



# THE BELLE

*Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ...Eph. 4:15*



May 2001

## Inside this issue:

Adult Sunday School	2
The Reading Room: Review of Eyes Wide Open	3
Pittsburgh Project Mis- sion	3
Introducing New Mem- bers	4
Game Night Photos	5
Rehab Mission in New York	6
Food For Hungry Mis- sion to Romania	6
May Birthdays Calendar Treasurer Tom	7

## Growth Fulfilling His Commission

This Sunday we'll celebrate 22 new members joining the Bellefield family. It's been an exciting gift to watch God begin to rouse this "sleeping giant" of a congregation to new life and growth. After several decades of a serious membership plateau (a nice word for not growing), we've added 37 new members in the past eight months. And along with substantial increases in giving and worship attendance, we're rediscovering the adventure of growing with Jesus Christ.

Jesus' last post-Easter words to his followers just before he ascended to heaven were: *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

This Great Commission is the primary purpose of every Christian church. It's been said that the church is the only institution that exists for the sake of nonparticipants. Without this passion for those who haven't yet responded to the Good News, the church un-

dergoes a deadly shift from its commissioned identity as a missions agency to functioning as a religious club existing for the sake of its members. Satisfying the needs and wishes of the club members then takes precedence over reaching nonChristians. Programs, budgets, facilities, language, values, music styles, priorities and staff focus on the already-reached instead of the yet-to-be-reached.

Think I'm exaggerating? A recent poll reported that 87% of American church members selected "meeting the needs of me and my family" as the primary reason their church exists. YIKES!

Fulfilling Christ's Commission is difficult for most churches. It's easier to stay in our comfort zones, maintain the status quo, enjoy our friends and take care of ourselves than to share Christ's passion for others. It's easier—but it's not God's call—not for his church. The only reason the Risen Christ has left us temporarily on

this planet is so that more people can hear and respond to the Good News of God's love in Christ. Bellefield has a huge way to go before we're fully mobilized for this mission-- BUT we are on the way. And I'm STILL glad you asked me to join you. God is GOOD! - Dave



## Urbana 2000 Inspires Guatemalan Mission

Way back in December, about twenty fortunate students associated with Cornerstone and Bellefield Church headed out to Illinois to join 20,000 Christ followers at Urbana 2000. This conference was eye opening and perhaps even life changing for the students who attended.

As I scanned the crowd of young people who had come from all over the world; as I heard the testimonies of people from motley backgrounds; as we were challenged over and over to be World

Christians; Christ became so much more real to me. There were limitations I placed on God of which I hadn't even been aware. He was no longer simply the God of Melissa Clark, the God of Cornerstone, the God of Bellefield Church, or even the God of those who live in Europe and America. He was God. He is GOD.

For me, the pinnacle of this realization came when a Native American man did a traditional dance of his people, and

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Adult Christian Education—All Are Welcome!

### **Spirituality According to the New Testament: A Bible Study with Dr. Robert Gagnon** **Sunday Mornings—9:30-10:30**

**May 6-June 24**

Our aim in this series will be to think about spirituality from the perspective of the New Testament. There are many different ways in which "spirituality" can be defined but we will try working with the following open-ended model: responsiveness to the presence and work of God in the world. Our pilgrimage will take us to the following areas for discussion: Spirituality according to . . .

- The Lord's Prayer: Seeking first the Kingdom (Setting Priorities)
- The Gospel of Mark: Faith, Not Fear, in the Crises of Life (Managing Stress)
- The Gospel of John: Jesus as the "I AM" (Focusing on Christ)
- Paul/The Cruciform Life and Bragging in God (Focusing on Grace)
- Hebrews & the Book of Revelation/The Reality of Unseen Things (A Vision for the Future)
- Spirituality of Sex according to Jesus & Paul/Living with Integrity (Making Sex Matter)

Dr. Robert Gagnon is an Assistant Professor of New Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He received a B.A. degree from Dartmouth College, and M.T.S. from Harvard Divinity School, and a Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary. His main field of interest is Pauline theology, and he is the author to several books and numerous journal articles. Dr. Gagnon and his family recently joined Bellefield Presbyterian Church. This should be an excellent class, so come ready to learn & remember to bring your bible!



## The Belle Wants You!

Are you looking for a way to plug into ministry? Are you interested in being part of an enthusiastic team to share God's light? Do you like to write, read, take photos, attend events, desktop publish, layout newsletter copy? You guessed it! The Belle is looking for a few people to join in the ministry of Bellefield's newsletter.

The Belle can serve as a vital mouthpiece for Bellefield church to spread the Word of God to others, as well as encourage and build up our growing congregation. We are excited to see some changes in the newsletter and look forward to God building it into an effective ministry.

In this May issue we are spotlighting several of the new members as they join the Body to put some information behind the names (sorry no photographs this time.) Please read about these members and welcome them into the church.

Also, we are reporting on several of the missions that Bellefield members have been involved in, or are about to undertake. These encouraging stories show us that God is using us to build His Kingdom, whether it be here in Pittsburgh or as far away as Romania.

If you are looking for a way to reach out and help out, please join us on **Thurs, May 10th at 7pm** for a **Belle team meeting** at the Van Dyke's house (1201 N. Sheridan Ave) as we consider the newsletter as a communication medium for Bellefield church. We'll spend this time sharing ideas, talking about tasks and positions at the Belle, and praying for guidance. We'll also eat some desert. Do not feel obligated by attending but please write the date down and join us. We are looking forward to assembling a Belle team.

Mitch Hill  
 Belle Editor

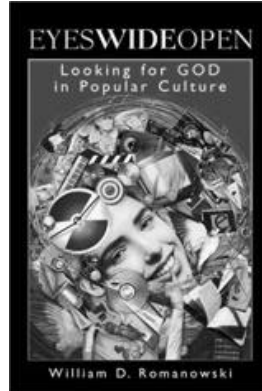
For info or to RSVP, email [belle@bellefield.org](mailto:belle@bellefield.org)

## The Reading Room

### Eyes Wide Open: Looking for God in Popular Culture

Many Christians struggle with how to relate to contemporary culture, a topic William D. Romanowski explores in his **EYES WIDE OPEN: LOOKING FOR GOD IN POPULAR CULTURE** (Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2001), ISBN 1-58743-009-6, \$12.99.

Romanowski, a professor of communication arts and sciences at Calvin College, argues that "We need to look as Christians at the stories that contemporary culture is telling us by learning how to discern and evaluate perspectives in these representations of life in God's world" (p. 19). Romanowski mostly discusses movies, television, and music, weaving in numerous Scripture passages, in order to understand that the "whole world . . . belongs to God" (p. 33). Working in our capacity as the "salt of the world," Romanowski argues that in order to "form and reform culture, Christians have to be actively engaged



with culture: studying it, discerning positive and negative aspects, and working to redeem it" (p. 43).

The book is a little repetitive and regrettably lacks an index but it is also a stimulating and useful read. Parents will find it useful for determining how to discuss with their children matters like appropriate movies and television shows. College students should find EYES WIDE OPEN a useful guide for discussions about popular culture with their friends and classmates. There is information in the first appendix about a study guide on the World Wide Web (I did not look at it), but the author and publishers would have been better advised to put at least a bibliography or suggestions for further reading into the print version.

Richard J. Cox

## Pittsburgh Project & Bellefielders Put Love into Action

Over the weekend of March 30th, twelve post-grads from Bellefield worked at the Pittsburgh Project. This is a local mission which serves to improve the housing of the elderly throughout the Pittsburgh area. Pittsburgh Project is based on the North Side.

Friday was spent getting checked in (there were many other church and college groups there along with us), and getting introduced to the work that the Pittsburgh Project does for our community. In the evening we also had 'club night' - where we worshipped and sang praises! We prayed for understanding and also were encouraged in our weekend to look for God's plan around us. We wanted to make an effort throughout our work to really get to know the stories of the people we were serving.

On Saturday we headed out to our worksites after being split into groups. We worked alongside other volunteers to complete restoration/construction projects at different elderly people's homes throughout the city. Our work day ended around 3 or 4 and then we had a meal together and more 'club time' - praise and worship. That night we reconnected with our worksite teams

and read out some role playing scenarios that dealt with attitudes, social justice, empowerment and the diverse thought processes of people within our society. This was to help us understand as Christians how we can help these people in need and to teach us to love and respect each other.

John 13 was the focus of the weekend worship times - about showing love. In this chapter in the Gospel of John, Jesus washes the feet of His disciples to show just how much he loves them. In doing so he was setting the example for them and told them to wash each other's feet. Later in this chapter, verses 34-35: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." This was what we meditated on throughout the weekend.



Pittsburgh Project is a neighborhood-based Christian community development ministry that seeks to restore the city by developing the local community, rejuvenating its residents, developing leaders for its future, serving the poor, and building the kingdom of God.

Sunday culminated with worship in the morning, followed by a partial day to finish our projects and closing of the weekend of service. The Bellefielders who were involved in this great weekend were: Dave Dellinger, Julie Fuller, Kelly Hagen, Dan and Becky Kulp, Alice Maunz, Geoff Moak, Mike Peters, Mike Ramsey, Jeremy Sutter, Cori Thompson, and BJ Woodwoth. Visit [www.pittsburghproject.org](http://www.pittsburghproject.org) for more information.  
- Cori Thompson

## Introducing Bellefield's Newest Members

It was thrilling to listen to the spontaneous applause that erupted after Pastor Dave welcomed 22 new members into the fellowship of Bellefield Presbyterian Church. They are an impressive group! With the hope of extending their connection to their new church family, the Belle will spotlight them in the next several issues.

As Bellefield continues to grow in numbers, we face the difficult challenge of knowing, supporting, and being a practical community to one another. Knowing "about" one another is sometimes the first step to finding common ground for further connections. Make time to share a meal, a walk or (for all you introverts!) an email chat with one of these folks. You'll be blessed!

**Jonghun Lee ("Hun")** is a long way from home! He moved to Pittsburgh from South Korea in September to attend Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. A friend introduced Hun to Christ in high school. He is called to do missionary work after graduation. He lives with a host family in Highland Park, across the street from Bellefield members Jake and Missy Horner, who invited him to Bellefield. He is most excited by the worship at Bellefield as well as the church's commitment to missions. Pastor Dave can testify to Hun's skill in acupuncture and message. Hun is also an excellent cook, making him an excellent candidate for a fun and relaxing evening at your house!

If you're up for some serious biking, **Jason Gold** is your man! Two summers ago, he drove cross-country to bike the west coast. He is an outdoorsy sort of guy. Jason grew up in York, PA and is currently a resident of Shadyside and a buyer for Kauffman's Department store in downtown. Originally, Jason came to Bellefield as a Pitt student through Cornerstone. He is excited about becoming involved in a small group as well as sharing Christ with others through service projects and other outreach efforts. And he is VERY excited about marrying Lisa Dixon in September!

**Lisa Dixon** came to Bellefield by an invitation from Jason Gold. Lisa went to Pitt and stayed in Pittsburgh after graduation to work at Kauffman's as a financial planner. In her free time, Lisa loves to cook and sew. She is an avid "crafter". Although her background is in the Catholic church, Lisa finds Bellefield to be a spiritual "fit" for her. She looks forward to beginning a marriage to Jason with the support and fellowship of the Bellefield family.

**Susan Scudiere** describes herself as a "European mutt" who hales from all over New England. She is in her third year as a student at CMU where she is active in InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. In fact, it was InterVarsity at CMU and Joyful Noise that led her to Christ. Susan enjoys the multi-generational nature of Bellefield as well as its commitment to evangelism. She sees herself "plugging in" to Bellefield through music and Sunday school.

**Denis Nkweteyim** longs for the day he can bring his wife and two daughters to live with him in Pittsburgh! Denis is a graduate student in the School of Information Sciences at Pitt. He worked for the University of Buea in Cameroon, his homeland, prior to coming to study here. He was baptized as an infant and raised in the Presbyterian Church, where his family has served in leadership for generations. Denis was drawn to Bellefield out of his need for a place of worship. He is involved with the Sunday morning graduate Bible study, and is inspired by the singing and teaching he finds at Bellefield.



Denis hopes his wife Beatrice and daughters can move to Pittsburgh this summer, giving them time to adjust to the climate and culture before winter.

"I like to read good books, and talk about God and love and art and Christian life," writes **James Vroom** about his special interests. He gives God the credit and glory for bringing him into relationship with Himself. James is a librarian at CMU. He resides in Squirrel Hill. He has a passion for rare books - especially well bound classics with full-page illustrations. James is currently saving his money for a \$400 illustrated copy of Moby Dick.

**Cori Thompson** was drawn to Bellefield by the honesty and "real-ness" of the congregation after a friend invited her to church. She is currently earning her dough at Loafers Bread Company in Wexford where she lives. With her parents living in Brazil, God is providing a family in faith to support Cori at Bellefield. She looks forward to working service projects and being involved with a young adult small group through Bellefield, while searching for what God has in store for her next. Some of the many creative things that Cori likes to do are: gardening, camping, shingling roofs, making furniture, sewing, writing letters, and playing Frisbee.

# Young and Old Puzzled Over Games at Bellefield's Game Night



An Earth-friendly puzzle:  
What's BYOCCC?



Answer: Bring Your Own Coffee Cup to Church



## Missions Notes

### Rehab Mission Creates Youth Center in Caledonia NY

Mission-minded **Jim Miller** will have dirty hands and a full heart by May 27<sup>th</sup>. This energetic Pitt student writes:

"I am going with other college students from Pine Street Presbyterian Church of Harrisburg, PA on a mission trip to the First Presbyterian Church, Caledonia, New York, Saturday May 20 - May 27, 2001. We have been asked by that congregation to help rehab a house donated to the church. It is their intention, following renovations, to open the building as a Youth Center for the teenagers in the town. Presently, there is no such gathering place within twenty miles of Caledonia.

Specifically, we will remove all rock-lathe plaster, insulation and wiring. We will then rewire the house, install better insulation, and hang drywall. I do not believe that we can get much more done in the time we are there. It is my hope that we can spackle the screw holes and mud seams but the sanding and painting of the walls will have



to be done by others after we leave. They have estimated our freewill labor offering at about \$15,000 (the bid which had been received from a demolition company in Rochester.)

In order to accomplish these tasks, we will need to be on the job site by 7:30 AM and work until the cooks call us to dinner around 6:00 PM. We will work Monday thru Friday. We will stay in the Fellowship Hall, air mattresses and sleeping bags needed, and we will shower at a local health club, which has made the showers and exercise facilities available to us at no cost. We will conduct evening devotions each evening following showers and dining hall cleanup. Sunday will be spent attending a worship service and fellowshiping with our hosts.

Here is how Jim asks us to pray: "Pray for God's Spirit to be with us, that we will have a spirit of servanthood throughout the trip, and that we can grow closer to each other and God."

---

**Jennifer McLaughlin** is going to Romania with Food for the Hungry, June 14 - July 1. It's exciting to know that the message of God's love is reaching far away places.

Here's how Jennifer plans to show God's love on the mission trip: "We will be helping out with day programs in an orphanage, doing construction work on a local pastor's house, and taking twenty orphan girls camping for a week. My team is made up of twenty people from all over the US, and none of us will meet until we're at the airport!"

Here's how we can support Jennifer and the Romanian mission trip in prayer: "Prayer for team unity would be great! Also, prayer for safety, openness to God's leading and lessons, and that we would serve no matter what."

---

*(Continued from page 1)*

he did it praising God. This man, a descendant of a people from whom so much had been taken away, was rejoicing in Christ, my Christ, and praising God the way he knew how. It was glorious.

As we returned from this challenging, slightly overwhelming five days, it was apparent that God had begun to grow new things in all of our hearts. We began meeting and praying about some of our next steps, and out of that it started to become clear that a short term trip for this summer was one of those steps that some of us wanted to take.

As we started praying about this it just began to fall into place. Guatemala had been on many of our hearts, and it turned out that the missions agency that we started contacting, Gospel Recordings, had been trying to get something started there. We weren't sure how many students would be interested in going, but thus far God has called forth thirteen students - only two away from our goal.

We will be based in Guatemala City and working along with a thriving church there that is looking to reach out to some surrounding villages. Some of these people groups have never heard! We will be doing some children's puppet ministry, sharing the Gospel in the form of cassettes and a film, and just loving the people we meet.

We owe Bellefield a great deal of thanks for sending us to Urbana. One of the things stressed at Urbana is that missionaries don't send themselves - churches send them. We ask that you pray for us, that we would be preparing spiritually and physically (lots of hiking) for this. Pray for our protection. Most importantly pray for the people in Guatemala, for the work that God is already doing there and the work that he is preparing for us.

If you have any questions, contact Steph Moulas (687-3224, [Stephanie@bellefield.org](mailto:Stephanie@bellefield.org))  
- Melissa Clark

## May Birthdays

2	Meagan Joy Budzowski
2	Katrina Woodworth
4	Steve Bolibruck
4	Ellen Rine
11	Barbara Liberati
12	Dwight Baumann
12	Harry Kunze
14	Mark Williams
16	Kathy Emmons
17	Hannah Zimmerman
20	Charles Larish
21	Jen Moak
22	Virginia Syphan
23	Megan Chanadet
26	Greg Bruns
26	Robert Long
29	Cori Thompson
30	David Held
31	Jake Bryant

## Calendar

5/5:	Arabic Bible Fellowship
5/6:	Pittsburgh Marathon
5/7:	Deacon Meeting
5/10:	Belle Organizational Meeting @ Van Dykes
5/11-13:	Bellefield All-Church Retreat
5/12,26:	Indonesian Christian Fellowship
5/13:	Mother's Day
5/16	Session Meeting
5/18:	Belle Deadline
5/18:	Ladies Craft Night
5/23:	Trustees Meeting
6/3:	Pentecost Sunday (Celebrating the Holy Spirit)
6/9-16:	PCUSA General Assembly in Louisville, KY
6/17:	Father's Day
7/1:	Summer worship schedule begins: no Sunday School, worship at 10 A.M.



## From Treasurer Tom

	Giving	Budget	Difference
<b>Jan 2001</b>	\$20,838	\$19,725	\$1,113
<b>Feb 2001</b>	\$18,334	\$19,725	-\$1,391
<b>Mar 2001</b>	\$21,659	\$19,725	\$1,934
<b>Year to Date</b>	\$60,831	\$59,175	\$1,656

## Have You Heard the Four Spiritual Laws?

1. God LOVES you, and offers a wonderful PLAN for your life.
2. Man is SINFUL and SEPARATED from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life.
3. Jesus Christ is God's ONLY provision for Man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life.
4. We must individually RECEIVE Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, I need you. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be.

BELLEFIELD  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Witnesses of Jesus Christ making  
committed disciples of all peoples...*

4001 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3545

Phone: 412-687-3222  
Fax: 412-687-3899  
Email: belle@bellefield.org

*Please contact us if you want to be  
removed from our mailing list*

## Belle Mission Statement

*Honoring God through faithful writings and artwork, illuminating the Gospel of  
Jesus Christ, and encouraging Biblical principles in both print and production*

*A gathering of Women of ALL Ages*

*In celebration of being women of God*

*and in honor of Mother's Day,*

*you are joyfully invited to*

*a women's potluck luncheon*

*Saturday, May 19, 2001*

*11:30 - 2:00 pm*

*at the Van Dyke home.*

*Invite your friends, neighbors, sisters, mothers, daughters, nieces,*

*or come on your own to enjoy a "girls' day out."*

*Try out a new recipe or make an old favorite to share.*

*RSVP by May 10th to Barb Liberati at 247-5306 or DrgaryLib@juno.com*