

# New Hope Newsletter

New Hope Christian Reformed Church

March 2010

## My Neighbors, My Mission

*New Hope Missions Committee Member Karen Agnew shares her experiences getting started with the devotional guide "Praying the Lord's Prayer for Neighbors." New Hope members are encouraged to pray for five families or individuals daily in the 28 days leading up to Easter Sunday.*

Wednesday 2/23: Pray for five neighbors for 28 days. Seems like it should be easy enough to do, right? Then why am I having trouble getting started!!

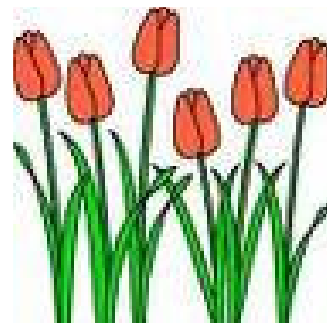
Friday 2/25: Still haven't started. At our small group Bible study that night, we prayed that we would all take this challenge to heart and that God would work through us to be a light to our neighbors.

Sunday 2/28: It's been over a week and I still don't have my list started. As a last resort, I pulled out my neighborhood block watch map. The names of my neighbors are neatly printed in each little box--all 33 of them!! So, which five do I choose? Guess I better pray for help!! Of course, I could choose more than five. But what if I want to include some "neighbors" from work on my list? Seems like this list could get pretty big!

Monday 3/1: Okay, I've got my list narrowed down to six. Whew, that was the hard part! Now it's time to get started with the prayer book. Day 1: hmmm...what's this about adding another one? The person I dislike the most? Okay, now it's getting challenging.

So I started my 28 day prayer journey. As I was reading over the first day's prayer guide, I found that even though I didn't think I knew my neighbors very well, things came to mind about each of them that I could include in my prayers. As I was praying, I started thinking of ways I could get to know them better so I could be more specific in my prayers. I'm thinking this could get pretty interesting and exciting. I look forward with anticipation to see how God works in me and in the lives of my neighbors as I continue on this journey.

*(Continued on back page)*



## Calendar of Events

### Spring Church Cleaning, Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Many volunteers are needed to give New Hope Church a spring cleaning inside and out. **Youth Group**

### Fundraiser Breakfast

starts at 8:00 a.m.; Church Cleaning begins at 9:00.

**Contact: Gene Baldwin**  
**326-0913**

### Men's Study Breakfast, Saturdays, 8:00-9:00

at church. All men high school age and older are invited to attend. Pastor Perry will lead a discussion on "A Guide to Christian Living" by John Calvin.

**Coming up in April** – a special seminar during Sunday School on End of Life Issues.

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And how are things going for you? The countdown to Easter as of today is 28 days! So, if you haven't started your 28 day prayer journey by today, you're a day late, but still not too late to get started. Get the pen and paper out, get the list going, and let's all get praying. If we all pray for at least 5 neighbors, God will work in the lives of over 300 families. But the biggest blessing may be how God changes us in the process. I can hardly wait to see what happens.

## A Fresh Breath of Stewardship

*By Bruce Martin, New Hope Stewardship Committee*

***“That while we are faithless God remains faithful for he cannot deny himself. 2 Timothy 2:13***

Even in our promise to do something and our failure to act, God remains faithful and acts on our behalf to get it done. It makes one thing very clear to me, and that is the fact God doesn't need us. He doesn't need our money, our service, our prayer, or our time. I have seen money fall from the sky to fulfill the promised pledges left unfulfilled by our congregation. I have seen things get done when those promising to do them are off to other things. And I have seen the fulfillment of needs when there was no means of them being fulfilled. No, God doesn't need us.

So, if God doesn't need us, then what are we doing here? Why not go home, catch up on American Idol reruns, and leave it up to God? If God can do it without our money, our time, our prayer, without our service, good, let him and we can spend our time spending our money doing things that please us and fulfill our desires. Please do- unless those things aren't ours.

It has taken me a long time to fully figure out that being a “child of God” means that I am a child. It is kind of like when I take Josh to the grocery store and give him a dollar to buy candy; God has given me money to meet my needs. Can you imagine giving your child the household income in hopes they would pay the bills? Some of us, myself included, would be on the streets with a truckload of melted ice cream and gummy bears. But that is what God has done. He has given us all we need to accomplish his Kingdom work, and sadly, we have used most of his resources for our own prideful desires, seeking our glory, not his. Hey, but doesn't the game look so much better in HD!

**“Can you imagine giving your child the household income in hopes they would pay the bills? Some of us, myself included, would be on the streets with a truckload of melted ice cream and gummy bears.”**

So is God's Kingdom lacking because we refuse to give? **ABSOLUTELY NOT!** Ours is. When we don't give of ourselves, we are the ones who lack in sharing the good things of God. He who made us did so for his good purpose, and when we work for his good purpose we are the ones who are blessed. So let's stand together on the promise of God and share in his riches as we work together through his power to glorify his name.

Now could you imagine my joy if when I gave the household income to Josh, he not only spent it wisely, but he partnered it with his well invested allowance and bought me a larger house, nicer car and a bigger, higher definition TV, because he loves me and believes seeing my joy will bring to him a joy that lasts? What a great child he is.

Now are you ready to partner together with our Father- not because he needs our stuff, but because you love him? We will both be blessed, I promise, but more importantly, so will he!