

(Continued from front page)

hearts, so we will strive in His strength, both individually and corporately, to bring all of life into conformity with God's revealed Word.

This is the message that Dan and I hope to teach to a handful of Christian leaders in both Nigeria and Ghana. By faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord we are rescued from sin's curse and delivered from sin's power. The grace that saves is the grace that equips, empowers and enables us to bring all of life into conformity with His good purposes.

I don't believe in fate. I believe in a sovereign God Who works all things together for His good purposes. May His purpose be that our humble efforts will help to establish in the hearts of the men we teach, and those they teach, that Jesus is both Lord of all as well as Lord over all.

Pastor Caines

NURSERY SCHEDULE

August 10

9:30 *Infants:* S & H Schreiner
Creepers/Toddlers: C, G & K Smith
Toddlers: T & M Schreiner

SS *Infants:* L Brown & T Lowe
Creepers: R & J Ray
Toddlers: R & P Lyons

6 PM *Combined:* M & A Walker

August 17

9:30 *Infants:* E Herberich, E McEachern
Creepers/Toddlers: A & D Heisig
Toddlers: J & D Herberich

SS *Infants:* B & K Smith
Creepers: J & B King
Toddlers: J & A West

6 PM *Combined:* C Wilkie, A Gaines

Please note: If you are unable to find a replacement for your nursery duty, call Tammy Higgins at 706.820.0491.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8451 East Brainerd Road Chattanooga, TN 37421 (423) 899-5377
www.covenantchattanooga.org

Dr. J Render Caines, Senior Pastor
Rev. Eric Mullinax, Associate Pastor
Jeremy Gaines, Director of Music Ministries
Mark Wilson, Dir. of Christian Education & Administration

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 21, No. 31

Covenant
Presbyterian Church

August 6, 2008

From the Senior Pastor...

"The Fate of Africa" is a book I'm reading in preparation for journeying with Dan Steere to Nigeria and Ghana. Having always loved maps, I have some idea about African geography. But like many of you, I have little sense of Africa's history.

It's a sad history. The European powers that colonized Africa during the nineteenth century, arbitrarily divided it into "countries," unconcerned about tribal, linguistic and cultural differences. In Nigeria, for example, three major tribes, along with the hundreds of minorities living in their territories, suddenly were expected to think of themselves as Nigerians. They didn't.

The colonial power kept things together by force. But when these "nations" were granted independence, the scramble for power among the tribes became bloody with victory achieved by armed might instead of political agreement.

Americans struggled for decades to think of themselves as "united states." But during the process we were blessed to have in place a constitution which reflected at least some appreciation for biblical truth. For example, our founding fathers understood the consequences of original sin. They understood that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Which is why they put into place a government of checks and balances. Our executive,

judiciary and legislative branches are intended to prevent anyone from gaining absolute power. It hasn't worked perfectly, but it's worked better than most other forms of government established by men.

Africa, in the wake of the withdrawal of European powers, has been ruled by "strong men" exercising absolute power. They have proven to be absolutely corrupt. Some have even taken for themselves the title of "Messiah." Their messages have been similar: "Believe in me and I will lead you into the Promised Land." Ruling with an iron fist, they have stolen their nation's wealth and impoverished their people. Their "reigns" have been characterized by terror almost unimaginable.

Meanwhile, the Gospel has been preached and many have come to faith. But the Gospel has been viewed as primarily a matter of personal salvation. There has been little understanding of how biblical truth informs all of life, including the structure of families, tribes, cultures, the arts, politics and economics.

In America, we struggle to learn these same lessons. Some of us are passionately concerned about personal morality. Others are passionate about social justice. As believers, our challenge is to live and preach the Gospel, praying that God will not treat us as we deserve, but will pour out His Spirit, change our

(Continued on back page)

FAMILY & YOUTH MINISTRY
Senior High Pizza and Scavenger

Hunt Tom & Sandi Schreiner will host this outing at Coolidge Park, Saturday, August 9. Please meet at Pisa Pizza at 5 PM and bring \$10 for the pizza and drink. Pisa Pizza is located at 551 River Street. As you turn into Coolidge Park, it will be on your left. Please call Tom or Sandi with any questions, (423.499.4109).

No youth meeting this Sunday evening.

Senior high & middle school will meet next Sunday evening, August 17, following the service.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Sunday School

Two helpers are needed in the 2-year-old class beginning in September. A husband/wife team would be ideal, but the most important thing is a willing heart. Contact Mark Wilson if you would like to help.

Covenant Corps

Teachers and helpers are needed beginning September 3 in our Wednesday night children's program, Covenant Corps. If you are interested in this ministry, contact Mark Wilson.



VOLUNTEER TRAINING

CONTACT of Chattanooga is a faith-based crisis call center with offices located on Vance Road across from AAA Women's Ministry. They need volunteers to work at least 2 shifts each month. CONTACT is offering on-site training for anyone interested in being a volunteer "counselor." For more information, call 423.899.5719.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY
Fall Retreat

Ladies, this Sunday, August 10, is the last day to register for the WM Fall Retreat scheduled for September 19-20. The topic of the retreat this year is "Value in the Valley." Brochures with more information are available in the lobby.

MUSIC MINISTRY 
Sunday Worship

This Sunday, August 10 we will focus through worship on our *ETERNAL* God. Two of the hymns we will sing are "Our God, Our Help" and "Praise Him, Praise Him."

Children's Choirs

Please remember that children's choirs begin again on Sunday, August 17.

Children's Choirs Volunteers

Several adult helpers are needed this year in children's choirs. If you are interested in assisting, please let Jeremy know.

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL
SERIES

Anyone interested is invited to join the Kingdom Seekers Sunday school class as they begin a new series on Sunday, August 17. Dr. Tim Sisemore, who is a member of CPC and a child psychologist, will teach from his book *Our Covenant with Kids*. Books are available for \$10. Contact Jon Harris (706.937.2603 or JEH1224@aol.com) regarding books and questions.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

The session will meet with anyone desiring membership on Sunday afternoon, August 17. Call the church office (899-5377) to schedule a time.

For Your Information...

MEN'S MINISTRY
Ironman's Breakfast

All men are invited to the Ironman's Breakfast this Saturday, August 9, at 8:30 AM. The speaker is Will Kesler. His topic is "Three Things I Wish My Father Had Told Me." Join us for a great time of food, discussion, fellowship and prayer.

MEN'S GROUPS

Please note the following men's groups are available each week. Each are "open," and you are encouraged to invite other men to participate with you. In addition to these group leaders, you may contact Will Kesler or Mark Wilson for more info about the Men's Ministry.

- Tuesday 6:00 AM; Wally's restaurant, downtown; leader: Jason Coffey (423) 313.5125
- Tuesday 6:30 AM; Dr. Swan's office; Cleveland; leader: Larry Swan (423) 472-8632
- Tuesday 6:45 AM; Wally's restaurant, downtown; leader: Tracy Brown (423) 493-9665
- Wednesday 6:30 AM; Wally's restaurant, downtown; leader: Eddie Rahm, (423) 892-1477
- Wednesday 7:00 PM; CPC - 2nd floor office wing; leader: Will Kesler (423) 893-7493
- Friday 6:00 AM; Wally's restaurant, downtown; leader: Mike Fingerle (423) 605-1405
- Friday 8:30 AM; Brainerd Baptist BX building (Belvoir Rd); leader: Pastor Mullinax (423) 899-5377

BUDGET REPORT

Year-to-Date as of 7/31/08

General Budget Giving	\$527,969
Budget Requirement	<u>629,368</u>
Shortfall	(101,389)

MISPLACED BIBLES

If you have mislaid your Bible, check the bottom shelf of the Book Shelf next to the Coke machine. We have a large number of unclaimed Bibles.



LOOKING AHEAD AT CPC

- Aug. 9 Ironman's Breakfast
- Aug. 10 Deacons Meeting
- Aug. 12 Session 7:15 PM
- Aug. 27 Wed. Suppers resume
- Aug. 31 Shepherding
- Sept. 1 Office Closed-Labor Day
- Sept. 14 Joint Service at Trinity Pres. Cleveland
- Sept. 19-20 WM Fall Retreat
- Oct. 12* Church Picnic (Hassle Acres)
No evening service
- Oct. 26 Joint TVP Service at CPC
- Oct. 29 Haiti Mission Trip
- Nov. 14-16 Missions Conference
- Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Service
- Nov. 27-28 Office Closed
- Dec. 12 WM Christmas Dinner
- Dec. 14 Children's Choirs Christmas Program
- Dec. 21 Adult Choir Christmas Program
- Dec. 24 Lessons & Carols Service

*Date Change