

Friends of Bethany

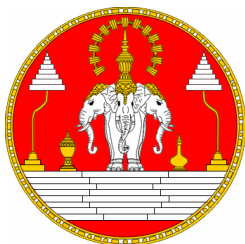
*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
And we have seen his glory,
Glory as of the only Son from the Father,
Full of grace and truth. John 1:14*

The Glory of God shines brightly in the darkness of the winter evenings. We don't know exactly the date of Jesus' birth, but we do know he is a Light in the darkness. The winter is the dark time of the year, so all the lights of this season are a welcome sight.

The Glory of God shines brightly in the darkness. It is the glory of the Son of God that gives the real glory to this season of the year. Our hope and prayer is that each of you can experience the light of God's Son in your hearts this season.

Bethany turned 100 years old just last October, so we are already working on our 102nd year as a church. The Lord continues to bless the ministry here. That is because of the work and prayer of our Members, as well as our Friends.

Here are some of the Highlights of 2007.



Laos



20x&30s

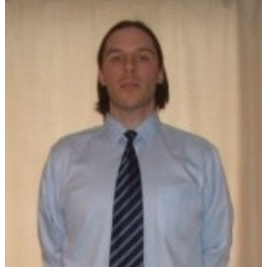


Chinese Fellowship

In the October, Sida Khounphaysane of our **Lao Fellowship** told how she was able to share the gospel by telephone with her home area in Laos. She could not complete the story that day, but the next month she reported that four who heard that call received the Lord. It is amazing to us how both here and across the globe, ministry happens in the extended Bethany Family. A new congregation will be starting this month near Savannakhét, Laos. Pray for the church in Laos, that is still under a communist government. Here at Bethany we just celebrated the baptism of three members of the Lao Fellowship on December 2.

This year we started the **20s & 30s Group**. This group has developed an identity and a sense of community, and we are seeing spiritual growth. These younger members are the source of our Guitar Group that leads in worship on some Sundays. Someone noticed that it was young people in the String Band that gave a lot of life to Bethany in the old days. The songs are different and some of the guitars are electric, but the message is the same.

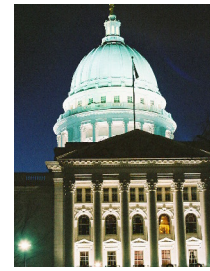
A Chinese worship service began in February. In October, the **Greater Madison Chinese EFC** became a Church Planting Project with the Forest Lakes District. The Chinese Christian Church of Milwaukee has helped supply preachers. It is my privilege to preach with translation on the 2nd Sunday of the month. This new church has at its heart a desire to share the gospel. Already, we have held two Services of Baptism. Pray for the Leadership Team as they make decisions for the future of this church.



Adam



Victoria Falls



Madison

Adam Tippery, TEDS graduate, Bethany Intern and soon to be Army Chaplain writes: *“Exciting times are ahead for Bethany! But, we have to take advantage of our strengths. What are our strengths, you ask? We have great musicians and they are young and energetic. So we have great opportunities for worship leaders and budding musicians. Sadly, I am not one of these.*

We are also one of the most ethnically diverse churches on the Isthmus. Where else do you find 3 serviced in 3 different languages every Sunday? I was able to preach at all of the services. It was a most amazing experience of how big our God is.

What I saw at Bethany were young leaders who need to be trained to be our next generation. The people are here, they just need a vision of how to live a life sold out for our Savior Jesus. We need older members to commit to mentoring the younger members. We must commit ourselves to each other if we want this church to succeed.

*When I talk about our formula for success, I remember what my first college coach told us players about what we must do to win. **‘Play hard. Play together. Don’t beat yourself.’** We must be committed to Jesus with all of our heart. We must commit ourselves to each other in this church by making each other our main earthly priority outside of family. Finally, we need to be who we are, not who some other church is and beat ourselves.”*

We have also been encouraging **Cephas and Ruth Yandila**. It appears that a door to a church plant in Botswana was closed, but a door to starting a Christian School in Cephas’ native Zambia has opened. The governing officials have given land for this school, and there is considerable support and expertise being offered to the *Kazungula Christian Academy*. They use the overflowing waters of Victoria Falls as symbol of the school and of the Lord’s abundant blessings. You can keep up with this effort at our website.

We want to thank again any of our ***Friends of Bethany*** who sent financial gifts and letters of encouragement.

- Our finances remain tight; at this point we are \$9,783 below our budget for 2007.
- We also thank all of you who have prayed for us, and appreciate your continued support.

We pray that you and your loved ones have a wonderful Christmas Season.

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