

Oakwood Park Christian Church  
Sioux Falls, SD

# The Connection

Volume 17

November 2013

Issue 11

## Operation Christmas Child



**Looking for a worthwhile family or small group outreach project? Look no more!**

Is your heart broken by the desperate plight of millions of children around the world? As in past years, our church is providing you with the unique opportunity to share Christ with a needy child using a simple shoe box.

Whether they are refugees of civil war, survivors of a natural disaster, or victims of extreme poverty, these little ones need to know that they are precious to God.

That's the motivation behind Operation Christmas Child, the unique project of Samaritan's Purse that enables caring people to share God's love with hurting girls and boys in the far corners of the globe.

Pick up one of the Operation Christmas Child special shoeboxes, fill it with toys and other presents, and you have an extraordinary gift for a child in need of joy and hope. Most important, these shoe boxes provide opportunities for local believers to tell children about Jesus Christ through Gospel literature and evangelism programs.

Shoeboxes and directions on "How to Pack A Shoe Box" are now available on the literature table in the church Fellowship Hall. Monetary donations to help offset the \$7 per shoe box shipping expenses are also welcome.

Please get involved in Operation Christmas Child. Remember to pray for the boy or girl who will receive your shoe box. Through the power of a simple gift, you can bless a child's life—and make a world of difference!

**Please return your packed shoe box to the church by  
Sunday, November 17th**

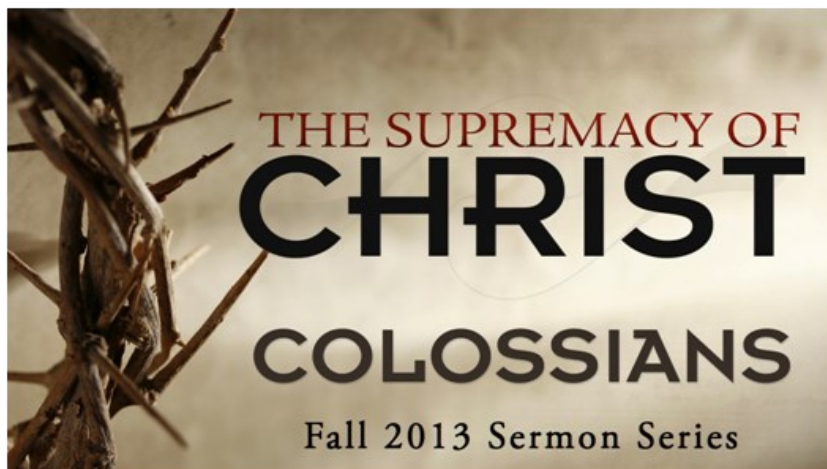
## Order Your Christmas Poinsettia

As in previous years, we will once again be decorating the church building with poinsettias for the Christmas season. Orders are now being taken. If you would like to purchase one or more poinsettias in memory of or in honor of a loved one, or if you wish to simply donate money toward the project, please provide the necessary information on a donation envelope located on the table in the Fellowship Hall, place \$10 per poinsettia ordered in the envelope and drop it in the collection box. The deadline for placing orders is *Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>*.



## November Notices

- ◆ There will be NO Wednesday Night Encounter meal or classes on Wednesday evening, November 27<sup>th</sup> due to the Thanksgiving holiday.
- ◆ The Church Offices will be closed Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> through Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving holiday.



### It's a Secret

Dr. Richard Swenson, in his book, *A Minute of Margin*, writes, "Half a century ago, my grandfather might reasonably have predicted that advances in affluence, technology, education, and entertainment would bring a commensurate increase in contentment. Such has not been the case. Instead our society is marked by 'inextinguishable discontent,' observes historian Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. Satiety largely does not exist. 'Give a man everything he wants,' said Immanuel Kant, 'and at that moment, everything will not be everything.'"

Believe it or not, you and I are living in the most blessed of times and yet, quite honestly, the most discontented of times. Never have so many had so much and yet been so discontent. An old French proverb says it simply and succinctly: "He who has everything is content with nothing."

Economist, John Kenneth Galbraith, said, "The urgency of wants does not diminish appreciably as more of them are satisfied . . . When man has satisfied his physical needs, then psychologically grounded desires take over. These can never be satisfied or, in any case, no progress can be proved. The concept of satiation has very little standing in economics."

Gregg Easterbrook, author of *Progress Paradox: How Life Gets Better While People Feel Worse*, said, "The men and women at middle-class standards in the United States and the European Union now live better than 99.4 percent of the human beings who have ever existed. So why don't Americans behave as though they believe this? Why do so many walk around scowling rather than smiling at their good fortune?"

"We live in McMansions, drive SUVs, snap up the latest plasma television sets, travel anywhere relatively cheaply, think and do pretty much what we choose. And yet research indicates that more of us felt happier in the 1940s, when a third of the population used outhouses," says David Myers, a sociologist at Hope College in Michigan. The reason? "By the end of the 1990s, we were excellent at making a living but too often failing to make a life."

Ronald Inglehart, a political scientist at the University of Michigan said, "You would think that people that have 20 times the income might have 20 times the happiness, and they don't have anything close to it." What people are discovering is that happiness has nothing to do

with having more stuff and an ever-increasing plethora of possessions won't provide peace of mind. Never have we had more self-storage facilities for our stuff, and yet have such shallow and empty lives, than we do today.

So what's the answer? It's a secret. In [Philippians 4:11-12](#), Paul writes, "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want."

How can we learn the secret of being content in any and every situation? First, we must understand that contentment is a continual pursuit. It never ends. It's also a continual enigma. It's a never-ending puzzle. Some things we must be content with, some things we can't be content with.

As Christians, there are some things we should never be content with. Especially, if we are serving in some kind of leadership ministry within the church. For example, we should never be content with our *walk* with the Lord. It can always



## FROM DAVID'S DESK...

improve. Likewise, we should never be content with our work for the Lord. It should always improve as well.

To put it another way, while our ministry can be very *satisfying*, we should never become *satisfied*. As Jack Hyles, former pastor of the First Baptist Church in Hammond, Indiana, once said: "Anyone who wouldn't rather have 50 in his Sunday School class instead of 5 isn't right with God."

The Apostle Paul wrote, "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that." ([1 Timothy 6:6-8](#)).

He identifies four key truths:

1. The combination of a godly life and a lifestyle of contentment is a tremendous accomplishment.
2. Nothing in this world is yours. "You brought nothing into the world."
3. There's no point in hanging on to stuff because, "we can take nothing out of it."
4. If our basic needs are being met, we ought to be content with that. Anything beyond that is a gift and a blessing.

Social scientists have discovered that faith, friendships, and being in committed relationships have a lot to do with our contentment and happiness levels. In fact, research shows that membership in a faith community (a local church) greatly improves your chances of contentment and fulfillment in life.

If we could learn the secret of contentment, we could be blessed every day. We could also be a blessing to a lot more people. [Hebrews 13:5](#) says, "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'" Ultimate contentment comes not from the accumulation of more cash or creature comforts. Rather, contentment comes when we realize we can trust God to provide for us and take care of us, no matter what. His sovereignty eliminates our insecurity.

How does He do it? It's a secret.

Thankful for YOU,  
Pastor David

## Library Corner...

### ***Even Now / Ever After***

by Karen Kingsbury. Two books in one. A tribute to our military heroes:

***Even Now***: Shane Galanter and Lauren Gibbs, a man and woman separated by lies and years of separation who have never forgotten each other. Emily Anderson, a college freshman raised by her grandparents discovers a love story whose tragic ending came with her birth.

***Ever After***: Emily Anderson, now in her twenties meets Army reservist Justin Baker. Their tender relationship, founded on a mutual faith in God and nurtured by their trust and love for each other, proves to be a shining inspiration to everyone they know. While Lauren and Shane struggle to move past their opposing beliefs about war, politics, and faith. When tragedy strikes, can they set aside their opposing views so that God's love might win, no matter how great the odds?





## Hangin' of the Greens



Everyone is invited to help us “Hang the Greens” and “Deck the Halls,” (i.e. decorate the church building) for the upcoming Christmas season. We will be gathering at the church building the afternoon of **Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 p.m.** to set up the eight different Christmas trees we will be using. Then, beginning at **5:00 p.m. on Monday,**

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>** we will gather back at the church building to decorate the trees and the rest of the building. A supper will be provided on that Monday. Please mark your calendars now and plan to participate! Questions? Talk to Stacey Moon or Val Lentz.

## Annual Meeting Update

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2013 Soup & Pie Lunch and Annual Church Meeting. The entire slate of Elders, Deacons, and Church Treasurer recommended by the Nominating Committee were elected to begin serving new terms effective immediately. Those elected or reelected are as follows:

### Elder

Del Donaldson  
Charlie Shafer

### Deacon

Mario Kemp

### Treasurer

Terry Fraker

## Wednesday Night Encounter

### Wednesday Meal

Served from 5:30 – 6:10

Cost = \$3.00 per person up to a maximum of \$12 per family (4 and under eat free)

### Classes for All Ages

6:30 – 7:30

Join us each Wednesday evening!

## Wings Christmas Party

Ladies, you are invited to our annual WINGS Christmas party on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. Bring goodies to share and a wrapped gift valued at \$10. The location is still to be determined. If you would be willing to open your home, please talk with Angela Hall.



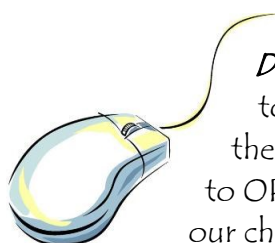
## Youth Christmas Program Practice

In preparation for the Youth Christmas Program the kids will be rehearsing during Wednesday Night Encounter. The Christmas Program will be held on December 15th. Parents, please do your best to have your child/children present each of those dates.

Thanks!



Did you know that OPCC has a Facebook page? We are excited about this useful online tool for staying connected with people. If you have not done so yet, please help us out by “liking” our page and recommending in to your Facebook friends. This is a great way to introduce them to the ministry of Oakwood Park Christian Church! You will find us at [www.facebook.com/opccsf](http://www.facebook.com/opccsf).



*Did you know...* that you can listen to each week's sermon, download the sermon and outline, or subscribe to OPCC's Sermon Podcast by visiting our church website @ [www.opccsf.org](http://www.opccsf.org)

# November



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 <i>B—Jody Brown</i> <i>B—Janice Menefee</i> <i>B—Renata Sutton</i>
3 <i>B—Melissa Pearson</i> <i>B—Lori Wilford</i> 9:30 Sun. School 10:30 Worship	4 <i>B—Melissa Johnston</i>	5 <i>B—Cheryl Hoffman</i> <i>B—Kennedy Lee</i>	6 <i>B—Esther Ponto</i> <b>Encounter</b> 5:30-7:30 	7 <i>A—Del &amp; Brenda Scott</i>	8	9
10 9:30 Sun. School 10:30 Worship	11	12	13 <i>B—Lucas Wipf</i> <b>Encounter</b> 5:30-7:30 	14	15 <i>B—Brenda Scott</i> <i>B—Leon Vanden Bos</i>	16 <i>B—Dustin Schumacher</i>
17 9:30 Sun. School 10:30 Worship	18	19	20 <i>B—Carla Hepp</i> <b>Encounter</b> 5:30-7:30 	21 <i>B—Victor Kutz</i>	22	23 <i>B—Cara Brown</i>
24 <i>A—Dan &amp; Cheryl Hoffman</i> 9:30 Sun. School 10:30 Worship	25	26	27	28 <b>Happy Thanksgiving</b> 	29	30 <i>A—Terry &amp; Georgia Fraker</i> <i>B—Brooke Haas</i> <i>B—Kimeron Stahly</i>
			<b>Church Office Closed</b>			



PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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Address Service Requested:

### CHURCH STAFF

Minister ..... David Hall  
E-Mail: [dhall.opcc@midconetwork.com](mailto:dhall.opcc@midconetwork.com)  
Cell Phone: (605) 212-4536

Sunday School Classes ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship Celebration ..... 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Night Meal..... 5:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Night Encounter.....6:30 p.m.

*Our purpose is to make disciples for Jesus Christ, of our family, friends, neighbors and all peoples, throughout Sioux Falls, the surrounding areas and ultimately the world. By the empowering of the Holy Spirit, we will invest all facets of our lives in order that all may be presented complete in Christ to the glory of God."*

MATT CHANDLER

# PHILIPPIANS

TO LIVE IS CHRIST AND TO DIE IS GAIN

## Adult Bible Study

### Wednesday Nights @ 6:30 p.m.

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*