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Michigan PF

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" – Matthew 18:20

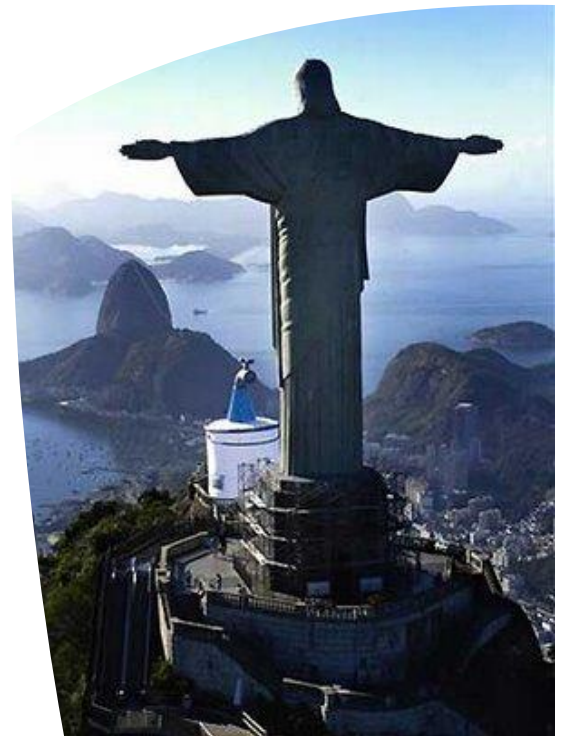
One Faith, Many Cultures

In Christ's footsteps around the world

By Charlie Wondergem

With the increased violence and global crises in today's world, it is important for Christians around the world to come together in fellowship, bridging the differences that divide our religion. Our scope of the Christian faith must not be limited to our own local ways of worship, but should incorporate an understanding of the ways in which people around the world walk in the footsteps of Christ in their daily lives. Each day, a child awakes to a malaria-infested village in Ethiopia; a mother goes to sleep in China wondering whether her family will

be persecuted for their belief in the Christian faith, and in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian Christians awake daily to terrorist attacks and explosions for their religious orientation. What connects these three seemingly distant lives? The fact that they are united in Christ, and will one day escape the threat of persecution as they journey in His footsteps, in an area where it seems implausible, if not dangerous.



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Youth in Action



Barbara Mohrmann

Barbara Mohrmann is far from being an average high school sophomore. Through her insurmountable involvement in Mayflower Congregational Church in Grand Rapids, MI, Barbara displays a true commitment to her faith, and to the cause of bettering the lives of those around her. She consistently helps out with

3,4,5@5:45, a children's youth group for 3rd - 5th graders, Sunday school and other children's programs at Mayflower; and in addition, attends a weekly morning devotional group, plans on attending a 6-week mission trip this summer, and frequents her youth group and church choir. "Barbara demonstrates great leadership, a desire to teach child-

ren about God and grow in their faith, is compassionate and loving to all, and is willing to share her gifts with others," said Leah Zawodny, Director of Youth Ministries at Mayflower Church. Barbara demonstrates not only a strong faith of her own, but a desire to share it with others, and in doing so, makes a long-lasting impact on everyone she encounters.

NAPF/HOPE Conference 2009

Join us in Milwaukee for the National Pilgrim Fellowship Conference!

By Michelle Simino
Co-chair, NAPF

NAPF and HOPE will be new this year! The first thing that will be new is the date – NAPF and HOPE will be held from Saturday, July 25th – Wednesday morning July 29th. Why you may ask? Because we have friends coming from all over the WORLD! That's the next thing that is new – International Congregational Fellowship which meets once every four years is coming to Milwaukee to be with NAPF and HOPE. We will have the wonderful opportunity to meet and get to know Congregational youth from around the world. NAPF & HOPE will be at the beautiful Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee, WI. Other things will be normal NAPF and HOPE activities.

We will have a speaker and a band and small groups. We will also have large groups, worship time and fun activities. We are planning a day trip to the Milwaukee Zoo. Make plans now to come to Milwaukee and participate in NAPF/HOPE 2009. Tell your parents when to plan summer vacations, request time off from your job, plan summer camps around this once-in-a-lifetime event! You don't want to miss out! See you there! Watch for more information on the MI PF web site www.michiganpf.org or the NACCC web site www.naccc.org. Join the Facebook group NAPF/HOPE to receive registration and travel information.

Meet the Winter Retreat Speaker!

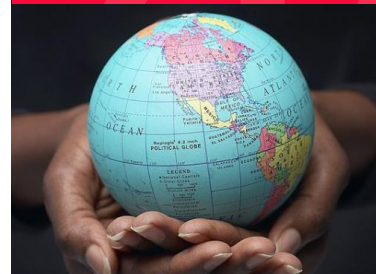


Rev. Paul Spittka
Greenville Community Church
Greenville, MI

Pastor Paul Spittka has been involved in Student Ministry for over 18 years. He began as a Sunday school teacher at an inner city church in Grand Rapids area while attending Cornerstone University. He has been on staff at five churches and one camp over the past 18 years of ministry ranging from northern Michigan, to inner city Detroit, to the corn fields of Indiana. Pastor Spittka currently serves as the Pastor of Children and Students at Greenville Community Church. P2 [as the teens call him] has been married for over 18 years to his best friend, Sandy.

They have five children ranging in ages from 17-10 and each are involved in some aspect of the Student Ministry at GCC. The family lives on a nine acre farm that has horses, ducks, chickens, goats, a donkey, dogs, and too many cats! In his spare time he enjoys riding horses, taking walks with Sandy, fixing fences, playing paintball, and training teens to serve their peers. Pastor Spittka looks forward to talking with Michigan PF members at the winter retreat in January!

**ONE FAITH,
MANY
CULTURES:
In Christ's footsteps
around the World**

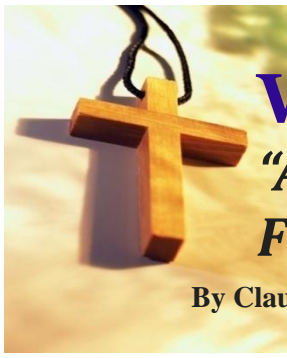


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Global conflict may dominate the politics of today, but nothing can divide our unity through Christ, because around the world, followers of God risk persecution for their refusal to conform to the dominant religions of their respective areas.

Our understanding of the Christian faith should not be grasped through the limited scope of the traditional practices we are accustomed to, but should embody an understanding of the different ways in which Christians around the globe follow in Christ's footsteps, and the hardships they endure to do so.

Different world nations may have their differences, but within the borders of every world nation rests a soul that cries out to God, and it is our responsibility to gain a worldly understanding of our Christian faith beyond the comfort of our own borders.



Winter Retreat 2009

“A World of Faith: In Christ’s Footsteps Around the World”

By Claude Johnson

Hi, everyone! As we are in celebration of Christmas and the New Year, let us not forget that it is through faith that we are saved. I want to express “Merry Christmas” and “Happy New Year” to you all! May God richly bless you and yours! In writing this article, I was thinking of the January retreat’s theme: “A World of Faith: In Christ’s Footsteps”. What a wonderful way to lead your life. Wouldn’t it be awesome if you can actually walk in His footsteps?

The bottom line is that each expression, though spoken in a different language, means the exact same thing. We are celebrating the birth of the Christ Child. So it is with faith! Although it is practiced in other places and spoken in many different languages, it is still faith. Faith through our loving Savior Jesus Christ! If you want to see and hear some of the translations of the word – FAITH – I suggest you plan on attending the Michigan Pilgrim Fellowship senior high

Winter Retreat 2009

“A World of Faith: In Christ’s Footsteps around the World”

Join us for the Michigan Pilgrim Fellowship Winter Retreat at the First Congregational Church of Greenville!

The retreat is for all senior high youth interested in coming together for a weekend of fellowship with other youth from all over the state!

There will be skits, small groups, a speaker, and many games and other fun activities!

Make some great friends and learn about the world around us, and how we can be witnesses of God to a world of many.

Be sure to visit the Michigan Pilgrim Fellowship website at www.michiganpf.org to print off your registration!

We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
The Michigan PF Officers



Stop – believe it or not, you are walking in Christ’s footsteps whenever you are serving others in faith. What about faith from around the world? What is it like? How do believers from other countries and belief systems practice their faith? Ever wonder about that? Huh! Here are some expressions of “Merry Christmas” from around the world:

Germany	<i>Fröhliche Weihnachten</i>
France	<i>Joyeux Noël</i>
Japan	<i>Meri Kurisumasu</i>
Portugal and Brazil	<i>Boas Festas</i>
Spain and Mexico	<i>Feliz Navidad</i>
China	<i>Sheng Dan Kuai Le</i>
Denmark	<i>Glaedelig Jul</i>
Italy	<i>Buon Natale</i>
Sweden	<i>God Jul</i>
United States	<i>Merry Christmas</i>

statewide Winter Retreat in Greenville, January 23-25, 2009. It is with faith that I close this article in prayer that this joyous season may bring hope for the future of our world as we live in Christ by faith. May God bless you and keep you!

Love,
Claude “BIG DOG” Johnson

“Faith” around the world:

Albanian: *besim, besë*
 Bosnian: *vjera*
 Chinese: 信念 (*trad. and simp.*), *pinyin xinniàn*
 Czech: *víra*
 Croatian: *vjera*
 Danish: *tro*
 Dutch: *vertrouwen*