



April 2011

# good news

At The Orchard, we talk a lot about the Gospel. We gladly share our mission: To glorify God by multiplying God-centered, Christ-exalting, world-transforming believers **through the Gospel** in the greater Chicago area and around the world. The recent challenge to dedication and commitment is titled, “...so that **the Gospel may run.**”

As the Easter season approaches, it seems appropriate to remind ourselves exactly what we mean by the **Gospel**. What is the news and why is it good?

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**The first piece of good news: Jesus is LORD...**

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For **by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.***  
Colossians 1:15-17

Jesus is the **LORD** of all things – He preceded and created all things. He defines all things. He owns all things and sustains all things. He rules all things. Why is that good news? Well, Jesus overflows with love, joy, peace, self-control, zeal and hope. He is wise, humble, good, gentle, kind, patient and faithful. The Lord of all is the best of all possible beings. This is good news!

**Good news item number two: Human beings are SINNERS facing God's judgment...**

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  
Romans 3:23*

**SIN** is described in the Scriptures as any offense against God in thought, desire, word and deed as well as a power inseparably mixed into fallen humanity. In other words, it is not just that we have all sinned, but that we are all sinners. Our problem is us. Sin and self are intertwined. We are inescapably sinful beings. And the Almighty, Holy God is going to evaluate every one of our sinful thoughts, desires, words and deeds. He is going to judge us. Why would anyone describe that terrifying reality with the phrase “good news”? Because God is going to judge us through Jesus.

*This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets **through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.***  
Romans 2:16

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**The third news item: Jesus is the SAVIOR of sinners...**

*Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.*  
1 Timothy 1:15

The One who will judge us is the **SAVIOR** who lived a sinless life and died as a wrath-absorbing substitute on the Cross, paying the penalty for offenses against God. Therefore, He has the ability to credit His flawless

righteousness to sinners so that they are blameless in God's sight at the judgment. Furthermore, because He never sinned, He didn't die as judgment upon His sin. He voluntarily laid His life down for others and picked that life up again, walking out of the tomb in a glorified human body and rising to the right hand of the throne of God – a comprehensive and cosmic defeat of the power of sin. So, He is also able to supernaturally deliver sinners from their sin-infected selves and has promised to do so upon His return. Which sinners is Jesus saving?

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**Finally: Jesus is saving sinners who have FAITH in Him...**

*For it is **by grace you have been saved, through faith**—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.*  
Ephesians 2:8-9

Salvation is by **FAITH**. The good news concludes with the promise that Jesus will save everyone who relies on His payment for sins on the Cross and His victory over sin in the Resurrection. This is the only grounds for being right with God and the only way to be delivered from the wrath of God at the judgment.

During this Easter season, may we be motivated by this Gospel to worship Jesus Christ – LORD, SIN, SAVIOR, FAITH. This is the news and it is very good!

**Scott Lothery**  
Executive Pastor, The Orchard



On Sunday evening, March 20, the Sanctuary at the Arlington Heights Campus was filled with people from all campuses of The Orchard and guests from more than 50 churches in the Chicago area. They came to sing hymns of praise and worship to our great God.

Led by Stan Guillaume and Glen Ramsborg, this semi-annual event has become a favorite for many who love to sing traditional songs that glorify the name of Jesus.

In addition to the singing of the congregated worshippers, highlights for this event were the music of the instrumentalists and choir, John Hacker, Gary Gabel and Jean Grainger. Special guests Robert and Bobbie Wolgemuth blessed the group with their enthusiasm for hymns and their beautiful singing.

For many, the highlight of the evening was a video sent by Joni Eareckson Tada. She addressed The Orchard gathering and described her love for hymns and the important place they have had in her life since her tragic accident in 1967. Her regal grace and beautiful smile as she described the ministry of a teenage friend singing a hymn to her as she lay in her hospital bed, awed and challenged all who listened. God has used her lifetime as a quadriplegic to bring hope to thousands of hurting people. There were few dry eyes as Joni sang in a clear and steady voice,

*Man of Sorrows! what a name  
For the Son of God, Who came  
Ruined sinners to reclaim.  
Hallelujah! What a Savior!*



One of the greatest tools for evangelism at The Orchard has been the ministry of the Worship and Media teams as they have faithfully presented outstanding Christmas and Easter concerts.

Guests from the surrounding communities come to hear the beautiful music. They are never disappointed. The great thing about these events, however, is that anyone who attends hears so much more than an excellent performance; they hear the clear message of the Gospel.

Although concerts held in April have often been called "Spring Concerts," the concert this year is clearly an "Easter Concert." The message—Jesus is LORD; we have sinned; Christ died and rose to be our Savior—will be clear. Guests who attend will hear how they can know this Savior as they embrace His sacrifice by faith.

Everyone from The Orchard can participate in this great outreach event. We encourage you to take up the challenge: Invite a friend and attend and/or pray specifically for Dan Wells, the choir, orchestra and media teams as they spend hours in preparation and then minister on April 15 and 16.

This is just another way that we are seeing the Gospel Run at The Orchard.

**Concert Schedule**  
April 15 and 16, 7:30 PM  
Arlington Heights Campus Sanctuary

## The Good News Parable

A religious leader invited Jesus to his home for dinner. When a very sinful woman from that city heard that He was eating there, she came to see Him and worship Him.

She brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with very expensive perfume, knelt at His feet weeping. Her tears fell on His feet and she wiped them with her hair. Then she continued to kiss His feet and put perfume on them.

When the host saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, He would know what kind of woman is touching Him. She is a sinner!"

Then Jesus said to him, "Simon, look at this woman. She recognizes who I am and she has not stopped kissing my feet."

"You didn't even show me common courtesy. In your self-righteousness you saw no need for me."

"I tell you, her sins—which are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who thinks he sins little, loves little."

Then turning to the woman, He said, "Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

*(Based on Luke 7:41-50)*

## Worship Services

**Classic, Sanctuary**  
Arlington Heights Campus  
Sunday—8:45 & 10:30 AM

**Contemporary, Gym**  
Arlington Heights Campus  
Saturday—5:30 PM  
Sunday—8:45 & 10:30 AM

**Contemporary, Barrington Campus**  
Sunday—9 AM

**Classic, Barrington Campus**  
Sunday—10:45 AM

**Contemporary, Itasca Campus**  
Sunday—8:45 & 10:30 AM

## Preaching Schedule

**April 2, 3**

### Knowing Christ Forever

AH—Gym Saturday night—Russell Flynt

AH—Gym Sunday—Josh Newton (8:45)

Bing Nieh (10:30)

AH—Sanctuary—Tom Olson

Barrington—Tom Hutchison

Itasca—Greg Norwine

### The Full Extent of His Love

*Pastor Colin Smith*

**April 9, 10**

The Love of Christ for  
His Hardened Enemies

*Matthew 5:38–48*

**April 16, 17**

The Love of Christ for Penitent Sinners

*Psalms 32:1–7*

**April 23, 24**

### Easter Service

What's In It for Me?

*Luke 24:36–53*

**Good Friday, April 22**

Arlington Heights, Sanctuary—5:30  
and 7 PM

Barrington—7 PM

Itasca—5:30 PM

The ministry of worship at The Orchard is a most important part of the ROOTS, LIFE, and FRUIT strategy.

Whether the worship service happens in the Gym or Sanctuary at Arlington Heights, the Sanctuary at Itasca or the Worship Center at Barrington, careful planning goes into every part. The goal is always to assure that those in attendance will be encouraged and helped as they dig deep roots into God's Word.

The process of preparing each service is deliberate. Each Tuesday at 1 PM, Colin Smith, Scott Lothery, Laura Eder and Ruth Guillaume meet to review upcoming messages and events. They create the worksheet from which the coming Sunday service will be planned.



At 1:30 PM, the campus pastors, media director, Rob Soukup, Scott, Laura and Ruth meet in the conference room to plan the details of the service. Prior to this meeting, Campus Pastors have met with their worship leaders to discuss elements of music and worship that they will incorporate into their services. Because of the multiple locations and depending on weekly schedules, some individuals participate in person and some participate via conference call.

As a result of this meeting, the content of slides, Worship Folder, and the sequence of the service is set.

Thanks to the effectiveness of the church website and the Bulletin Board, services can focus on worship while announcements are kept to a minimum. This transition has at times created difficult adjustments, but the

goal has been clear. The focus of all worship service participants should be on God—honoring Him, praising Him and learning about Him and His Word.

The prayer of each person involved in the planning process is this: *“Lord, direct our deliberation and our plans. May everything we do reflect your Glory and may we always lead the people of The Orchard to a deeper understanding of Your Word and a stronger relationship with You.”*

## PRAYER FOCUS

*Praise the Lord for...*

- the opportunities for outreach created by the Easter concerts.
- the focus and unity of the entire staff.
- the hunger for the Gospel evident at The Orchard.
- all who participate in planning and ministering at all services.
- the clear preaching of the Word each week.

*Ask the Lord for...*

- His word to be communicated clearly through the Easter concerts.
- strength for each person participating in the concerts.
- wisdom for each person involved in the regular worship planning process.
- guidance for worship leaders who direct people to God through music.
- each Campus Pastor who ministers to and leads the people under His care.
- God's Spirit to work in each person who hears the Word.
- a continuing “running” of the Gospel at The Orchard.

# Missionary Focus

**JASON AND DEEANNE MAAS**  
DiscipleMakers/Pennsylvania



*Jason and Deeanne serve with DiscipleMakers (DM), a strategic ministry to college students. Jason's*

*primary role is serving in computer technology to provide tech support to headquarters and field staff; keep computer network servers running smoothly, and to develop new software to make the ministry to college students more effective.*

- PRAISE God for the awesome weekend of ministry we had at the Men's Conference! Please PRAY for these students that they'll doggedly pursue God and his wisdom all the days of their lives!
- Please PRAY for Deeanne as she leads a workshop about Time Management at the Women's Conference this coming weekend, April 1-3.
- Please PRAY for DiscipleMakers staff as they follow-up with many relational opportunities following a fellow staff member's presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to over 50 students who attended the Penn State Atheist Agnostic Association meeting.

**KEVIN AND ERICA PIPPERT**  
LifeWind, International/South Africa



*LifeWind is a Christian development organization whose mission is to provide*

*training, consulting, and networking in holistic community development to those serving in developing communities. This ministry allows staff to share the Gospel effectively with leaders and communities since they have helped to meet the needs of the people.*

- PRAISE God for the incredible progress the Community Health Evangelism (CHE) Swaziland Training Team has made, training over 140 CHE volunteers in seven communities and 500 homes!
- Please PRAY for wisdom for Valencia and the CHE Swaziland trainers—continuing their ministry in seven communities and looking to expand to another eight in 2011.
- Please PRAY for the affordable and rapid completion of the *360 Transformation* custom website.
- Please PRAY for discernment and safe travel as we take our furlough this spring and summer.

**JACK AND BETH THOMPSON**  
ReachGlobal/Hungary



*Jack serves as the ReachGlobal Europe Division Business Manager in Budapest, overseeing the*

*personal and ministry finances of more than 90 missionaries in 23 cities across Europe. He also serves on the school board of the International Christian School of Budapest (ICSB).*

- Beth serves as the middle school English Language Learner (ELL) teacher at the ICSB where she works with students from six countries.*
- PRAISE God that one of Beth's students who is Chinese accepted Christ as her Savior. Please PRAY that she will continue to grow in her faith.
  - Please PRAY for wisdom and sound judgment for Jack as he oversees complex financial transactions on behalf of ReachGlobal and its missionaries using numerous currencies and rapidly changing exchange rates.
  - Please PRAY for good communication among ReachGlobal colleagues and missionaries in Europe so that their work is efficient and fruitful.

## Military Focus

**Jeff Ross – Navy – Great Lakes Naval Base**

Requests: Pray for strength and perseverance as he pursues very demanding SEAL training over the course of 2 years. Ask the Lord to make Himself evident in Jeff's life and provide peace and sustenance. Also, pray for safety and protection while Jeff undergoes the rigorous training.  
*(friend of James & Amy Netzel)*

**Alexander Dove – Navy Corpsman attached to the Marine Corps – Afghanistan**

Requests: Since Alexander will be deployed until November, pray for protection and safety. Also, pray that he would encounter Christian fellowship to gain peace and strength.  
*(grandson of Bill & Paula Medcalf)*



**Arlington Heights Campus**  
1330 N. Douglas Ave.  
Arlington Heights, IL 60004  
847.392.4840

**Barrington Campus**  
1301 S. Grove Ave  
Barrington, IL 60010  
847.852.2200

**Itasca Campus**  
716 E. George St.  
Itasca, IL 60143  
630.773.1883

[www.theorchardefc.org](http://www.theorchardefc.org)