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# SALT & LIGHT

***Making Disciples and Leading Them to Maturity in Christ***

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 1<sup>st</sup> Church Service-

8am, SCL 9am

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Church Service-

10:30 am

**Living Spring Fellowship-** Sundays  
3 PM

**Women's Bible Study-** Mondays-  
6:45pm &  
Wednesdays 10am

**Youth Meeting-**  
Wednesdays 6:30pm

**March 6th-**  
Baptismal service  
6pm River  
Community Church

**March 12th-**Baby  
Shower 10am at  
church building

### June 5th-12<sup>th</sup>

GNBC will be  
hosting an "Institute  
In Basic Life  
Principles Basic  
Seminar" in the  
evenings.



## Meet the Tse Family

**K**enneth and Melanie Tse met at a dinner for international students while at Indiana University where they were both studying music. A few months later, they were practicing their music on the same floor and met again. Still new to the University, Melanie asked him to join her and her Varsity/music major friends for a bite to eat. "We go into talking about reed-adjusting techniques," says Melanie. "We started going to church together and eventually became best friends."

Kenneth grew up in Hong Kong. He has fond memories of his grandma's cooking and visiting his uncle.

"I loved seeing his pets," Kenneth says. "He had tropical fish, birds, turtles, rabbits and whatever he could rescue."

Melanie grew up in South Korea and immigrated to Washington, IL, at age 13 to live with her mother and step-father. She enjoyed long hours at the playground playing games with her brother and other children and listening to LPs and double reel tapes her father owned. Melanie did a lot of studying and practicing in Illinois but also enjoyed the variety of activities available and being in a smaller town.

Kenneth and Melanie came to Iowa City by an invitation from the University of Iowa. Kenneth was teaching at the University of Missouri as a visiting professor when the U of I asked him to apply for a tenure-track opening.

Kenneth has taught saxophone at the University of Iowa since 2002. To say Kenneth likes to teach and play saxophone is kind of like saying Jimmie Johnson (5-time race car champion) likes to drive cars. Among many other awards, Kenneth has won the New York Artists International Award which resulted in a debut recital at Carnegie Hall.

And he gave another Carnegie Hall performance after winning the Alex Award from the National Alliance for Excellence. Kenneth's studio students have also won numerous awards and competitions. He is doing what he enjoys doing. "I want to play and teach until I can't do it anymore," Kenneth says.

Kenneth and Melanie's have five children: Rebecca (13) enjoys opera, historical fiction, dramatized audio books, and playing the piano. Jessica (11) likes visual art, especially working with clay, gymnastics, and creating home-made gifts. Laura (9) loves gymnastics, crafts, swimming, eating fruit and riding her bike. Clara (5) likes to sing and perform ballet demonstrations for the family (and has memorized the whole "Nutcracker" video) and giving gifts to everyone she loves. Peter (2) "is a jolly guy" who enjoys puzzles, toys on wheels, copying his sisters and listening to music. He likes the "Hallelujah" chorus from Handel's "Messiah" and has a conducting demo on Facebook. The older three spend a lot of time on the piano and also study clarinet or recorder with their mother.

As a family, the Tses have fun going to Chicago for dim sum and bubble tea in Chinatown and visiting museums. Locally, the Tses have enjoyed field trips organized by the Mid-Prairie Home School Assistance Program, skating at the mall on Family Fridays and swimming at the AmericInn.

## **From Your Pastor** ***"Living What You Believe"***

Every so often a story in the news stands out and grabs my attention: a heinous crime, political squabbling, a touching human interest piece. An article I read on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011, was one such story. I read about and was impressed with a young man wrestling in the Iowa State tournament. The impressive aspect of Joel Northrup's story was not that he won the state title, but that for reasons of personal, religious conviction, he chose to default his match. After an incredible season in which he went 35-4, Northrup had a very real chance of winning an Iowa wrestling championship this year. Yet he relinquished his dream before his first state tournament match. Northrup, a home-schooled sophomore who competes for Linn-Mar High School, said his religious convictions would not allow him to wrestle Cassy Herkelman, a freshman from Cedar Falls who is one of the first two girls to qualify for the tournament in its 85-year history.

What was Northrup's explanation for his actions? "Wrestling is a combat sport and it can get violent at times," said Northrup in a statement released by his high school. "As a matter of conscience and my faith, I do not believe that it is appropriate for a boy to engage a girl in this manner" (AP, ESPN High School, 2-17-11). I applaud this young man's willingness to stand by his personal religious convictions even though it would prove very costly to himself.

Last spring and summer the youth of GNBC read the Brett and Alex Harris book, Do Hard Things. Through this book the teens were challenged, for the cause of Christ, to be willing to step outside of their personal comfort zones in order to be a bold witness for Jesus Christ. In other words, each reader was challenged to "live what you believe." Joel Northrup made a huge decision to live what he believed and I applaud him for it. My prayer is that Northrup's story will encourage other Christians, both young and old, to make decisions, even if they prove costly, as a result of their personal convictions. Although not nearly as public as Northrup's stance, I have been impressed to hear of similar stories from this past year, where Christian young people were living what they believe in the face of an increasingly secular and conviction-less society. I know of local high school students unwilling to sacrifice their convictions regarding working on the Lord's Day, who respectfully appealed to their authorities and offered creative alternatives. Another example was one who respectfully appealed to a teacher when the content taught in a class seemed to unfairly target this student's faith. Another example I recently learned of was a university student who appealed to a professor and offered a creative alternative when the class was required to watch an "R" rated movie. This young person's religious convictions were being challenged and instead of simply "rolling over" and participating, was willing live what he believed.

Part of the way you and I are to make a difference in this world is to live principled lives that are consistent with our convictions. Jesus said in Mt. 5:13 *"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men."* Sometimes Christians will have convictions that will stand opposed to the prevailing cultural climate. When this happens to you, take encouragement from last week's decision by a high school sophomore, and "Live what you believe!"

**Pastor Chris Arch**

## ***Good News News***

- Josie was born to Katie and Justin Bedford November 30<sup>th</sup> at 5 lbs. 1oz.
- Alex Ludvick, son of Ernest and Joyce Ludvick, is to marry Patricia Schlott, daughter of Jim and Jill Schlott on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011.
- Jonathan Miller, son of Michael and Lisa Miller, is to marry Margaret Schmidt, daughter of Charles and Michelle Schmidt on August 13<sup>th</sup> of 2011.
- Tiyania Fourte, Edmond Guiste, Latoya Guiste, Amelia Hatcher, Kiera Longstreet, Rochelle Longstreet, Ellen Mays, Trudi Miller, Carrie Oglesby, Su Pu, Frank Turner were baptized on Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **CONSTRUCTION ZONE**

**L**ast year at the annual meeting I said, "This is going to be an exciting year as we look to complete the construction downstairs." Though we have tried to make this happen, for some reason God has wanted us to wait. The good news is, that this year it's going to happen (I hope). I was in Cedar Rapids a few weeks ago with John Hatcher picking up the final set of plans. At this moment the plans are in the hands of the city for approval. Lord willing, we will begin construction before the end of winter, and we can look forward to more classrooms, bathrooms, a fellowship hall and eventually a kitchen. Praise God for His faithfulness.

If you have ever remodeled your house you understand the stress that it puts on your family, not to mention the inconvenience. It will be no different as we work on the downstairs. The Sunday school hour will have to be rearranged and bought upstairs. Yes, it will be inconvenient and, yes, it will be uncomfortable. But the good news is, it will be short lived, and when we are finished, we will be able to utilize the whole building.

So as we move forward, we would appreciate your prayers, that God would be honored, that the remodel would go quickly and safely, and that our church family's transition would go smooth.

**Richard Wootton**  
**Associate Pastor**

**S**peaking of a different type of construction, one of my favorite illustrations regarding our sanctification in Christ comes from C.S. Lewis (who in turn credits George MacDonald) in his book, *Mere Christianity*. Some exhortations commanding us to submit to the changes Christ wants to make in our lives are well intended, instructive and proper, but seem dry all the same.

We realize something needs to be done within ourselves, and that it is not getting done on time. Often, however, our sinful attitudes linger.

That's why I so appreciate late greats like C. S. Lewis and George MacDonald, who used illustrations that make us want to do what we ought to do.

Using the idea that we are a "living house," Lewis, borrowing from MacDonald, explains that we ourselves know our "house" needs some improvements, so we don't object when we see God fixing some "leaks in the roof and so on." But later in our Christian lives, God starts making some big changes, changes we, in the comfort of ourselves, do not welcome or even understand. "You thought you were going to be made into a decent little cottage," wrote Lewis. "But He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself."

I don't know what that does for you, friend, but it makes me tell God, "Keep building, Lord. Don't stop until You're completely at home in me." And let us not stop being amazed that He even came knocking!

*Ed.*