

In Touch with Hope

919 Grand Ave

HOPE REFORMED CHURCH

Phone: 712-262-3016

www.spencerhope.org

January 13, 2010

Join us Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (sanctuary) or at 10:30 a.m. (Harbor of Hope)

Living the Adventure. . .

The Gates of Hell

Have you ever seen the movie *Speed*? It's a highly improbable movie in which a Los Angeles transit bus must keep going at least 50 miles per hour or the bomb planted beneath it will go off. I'm not proud to admit it, but I really enjoyed the movie.

At any rate, a couple of times in the movie the bus is forced to go down roads in a direction it's not supposed to be traveling. There are barricades—black and yellow gates which are supposed to restrict access—that the bus simply obliterates. A toll collector's gate is no match for a speeding city bus with a bomb strapped to its belly.

That picture—of a wooden gate splintering into a thousand pieces before an irresistible force—is a picture that Jesus gives for us to understand His goal for His Church. It's in Matthew chapter 16, verses 13 through 18:

Jesus is quizzing His disciples on popular opinion: "Who do people say that I am?" The answers are varied: John the Baptist come back to life. Elijah. Jeremiah or one of the other prophets. Then Jesus makes the question more pointed: "What about you? Who do you say I am?" And Simon Peter—the bold one, the brash one—speaks for the rest: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

It's the right answer. It's an answer that came from heaven. And Jesus blesses Simon for it, He says: "I tell you that you are Peter [which means rock] and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

This is good news for the church. This is a bold and magnificent promise: *The gates of Hades will not overcome it.* Hell will not be able to hold back the church. Jesus is saying that He is going to unleash a movement that will be so powerful and intense that it will be unstoppable. The church is the speeding bus. The gates of Hell are the barricades being turned into toothpicks.

It might not always seem this way. Sometimes it seems like the church is losing and Hell is winning. We see the influences of secularism all around us. The surveys tell us more and more Americans are identifying themselves as "non-religious." Morality seems to be on the decline.

But Jesus tells us that He will build His church, and the gates of Hell are powerless to stop it.

Another thing about gates: they are always defensive. They protect and guard, but never attack. The picture Jesus paints is not of the forces of Hell attacking the gates of the church; but of the church storming the gates of Hell. Jesus' plan is for us to take the fight to them.

And when we do, He guarantees that the church will win. *The gates of Hell will not overcome it.* They can't stand up to the force of love and grace and hope and joy that Jesus has let loose in us.

So take encouragement: if you are a part of the church of Jesus Christ you are a part of the most powerful, irresistible force in the world. The movement you belong to will push back the darkness and shine forth His light. Hell doesn't have a chance.



Pastor
Russell

Upcoming Services

9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Everla\$ting Return\$

January 17 ~ *The Future Principle* ~ Matthew 6:19-20

January 24 ~ *The Priority Principle* ~ Matthew 6:25-34

January 31 ~ *The Stewardship Principle* ~ Matthew 6:19-20

Congratulations...

...to **Aaron & Amy Knoup** with the adoption of a daughter, Chloe Jean Noelle, born on Tuesday, Jan 5.

...to **Scott Gilderhus** for his 22 years of service in the Air Force and Air National Guard. He retired on Sunday, January 10. Thank you for your commitment and dedication.

Thank You Notes:

...“Many belated thanks to Pastor Russell for his visit, as well as to other visitors, and for calls, cards and food brought to us after my recent mishap. The lovely carnation from the church was also appreciated. Thank you all for being ‘a part of the family of God’.”

Clarion (and Bud) Lovitt

...“Thanks to Hope friends for the prayers, cards and phone calls I received after my sinus surgery. Each one was appreciated so much.” *Joyce Flaharty*

Affirming God’s Servants:

...Thank you to the anonymous donors who provided the church with the funds to purchase a new snow blower. This has been a good year for blowing snow.

...On behalf of the Spencer Area Activities Center (Senior Center) we deeply appreciate the volunteers from Hope Church that helped in our relocation process. Weather was awful and they really stepped up. Spencer Senior Center

Attention all Hope small groups! Unleash the Heart of Your Group!

Small group members, plan to attend a special two-hour gathering on Sunday, January 24, 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. in The Well. We have invited RCA Director of Discipleship, Pam Kimpson and Chris Ver Steeg, Community Life Director at Sunnybrook Community Church in Sioux City. Both speakers, having been trained in small group dynamics and church community, will bring years of experience to unleash the heart of your small group. They will help us engage the world around us to understand how it relates to what the church is called to be. It will be a packed two hours and worth every minute! You will want to be there! A light lunch will be served during the session.

Adult Safety Training, Monday, January 25, 7:00 p.m. If you work with children in any capacity at Hope Church through Sunday School, nursery, VBS or any other activity, **you must** complete safety training. We appreciate you taking the time to participate in this. Keeping our kids and volunteers safe is a priority of Hope Church. Please contact Kim at 262-3016 for any questions.

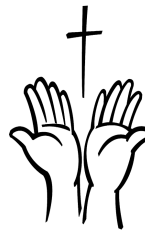
Hope Book Club will meet on Wednesday, January 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireside room. Our book for the month is Same Kind of Different as Me by Ron Hall and Denver Moore.

If you have a **prayer chain** that you would like started, please email your prayer request to Karmen Brown (rkbrown@smunet.net). If you do not have email please call Karmen at 262-4897 and leave a message.

Attention all Team Chairpersons: We would like to have all of our teams in place by February 1; that is when the new year begins for our teams. When you have your new team members and chairperson for 2010, please let the church office know as soon as possible (262-3016 or hrc@spencerhope.org).

Nursery Care Team Sunday, January 17

Ivan & Dawn Crane, Dawn Vande Berg



PRAYER & PRAISE

Please join us for Hope Church’s weekly prayer time every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. It will conclude by 7:15 p.m. The time consists of praise songs and prayer. This is also a great place to seek prayer for yourself.

Childcare is available for infants – 3 years old in the nursery. We would like to encourage you to bring your older children along to Prayer & Praise.

Dick Westra (Bahrain) a missionary that we support will be having back surgery on January 20. Prayers for Dick & Maja are appreciated. Cards can be sent to: Dick Westra, 118 Eastfield Dr, Oostburg, WI 53070.

Reveal



Beginning January 23!!

Watch for more details soon!

A special survey asking for input on your spiritual life.

Our goal is to better understand what the church can do to support your spiritual growth.

If you charge any church expenses at **ANY** place in town, please turn in a signed receipt to the church office. It will save a lot of time when checking the charges with the bills and to know which fund they go to.

HAITI RICE/BEANS & MEDICAL DONATIONS

You can still donate!



Donations will be taken until January 25. Your gift will help provide much needed food for the people of Haiti and help support the day-to-day operation of the hospital in Pignon. The group going to Haiti will purchase the rice and deliver to the poorest of the poor Jan. 27-Feb. 5. 100% of all the money given goes directly to help the people of Haiti. You can place your gift in the offering plate (memo line Haiti Rice) or drop it off at the church office.

Haiti Send-Off

The following people will be going to Haiti January 27 - February 5: Sharon Berkenpas, Brad Bernady, Calista Boeve, Heather Brown, Karmen Brown, Christi Gabhart, Dustin Reynolds, Shelly Robison, Kristin Siepkes, Dawn Vanden Berg and Doug Van Hofwegen.

Tuesday evening, January 26, 7:00 p.m. is a chance to participate together in prayer, giving each person traveling to Haiti confidence that prayer warriors will be "on the job". If you are unable to come that evening, please cover the trip in prayer.



Ladies mark your calendars for Thursday evening, Feb. 4 for **Women of Hope Movie Night** in the Youth Room.

Winter Cancellation Policy: Policy is to cancel all weekday activities any time school is canceled or let out early because of bad weather. Sunday service cancellation is up to the discretion of the pastor in consultation with consistory members. Cancellations will be announced on KICD and the website (www.spencerhope.org).

Do you throw your printer ink cartridges away? Why not bring them to the church office and we will recycle them at Staples. We get a \$3 credit for every cartridge we bring in which helps to purchase office supplies.

Your community needs you!

Be a volunteer for **Iowa Hospice!** If you have one to four hours a month to give to a person in the end of life stage you could be the one God uses to make a difference.

The training is free of charge. Please RSVP so a manual will be waiting for you at Hope Reformed Church, 919 Grand Ave. Spencer, Monday, January 25, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Lunch included.

Call Janna Erickson, 712.336.2941 or email: ericksonj@iowa-hospice.com to enroll if you have any questions. Visit our website: www.iowa-hospice.com

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting an omelet breakfast on Sunday, January 17, 8:00 a.m. -12 noon in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church Parish Hall (1111 4th Ave W). **Proceeds will go to Spencer Birthright.**

Save the Date

Love Spencer - April 17
Vacation Bible School - June 7-11



SR. HIGH

January 17, 7:00 p.m.

Parent's Night

Before Christmas we had been studying Parents vs. Teens with topics like: The Myth of a Perfect Family, Living up to Expectations, Authority and Rebellion, and Friend or Foe? To close this series we are inviting the parents to join us. We will be having some friendly competition, along with some dessert to follow.

6TH, 7TH & 8TH GRADE

Tuesday evening, January 19

(See announcement below).

NO youth group on Wednesday evening.

Big things coming in 2010

Mark your calendar now!!!

Sr. High Youth Group

Jan. 20: "No Apologies" Teens Night

Feb. 7: Super Bowl Party

March 19-21: Spiritual Retreat

@ Ironwood Springs, Stewartville, MN

June 18-28: Work Project Trip @ Alcoa, TN

6th, 7th & 8th Grade Youth Group

Jan. 19: "No Apologies" Tweens Night

Feb. 7: Super Bowl Party

April 16-18: Middle School Retreat @ Camp Okobojo

Between July 21-Aug 1: Work Project

(still finalizing dates)

NO Apologies

TWEENS

6th, 7th & 8th Grade Youth & Parents

Meet at Hope Church on Tuesday, January 19,

at **5:00 p.m.** to get your **FREE** ticket

for the "No Apologies" event.

We will car pool to

Faith Evangelical Free Church, Spirit Lake.

Supper will be provided by Pizza Ranch

By attending Tuesday evening

7th & 8th graders and their parents

get into the "No Apologies" event **FREE** on

Wednesday, January 20, 6:30 p.m.

We encourage parents and 7th & 8th graders to

attend this event on your own at the

Clay County Event Center.

TEENS

9th - 12th Grade Youth & Parents

Meet at Hope Church on Wednesday, January 20

at **5:45 p.m.** to get your **FREE** ticket

for the "No Apologies" event.

We will car pool to Clay County Event Center.

Sponsored by Cherish Center.

Susan (Hawn) Clark Fundraiser
Friday, January 22, 5-7:00 p.m.
Hope Church's Harbor Room

Free-will donation
Grilled Hamburgers by the Cattlemen,
Baked Beans, Salad Buffet and Dessert

Silent Auction for many donated items!
Auction ends at 6:30 p.m.

Susan was diagnosed with mitral valve prolapsed with severe regurgitation early in November. Doctors referred her to specialists at the Houston Medical Center in Texas, where she was immediately admitted for emergency open heart surgery. Susan suffered a stroke during surgery which has affected her right side, leaving her right leg numb and immobile and her right arm and hand very weak. Susan is home and continuing the healing process through physical therapy and Cardiac therapy.

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