

Let's Give Thanks

By Pastor
Robert M. Reid

As I reflect on this past week, my heart is encouraged. I left Alaska on Tuesday morning and left behind 18 young adults whom God has set apart for this summer to minister to the children in native villages in western Alaska and the Yukon of Canada. In that company of the committed, there was one of our young men, Jesse Neustadter, who will be heading up one of those teams. Those summer missionaries will be touching children and teens with the Word of God.

I arrived at church Wednesday morning and heard from Heather Ensslen that 87 children are registered for the Summer Wednesday night program. Later that evening I walked downstairs to the church basement and saw children with broad smiles, excited voices, and abundant energy, sitting at tables with trained and committed adults from our church who are sharing their time and hearts with these children. The Word of God was touching children's lives in our church.

As I came to church on Wednesday evening to pray, I saw Josh Vaughn and his dedicated staff mixing it up with almost 50 teens near the youth building. "The War"—a four night outreach to teens filled with games, food, and Bible instruction—was on. What a great opportunity for the Word of God to touch teens' lives in our church and many others from our community.

On Thursday night I attended the Missions Committee meeting. There I heard the progress report on Mindy Boyd, a young woman from our church called by God to serve in Germany to touch people's lives with the Word of God. We prayed for her remaining support needs and trusted God to supply her need before October. Later in the meeting I heard about the team of 20 headed to Costa Rica in August to share the Word of God with children and teens in that country. I left that meeting with joy in my heart, excited to see how God was using our church to take the Good News to the ends of the earth.

On Friday morning I attended a church staff meeting and heard reports of what

God is doing in people's lives within our congregation. I heard how God was raising up a group of parents and their children to be involved in an intergenerational Sunday School class. The large number that has signed up for the class thus far has sent the staff scrambling to change the room assignments of the Adult Bible Fellowship classes to accommodate this special elective class. What an exciting problem to have—so many parents wanting to study with their children about prayer! Praise God! I heard about plans for the rest of the summer where CEF 5-Day Clubs will reach beyond our walls, and Vacation Bible School will minister to both those behind our walls and beyond our walls. How encouraging!

I left the church Friday night thinking how blessed I am to be able to serve in such an exciting place as Calvary Monument Bible Church. So often I can fall into the trap of only seeing the problems that seem to always be in churches where attendees are not yet perfected to walk like Christ, and perhaps some do not even know him as Savior. The "deep concern of the church" as Paul put it (2 Corinthians 11:29) can be a heavy burden. What a joy to take some time to focus upon the many blessings that God is pouring out on this local church. Sure there are heavy burdens, but there are also bountiful blessings for which to praise God.

Lord, thank You for allowing me to join with my brothers and sisters in Christ as we serve together in this fellowship. Thanks for letting me have a part in Your program of building Your church (Matthew 16:18). Thanks for the team of leaders, spiritual-gift investors, prayer warriors, financial contributors, encouragers, teachers, committee members, pastors, ushers, evangelists, nursery workers, and so many others in this local church who are willing to be used by You for Your glory. May God continue to use Calvary Monument Bible Church to share Jesus Christ and the Good News of salvation locally and globally until Christ returns.