

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR ZION!

Each Sunday	9:30 am 10:40 am	Sunday School Worship Service
Each Wednesday	7:00 pm	Family Ministries

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December 2	6:15 pm	Family Jam
December 8	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Deacons Meeting Church Board
December 15	9:00 am	Sewing Circle at Katy Zook's house
December 16	6:00 pm	Celebration of Hope
December 19	7:00 am	Men's Breakfast
December 23		No Family Ministries
December 24—25		Church Office Closed
December 27	9:30 am	Christmas Brunch
December 29, 30, 31		Church Office Closes at noon on the 29th and all day on the 30th and 31st

Please remember to contact the Church Office by the 20th of each month about any dates or articles that you would like included in the next newsletter. It is

# Zion BIC

## NEWSLETTER

December 2009 Volume 7 Issue 12

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## Celebration of Hope

December 16: 6:00—7:30 pm

On Wednesday, December 16, instead of our normal family ministries, we will be moving it to Sterl Hall for an outreach event for our community. We will have a soup supper, crafts and background music by Robert and Eddie Hiebert. We are excited to reach out to families this Christmas season and provide a little hope for our community during this Christmas season.

And, we need your help! We are planning a meal and would like your help in making and bringing the food. Please see the sign up sheets in the foyer. Also, we would like to hand out coats for those who need them. If you have some that you don't need, please bring them to the church by December 14.

There is also a need for greeters, table hosts, and people to help set-up and clean-up before and after the event. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, please contact the church office.



## From Pastor Bob:

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”  
Ephesians 6:18

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” James 5:16b

Do you ever struggle praying? Does it sometimes get to be difficult to make the time to enter into prayer or you just simply forget to pray? Or at other times does your prayer life become repetitive and dry? Do you find yourself saying the same things, in the same ways to the point that you can pray without even really thinking about what you are saying? Do you ever get to “amen” and realize that you have no idea what you have just said or that you were even praying?

I have been thinking about prayer a lot lately and what place it should play in my life compared to the actual part that it plays. And when I get done thinking through this I find that I want and need to spend so much more time in prayer. I mean if I truly believe that God will actively answer prayer and that through prayer things around me change for God's glory it should be a no brainer that prayer would be a regular and significant aspect of my life. But, I want to pray more and more passionately. I want to act on what I say I believe, that prayer is vital.

I am finding that only one person can make the commitment for me to be in prayer; yours truly. No one else is going to make this time for me and no one else is going to force me to do it. And the other reality I understand more clearly is that the more I know of God through scripture, the more I allow the Holy Spirit to lead me to the heart of God, the more I desire to meet with God and talk and listen to him.

We have a great opportunity the first week of January 2010 to focus our attention and the start of a new year on prayer and fasting. The Brethren in Christ denomination has established the first week of the year as “prayer and fasting” week. I'm sure some of you have done this before and some have never experienced this sort of focus. We will be talking about this the closer we get to January 1, but I want to prepare you now to think about making the first week of the year a week that you will be willing to intentionally focus on spending time in prayer and that you would be willing to give up, fast, something in your life that first week, where you would instead spend that time in prayer and searching for God.

Cont. on next page

On December 13 and 20, we will be having our annual Missionary Christmas Offering for our supported missionaries.

## Mike & Lori Cassel

Since January 2006 the Cassel family is helping to plant churches in Mexico with Brethren in Christ World Missions. They are involved in evangelistic outreach, discipleship, and leadership development. Theological Education by Extension (TEE) books are being used for the training of pastors and leaders with the goal of seeing a conference of churches developed.

## Ben & Eunice Stoner

Ben and Eunice serve in the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico with Brethren in Christ World Missions. Given the Navajo people's rich traditions, and desire to retain native customs, many are suspicious of Anglo visitors. Ben and Eunice Stoner have worked with the Navajo people since the early 70s, and know they must face rejection innumerable times, before reaching individuals on the Navajo reservations with the message of God's grace. Today, as they plant churches, Ben and Eunice are advocates of the preservation of Navajo culture in Christian practice.

## Craig & Joyce Smith

Craig and Joyce serve in Mexico planting churches with Victory Ministries. Their vision is to see a strong spiritual force of mature believers, that is self-governing and self-propagating so there will be a powerful light for Christ in the dark area where they live. They are seeing God move in that direction.

## Mark & Stephani Wuthnow

Mark and Stephani Wuthnow work in the main office of Life Action Ministries. Life Action has a single-minded focus to see God glorified through a revival among His people. Life Action Ministries is the largest revival ministry in North America. It provides different ministries which include: Summits: a traveling team to churches, Revive Our Hearts: a radio program for women, a Lodge: this is a place for pastoral couples and others in leadership to go for rest and renewal, Collegiate Impact: a campus ministry and Life Action Conference Retreat & Conference Center: a camp and retreat facility. Mark is a son of Barbara Wuthnow.

## Get to know the Christner Family

**Aaron and I met in 1998 in Divide, Colorado at church camp even though we lived thirty miles apart. We didn't even know each other existed and didn't talk to each other for the first time until 2003. Aaron and I saw each other at our little sister's softball game in Hope, KS and just started talking like we had known each other forever.**

**Aaron told me about getting ready to go to Thailand for nine days and being really excited. Soon after Aaron got back from Thailand, we saw each other in Divide, Colorado again. We started dating on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003. After eleven months of dating, Aaron proposed to me on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004. Another eleven months went by and we got married on June 18, 2005.**



**After moving to Milford, NE and then back to Abilene, Kansas we found out that we were going to have a baby...a boy. Our Duke Lamar was born on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at Memorial Hospital in Abilene, Kansas. He was 7 pounds 10 ounces and 20 inches long. After two more moves and six months we found out that we were going to have another baby. This time they told us we were going to have a girl. Aaron had his doubts but I was very sure and very excited. Our precious Cora Rose was born November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at Memorial Hospital in Abilene, Kansas. She was 7 pounds 2 ounces and 20 inches long.**

**Family is very important to Aaron and I and we love the fact that our parents live so close so they can see our kids as much as they want. Aaron is enjoying his job at Geoprobe Systems while running Christner Technical Solutions in the evenings and some on the weekends. I enjoy my job as a full-time stay-at-home mom and I make some extra money by selling Mary Kay products. We love being a part of the great body of Zion Brethren in Christ Church.**

**~Aaron and Jennifer Christner**

What better way to begin a new year than to spend concentrated time focusing on the One whom we trust our future year. No matter what your prayer life looks like today, it can grow and expand and we can learn to approach his throne humbly and expectantly. Join me on this journey as we learn to draw near to God in our prayer lives.

Blessings,  
Bob

# Zion Mugs


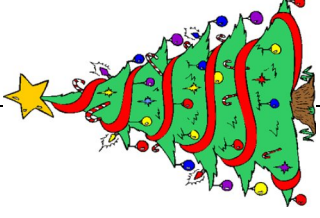
Have you seen our new travel mugs?



This is one of the things we will be giving our visitors when they come to Zion for the first time as a way to say welcome. But we thought you may like one as well.

So, if you would like to buy a mug or two, or however many you would like, stop by the church office. The mugs are \$5 a piece. You will also get a magnet for your refrigerator.

# December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
Rex & Lori Craig Bobby Robertson	7	8	9	10	11	12
		<b>Deacons</b> 6:00 pm <b>Leadership Team</b> 7:00 pm Kim Bilyeu	Family Jam 6:15 pm Glenn Book	Samantha Sare	Casen Walsh Karen Hess	Larry & Judy Coup
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		<b>Sewing Circle</b> 9:30 am Steve & Carol Hoover Todd Rohrer Glenna Minter	<b>Celebration of Hope</b> 6:00—7:30 pm Sterl Hall			<b>Men's Breakfast</b> 7:00 am
Esther Hess	Mike Corl					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			<b>Bob and Heather on Vacation</b>			
Mahlon & Irene Engle Glen Shank		Glenn & Jean Book Eldon & Betty Noel Jenn Rohrer	No Family Ministries Jim Robertson		<u>Church Office Closed</u>	
27	28	29	30	31		
		<b>Bob and Heather on Vacation</b>				
<b>Christmas Brunch</b> 9:30 am Rosanlee & Twila Holt Robert Hiebert	Aaron Corl	<b>Church Office Closes at noon</b> Marlys Rohrer	<b>No Family Ministries</b> Matt & Amber Engle	<u>Church Office Closed</u> Leon Anderson Amos Christner		