



# the word

July 2016 | Monthly News from Crown of Life Church

## Mark Your Calendar

7/4

Independence Day

## In This Issue

### Freedom Complications

pages 1-3

### A New Breed of Mission Work

pages 4-5

### Mission Wearhouse

page 6

### St. Croix Germany Trip

page 6

### Restaurant Review

page 8

### Just for Fun

page 8

## Freedom Complications

by Zachary Pudlo

*“When a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor’s stead, the Table would crack and Death itself would start working backward.”*

— The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

Freedom seems like such a simple concept. No restrictions. That’s the essence of freedom. It seems simple. Yet, there are so many complications that come with it. 240 years ago the Colonists decided they were willing to give up their lives in order to fight for freedom. And many did give their lives. Less than 100 years later the Union went to war with the Confederate states. This was another war motivated by the pursuit of freedom. More recently, the United States captured and arrested the President of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, for his crimes against humanity. Humanitarian concern motivated another fight for freedom.

What do all these wars have in common? They were all fought in the name of freedom. And yet, there is a complication that came with them all. Ironically, freedom had to be restricted in order to obtain that freedom.

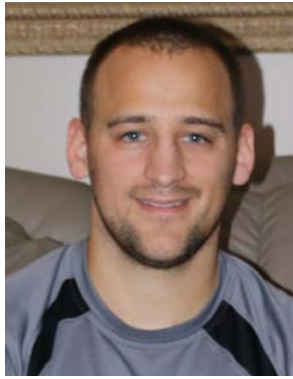
Freedom is complicated. The fight for freedom is a giving up of freedom. The soldiers who fight for our country give up the freedom of living in their own homes, eating with their own families, sleeping in their own beds. They give that up in order to ensure that others can enjoy those freedoms. That’s how freedom works. In order to enjoy the bliss of freedom, one has to curb

*continued*

Aaron Abel

*Staff Sergeant Aaron Abel is currently stationed in Iraq in the Army reserve.*

*Aaron is the son of Perry & Bev Abel.*



Ryan Herbison

*Army Sergeant Ryan Herbison is stationed at an army detachment in Yakima, Washington. Ryan has been in the army for 8 years, including a tour in Germany and 2 deployments to Afghanistan.*

*Ryan is the son of Rodney and Donna Herbison.*



Sean Herbison

*Air Force Captain Sean Herbison is stationed at Tyndall AFB in Florida for a couple more weeks. He is to report to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, by the end of June. Sean spent 4 years at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs and 4 year active duty, including a year at Kunsan AB, Korea.*

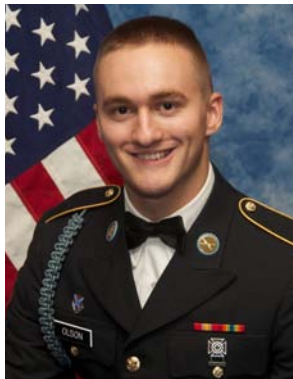
*Sean is the son of Rodney and Donna Herbison.*



Dominick Olson

*Army National Guard serving for 4 1/2 years. Being deployed to Egypt in July (2016)*

*Dominick is the son of Neil and Kimberly Olson*



*“For those who have fought for it, freedom has a flavor the protected will never know”*

**Thank you to those who have  
and continue to fight for freedom!**

or restrict other freedoms. Here's an example of what that means: When I was a young boy growing up, I had a desire to be a great baseball pitcher. But in order to enjoy the feeling of being a good pitcher I had to practice. And that's what I did. I practiced pitching from a mound for many years. I would run to stay in shape. I would lift weights and stretch regularly. Hours and hours were put into training. Hours I could have freely used doing a number of other things. I could have spent those hours with family or friends, on improving at a different sport, or even on increasing my intellectual acumen. But I didn't. I restricted my freedom to do all those other things in order to enjoy the deeper freedom of being a good baseball pitcher. Freedom is complicated like that. In order to enjoy certain freedoms other freedoms have to be restricted.

Let's consider a case study of what freedom looks like concerning the topic of love. We live in an age when people are so quick to say, "I should be free to love whatever and whomever I want." But the freedom of love is one where the restrictions of freedoms are most prevalent. There's a story of a young newlywed man who was on his way home from work. He took a small detour without notifying his wife he would be a little late. When he got home his wife didn't hug and kiss him. Her normal greeting of, "Hey, honey! How was work?" was replaced by, "Where were you?" At this very moment the newlywed man realized that his freedom to make even the smallest unilateral decision was gone forever. In order to enjoy the deeper freedom of the love marriage offers, people will restrict other freedoms. Freedoms like making small unilateral decisions.

There's maybe one more complication that comes from freedom. That complication is illustrated well in an editorial from the New York Times. The author was a very successful young man who had achieved so much, and yet was left with a lingering emptiness no amount of success could fill. Here's what the author writes,

*“In the aftermath of the civil rights movement, women's liberation, the movement from the cities to the suburbs, the birth of rock-and-roll and other changes, basic laws of social gravity had lost their pull. We were free to be white or black, gay or straight, to grow our hair long, shave our heads, meditate for days on end, have children or not, drink bottled water, work out at the gym, watch television until 3 in the morning and otherwise exist outside the traditional roles and the close, gossipy communities that had burdened and constrained our parents growing up in Brooklyn or the Bronx.*



*This freedom from the gravity of age-old constraints was accompanied by a weightless feeling that attached itself to even the most fundamental human decisions. Why bother? Why get married? What are families for? What was new about these questions was that they didn't have answers, or that the answers they did have were so multiple and contingent and arbitrary that they never really felt like answers at all."*

David Samuels, the author, is capturing a very relevant point about freedom. When there is freedom to do anything, freedom to be anything, then there is no purpose. There is no drive or focus. That's another complication that comes from freedom. With absolute freedom comes no meaning, focus, or purpose for life.

It's pretty clear...Absolute freedom comes with complications. However, there is one exception. "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death," (Romans 8:1-2). The Apostle Paul explains that there are no complications when it comes to the freedom we have in Jesus. When Jesus paid for all our sins, he says there is no exception to this freedom. Because of his perfect life and death, there is no hell for you. Sin is swallowed up. Death defeated.

There is no complications to our eternal spiritual freedom. But let me quickly apply how in love we still restrict our freedoms. Jesus said in John 14:15, "If you love me, keep my commands." Even though keeping those commands of Jesus doesn't give us ultimate spiritual freedom, because Jesus already gave it to us, in love we still obey them. We restrict our freedoms to show our love to the Lord. So maybe a thought jumps into my head, "I've got other things I want to do this weekend instead of going to church." And even though I know Jesus obeyed the 3rd commandment perfectly for me, so I am completely free to not go to church, I will still restrict that freedom. In love, I will listen to my Lord and worship him.

Freedom is complicated at times, isn't it? But the freedom Jesus gives us from sin, death and the devil isn't. It's guaranteed and certain. No exceptions. Continue to pray to the Lord for strength as you consider how you use that freedom, and restrict it at times, to show your love to the Lord.



## Circle J Ranch

This past week about 120 children ranging from Pre-K to 6th grade came through the Crown of Life doors to learn about Jesus. Under the theme, Circle J Ranch, our annual VBS was well attended once again. A huge "thank you" goes out to all the volunteers and teachers. Without their help we wouldn't have been able to share God's word with so many people. With nearly half of the students being non-members, please pray for those who will follow up with those families to invite them to learn more about God and his word.

A special thank you to Rodney Herbison for running VBS the past few years. All of your hard work is most appreciated!





# A New Breed of Mission Work

by Jerry Zimpelmann - Chairman Costa Maya Ministries, Pastor Pudlo's Uncle

I'd like to introduce you to Costa Maya Ministries. The Mission is located in the town of Mahahual on the Mexican Caribbean in the far eastern part of Mexico near the Belizean boarder. The work being done in the Costa Maya represents a new breed of World Missions. Associated, but not supported by or an official part of the World Missions within the WELS, the effort was started almost 7 years ago by the initial efforts of Lynn and Jerry Zimpelmann, a couple from Northern Wisconsin who had recently built a beach front home in the area.

The Costa Maya (Mayan Coast) is part of an exciting new frontier in the Yucatan Peninsula that started in the Cancun area 40 years ago and has expanded southward year by year. Originally inhabited by a few native Mayans who mostly lived off fishing and coconut farming, the area is quickly becoming a mecca for vacationing and recreational beach front living, attracting people from all over the world.

The Zimpelmanns were part of that boom. They completed their home in June of 2008. That August the coast was visited by Dean, one of only two Category 5 Hurricanes to ever make landfall. A nearly 30 foot wave crested over their home doing massive damage to their as-yet-unoccupied home and devastating the entire area. Many people lost everything, their homes and all their property. Deb and Hugh

Blackburn, a South Carolina couple who had moved down there were two such people. The Zimpelmanns took them in. They stayed on and became trusted friends and caretakers. Deb also became a believer. In Jesus Christ.

Deb was hungry for the Gospel and wanted to have a permanent place to worship. Lynn and Jerry were spending more time down there and felt the same need.

Jerry thought this might be a great area to begin a mission field and spoke to the Synod about the possibility of getting something started. Although very interested, the Synod was not very encouraging about the prospects.

The Zimpelmann's son-in-law Brad Krause was up for a call assignment having just completed a two year stint as a tutor at Nebraska Lutheran High school. Jerry asked if Brad might be able to take a one year hiatus before taking a permanent call. The idea was for Brad and his new wife Heidi Zimpelmann to spend a year "planting seeds" and prospecting to assess the viability of the area for a world mission site. Brad and Heidi would live in the Zimpelmann's home and be self-sustained along with the help of a few interested supporters. When the year was up,

Jerry went back to the Synod's World Board with a very exciting report. The Gospel was being proclaimed in two areas. 20 to 30 people were worshipping! There was little doubt the area had great potential. Sadly the Synod had no resources to take on the new effort.



## PICNIC 2016

FOOD, tug-o-war,  
kick ball



← grill master

jumppy house  
face painting  
cake walk



That was nearly 7 years and 5 temporary missionaries ago. The Synod has never been able to help financially, but they have helped support in many other ways. Last November Costa Maya Missions called Pastor Martin Valleskey to be their 1st fulltime missionary. Today, with the help of an ever growing number of supporting partners including a dedicated board of directors, the mission is thriving. In any given week as many as 80 people are hearing and studying God's Word in the two preaching stations.

On Saturday's 20 or more children and young people learn about their Savior and how they can tell others. An adult Bible study meets on the beach on Fridays just before the weekly soup kitchen that provides food and fellowship for the many poor and hungry. An old 15 passenger van was purchased last year that helps gather and deliver those who live in remote areas and have no transportation.

There are so many opportunities in this "frontier". A few weeks ago a young couple that runs a local dive shop came to Pastor. They have three children going to the local school and are very concerned about the prospects for a good future in the minimal school system there. They wanted to know if we could help. Pastor told them about our strong commitment to private Christian based education. They got excited. There are many people coming in from surrounding communities to work the tourist industry. They are interested in having worship in their towns as well.

There are also many opportunities to get involved as volunteers. Groups are coming in from Lutheran High Schools and colleges as well as an increasing number of individuals to help canvass, teach English as a second language, help with community projects and just be an encouragement. Costa Maya is a true tropical paradise and is probably the safest place in Mexico today — as safe or safer than any town in America.

Last year, Bloomington/Living Hope congregation began supporting the work in a new and exciting way. Costa Maya Missions is now a part of their regular permanent ministry program.

At this point, their efforts represent just a fraction of the financial needs at CMM, but their commitment is strong and growing. They have sent volunteers of their own down each of the first two years with much more planned in the future. If just two or three congregations could duplicate that type of support CMM would be well on its way to long term permanent

sustainability. One can only wonder what further opportunities the LORD might provide in Costa Maya for the spread of His precious Gospel.

To learn more about this exciting new work please go the CMM website at [costamayaministries.com](http://costamayaministries.com). You will find opportunities available for getting involved. Please sign up for the CMM newsletter and check us out on Facebook at **Costa Maya Ministries**.



... what could be better!



←  
cookie  
contest

1 of 3 contest  
winners →





# Cultural Exchange Trip to Germany

by Dave Huebner

Guten Tag! For two weeks in June, 15 students from St. Croix and 6 from Minnesota Valley Lutheran in New Ulm traveled with chaperones Mrs. Jean Neitzel and Pastor Dave Huebner to Siegen, Germany. Siegen is a city of about 100,000 located in Nordrhein-Westfalen, between Frankfurt and Cologne.

For over ten years now the Evangelisches Gymnasium (secondary school) of Siegen has partnered with St. Croix and other "Area Lutheran High Schools" in an exchange program. In odd-numbered years the students from Siegen come to America during their 2-week Easter break, and in even-numbered years students from our school travel to Germany in June to stay with a host family while their school is still in session.

Highlights of the trip, besides getting to know a family personally, included going to a Hochseilgarten, or high-ropes challenge course. The three experienced trainers did some interesting team-building and trust-building games in the morning. Then in the afternoon the students, both Germans and Americans, challenged themselves to climb various 'high-ropes' obstacles and slid down a zipline.



Another highlight was a trip to the large, historical city of Cologne. Immediately outside of the Hauptbahnhof, or main train station, our students had their first look at the incredible "Koelner Dom," a cathedral that took hundreds of years to complete. Climbing the 510 steps to the top of one of the twin spires is a breath-taking adventure, in more ways than one! In Cologne students also toured the Chocolate Museum, and some came home with more than a few pounds of treats for family members.

A 'public-viewing' of the German national soccer team who were playing in the European Cup was a memory not soon forgotten.

At the end of our stay in Siegen there were many tears as our students left their host 'brothers and sisters' behind. Our group then took the train to Ruedesheim, a quaint tourist city on the beautiful Rhein River. A boat trip to Castle Rheinstein and a group supper, along with hiking up to the nearby Niederwalddenkmal (lower woods monument), were lasting memories for the group before our return flight home.

TOTAL  
FUNDS RAISED  
**\$3,600**  
FOR MISSION  
WEARHOUSE

## Yard Sale - A Big Challenge and a Great Success!



**DAY 1** 466 shoppers  
\$1,700 raised

**DAY 2** 350 shoppers  
\$800 raised

**DAY 3** FOCUS: sell all remaining items  
\$1,100 raised

A large portion will go to support Christian Life Ministries New Day Pregnancy Care Center. Their center "provides compassionate help and hope to women experiencing unplanned pregnancies. Visit: [clmonline.com](http://clmonline.com) to learn more about their work.

The remaining portion will go to improvements on the Mission Wearhouse store and storage facility.

Thank you to ALL who volunteered, donated and shopped! A big Thank You to Nicki Grundwald for her coordination and hard work!

All in all, the yard sale was a great success and we are already looking forward to next year!

# REPORTS

## TREASURER – Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/16

May ended the fiscal year to date (FYTD) with \$1,457,160 in total income with expected budget income to be \$1,448,288 (\$8,871 above budget). Expenses (FYTD) were \$1,393,108 which gave us a FYTD of a positive \$64,051. We paid back \$16,621 so owe \$0 to our special funds account. Clear the Path contributions as of 5-31-16 totaled \$548,809 which were paid directly to reduce our loan balance to \$879,588. All bills are paid to date. Direct questions to PerryAbel@gmail.com.

## BAPTISM – Doris Xu on May 31 with Pastor Kom

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – Suzanne Menth

*Dear Families of Crown of Life Church and School,*

*Guess what my heart is overflowing with? Gratitude, thanks and appreciation for everyone who has prayed for and encouraged me during my 13 years working at school. I have enjoyed being a part of many little lambs lives and will certainly miss them. God knew that I needed to be here and I am so fortunate that He led me down that path! My family and I will continue to be members here while I seek the next path the Lord has paved for me. Thank you to those who have showered me with gifts at the end of the school year. Your kind actions have not gone unnoticed.*

*May the Lord continue to Bless Crown of Life as He has me.*

*Thank you again, Kathy Krueger*

# JULY CALENDAR

### Saturday, July 2

5:00 pm Worship EGN

### Sunday, July 3

8:00 am Worship WSP

9:00 am Worship EGN

9:15 am Education Hour-WSP

10:15 am Education Hour-Eagan

10:30 am Worship WSP

### Monday, July 4

*Independence Day*

6:30 pm No - Worship WSP

### Tuesday, July 5

7:00 pm Technology Team

### Wednesday, July 6

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

### Thursday, July 7

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

7:00 pm Evangelism

### Saturday, July 9

5:00 pm Worship EGN

### Sunday, July 10

*Praise Service*

8:00 am Worship WSP

9:00 am Worship EGN

9:15 am Education Hour-WSP

10:15 am Education Hour-Eagan

10:30 am Worship WSP

### Monday, July 11

6:30 pm Worship WSP

7:30 pm Worship Committee

### Tuesday, July 12

6:30 pm Education

Properties

Handbell rehearsal

7:00 pm Stewardship

### Wednesday, July 13

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

### Thursday, July 14

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

7:00 pm Elders-EGN

### Saturday, July 16

5:00 pm Worship EGN

### Sunday, July 17

8:00 am Worship WSP

9:00 am Worship EGN

9:15 am Education Hour-WSP

10:15 am Education Hour-Eagan

10:30 am Worship WSP

### Monday, July 18

6:30 pm Worship WSP

### Tuesday, July 19

7:00 pm Council

### Wednesday, July 20

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

### Thursday, July 21

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

7:00 pm Riverview Cemetery-WSP

### Saturday, July 23

5:00 pm Worship EGN

### Sunday, July 24

8:00 am Worship WSP

9:00 am Worship EGN

9:15 am Education Hour-WSP

10:15 am Education Hour-Eagan

10:30 am Worship WSP

### Monday, July 25

2:30 pm Lilydale Sr. Living Service

6:30 pm Worship WSP

7:00 pm Youth & Adult Education

### Wednesday, July 27

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

### Thursday, July 28

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

### Saturday, July 30

5:00 pm Worship EGN

### Sunday, July 31

8:00 am Worship WSP

9:00 am Worship EGN

9:15 am Education Hour-WSP

10:15 am Education Hour-Eagan

10:30 am Worship WSP

# JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 Zachary Koeppen

Natasha Miller

Robert Uecker

3 Carol Fetzer

Ronald Will

4 Janet Garcia

Nicole Tako

Nathan Wolfrath

5 Suzanne K. Danner

6 Julene Hartfiel

Joanne Sylvester

7 Clair Iburg

Derek Lasovich

8 Daniel Boehlke

Samuel (Sam) Danner

Jamie Thul

Jenavieve Vandenbosch

Peter Wright

9 Elizabeth Leach

Elroy Rehtzigel

9 Carrie Redner

Cheza Sylvester

10 Lorna Kapanke

Leah Moe

11 Rachel Tourville

12 Mary Hansen

Hadley Johnson

13 Nathanael Leach

Amy Pasbrig

14 Sharon I. Sachwitz

15 Luke Klocow

16 Austin Thul

17 Jim Wakefield Sr.

18 Sarah Goette

Mia Rubio

Nick Sachs

16 Noah Bluhm

Dustin Mullins

Jillian Patton

Troy Rich

17 Brenden Steber

Abigail Stensland

18 Paul Oberg

Jessica Staples

20 Savanna Moe

Daniel Petermann

Renee Wright

21 Matthew Evans

Richard (Ric) Gibson

Madison Staples

Aleya Vandenbosch

23 Rodney Heitman

Will Kapanke

Beverly Kraupa

24 Emma Davis

Lois Gydesen

Gabriel Rowe

25 Arie Hussong

David Mommsen

Dior Wallace

26 Ian Boehm

Dorothy Haberkorn

Brent Kelm

Cheryl Stettner

27 Jordan Goette

Jamison Ohm

28 Seon Dittman

Donald P. Krosting

Carla Smith

29 Kaci Lasovich

Erik Ludden

Naomi Marzinske

30 Becky Kruse

Sharon Lapointe

Jontae Watson li

31 Anibell Allen

Christine Fischer

Frances Narog

Russell (Russ) Rider



## Stewardship Thought

In Proverbs 27:2 we read, "Let another praise you, and not your own mouth." In other words, we should not be tooting our own horns. The apostle Paul proclaims, "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord" (2 Corinthians 10:17). Our only reason for boasting lies in the Lord. Without God's gracious gifts, we are nothing, have nothing, and can accomplish nothing. Let the "self-made- man" examine his life, and he will see that without intelligence, ambition, ingenuity, and helpful people along the way, he would not have attained success that he enjoys. All these are gifts from God. Well-being in any area of our lives can be traced back to the goodness of God Who so tenderly watches over us and provides for our needs.

Source: 12 Months of Congregational Stewardship (vol. 2) by Ronald J. Chewning, Stewardship Advisors

## JUST FOR FUN

### ?? GUESS WHO



#### HINTS

- I played football, basketball, and baseball in high school
- I come from a family of 5 children
- My father used to preach in German once a month at Emanuel
- I have run 6 half-marathons and 12 Ragnars

### WORD SCRAMBLE

REMEDOF

NOMSIIS

JUNE QUTOEFALL - Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

Looking for a new place to enjoy some delicious BBQ and home cooked food? Aesop's Table (919 Dale Street in Saint Paul) is our families favorite spot for lunch.

It's a deli style eatery open from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday to Friday. They just celebrated their 30th Anniversary. On our last trip we went in celebration that school was out. I ordered my go to item, which also happens to be one of their signature items from the menu, the Porker Sand-which. The fresh bakery bun is stacked high with mouth watering slow smoked pork and amazing sauce and served with your choice of sides. We have all tried multiple items from the menu over the years and have never been disappointed! If the kids had to list a few of their favorites they would be; The Aesop's Burger, filled with swiss cheese and mushrooms, The French Dip boasting the drinkable au-juice and the traditional griddle grilled cheese! You can check out the Daily Specials on Facebook.

Along with catering, Aesop's Table hosts a few special events during the year and participates in the Foodsby program for local businesses. The Kelm family gives Aesop's Table a double thumbs up!



#### CROWN OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

West St. Paul Campus – 115 Crusader Ave W, West St. Paul MN 55118  
Eagan Camus – 4150 Pilot Knob Rd, Eagan MN 55122