

LIMEY PASTOR

The visitors

Last Sunday two visitors came by the church. I recognized them from the year before. From Minnesota, they were summer swallows who wafted in as they passed through Boardman and continued to travel up to Seattle. A retired husband and wife, on a pilgrimage of long travel, gifted us with their worship and fellowship.

I miss Minnesota personally, it is one of the friendliest and most humble states and even if winter comes dramatically there is always spiritual warmth that floods the streets and fields. Our summer Sunday this week had the feeling of a grace-filled Minnesota Sunday.

Also this Sunday, our two young congregation members who had been involved in a serious wreck that involved their flight by medical helicopter to two separate hospitals were back, with their Mom and Dad, sitting in their usual seats, and smiling as if angels had intervened to rescue them from the auto impact with two semis — which I am sure had happened. Also, two congregation members had returned, mother and daughter, luminous with their smiling. They had been witness at the site of the auto accident and had gathered in protection and holy kindness. The young girl who was present was close friends with the younger boy — and I saw her happiness when he walked to her smiling in the aisle.

My heart blossomed like a rose with thankfulness. Angels glittered in the ether. Angels come in pairs so it is said, and it did seem unusual that our rare northern visitors came on that day to bring their visitation blessing. Such a light, mellow feeling in the church. Our pianist Renee commented on the beautiful quality of the singing that was bell-like and energetic.

I feel hopeful that soon, more blessings will come, even though sometimes things seem now as if they are being starved of love and concern. I hope and pray that common sense and “heart,” as President Trump says, inhabits a rework of the Affordable Care Act if it happens. And I hope and pray that our seasonal workers get supported as they work on American farms. I hope and pray that the leader of ISIS has been stopped in his evil, as the Russians are claiming this week, saying that they believe he has passed in a Russian attack. And I hope and pray that Mosul and Iraq is restored to peace and civilization.

I hope and pray that the enormous grace of American charity opens up for the suffering of the world and galvanizes salvation activity in every corner of life — and the corner of life that is inhabited by the billionaires will feel the spirit compelling them to spend money to bring healing and joyful enterprise to human life.

I lastly pray for those about to receive Hurricane Cindy’s power as it breaches our mainland and ask for protection for all those in the path of its power. I also pray that all Americans will feel their spirits inflated by our country’s promise of freedom, universal suffrage, and fighting for justice. May the Lord inspire us with his truth! Amen.

Colin Brown is pastor of Boardman’s Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Locust Road.



COLIN BROWN
Faith

In world’s largest refugee camp, churches offer hope

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA
Associated Press

BIDI BIDI, Uganda — Scores of thousands fled the violence of South Sudan’s civil war with little but their faith. Now, in the world’s largest refugee settlement, they are improvising churches.

They dance and sometimes speak in tongues. Preacher Daniel Rasash falls to his knees and weeps in prayer. One old man with missing teeth shakes his hips as others ululate during a service at Yoyo Pentecostal Church.

Tens of thousands have been killed in the civil war, and close to 2 million South Sudanese now shelter in neighboring countries. As World Refugee Day is marked on Tuesday, the international community prepares to meet in Uganda to draw attention and funding to the world’s fastest-growing refugee crisis.

The Bidi Bidi settlement is home to more than 270,000 refugees from South Sudan. Most have arrived in the past year. The churches for the born-again Christians are oases of joy among the daily humiliations that come with rebuilding their lives.

“We don’t have a voice. We have no authority to even say



AP Photo/Ben Curtis

In this photo taken June 4, the congregation claps and sings under an open-air wooden frame as they attend a Sunday service at a pentecostal born-again church in Bidi Bidi refugee settlement in northern Uganda.

no to war,” says the preacher Rasash, 25. “The solution we have seen is maybe we kneel down praying, because the Bible says the people of Israel suffered like that for many years and when they cried to God, God listened to their prayer. In the same way we shall cry to God so that God will hear our prayer and bring back peace to South Sudan.”

Christianity is the dominant religion in South Sudan and religious faith played a strong role in its long fight for independence from Muslim-majority Sudan in

2011. Many were horrified when the world’s youngest nation then collapsed on itself in late 2013 amid largely ethnic violence.

Here in sprawling Bidi Bidi, the refugees meet in open-air churches rigged from timber. The seats are planks of wood or logs dug into the ground. There are no brass bands and there are not enough Bibles to go around.

The Sunday services are raucous events. Their drumbeats echo through villages. More than 20 churches are now spread across Bidi Bidi, according to Lilian Dawa, a refugee who

serves as a community mobilizer. The refugees are allocated small plots of land to erect simple homes of grass, mud and wattle. But there is no longer enough land to offer everyone a plot large enough to plant crops. The refugees depend on United Nations rations of maize meal and beans and many say that’s not enough.

The raw new churches offer hope.

“We feel the pain in our hearts. There are many people who are too traumatized to come to church and they don’t know exactly what to do,” said Rasash, who fled South Sudan last year. “There are people who are sick out there and they don’t have anybody to support them. There are no drugs in the hospitals. So that’s why we are praying. God should be the one to help.”

Rasash’s church already faces apparent competition from a new church a few meters away that has neither a name nor a roof. But it has an energetic leadership team that includes 22-year-old Sylvia Sunday, who fled South Sudan last year.

“By the power of the holy ghost,” she sings, “all the demons will run away.” Then she prepares to give her sermon, which warns of temptation.

BRIEFLY

HHS graduate powers into faith-based event

STANFIELD — John Kopta, a senior member of the Power Team, a Christian strength-based ministry, is the featured speaker during a trio of outdoor events at Bard Park in Stanfield.

The Ultimate Youth Smash 2017 kicks off the free program Saturday, July 1 at 6:30 p.m. In addition to Kopta’s presentation, the evening also includes a local band and singing group made up of members from area youth groups. In addition, Kopta will speak Sunday, July 2 at 9 a.m. during the Stanfield and Echo Community Worship Service. The Anchor Point Seventh-day Adventist worship team will lead the music. Refreshments will follow the community service. And, on Tuesday, July 4, Kopta will again demonstrate feats of strength during “Strength in Christ.” During the free program, which starts at 7 p.m., Kopta will demonstrate how faith is stronger than our fears and failures. Guest musician Tony Long-Drew will sing several patriotic numbers.

A 1983 Hermiston High School graduate, Kopta has spoken to more than 1 million people in 30 different countries. The former Bulldog football player and wrestler joined The Power Team two years after graduation. He said the strength-based ministry provides an opportunity to grab people’s attention, which allows them to minister to their hearts.

The event is sponsored by Anchor Point Seventh-day Adventist Church, Stanfield Baptist Church, Crossroads Community Church, Hope Presbyterian Church and Echo Community Church. Everyone is invited to the family-friendly events. For



File photo

John Kopta, center, holds a phone book he tore apart during a 2015 performance with The Power Team in Irigton. The 1983 Hermiston High School graduate will speak and perform at a trio of upcoming faith-based events in Stanfield.

more information, contact stanfieldag@conic.com or 541-449-3434.

Aglow starts men’s prayer group

WALLA WALLA — Men of Issachar, sponsored by Aglow International, is a new prayer group for men.

The group starts Sunday from 6-8 p.m. at the Village Way Clubhouse at 601 Village Way, Walla Walla. The goal is bringing praying men together to discern and understand the times, as referred to in 1 Chronicles 12:32, to bring changes in and around them.

All men are invited to be part of the gatherings. For more information, call Jim King at 509 386-4763.

Faith Presbyterian focuses on God’s creations

HERMISTON — Kids ages 3 through fifth grade are invited to attend the Maker Fun Factory.

A vacation Bible school presented by Faith Presbyterian Church kicks off Monday from 9 a.m. to noon at the church, 1005 S.E. Ninth St., Hermiston. Participants will learn through the theme of “Created by God: Built for a Purpose.” The event continues daily through Friday, June 30. There is no fee.

For more information, call 541-567-9642.

Children’s choir to perform in Pilot Rock

PILOT ROCK — A group of impoverished children from Uganda will present a program featuring vibrant costumes, African dancing, singing and drumming.

A faith-based organization, the Imani Mile Children’s Choir features a talented group of performers who receive training and then travel across the globe to bring attention to their plight. The free performance is Monday at 7 p.m. at the Pilot Rock Pavilion, located on Alder Street, off Highway 395. Those who plan to attend are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair.

Established in 1989, the children are rescued, taken care of, educated and equipped with knowledge and skills to assist them into growing up to become leaders. For more information about the organization, visit www.imanimile.com.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

in Mission for Christ LCMC

Bible Study.....9:00 AM
Sunday Worship.....10:30 AM

Red Lion Hotel
(Oregon Trail Room)
www.faithpendleton.org

Come meet Jesus at PENDLETON BAPTIST CHURCH

3202 SW Nye Ave Pendleton, OR
541-276-7590
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Sunday Bible Classes 9:45 AM
Sunday Youth Group 6:00 PM
Mon. Community Women’s Study
9:30 AM & 6 PM
Awana Kids Club (K-6th grade)
Wed Men’s Study 6 PM
MOPS meeting the 1st Thur of the Month 6 PM

Redeemer Episcopal Church

241 SE Second St. Pendleton
(541)276-3809
www.pendletonepiscopal.org
Sunday Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Holy Communion Noon
Weekly Adults Spiritual Life Group
All Are Welcome

Grace Baptist Church

555 SW 11th, Hermiston
567-9497
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Worship - 10:45 AM
6:00 pm
Wed Prayer & Worship - 7:00 PM
“Proclaiming God’s word, growing in God’s grace”

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To share your worship times
call Terri Briggs 541-278-2678

Worship Community

Community Presbyterian Church

14 Martin Drive,
Umatilla, OR
922-3250
Worship: 10 AM
Sunday School at 11:30

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

-Presbyterian Church (USA)-
201 SW Dorion Ave.
Pendleton
Service of Worship - 10:00 am
Children’s Sunday School -
10:20 am
Fellowship - 11:00 am
www.pendletonpresbyterian.com
Open Hearted...
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Pastor Dan Satterwhite
541.377.4252
417 NW 21st St. • Pendleton, OR 97801
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GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR
www.graceandmercy.lutheran.org
Sunday Worship 8:45 a.m.
Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (Nursery Provided)
Fellowship, Refreshments & Sunday School
Check Out our Facebook Page or Website for More Information
541-289-4535
Tom Inch, Pastor
Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church, ELCA
(First United Methodist Church)
191 E. Gladys Ave. / P.O. Box 1108
Hermiston, Oregon 97838

The Salvation Army

Center for Worship & Service
Sunday Worship Service
9:30 - Sunday School
10:30 - Worship Service
Wednesday Bible Study
5:30 Family Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study
COME AS YOU ARE
150 SE EMIGRANT
(541)276-3369

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FIRST SERVICE 8:30 AM
SECOND SERVICE 10:30 AM
712 SW 27TH ST.
541-276-1894
www.fcogpendleton.com

Faith Center Church

Worshipping God
Loving People
108 S. Main • 276-9569
Sunday Worship
10:30 am
Sr. Pastor,
Ray O’Grady
pendletonfaithcenter.org

Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Saturday Services
Pendleton
1401 SW Goodwin Place
276-0882
Sabbath School 9:20 am
Worship Service 10:45 am

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church LCMC

Sunday worship at
11:00 AM
420 Locust St. • Boardman, OR
541-481-6132
Colin Brown, Pastor

Living Word Christian Center

401 Northgate, Pendleton
Celebration of Worship
Sundays 10:00 am
Youth: 0-6th grade
Midweek Service
Wednesdays 6:00 pm
Youth: 0-6th grade
Overcomer’s Outreach
Tuesday’s 6:00 pm
In the Annex
A Christ Centered, 12 Step
Recovery Support Group
Pastor Sharon Miller
541-278-8082
www.livingwordcc.com

First United Methodist Church Pendleton

352 SE 2nd Street, Pendleton OR
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Worship Broadcast on KUMA 1290 @ 11am
Worship Livestream at
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