



# ***KEEPING YOU INFORMED***

*An Occasional Letter from Pastor Nelson  
April, 2007*

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We would like to send this newsletter to as many homes as possible by e-mail to save cost. If you would be willing to receive it by e-mail in the future please send a note to [cirving@sgc.org](mailto:cirving@sgc.org). Thank you

## **Pastoral Staff Changes:**

Pastor Jacob Miles\* has been appointed by Southern Gables Church as a "staff" missionary working through Pioneer Missions to serve in church-planting in Southeast Asia along with the Sellers\* of our church. Jacob's\* last day as a pastoral staff member is April 30. A "Thank You" to the Miles\* for his over 16 years of ministry among us is scheduled for 6 p.m., Sunday, April 29. We are saying "Thank you" rather than "farewell" because Jacob\* and family will be with us for a few months before they leave the country. Jacob\*, Carol\* and their children plan to depart the USA in September and will use the months of May through August to build their support team both from SGC and elsewhere. (\* Not their real names. Actual names have been changed for security reasons.)

Pastor Trevor Lee has been accepted as a church-planting leader in Aurora, Illinois. Trevor, Michelle and children will be leaving Denver on April 23. We held a "Farewell" for the Lees on Sunday, April 15.

Both of these men will be greatly missed. While their departures are right and good, it will be hard for them and for the many of us who have not only appreciated their ministries but consider them friends. Your Elder board is working toward meeting the needs created by these departures and we will keep you informed.

## **Finances:**

***There is both good news and a challenge here - please read this carefully***

### **General Fund**

As of March 31, 2007 our giving is about 2% below what we need to meet our expenses. That 2% translates into about \$40,000 and your help in meeting this need is important.

### **Welcome Center Expansion (Building Fund)**

Praise God and thank you that we have received nearly \$700,000 of the \$1,100,000 needed. If that \$400,000 were given over the next two years we would be completely debt-free by the end of 2009. Wouldn't that be great! Please continue to help us completely retire this indebtedness. If you have not yet contributed, your participation is welcomed and greatly appreciated!

### **Kingdom Connection**

Your faithfulness in supporting our "staff" missionaries is outstanding. We are meeting our desired 50% support of all eight families every month. Our other missionaries are supported through the General Fund.

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## **Revisions of the SGC By-Laws:**

Dr. Lloyd Carlton of the Elder board is leading a team looking at how to revise our by-laws to better reflect both how we currently operate as a church and how we will in the future. That team includes: Lloyd Carlton, Chuck Kiker, Michelle Porter, Jeff Jackmond, Deanne Irving, and Jerry Nelson. The Partners will have the opportunity to review and vote on these recommendations. Any suggestions you have for the team would be welcomed.

Related but different than the above paragraph is our plan to change our Articles of Incorporation. We propose deleting the second \* paragraph of this Article XII so that only the first paragraph remains.

### ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS

The Articles of Incorporation may be amended or new Articles may be made and adopted at any business meeting by a three-fourths vote of the partnership of the CHURCH present and voting. Any such proposed amendments or additions to the Articles must be presented to the CHURCH in writing at least three months prior to the business meeting that they are to be voted upon.

\*While willfully and openly acknowledging that the laws of the State of Colorado specifically allow the CHURCH to change these Articles of Incorporation, with particular reference to Article III, Confession of Faith, contained herein, the CHURCH nonetheless affirms that the twelve (12) elements of said Article III, Confession of Faith, are unalterable and irrevocable, in perpetuity, and its content can never be changed.

A business meeting will be held in June 2007 to vote on this proposed change. Please note that any change to our "Articles" and hence any subsequent proposed change to our doctrinal statement would still require a 75% vote. A letter explaining the change was sent earlier this year.

## **Spring/Summer/Fall Preaching Schedule:**

**Spring 2007** Sermon Series in 2 Peter - April 15-June 24

**Summer Series** July 1-September 2 "What Would Jesus say to an a Mormon, a Muslim, a relativist, a Catholic, a hedonist, an "average" American, etc."

**Fall/Winter 2007-08** beginning September 9 **The Book of Romans**

Romans is arguably the most essential book of the Bible to our understanding of the Christian faith.

The weekly sequence for greatest benefit will be:

- Individual study, using guiding questions
- Sermon
- Group discussion, using guiding questions

It is our hope that the preaching series in Romans, which will begin in the fall will be engaged by all the small groups of our church. Our desire is to begin a number of additional small groups so that many others can join us in this study.

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## **Music/Worship Changes**

For two years our worship has been planned around the principle of "anchored in the church's historic worship and seasoned with the fresh winds of the Spirit's movement in the present." An evaluation of our practice has led the Elders to encourage our worship leaders to include more contemporary music in our services. The prayer is that we will honor one another, as, has been aptly stated: "Because we value a humble willingness to support others whose tastes are different than ours, we will put understanding above accusation, forbearance above faultfinding, and Biblical unity above the demand for uniformity. We will create opportunities for God's reality to be conveyed more powerfully by learning to affirm the forms and styles that edify our brothers and sisters. Our relationships of love for each other will lead us to patiently support and rejoice with those who appreciate other styles, believing that God is able to meet us in the context of any Christ-exalting worship style." May Jesus Christ be praised!

## **Mexico '07**

For the fifth consecutive year Southern Gables has traveled to Juarez, Mexico to assemble and give away a 12' x 36' house. This year Pastor Rich Peterson led a team of fourteen adults and four children to build a home for Victor and Elvira and their two children. After living in an 8' x 12' one room, dirt floor, pallet house for over two years, this family was thrilled to move into their new, three-room home. The severe living conditions in this poorest section of Juarez had already claimed the lives of two of their children. The home donated and built by the people of Southern Gables Church will help insure the survival of their remaining fragile children. If you would like to hear more about this missions endeavor, see pictures and enjoy some refreshments, please join us for a Team Report on Sunday, May 6 from 4:30pm to 6:00pm. Thank you, church family, for your marvelous generosity toward this effort!

Thank you for your participation in this ministry called Southern Gables,

*Jerry Nelson*