

Missionary Highlight

Craig Wickstrom

– Serve Globally

In Congo, community is ever present and crucial to one's existence and success. The Congolese like a home filled with activity and noise, as we like quiet.

This past November I was able to participate in the Karawa Centennial (100 years) Celebration. The celebration began with a six-hour worship service and ended with another six-hour service. In between, we began each day with worship, followed by four hours of lecture and discussion. Our schedule was interrupted one day as we welcomed over 700 newly baptized Christians.

When the American delegation came, my schedule became even crazier as we shifted to tours and meetings between Covenant and CEUM leaders.

After the Americans left, I returned to Gemena. It was the political season so all commercial flights were postponed and travel became problematic. While waiting I attempted to repair several CEUM computers and work with the CEUM on how to treat visitors when there are no missionaries present.

As happened, my long hours wore me down and I ended up fighting cold-like symptoms – which was COVID. During this time of recovery, I spent frantic work on finances and other urgent Congo matters at home.

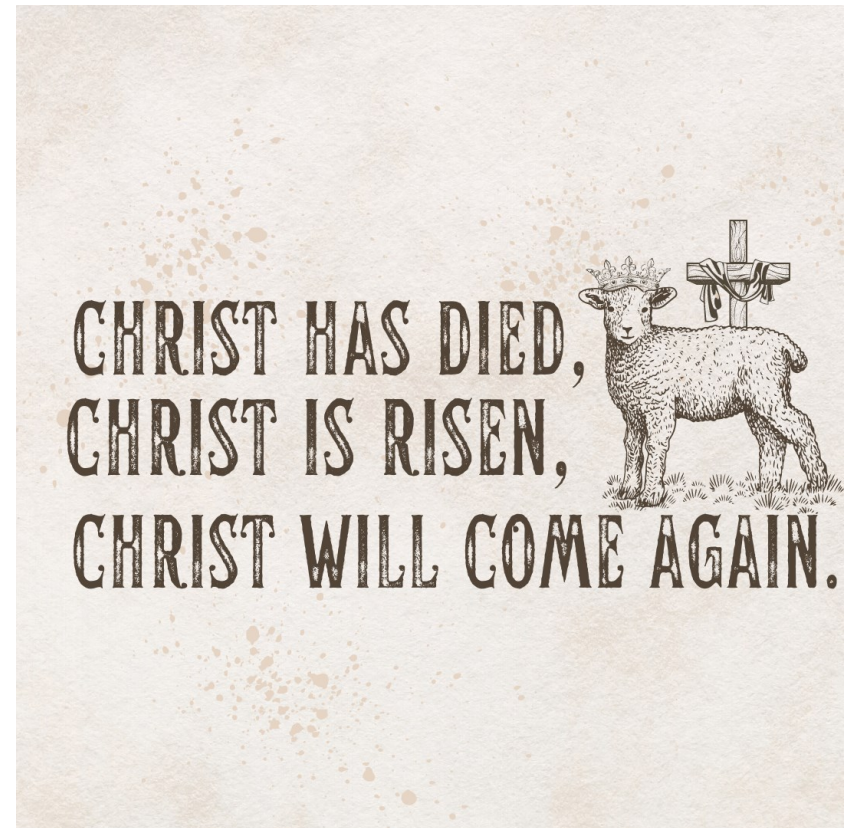
Prayer Requests:

1. The CEUM leadership, especially President Duale, as they seek to meet immediate needs and future ones.
2. Continued prayer for unity and reconciliation within the CEUM.
3. For my future retirement and move to Oregon.



February 18, 2024

1631 1st Ave E • Intl Falls, MN • 283-3365 • www.ifallscovenant.org
Wifi Password: Exodus15:2



Pastor Seth Bjornrud • seth@ifallscovenant.org • 218.209.6293

Pastor Marco Griffith • marco@ifallscovenant.org • 218.417.0242

Worship Director • owen@ifallscovenant.org • 763.318.5690

Stacy Hall • stacy@ifallscovenant.org • 218.324.2709

Office • ecc@ifallscovenant.org • 218.283.3365

Prayer Request • prayer@ifallscovenant.org

Weekly Events & Opportunities

- A Parent's Room (back of the sanctuary) and Nursery (downstairs) are available for **families with young children**.
- **Welcome to Rachel Zupke** from Life in Messiah ministries. She will share about her recent visit to Israel & the people she met there.
- **MN Teen Challenge Choir** – will be here next Sunday, February 25. Please come enjoy the time of music, testimonies and encouragement. Plan to stay, enjoy a provided lunch & visit with the choir. Please bring a sweet treat to share.
- **Women Growing Together** – Monday, February 26 at 7pm.
- **Seder Meal** – March 28 from 5-7pm; Wes Taber from Life in Messiah will be leading us through a Seder meal. Tickets will be \$20/person and available for purchase in the lobby or during church office hours.
- **Mark your calendars:** The **2024 Missions Conference** will be
 - **March 3** – Paul Reed (friend of Pastor Marco)
– Jay Wettstone, (friend of Pastor Seth)They will be sharing about their ministries during Sunday School. Paul will give the message during the worship service. There will be a lunch after the service; plan to attend.
 - **March 10** - Todd Beaudin will be sharing during the worship service. There will be many more activities for your family to attend listed in next week's bulletin.

Why Jesus had to Die: To Reveal Our Sin

Luke 24.13-27

13 That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" 19 And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. 22 Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, 23 and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." 25 And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.