

# Good Tidings

October 2014

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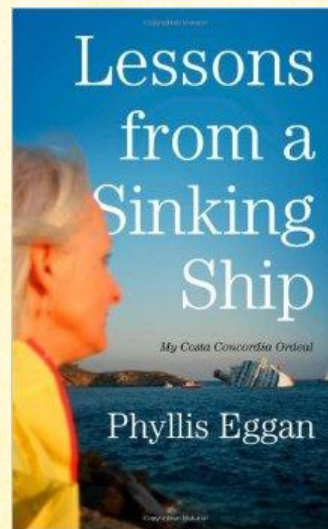
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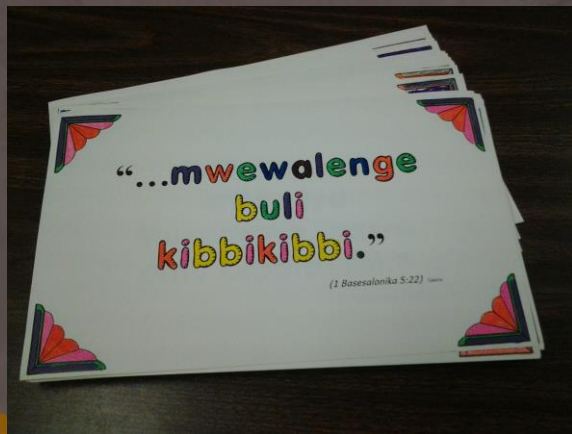
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## Lessons from a Sinking Ship

Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, Pioneer Bible Church hosted a very special women's event. Guest speaker Phyllis Eggan, a local teacher, missionary, and storyteller/author, shared her experiences on board the cruise ship Costa Concordia on the night it sank off the coast of Italy.



Phyllis spoke at length about the emotions she experienced as that terrible evening unfolded: the preparations needed to get people off the ship, the anxiety she felt leaving others behind as she was evacuated, and the challenges which awaited her on the shore as she tried to get back to the United States. Phyllis explained that her story is also God's story, and encouraged the women attending to write their own stories of God's presence in their lives.



At left: Posters colored by PBC kids to help Ugandan children learn scripture in their native language. In September, the posters were sent to Entebbe as part of **Wycliffe Bible Translator's** *Last Languages* project.

September 30<sup>th</sup> is traditionally regarded as St. Jerome's Day. St. Jerome, who died near Bethlehem on that date in 420 AD, was the first person to translate the whole Bible into Latin. In 1966, St. Jerome's Day was proclaimed **International Bible Translation Day** at a ceremony which celebrated the translation of the Bible into the Apache language.

### Get to Know Bailey Berschens: 14 Year-Old Award Winning Photographer/Designer

PBC Member Bailey Berschens looks at the world with fresh eyes. As proof of her creative vision, she recently took home 2 gold medals in the 4H State Field Day competition: one for photography (see frog picture page 4), and one for a skirt she designed and made herself from recycled denim. "She looks like a veteran with all those medals on her hat," her mother Melissa jokes.

Bailey is a student at Union Mine High School, and a member of the Happy Sundowners 4H club, which meets at PBC on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month. She has participated in 4H for the last 6 years, completing projects in reptiles, arts & crafts, horses, and photography. Next year, she hopes to participate in the ceramics, photography and cavy groups (guinea pigs).

Bailey won medals for both her projects at the local Home Arts Day held at the Placerville Fairgrounds this year. Those wins allowed her to show at the State Field Day at UC Davis on May 31<sup>st</sup>, where she modeled her skirt in front of an audience of hundreds. Bailey says she's interested in pursuing a career in the art and design field when she's older, or perhaps veterinary science.



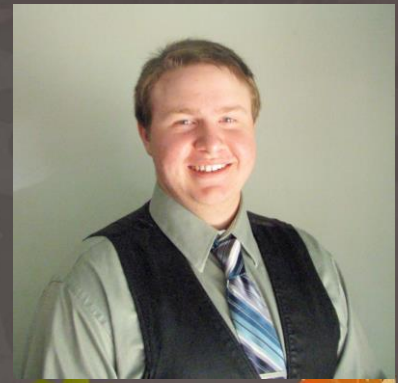
4H offers lots of opportunities for their members to grow, learn and have fun; there are animal projects as well as a wide variety of other activities, from cooking to rocketry. If you would like more information on how to participate, contact Melissa at:

(530) 620-2751.

### Missionaries YOU Support: 99 + 1 Ministries

While we were traveling with the Roldan-Garcia family for vacation this year, Bonnie and I were discussing the plans for the second floor of Serenity House. We did not have a clear leading as to the Lord's desire. Well, the Lord made a decision for us. Via a local pastor, Pastor Durbis, we were presented with the opportunity to open the door for Maria Trinidad, a 52-year old lady with severely advanced rheumatoid arthritis. She has been unable to move out of bed for about three years. Before her disease progressed to the intensity of not being able to work, and her moving to San Felipe, she was a combination housekeeper/nanny for a family in Guadalajara. Recently she could not keep up with the rent and was living outside a relative's house. She has 3 older children that are not living with her, only one of which is employed. (Her daughter) Vanessa left 7<sup>th</sup> grade last year to be the primary care-giver for her mother. Join us in welcoming "Dona Trini" upstairs. (Yes, we now have both a man and a lady named Trini.) And her 13-year old daughter, Vanessa, who can now return to school since there is a team of people both from the church and 99 + 1 to help divide out the care needs.

# Clayton Holmes: Shooting Sports Ambassador



Clayton Holmes is recently returned from Montana where he traveled to accept the honored position of California State 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador. He is one of two ambassadors that represent California with the National 4-H Shooting Sports program. Clayton will travel and speak during his 2-year term as Ambassador, promoting 4-H Shooting Sports and Leadership. There are currently 26 Ambassadors in the U.S. who are traveling, speaking and promoting the shooting sports.

## What You Don't Know About *Pastor Appreciation Month*

We all know that this month, October, is national Pastor (or "Clergy") Appreciation Month. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of October is Pastor Appreciation Day. Autumn is a wonderful time of year for reflection in our lives, making it the perfect opportunity to consider the pastors in our lives-- our earthly shepherds.

But do you know the story behind the observance? According to a 2010 post on the blog *Southern Baptist News and Opinion*, written by Tony K, the origins of the holiday are as follows:

"In 1992, layperson Jerry Frear Jr. was brainstorming with church colleagues about how they might be of help to their minister, when he glanced at a calendar and noticed that it was almost Groundhog Day. 'I thought, if they have a day for groundhogs, there ought to be a day for the 375,000 clergy people in America,' Freer says. So... the second Sunday in October has been set aside to

show appreciation for our clergy."

Tony K notes that for all his good intentions, Mr. Frear was subsequently sent to prison for defrauding investors in a dot-com start up. As of the date of his blog post, however, Mr. Frear claims to have been serving as a pastor himself for some time, and is quoted as saying, "It is my deepest desire to be part of the movement that helps the church become the kingdom builder it needs to be."

Hallmark has produced a line of cards for the occasion since 2002. Feel free to buy a card or make your own, but please take the time to express your gratitude to the pastor(s) in your life!



## Sponsorship Matters

**Falguni Hembrom** is a delicate 4-year-old girl with a shy smile. She lives with her parents, grandparents, and 3-year-old sister in the town of Mohanpur in a humid, tropical region of Bangladesh, near the country's western border with India.

Falguni has something special to smile about. In 2003, Compassion International opened its first child development center in the country. Eleven years later, over 35,200 children, including Falguni, attend one of the 150 centers operated by CI, where they will receive medical screenings, nutritional supplementation, educational support, and Bible teaching.

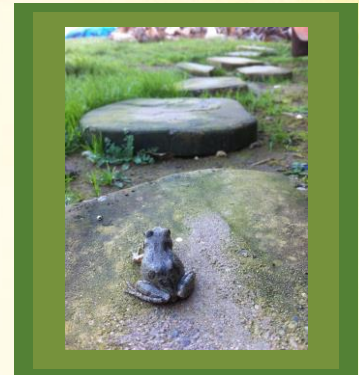
Spiritual instruction is critical, as 89.5% of the population of the Rajshahi region profess the Islamic faith. (The remaining 10% are Hindu, and .5% Christian.) The ethnically Santal people who are served at Compassion's center #262 are mostly Muslims who speak a dialect of Bengali. They are desperately poor, with high rates of alcoholism, and few opportunities for children to attend school. That bleak picture can be changed with the help of people like Falguni's sponsors, the **Eggert** family. (See the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for Falguni's letters and pictures!)

# Fearfully & Wonderfully Made

By Sandie Hanson

The other morning, I woke up around 4:30 and was buzzing with energy. I knew I was not going to go back to sleep, so I decided to work out on my elliptical. I have a peppy playlist on my iPod just for working out, but it was just too early, so I selected songs from Final Fantasy and the Lord of the Rings soundtrack. After my workout, I decided to cool off by lying on the deck and, since it was still dark, doing some star gazing. With the songs still playing, I laid down and was overwhelmed.

There was a fire burning nearby, which had already claimed over 90,000 acres, but on this particular morning the air was unaffected and crystal clear. I was dazzled by the number of stars I could see! The cool morning air felt incredible on my sweaty skin. As I listened to the piano scores, I recalled many sweet memories of listening to my oldest son, Caleb, play those same beautiful songs on our piano. The Lord of the Rings soundtrack reminded me of a time I was blessed with tickets to see the movie on a big screen while a full orchestra performed the movie score. It was an unforgettable date night; just me and my two boys.



As these lovely songs played in my ears and these lovely memories played through my mind, one of my kitties came to investigate what I was doing. As she brushed against my hand, her silky fur ran through my fingers and felt wonderful. I was simply overcome by how grateful I was for my senses—for the nerves in my fingertips that felt the satiny fur, for the nerves in my skin that responded to the cool air, for my ears and eyes to be able to take in these sounds and images, and for my brain that translates these senses beyond just feeling, hearing and seeing but also stimulating memory and inspiring emotion.

I am—and you are—truly, fearfully and wonderfully made.

*Above: Bailey Berschens' award winning frog photograph*

## *Jonah: Navigating a Life Interrupted*



A 7-session Bible study for women,  
on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm, beginning October 16  
For more information, call (530) 620-4859