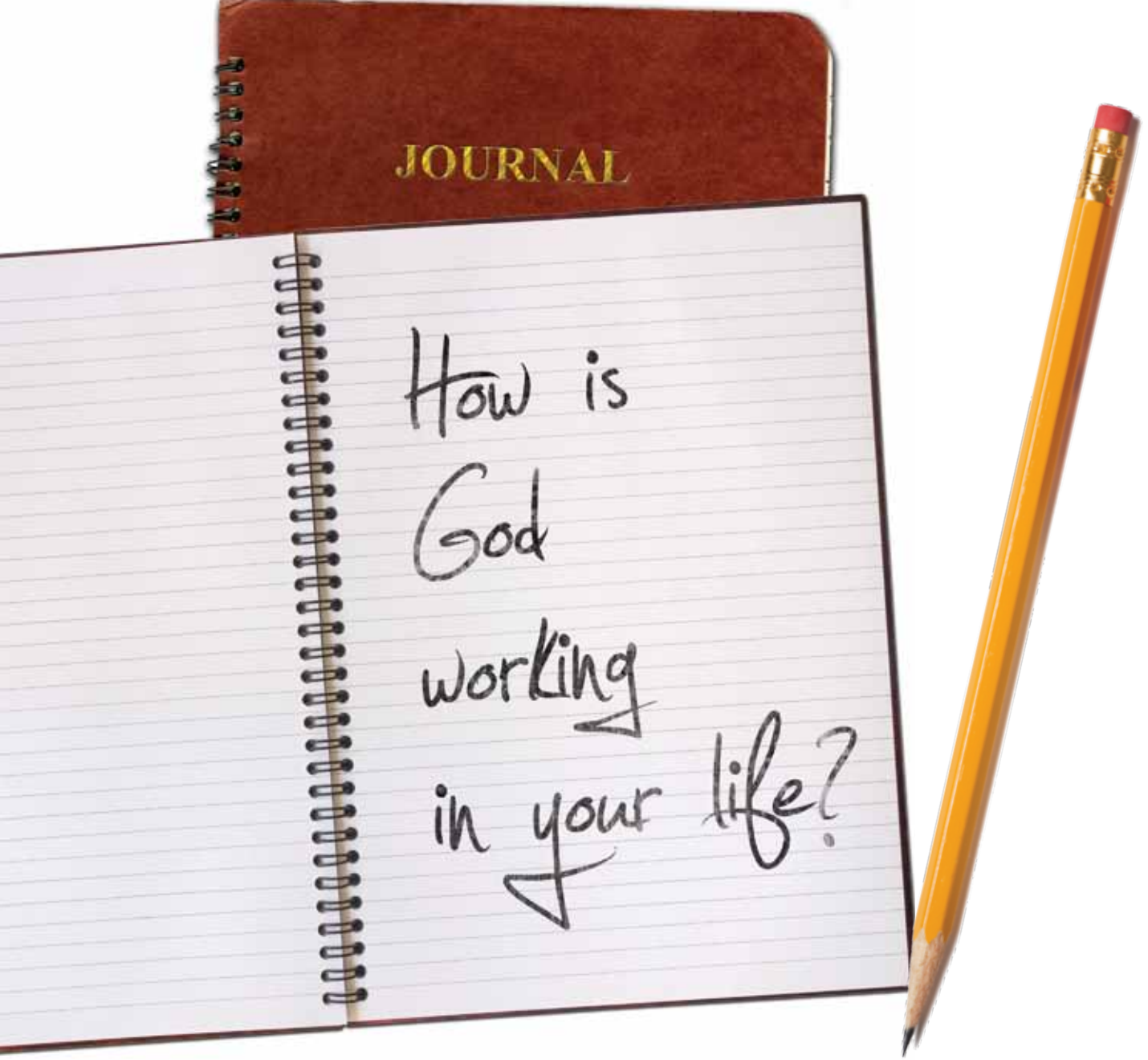
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exists to represent the  
reign of God as:  
Community  
Servant  
Messenger

October 2010



How is  
God  
working  
in your life?

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**CHANGE CREATES OPPORTUNITY**

On September 25, 2010, Joe Borst, age 90, graduated to Heaven, just 24 hours after God had used me to lead him to Christ. This amazing opportunity came through some difficult changes in our life circumstances.

In 2007, we lost our house because of a skyrocketing mortgage and overwhelming medical bills. Our move into Wellington Woods Senior Community put us in the middle of over 100 seniors. We quickly became friends with two

couples, neither of which had family that cared for their needs. That meant doctor appointments, grocery shopping, and hospital visits. It also meant games of dominos and bingo, and learning to play pinochle. I tried to fit all of this around my work schedule at Wedgwood, while Sandy took the lead in forming friendships.

Last March, I developed a strep infection in my right ear, which severely affected both my hearing and my balance. I could not safely walk without using a walker, an abrupt change which took away both my employment and my primary ministry. However, it allowed me

to fully join in building relationships, particularly with Joe & Carol Borst.

As a young man, Joe encountered a minister who turned him against organized religion, and he refused to discuss personal faith. After several summer doctor visits, he eventually told me the story; the Lord was softening his heart. On September 14, Carol came home to find Joe unconscious having suffered a heart attack. Over the next 11 days, Sandy and I visited him nightly in the hospital, and brought Carol home after our visits. Before we left each evening, I asked permission to pray with him. On the night of September 23, as

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**IS THIS REALLY HAPPENING???**

Boy meets girl. Boy and girl fall in love. Boy and girl get married. Boy and girl start their own family. Sound familiar? Yup, that's what I thought too. Three years into my marriage I was ready to welcome a bouncing baby into my world but what I quickly found out (within a year's time) was that God had a different plan. As I sat with my husband, Dave, at the fertility clinic waiting to meet the doctor who claimed he could make our dreams a reality, I found myself hyperventilating. I just wanted someone to pinch me because I did not believe this was really happening. When we listened to the physician explain about cycles and injections and multiple lab tests and ultrasounds I thought I would pass out from the overwhelming emotions that were unleashed within my body. "This is not fair! This is not how I'm supposed to start new life! Where are you God? Surely you have abandoned me!"

I have always loved Psalms 139. To catch a glimpse of how God understands every piece of me and is available anywhere that I roam is awesome! My

favorite section of this passage begins in vs. 13 ...you knit me together in my mother's womb... Even now, I have tears in my eyes. I WANT THIS!!!! Please God knit my child within me!!!! I could not possibly understand how God would choose to show me His love through in vitro fertilization.

Our first attempt was a success! TWINS!! All I thought was, "what a miracle"! Then, two weeks later the bleeding began and we lost those two precious babies that we named Peace & Hope. The depression was unbearable. [That's another redemption story] Thankfully God saw fit to rescue me from that pit and assist me to move forward and to eventually regain the strength to endure another round of IVF and another and another and then one last attempt. By this time, my hope was restored. I still can't explain why we felt compelled to continue to attempt a pregnancy by in vitro except that God needed one sweet little baby girl to enter this world. On May 18, 2009 God delivered to us the most beautiful baby girl I have ever laid eyes on (yes, I am a bit biased, but aren't all parents?), Allyson Brooke.

Through this experience I can fully claim that my God truly has searched me and



*Allyson Majeski*

knows me. He perceives every thought and He is familiar with all my ways. I have an intimate relationship that I could not have possibly imagined before God granted me this trial. I encourage you to remember that every trial you endure is an invitation to know God more intimately than you ever thought was possible.

*Amy Majeski*

I leaned over his bed to say goodnight, he started speaking. "Are you going?" he whispered. "Yes," I replied, "Do you want me to pray?" His quiet "Yes" was our last verbal communication.

The hospital called the next morning; Joe had taken a turn for the worse. We rushed Carol to the hospital. When we entered, I took hold of his hand and said, "Joe, is it all right if I talk to you as a pastor?" He firmly squeezed my fingers. I went through Paul's explanation of the Gospel in 1 Corinthians 15, then asked, "Joe, do you understand you are a sinner and that you need a Savior?" Again, a strong affirmation came from his hand. "Joe, I'm going to say a prayer. It's not the words I say

that are important, but that you believe what the Bible says—do you understand this?" His grip assured me that he did. After leading him in a prayer of repentance and faith, then a prayer of thanksgiving, I said, "Joe, I'll see you in Heaven." He firmly gripped my hand, tears forming in his closed eyes and running down his cheek. That was the last clear communication anyone had with him before the Lord ushered Him into Heaven the next morning. My friend "Josepi" is heavenly proof that God turns changes into opportunities.

*Churck Sisco*



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Work. Church. Family. Friends. Relationships. Expectations. I live a busy life in a society that glorifies achievement and accomplishments, yet I do not take the time to realize the impact it is having on my soul. What better place to do some soul searching than at the CBC's ladies' conference at Camp Calvary on October 1-2.

God used the speaker Miriam Walsh, to lead me on a journey of rejuvenation. On Friday night I listened to how God worked in her life to awaken her soul, even in the midst of a life-changing disease. I began to recognize that the concerns of my life have been drying out my soul. Praying with a friend that evening, I asked God to awaken my soul with a hunger for Him.

Saturday morning Miriam used the life of King Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 17-20 to show the power emotional fear can have on people. She poignantly stated that fear is "soul-crushing." During our time of solitude, God revealed many fears that I have been allowing to reside in my life. All of them related to things that consume my time and energy. If these things are good and necessary parts of life, then why do they

# REJUVENATE

*Awake, my soul, and sing*

create so much anxiety in me that dries out my soul?

During session two, Miriam answered my question with a simple question, "Do you believe God?". Looking at the example of King Jehoshaphat, she showed us four spiritual disciplines that the king practiced that brought him into right relationship with God. The four she discussed were fasting, prayer, silence, and singing. During the second time of solitude, I spent time meditating on God's word and continuing to address the source of my fears. I realized that engaging in spiritual disciplines would bring me to a place of humble dependence on God where I realize that all I can do is believe in God.

In the final session, Miriam talked about allegiances and alliances that divert our hearts away from God. God immediately

brought areas of my life to mind where I am choosing actions that are dulling my desire for God in an attempt to please myself. During our final time of solitude, I wrote out a prayer to God confessing the areas He revealed to me this weekend that are weighing down my soul and asking for God's strength to make necessary changes in my life.

I left camp that Saturday with a renewed commitment to surrender my fears to Him and to be disciplined in my spiritual life because I was reminded that I am dependent on God. It has been one week since I left the conference, and I can honestly say that my soul has been awakened by God! The stresses of this life are still with me but I hold on to the words of God, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

*Kathy Clawson*

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I hated my job. It didn't always used to be that way. My previous job experience was horrible, and when I started at my new one, the difference was like night and day. But after a few years of the same routines, I found myself getting restless, then eventually hating my job altogether.

Eventually, God brought me to the point where I could plainly see that I needed His help – and also the prayers of others – to change my attitude toward my job, my fellow employees, and the customers. God showed me in Colossians 3:12-14 how I should treat the people that I serve and work with:

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." (ESV)

I came to realize that I was letting the stupid things people do irritate me to the point where I was holding grudges and becoming bitter. I needed to forgive as Christ forgave me. I needed to love others as God has loved me. I needed to bear with those difficult people and be patient with them. I needed to have a compassionate heart, show kindness, humility, and meekness.

After much consistent prayer by myself and others, I'm starting to see fruit. My attitude is much better. God is changing my heart, transforming my mind, and conforming me into the image of His Son. I'm not completely there yet; I'm still a work in progress. But "I am sure of this, that He who began a good work" in me "will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6 ESV)

*Alison Hollis*

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Had you told me when I was 16 that my mom would be my best friend today, I'd have called you a liar. And looking back, when I was 16, my mom wouldn't have wanted me as a best friend; I was the one who pushed the rules, stepped over the line and was, in general, not a nice person. However, God has taught me some amazing lessons from age 16 to now. And those lessons have, many times, been taught to me through my mother.

My mom is one amazing person. Whether I need to vent, cry or laugh, she's there. When I can't remember Grandma's apple pie recipe, she'll have it. When I struggle with how to submit to my husband even though he's right and I'm just being stubborn, she guides me through my obstinacy rather than taking my side. And when I don't know what to do when my child eats play doh or how to get crayon off the wall, she has the answers. From baking to marriage to parenting, she's been where I am and she is willing to help me learn what to do and what not to do.

And just as my mom didn't turn her back on me when it would have been easier and less painful, God doesn't turn His back on us. While His path is straight and ours weaves back and forth, He is there just waiting to guide us back to where we should be. And for me, the more I read and learn about Him, the more I want to know. I want my will to be God's will, not the other way around. Even though I still want what I want when I want it; I know what He wants for me is far greater than what I want for me.

At 16, I thought I knew it all; now I realize just how much I have to learn. I wish I could point to one pinnacle moment when I turned from being the person I was to being the person I am. That would make for a great story. But there was no light on the road to Damascus for me. It's been a long struggle,

and will continue to be a long journey. From becoming like the woman in Proverbs 31 to simply being still and knowing that He is God, I have only just begun. Some days I know I've done well, and some days that I know I've been nothing short of a disappointing disaster. But somehow, through the ups and downs, God is there; He is saddened when I fail but helps me back up. And He never gives me more than I can manage (although there are days I think He overestimates me).

So, as I go back to reality, the busyness of work and home, I can remember: when I don't feel it, I am still loved; when I feel vulnerable, I am still protected; and when I feel that I just can't take it anymore, I am strong enough to bear whatever God gives me. After all, if He thinks I can handle what He's given me, who am I to say I can't?

*Amanda Wynsma*

## DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

We need you to help us share how God is working in the lives of those who attend CBC. We are seeking written "journal entries" to use in upcoming issues of Chapters. Entries need to be 200-400 words and can be written on any topic. However, the entry must be centered on how God is working in your life or those around you. If you are interested in submitting an entry email us at [info@cbcgr.org](mailto:info@cbcgr.org) or contact Dave in the church office. Publication of submissions are at the discretion of the editor.



What does the number 211 represent? Is it an important number? If you guessed 211 is the number of children in our kids wing on Sunday mornings you are correct. We are in desperate need of additional children's ministry volunteers. You can make a difference in the lives of the next generation TODAY! Call the church office to find out what opportunities for serving are available.





Jeremy & Francesca Whitman

## EQUALLY CALLED, EQUALLY SENT

by Sherrie Willson

“Pronto?” said Jeremy Whitman into his cell phone, after it rang for the seventh time that evening.

“Ah, Alexander!” His face broke into a big grin, and he began speaking in rapid Italian.

Francesca, his wife, smiled and shook her head. “It’s another person from church. They can’t do without Jeremy.”

The people of Centro Evangelico Battista would agree. Jeremy and Francesca

aren’t official missionaries, but their unofficial work at the church his parents founded is a full-time gig.

Among their many regular duties, Jeremy ...

- Organizes a weekly soccer outreach
- Records programs for Radio Luce, the church’s radio station
- Leads the finance committee
- Plays trumpet in the band and is the assistant worship leader
- Is the lead bass in the choir
- Oversees the building project

Meanwhile, Francesca ...

- Provides AV support during services
- Sings alto in the choir
- Helps plan worship as needed
- Leads one of the crews who rotate church-cleaning duties

It’s safe to say that in the two years since they returned to Perugia after seven years of living in Grand Rapids, they’ve become indispensable.

“We are so glad that God sent them to us!” said Jeremy’s brother Jon, a

missionary sent by Calvary Baptist. “We only wish they could work with the church full time, since they pretty much do anyway. They do all of this is with Jeremy holding down a very full-time job, and Francesca working on her thesis for her degree in International Communications.”

### THE GOAL IS OUTREACH

The soccer team, which Jeremy started after moving back to Italy, is definitely one of his favorite duties. People from church play (including Jeremy, Jon, their father, Fred, and the pastor, Lucio), and it’s helped build stronger relationships among them. But it has also brought over one hundred nonbelievers in contact with the church. One player, Fabian, comes to church every Sunday and, although he has not yet made a clear decision for Christ, he’s brought many unsaved friends and relatives to the soccer ministry and to church. He has also asked Jeremy to read Bible verses or sing worship songs before practice to witness to his friends.

Another man, Giuseppe, joined the team after visiting the church with his wife, Irina, who is a believer. He has since accepted the Lord, been baptized and is very involved in the church.

“Getting about 20 people from all different backgrounds (including a Hindu and a Muslim), most of whom are unsaved, on a field week after week to play together with the right kind of attitude is already a great success, because those relationships are built with a kingdom purpose.” Jeremy said. “Success is in changed lives.”

He has also organized an annual outreach tournament the past two years with seven other teams from throughout Italy. Last year they had about 300 people for the worship and testimony time, and two teens were saved. One church had to start an impromptu meeting after the game to answer all the questions their non-believing players were asking.

### UNIQUE GIFTS

Francesca is quieter than her outgoing husband, so her work tends to be more one-on-one but it’s just as valuable. She recently went through a disciple-

*“It’s safe to say that in the two years since they returned to Perugia after seven years of living in Grand Rapids, they’ve become indispensable.”*

ship course with a woman from church who wanted to be baptized and she has participated in two Old Testament survey courses.

Although Francesca misses friends at Calvary and the large worship services, the smaller church has forced her outside of her comfort zone and given her new opportunities to serve.

“With only 100 people at the church you really get to know everyone; they become like family.” she said. “The very first Sunday we were back, they asked me to help with the PowerPoint and I have loved serving as needed since then.”

Jeremy is often asked about being the only non-missionary in his family. Fred and Rachel Whitman have been ministering in Perugia since the 1970s, and their children have followed in their footsteps. Oldest son Jon and his wife, Melodee, are missionaries in Perugia, as

is the youngest and only daughter, Liz, and her husband, Dan, who oversees Radio Luce. Third son, Josh, and his wife, Sara, are missionaries near her hometown of Bologna, Italy.

Yet spend any time with the family and it’s clear that, far from being odd man out, Jeremy and Francesca are essential to the missional work. Jeremy is the businessman of the family, with a bachelor’s degree in business from Cornerstone and an MBA from Grand Valley. His abilities have been a huge help to the church at a pivotal time. As attendance has grown, so have expenses. Jeremy has led the finance committee toward a more organized system to cope. They’re also working to be officially recognized by the state as a church, which involves complex accounting requirements that Jeremy is uniquely qualified to address.

Jeremy also pushed the church to leave their old facility before their new one was ready, because they were paying expenses on both buildings and the old one was too small. This accelerated the pace of construction and the church’s growth; while the old building could never fit more than 70, now average attendance on Sundays is over 100.

“God was able to put us back here in Perugia right when the church needed our help the most,” Jeremy said.



L to R: Francesca directing A/V, Liz Whitman Ransom (flute), Jeremy Whitman (trumpet), Fred Whitman (bass guitar), Melodee Whitman (piano), and Jon Whitman (guitar).



## New Song Spotlight

# SALVATION'S SONG

by Pastor Chad Vitarelli

For the last couple of months, Pastor Halsted has taken us through the sermon series “Standing, Moving, and Going: CBC as a Missional Church.”

We have focused on those beliefs that we hold as a church, and on which we stand. In some areas of ministry direction we have to be willing to move, still firmly anchored in God’s unchanging truth. And then, from this foundation of truth and common belief, we go together into our communities and the world to live lives that please Him.

In order to help us as a body, I looked for a song to use during this series that would communicate a couple of things. First, it had to be a song that told the Story, from Creation to Consummation, highlighting those key Truths that we, as His church, have staked our lives upon. But second, it was important to me that the song be personal. Not

just truths that we recite, but a mutual experience of God’s grace in our lives through Christ.

*Salvation’s Song* was written by Stuart Townend, a British worship leader and song writer who co-wrote modern hymns like *In Christ Alone* and *How Deep the Father’s Love For Us*. He has written a song that is at the same time story driven, deeply theological, and highly personal. Notice the first-person pronouns used all the way through. The first verse is God’s salvation work, right from Ephesians 1. The second verse is our experience of that salvation in daily life. Verse 3 reminds us that “every spiritual blessing” is poured out on us through Christ and verse 4 looks forward to the consummation. The chorus is our corporate declaration that with every breath we are given, we will sing salvation’s song.

## SALVATION’S SONG

### Verse 1

Loved before the dawn of time  
Chosen by my Maker  
Hidden in my Saviour  
I am His and He is mine  
Cherished for eternity

### Verse 2

When I’m stained with guilt and sin  
He is there to lift me  
Heal me and forgive me  
Gives me strength to stand again  
Stronger than I was before

### Chorus 1

(So) with ev’ry breath that I am given  
I will sing salvation’s song  
And I’ll join the chorus of creation  
Giving praise to Christ alone

### Verse 3

All the chains of Satan’s curse  
Lifted through His offering  
Satisfied through suffering  
All the blessings He deserves  
Poured on my unworthy soul

### (BRIDGE)

Singing glory honour wisdom power  
To the Lamb upon the throne  
Hallelujah I will lift Him high  
Singing glory honour wisdom power  
To the Lamb upon the throne  
Hallelujah I will sing

### Verse 4

Stars will fade and mountains fall  
Christ will shine forever  
Love’s unfading splendour  
Earth and heaven will bow in awe  
Joining in salvation’s song

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