

JULY 2008

# THE romans

Serving at Bible Baptist Church of Elk River, MN | [www.bible-baptistchurch.org](http://www.bible-baptistchurch.org) | 763.486.8363

Dear Praying and Giving Friends,

Here are the latest happenings in our ministry and family life.

## Ministry

- We voted in four new members (two couples) into our membership on Sunday, 6/29: Greg and Katrina Oseid and Joe and Kim Perfetto. They are dear additions to our congregation.
- I also had the privilege of baptizing Katrina Oseid. She made a profession of faith as a young girl but came to the realization of her depravity and need for repentance of sin five years ago. She shared her testimony before friends and family who attended the baptismal service. It was a precious time.
- I have been tremendously encouraged to hear more prayer requests of a spiritual nature coming from our folks such as concern for outreach opportunities and salvation of people in their daily world.
- We have not been seeing new visitors from the area. I restructured our outreach efforts this year and this may be the reason for this, I'm not sure. I know that there are many in our church who are sharing Christ with others and inviting people to church. I look forward to connecting with folks in our community in the coming months. We need to remain faithful during this "dry spell."
- You may recall that we had Dallas Putnam with us in April. The church voted unanimously to apply for CBM's support with a building project. We made application and were approved for CBM Building Ministries assistance. I've been speaking and meeting with realtors and property owners about land for our church. Prices range from \$28,000 per acre to \$320,000 per acre in Otsego. I am confident that we will see God's people invest into our future. In the June/July 2008 issue of *The Otsego View*, the city's newsletter, they included a "Historical Highlight." In 1851 land had been purchased from the Winnebago Indians living in Otsego for \$1.25 an acre and sold by entrepreneurs for \$5.00 an acre during a time of growth. How times and land costs have changed!
- Our church voted to associate with the Minnesota Baptist Association. The association approved our request to join with them. This is a positive step for our church. It was also encouraging to see seven younger pastors (in their 30's), including me, introduced during the MBA annual meeting on 6/23.
- We've enjoyed some special events at our church. On 6/7-8 we had Bill and Terri Jenkin with us. Bill challenged us in the areas of Home Missions and Church Planting. We were exhorted to remain focused on the Great Commission individually and corporately. The Grismore family ministered to us in music on Sunday evening 6/22. We enjoyed our third annual Fourth of July church picnic on 7/4. Sunday Evening, 7/6, we had the BJU Music Ministry team with us. It was also a great joy to have Doug and Marie McLachlan worship with us on 6/29. They are very precious to us and have been "life-shapers" to Julie and me (to use one of Dr. McLachlan's terms).
- Andrew Bergren, one of the men in our church, will be teaching a two-week study on "Counterfeit Christianity: Exposing the False Teachings of the Prosperity Movement" on 7/24 and 7/31. It is exciting to see more of our members getting involved in various facets of the ministry.

## Deputation

The biggest news is that I transitioned from tri-vocational (Express Scripts, pastoring, and deputation) to bi-vocational (pastoring and deputation) on July 2. My "official" start date at the church is July 21 (see "Family" below). The timing for this transition was months in the making. This move is accompanied by two intense sentiments. The first sentiment is an urgent dependence for support. We have secured just below 40% of our support. While we have some financial reserves, they will be depleted quickly. Thus, it is incumbent that we continue to increase our contacts with churches to raise our support level. The second sentiment is tremendous expectancy. I'm amped to give more time to the task of shepherding this precious congregation and establishing this ministry.

## Family

The transition from secular employment to full-time ministry afforded us the opportunity to take a two-week "transition vacation." We have just concluded the first week enjoying overnight trips to go fishing, swimming, and visit the Minnesota Zoo. We will spend the second week in Ankeny, IA at CBM family camp.

*From our hearts, thank you for your interest in us and our ministry.*

## SENDING CHURCH

Fourth Baptist Church  
900 Forestview Lane  
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## MISSION AGENCY

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Rockford, MI 49341  
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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## PETITIONS

- Numerical, spiritual, and conversion growth for our church.
- Measurable fruit from Reaching *Our* Jerusalem in the fall and individual evangelism efforts.
- God's financial provision for our family as we transition from secular employment to full-time ministry.
- Workers for and implementation of new ministries in the fall.

## PRAISES

- Four new members and a baptism.
- Increased giving from the congregation.
- Support from our CBM family.
- Our family vacation.

## UPCOMING EVENT(S)

- Bible Conference with Dr. Paul Hartog, October 31-November 2, 2008.

## CURRENT SUPPORT LEVEL

# 38%

PLEASE CONSIDER  
PARTNERING WITH US  
FINANCIALLY AND  
PRAYERFULLY FOR  
CHURCH PLANTING IN  
NORTH AMERICA.