

FBF Newsletter

January 2011



Helping people find and follow Christ

Quick Notes:

- > Make powering the ministry through prayer part of your church involvement. Monthly prayer guides are available the first Sunday of every month.
- > Volunteers are needed to “de-decorate” the church on Sunday evening, January 2. We’ll start at 6 p.m.

From Pastor Chris:

Someone’s Priorities Are Mixed Up—But Whose?

The student in the speech class was nervous, and he got his rehearsed phrases out of order. With all the drama he could muster, he said, “I could have been killed, or possibly even seriously injured!” The inverted order made it sound like death was the lesser of evils, and some students chuckled at the thought.

Look at the photograph to the right, and you’ll see the faces of some people for whom the preservation of life isn’t their top priority. It was published in today’s edition of *The Telegraph*, a British newspaper. The caption identifies the people as Christian mourners gathered around a mass grave of



“victims of religious riots” in Jos, Nigeria. The “rioting,” as it is being called, began on Christmas Eve. It continued on Christmas Day, and didn’t taper off until the close of the normal Christian day of worship on the Sunday following Christmas. At least 80 Nigerian Christians were killed in church bomb-

ings, house burnings, and other attacks. A Muslim group has boasted responsibility for the carnage.

Jos is about 18 miles from Miango, where our missionaries Steve and Ruth Porter have served as medical missionaries for over 20 years. (Google Maps gives me

Continued on Page Two
See **Someone’s Priorities**

Inside this issue:

From Pastor Chris	1, 2
New Sunday School Class	1
NHC Healthcare Report	2
January Calendar	3
Financial Update	4

Ed Jaeger Begins 8-Week Class on January 2

For several years we were privileged to benefit from the teaching ministry of Ed Jaeger. When we sent him off to Tajikistan in 2009, we didn’t know if we would ever have the privilege again.

We are delighted to announce that Ed will begin teaching an eight-week Sun-

day School class on worship in the Old Testament on Sunday, January 2.

Ed is a former (and perhaps still future) missionary to the middle east, and his first-hand knowledge of middle eastern languages and customs add much to his teaching. He is also a former (and

perhaps still future) instructor at Prairie Bible Institute in Alberta, Canada.

But for now we’ve got him. Come enjoy his teaching ministry while we do.



NHC “His Love” Bracelet Distribution

One of our tools for visiting newcomers at NHC Healthcare every week is offering free “His Love” bracelets. The bracelets are intended to represent God’s neverending love, and giving them often turns the conversation to spiritual things.

People from our church did a facility wide distribution of bracelets last month. Bill Walls submitted the following report:

“Lisa, Katy, and I met up with Nancy Mills on the morning of December 18th. We were directed to distribute to all residents (I think Nancy said there were over 125). It seemed like a somewhat overwhelming task. We divided the complex into three sections and began around 9:30 a.m.

“I was fortunate to have Katy as my coworker. As always, she’s a hit with the elderly. Katy ensured each bracelet matched

the recipient’s clothing. She also made timely estimates of wrist size.

“The bracelets were amazing. Personally I have no aptitude for bracelet assessment, but they were all striking in color diversity and bead form. Every time we placed one on a wrist, I thought about how much care went into their construction.

“The bracelets were very much appreciated by all residents, male and female (the bracelets for males are beaded with wood and masculine looking). I was a little uncertain when we offered one to the first male patient, but they received them with the same interest as the women.

“Several had bracelets from last year still on their wrists, and seemed to treasure them. Many patients desired extra bracelets to be used as Christmas gifts for

friends and relatives. They took care to find the ‘right’ color, which was favored by the friend or relative. Some asked for an extra bracelet for a favorite nurse or other caretaker.

“One male patient pointed out that the bracelet ministry seemed like something Jesus would do since bracelets were a simple, yet beautiful gift. They were not a commodity of the rich, but were still precious.

“The NHC staff was very supportive. They helped us locate patients who were out of their rooms, and helped us keep track of who we missed.

“Diane Hardin and Nancy Mills did a very good thing with this bracelet project. It brightened hundreds of lonely souls with God’s love, and was a blessing to me, Lisa, and Katy, too.”



Contact Nancy Mills or call or email the church to be a part of FBF’s ministry to NHC Healthcare.

“If anyone would come after me, let him take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.”

Someone’s Priorities Are Mixed Up—But Whose? (continued from Page One)

instructions on backing out of my driveway, but for starting from Miango to Jos it just says “head northeast.”)

Years ago, Ruth’s letters gave us the news about things like electrical failures and snakes under the house. In recent years the latest armed robberies and security concerns come before the critter and electrical problems.

Steve and Ruth are stateside now for continuing education and training, but their intention and desire is to return unless the Lord leads otherwise.

What would make someone want to return to a place like that? For that matter, what

would possess a believer to attend public worship on the Sunday following Christmas Eve bombings? What would make people gather around such a gravesite to pray and allow their picture to be taken?

What is it? Devotion? Courage? Commitment? Faith? The fear of the Lord? A set of priorities that values faithfulness to God and the proving of faith over personal security and safety?

Whatever it is, and it is probably a mixture of all of them, we could use some of it here. Martyrdom isn’t likely in East Tennessee, but that doesn’t mean that things wouldn’t

be different if personal comfort, convenience, wealth, and ease took a back seat to the things of the Lord. In my life, and I’m guessing yours, more would get accomplished, more impact for the cause of Christ would be seen, and more life would be lived abundantly in direct proportion to any costs paid.

Jesus said, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it” (Mark 8:34-35, ESV).

