

# The Lord's Service

## Fourth Sunday of Lent | March 14, 2021

*The Staged Return Commission, a commission of our deacons, agrees with health officials that wearing a mask as you stand to sing and read responsibly decreases the chances for the transmission of coronavirus.*

### Welcome and Announcements

## God Calls Us

### Call to Worship

God sets the terms for worship because He makes worship possible through Jesus Christ. God also invites us to worship and we find several invitations to worship in Scripture.

### \*Call to Worship

Psalm 89.1-5

**LEADER:** I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever; with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations.

**PEOPLE:** **For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens You will establish Your faithfulness.”**

**LEADER:** You have said, “I have made a covenant with My chosen one; I have sworn to David My servant: ‘I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.’”

**PEOPLE:** **Let the heavens praise Your wonders, O Lord, Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!**

### \*Hymn of Adoration

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past  
see Page 9*

### Invocation

This prayer addresses God in three persons, asking Him to be present with us in worship to help us worship Him according to His will.

### \*Invocation

Our God, in whom we not only live and move and have our being, but actually dwell secure, guarded from your wrath by the substitutionary atonement made by your Son, Life for lives, and given the Spirit of adoption so that our prayers to you as “Father” are not presumption, but true petitions that you love to hear. In the name of

that Son we ask that you would receive our worship this morning. We are feeble creatures and our minds are clouded by cares, concerns, and distractions. By your Spirit purify our prayers, sanctify our songs, sweep the fog from our minds, so that our worship here on earth would be as it is in heaven, around your throne. Blessed are you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One God, as in ages past, so for countless centuries to come. Amen.

## God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession

2 Corinthians 7.1

**LEADER:** Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit,

**PEOPLE:** **Bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.**

Private Confession of Sin

Choral Meditation

*My God, Accept My Heart*

My God, accept my heart this day,  
and make it always Thine,  
that I from Thee no more may stray,  
no more from Thee decline.

(Matthew Bridges 1800-1894; arr. Howard Helvey 2018 Beckenhorst Press)

Corporate Confession of Sin

**Dear Heavenly Father,  
we lower our heads before You and confess  
that we have too often forgotten that we are Yours.  
Sometimes we carry on our lives  
as if there was no God and we fall short  
of being a credible witness to You.  
For these things we ask Your forgiveness  
and we also ask for Your strength.**

**Call to Confession**

As we worship God we cannot help but see how we have fallen short of His glory. His Holy Scripture reveals this to us and points our hearts towards confession.

**Corporate  
Confession  
of Sin**

We sin in thought, word, and deed every week. Our prayer includes time for silent confession, but also confession as a family of individuals equally in need of God's grace.

Give us clear minds and open hearts  
so we may witness to You in our world.  
Remind us to be who You would have us to be  
regardless of what we are doing or who we are with.  
Hold us to You and build our relationship with You  
and with those You have given us on earth.  
Almighty God, who does freely pardon all who repent  
and turn to Him, now fulfill in every contrite heart  
the promise of redeeming grace; forgiving all our sins,  
and cleansing us from an evil conscience;  
through the perfect sacrifice of Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.

### Assurance of Pardon

God's Holy Scripture reminds us not only of who we are as sinners, but also assures us of who we are as Christians united to Jesus in His death and resurrection.

### Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 33.20-22

LEADER: Lift up your heads and hear the Good News:  
“Our soul waits for the Lord, He is our help  
and our shield. For our heart is glad in Him,  
because we trust in His holy name. Let your  
steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we  
hope in You.”

The peace of the Lord be with you!

PEOPLE: **And also with you!**

## God Consecrates Us

### Scripture Lesson

We hear Holy Scripture throughout our time in worship, but this lesson (reading), prepares us for the lesson of the sermon.

### Scripture Lesson

Ezekiel 36.22-32

<sup>22</sup> “Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came.  
<sup>23</sup> And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. <sup>24</sup> I

will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. <sup>25</sup> I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. <sup>26</sup> And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. <sup>28</sup> You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. <sup>29</sup> And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. And I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you. <sup>30</sup> I will make the fruit of the tree and the increase of the field abundant, that you may never again suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations. <sup>31</sup> Then you will remember your evil ways, and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominations. <sup>32</sup> It is not for your sake that I will act, declares the Lord GOD; let that be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

## Choral Worship

## *The Cross*

The cross before me to lead, the cross behind me to defend,  
The cross below me to uphold, the cross beside me to befriend,  
The cross above me to inspire, the cross within me to consume,  
O cross surround me with your power, enfold my life, my soul, my all.

The cross each morning when I rise, the cross each evening while I sleep,  
The cross I see before my eyes, the cross upon my lips I speak,  
The cross be all that I would hear, the cross be all that I believe,  
The cross be with me in this life, the cross be with me when I leave.

The cross before me, the cross behind me, the cross within me, the cross is all I need.

(1998 Beckenhurst Press CCLI No. 447727)

## Doxology

A *doxology* is a hymn or word of praise to God for His goodness and glory.

## Prayer of the Church

We share in our health and sickness, happiness and sorrow, assurance and doubt, as we bring our prayers to God, together. Holy Scripture commands pastors to pray with and for God's people, not just in corporate worship, but privately, as well.

## Scripture Lesson

We hear and read Holy Scripture through the service, but this lesson (reading) guides the sermon.

## Doxology

No. 731

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Tithes and Offerings

## Prayer of the Church

### Adoration: (Psalm 93.1-2)

For God's reign, His rule, His sovereignty over great and small  
For God's perfections, His majesty, His beauty  
For God's wisdom, His justice, His holiness  
For God's goodness, His power, His grace

### Thanksgiving: (Psalm 107.1-3)

For our salvation full and free in Jesus  
For God's faithful and abundant provision (materially, spiritually)  
For our church, family, friends, counselors, community

### Intercession: (Philippians 4.6-7)

For advance of the Gospel, God's saving health to the nations  
For wisdom, skill and fortitude for those in authority, healthcare workers  
For containment and reversal of COVID -19  
For wisdom in how we each may manifest Christ in plenty and want  
For specific requests for others, ourselves  
For God's glory alone in all matters

## Scripture Lesson

Acts 19.1-19

<sup>1</sup> And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup> And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And

they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” <sup>3</sup> And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John's baptism.” <sup>4</sup> And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” <sup>5</sup> On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. <sup>7</sup> There were about twelve men in all.

<sup>8</sup> And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. <sup>9</sup> But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. <sup>10</sup> This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

<sup>11</sup> And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, <sup>12</sup> so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.

<sup>13</sup> Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims.” <sup>14</sup> Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. <sup>15</sup> But the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?” <sup>16</sup> And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

<sup>17</sup> And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. <sup>18</sup> Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. <sup>19</sup> And a number of those who

had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver.

### Sermon

A preacher is commanded to faithfully steward God's Holy Scripture by submitting to it, studying it, and expositing it (holding it forth), bearing witness to Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### Confession of Faith

By confessing our faith together using statements believed by Christians over the ages, we join in the sweep of Christian history even as we await the return of Jesus.

### Benediction

Just as God calls us to worship at the beginning of the service with Holy Scripture, He sends us into our week with a Holy Scripture reminder (*a good word*) of the blessing of Christ, by God's grace, through the indwelling Spirit.

### Sermon

Dr. Rob Rayburn

## THE STRENGTH OF OUR POSITION

\*Hymn of Response

*And Can It Be That I Should Gain  
see Page 10-11*

\*Confession of Faith

Belgic Confession, 17

**We believe that our most gracious God,  
in His admirable wisdom and goodness,  
seeing that man had thus thrown himself  
into temporal and eternal death  
and made himself wholly miserable,  
was pleased to seek and comfort him,  
when he trembling fled from His presence,  
promising Him that He would give His Son,  
Who should be made of a woman,  
to bruise the head of the serpent,  
and would make him happy.**

\*Gloria Patri

No. 735

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen, amen.

## God Commissions Us

\*Benediction

Postlude

# SERMON NOTES

## **Mission Statement of CPC**

*Covenant Presbyterian Church exists to love God and our neighbors by making Christ known in all of life.*

## **Vision Statement of CPC**

*Covenant Presbyterian Church exists to love God and our neighbors by reverently and winsomely proclaiming the salvation we have received from Christ, the union we enjoy with Him, and the restoration He brings to all things.*



## O God, Our Help in Ages Past

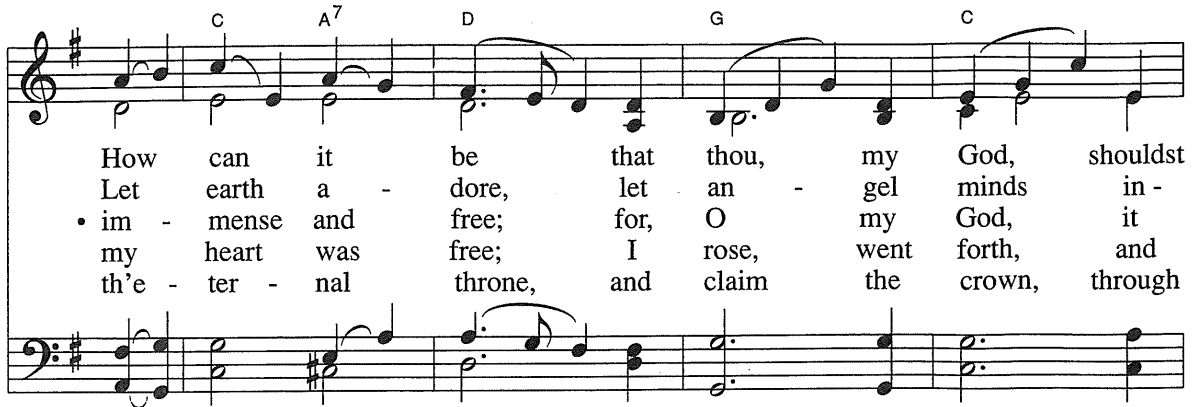
1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2. Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,  
4. A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone;

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

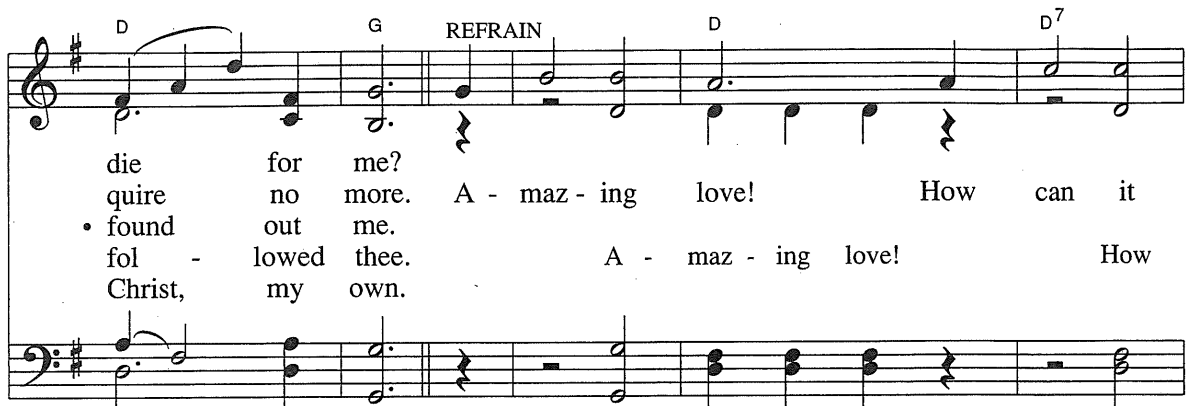
5. The busy tribes of flesh and blood,  
with all their lives and cares,  
are carried downward by your flood,  
and lost in foll'wing years.
6. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
bears all its sons away;  
they fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the op'ning day.
7. Our God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come:  
O be our guard while troubles last,  
and our eternal home.



## And Can It Be That I Should Gain



How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst  
 Let earth adore, let an - gel minds in -  
 • im - mense and free; for, O my God, it  
 my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and  
 th'e - ter - nal throne, and claim the crown, through



die for me?  
 quire no more. A - maz - ing love! How can it  
 • found out me. A - maz - ing love! How  
 fol - lowed thee. A - maz - ing love! How  
 Christ, my own.



be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
 can it be that thou, my God,

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **WELCOME!** We are glad you chose to worship with us today.
- We value your child's presence and desire for him or her to remain in the worship service. If your child becomes restless during the service, a soundproof room is available in the transept area where you may sit with your child, if necessary.
- We invite you to join us next week, as Pastor Jones is preaching on Mark 6.14-29.
- **CORRECTED DATE - March 24 - Mother's Encouragement Group - Parlor - 7:00 p.m.** - Our next meeting will be March 24 (NOT March 17). We apologize for the mix-up with the dates. Mother's we look forward to seeing you on March 24 for a time of fellowship and encouragement!
- **March 17 - Midweek Meal - 5:30 p.m. - SFH** - We invite you to join us for our Wednesday supper. The menu for this week is: Corned Beef Brisket, Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans, Irish Cheddar Soda Bread, Tossed Salad, and Chocolate Irish Cream Cake. Please sign-up on our website to help us get an approximate count by Monday, March 15. If you forget to sign-up, don't worry, still come and join us - we will have enough.
- **March 17 - Children's Fellowship Activity - "OCC Night" - SFH - 7:00 p.m.** - Make plans to join us this Wednesday for Operation Christmas Child - Sharing Good News, Great Joy Around the World!! Kids plan to bring a few items to place in shoeboxes (e.g. toothbrushes, crayons, pencils, pencil sharpeners, glue sticks, small notebooks, small bowls, washcloths, flashlights with batteries, soccer balls with pumps, small stuffed animals, small dolls, harmonicas, small toys, cars, trucks, combs, ribbons, barrettes, etc.). We will pack at least two OCC shoeboxes per table, along with fun coloring activities, playing games, watching videos, and more! We look forward to seeing you!
- **Thank You** - "We would like to thank everyone for the prayers, calls, texts and emails following the death of Mary's mother, Lorena Wolfe. The support and love of our church family helped so much during this time." ~Eddie and Mary Rahm and family

## Easter Lily Orders

To help decorate the Sanctuary for Easter, while honoring or remembering a loved one or friend, you may order an Easter Lily. You may order online at [cpcchatt.org](http://cpcchatt.org) or pick up an order envelope on the table in the Narthex. Orders are due by Sunday, March 21. If you have any questions, contact Emily Calloway or Susan Helton at [office@cpcchatt.org](mailto:office@cpcchatt.org) or 423.899.5377.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Midweek Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers to assist with our Children's Ministry Midweek activities, now through April 28. If you are available to help one or more weeks, please contact Shannon Ratliff at SRatliff@cpcchatt.org.

## Part-Time Help Needed

The facilities office is looking for part-time help. Duties include assistance with mid-week activities and occasional weekend clean-up. Email Tony Horton at thorton@cpcchatt.org for additional information.

## Coffee Between Services

We invite you to fellowship with each other. Be aware that there is higher risk involved in eating and drinking together.



**Operation Christmas Child**  
A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

CPC is once again collecting year-round for OCC. For the month of March, we are collecting soccer balls with pumps, toy trucks, yoyos, Rubik's cubes, jump ropes, marbles, Jacks, musical instruments like Recorders, Kazoos, or harmonicas, balls, ball gloves, Nerf balls of any shape, and Slinkies. For your convenience, a collection box is located in the Lobby in front of the Church Office. Let's work together to make 2021 another successful year of supporting this great organization.

## Nursery Schedule - Today

Second Worship Service (10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.)

Toddler Room

Anna Yonkofski

## Nursery Schedule - March 21

Second Worship Service (10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.)

Toddler Room

Capps Brown

## This Week at a Glance

### MONDAY, March 15

Perseverers Class Zoom Mtg. - 7:00 p.m.

### TUESDAY, March 16

Women's 2 Samuel Study - Zoom - 9:30 a.m.

Women's Finding God's Faithfulness - Zoom - 7 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, March 17

Midweek Meal - SFH - 5:30 p.m.

Children's Activity - SFH - 7 p.m.

Choir (Sanctuary) - Choir Rm - 7 p.m.

Middle & High School Mtg. - Yth Rm - 7 p.m.

Parables Co-ed Class - FR - 7 p.m.

Prayer Meeting - In-Person & Zoom - 7 p.m.

### THURSDAY, March 18

Women's 2 Samuel Study - FR - 10 a.m.

### FRIDAY, March 19

Men's Proverbs Study - Zoom - 8 a.m.

Men's Proverbs Study - SFH - 9 a.m.

### SUNDAY, March 21

Worship Service - Sanctuary - 8:30 a.m.

Worship Service - Sanctuary - 11:00 a.m.

evensong Service - Sanctuary - 5:00 p.m.

# ELDERS AND DEACONS

## Active Ruling Elders

Woody Brauer, Ernie Brown, Jason Brown, Jason Coffey, Jeremy Gaines, Todd Gaither,  
 Danny Grant, Jon Harris, Ken Henry, Jim Hildebrand, Dee Hobbs, Nick Lazor,  
 Adam Sanders (*Clerk of Session*), Tom Schreiner, Todd Smith, Jay Spalding,  
 Mike Walker, Tracy Wright, John Wykoff

## Active Diaconate

Geff Adams, Mike Bacon, Paul Baierl, Adam Cathey, David Close, Jason Collins,  
 Rich Denkinger, Mark Donaldson, David Gernhard, Jon Griffin, James Hall (*Clerk of Diaconate*),  
 Vanna Ker, Steve Leach, Mike Mason (*Chairman of Diaconate*), Richard Mauroner,  
 Doug McEachern, John Morrison, John Pearce, Caleb Ray, Chris Rimondi,  
 Tim Sotelo, Mark Stevenson, Phil Wade

# MINISTRIES AND MISSIONARIES

African Bible University .....	Uganda	Love's Arm Outreach Ministries .....	Chattanooga
Agape Puppets .....	Global	Lee & Jennifer Leadbetter .....	RUF - UTK
Amani Ya Juu .....	Global	John & Kathy Lesondak .....	MTW - Slovak Republic
Paul Billy Arnold .....	PMI - India	Luke & Amanda McAuley .....	SIM - Kenya
James & Karen Ashley .....	Wycliffe - Global	Heidi Meiners .....	ICS - Budapest, Hungary
Marc & Denise Atchley .....	TEAM - Greece	Pete & Ruth Mitchell .....	MTW - France
Tom & Ann Austin .....	MTW - Global	Randy & Joan Nabors .....	MNA - Mercy
NoNo & Kate Beale .....	Isaiah 55 - Reynosa, Mexico	Andy & Kathy Napier .....	TWR - North Carolina
Mark Casson .....	MNA - Prison Ministry	PCA Agencies .....	Atlanta, Georgia
Child Evangelism Fellowship .....	Chattanooga	John Mark & Caroline Scruggs .....	RUF - UTK
Compassion International .....	Global	Jamie & Bethany Sexton .....	IDEAS - China
Chattanooga Sports Ministries .....	Chattanooga	Brian & Connie Shepson .....	MAF - USA
Chernobyl Children's Program .....	Belarus	Frank & Cindy Sindler .....	MTW - Enterprise
Choices .....	Chattanooga	Teresa Snow .....	CRU - City - Austin, Texas
Matt & Annette Cummings .....	WEC - Japan	Stepan & Alla Solodukha .....	Belarus
East Ridge Wyldlife .....	East Ridge, Tennessee	Dan & Susan Steere .....	ELI - Global
Jay & Beverly Fowler .....	FCA - East Tennessee	David & Eowyn Stoddard .....	MTW - Germany
Aubrey & Jerri Fritz .....	CRU - Chattanooga	Sujai & Lavanya Suneetha .....	Nireekshana - India
Dan & Mako Gilchrist .....	ELI - Global	Tennessee Valley Presbytery .....	Church Plants
Jean-Baptiste Gueracague .....	Harvestime - France	Third Millennium Ministries .....	Global
Haitian American Friendship Found. ....	Haiti	Jeff & Heather Vaughn .....	MTW - Global
Harvest USA .....	USA	Pete Vaughn .....	Amani - Chattanooga
Andrew & Julie Halbert .....	UWM - Costa Rica	Volunteers in Medicine Clinic .....	Chattanooga
Christine Harrison .....	Wycliffe - East Africa	Gary & Phyllis Waldecker .....	Third Mill - Global
Russ & Amanda Hightower .....	LA Church Plant	Josiah & Miriam Walters .....	MTW - Chad
Hope for the Inner City .....	Chattanooga	Bruce & Barb Wannemacher .....	MTW - South Africa
Jonathan & Maggie Hunter .....	UWM - Costa Rica	Mario & Keila Xaco .....	Isaiah 55-Reynosa, Mexico

