

# Blackna11

Memorial Presbyterian Church



1902 Perry Street . Durham, NC 27705 . 919-286-5586 . [www.blackna11.org](http://www.blackna11.org)

March / April  
2011

## Letter from D.A.D.

Ken and Judy Hollingsworth have been missionaries with Wycliffe Bible Translators for almost 40 years. Judy attended Duke and was a part of Blackna11 in the late 60's and early '70's. For the past 25 years they have been working on the Mofu translation of the New Testament in Northern Cameroon. Three years ago the Mofu New Testament was dedicated and the Mofu people began to hear God's Word in their own language.

Judy has been working hard at literacy efforts among the Mofu so that they are able to read the Word of God in the Mofu language. However, many are still illiterate. As a result they have "proclaimers," machines that will play recordings of the New Testament read aloud in Mofu. They have "listenings" when they will set up a "proclaimer" and invite people to come and listen to God's Word to the Mofu people. Ken and Judy have sent us some of the testimonies of the results of the "listenings" to these "proclaimers." Keep an eye out for some of these testimonies that we will be sharing in our next newsletter.

What is remarkable about these testimonies is that the Word of God is powerful. God speaks through his Word directly into people's lives. The Mofu tell stories of how listening to God's Word leads to conversions, conviction/repentance, comfort, and perseverance in prayer. These are not sermons they are listening to. It is "merely" the New Testament being read aloud in the Mofu language. The Bible is dangerous. They are not hearing stories to make the Bible more relevant. They are not hearing Bible scholars explaining what the text means. They are "just" listening to the Bible. Are you surprised?

In Cameroon there are not enough "proclaimers" for all who want to have a "listening." That is not our problem here. We have lots of "proclaimers," lots of machines which can play for you a recording of God's Word in your mother tongue. We have lots of "listenings," times when people gather to listen to God's Word proclaimed.

As we are in this season of Lent I am asking myself a question: Why is it that the Word of God seems to bear so much fruit amongst the Mofu while receiving such an apathetic response from me? Are you surprised by the testimonies of how listening to the Word of God powerfully changes people's lives? I confess that I am, even though I know theologically I should not be.

This Lent, as we prepare for the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus, I am striving to make time for more "listenings" in my life. I need to hear God speak to me. I am striving to turn off some of the other "proclaimers" in my life who drown out God's Word to me. I want to listen to God's Word, not just someone else's description of it.

God is at work in the Mofu people. Revival and transformation are happening in the church and their communities as God's Word bears its natural fruit. In His mercy and by His Holy Spirit may God proclaim His Word among us and may we have ears to listen, for the sake of Jesus' name. Amen.

D.A.D.

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# Blacknall Happenings

STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

**Spring Semester Pass the Peas Dinners** Blacknall continues to support [Reality Ministries'](#) outreach to friends with disabilities by preparing and serving family-style meals several times a month. Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve (5:00-7:00pm) and serve and clean-up (6:30-8:30pm) on the following Tuesday nights: March 22, April 19 and 26, and May 17 and 24. Please consider volunteering as a group or as an individual. Contact Noreen Naiman ([nnaiman@nc.rr.com](mailto:nnaiman@nc.rr.com)) or Stella Sieber ([sieber@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:sieber@niehs.nih.gov)).

**Blacknall's Great Day of Service** - Save the Date for **Saturday, April 30**. Participants will have the opportunity to join one of several service projects with our community partners between **8:30am-1:00pm**. We will gather in the sanctuary at 8:30am, move out to our projects from there, and end the day with lunch and a time for sharing back at Blacknall's fellowship hall from 12:00 to 1:00pm.

The GDOS event has been a Blacknall tradition since 2003 and every year we are surprised by the many blessings the day brings. The types of service activities can range from planting a garden or painting a room, to working in a thrift store or teaching arts and crafts to kids. Some of the best reasons to participate in the day of service:

1. **Learn about and celebrate partnership.** GDOS provides Blacknall members a snapshot into the important work our community partners do year-round. This experience also helps volunteers become aware of opportunities for involvement throughout the year.
2. Understand the **mission** and **motivation** behind our partnerships. Blacknall's community partners are on the front lines serving our community. Learning more about what drives their work can be a great encouragement as we strive to be the body of Christ together in Durham.
3. **Get something done!** A team of volunteers can get a lot done in a few hours on a Saturday morning. The GDOS activities will be challenging and rewarding experiences we can share together. This can also be a great bonding experience for families, small groups and Sunday school classes.

Stay tuned for more information. Service opportunities will be shared in late March and sign-up sheets will be available throughout April. Several of the service opportunities will be appropriate for youth. Child care will also be provided for younger children not participating in a service activity. Contact Frank DiSilvestro ([fdisil@gmail.com](mailto:fdisil@gmail.com)) with the Durham Ministry Team for more information.

**Come walk with us!** Please mark your calendars and plan to join Blacknall's team for the 37th Annual Durham CROP Walk on Sunday, March 20, at 2:30pm. Funds from the walk benefit local and international organizations dedicated to fighting hunger. For more information about walking or sponsoring a walker, please contact Leah Masselink ([lmasselink@gmail.com](mailto:lmasselink@gmail.com), 641-7077) or stop by the sign-up table on March 6 or 13.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday Potluck Suppers during Lent** Join with others in the Blacknall community for food and fellowship from 6:00-7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall on Ash Wednesday, March 9 and Wednesday, April 13. Bring a dish that will serve your family and several others. Since it's Lent, we suggest having these meals without desserts. Water, decaf coffee, paper plates, napkins, and plastic cutlery will be provided. Attend the Lenten service following our meal if you can.

"They broke bread ... and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God..." (Acts 2:46-47).

# Focus on Giving

by Vic Moore

This article is the second in a series that describes how our tithes and offerings make an impact for the Kingdom of God in our local congregation, our surrounding community and around the world.

Twenty-seven percent (27%) of what's given to Blacknall is used to support benevolences. This includes individuals involved in full time mission work around the globe, campus ministries and 17 Durham ministries (listed below) which serve local youth and adults on the margins or needing spiritual mentoring.

Child Evangelism Fellowship	Interfaith Hospitality Network
Durham Congregations in Action	Meals on Wheels
Durham Crisis Response Center	Pregnancy Support Services
Durham Rescue Mission	Presbyterian Urban Ministries
Foundation for Psychological Family Services	Reality Ministries
Genesis Home	Urban Hope
Habitat for Humanity	Urban Ministries
Housing for New Hope	Year of Opportunity for Durham Youth (YO:Durham)
Iglesia Emanuel (Church)	

An example of how your support of Blacknall helps these ministries is described here.

**Pregnancy Support Services**, for which Blacknall member Mimi Every serves as the Executive Director, celebrated its 19<sup>th</sup> annual Celebration of Life Banquet earlier this month. PSS is an evangelical Christian Ministry providing alternatives to abortion by supporting women facing the challenges of an unplanned pregnancy, promoting sexual integrity and offering post abortion recovery support. All services are free and confidential. Your gifts to Blacknall provide 2% of PSS's total budget and 15% of their support from churches.

*"I'm grateful for Blacknall's generosity to PSS. Gifts from the church have been vital for projects like phone systems and upgrading our computers and printers. In addition Blacknall, because of its ongoing support, has helped PSS impact families all over the world. There is a Chinese couple that met Christ through PSS and is now sharing what He means to them in Beijing! And, closer to home, there is a young Durham woman enjoying her one year old daughter today because PSS stepped into her world giving her the support she needed when she thought abortion was her only option. She is growing in her relationship with Jesus through weekly Bible study at PSS.*

*Thank you for participating in what God is doing to preserve future generations of families."*

Mimi Every, PSS Executive Director.

# Library News

Lent is a time to consider how we can go deeper in our understanding of who Jesus is and further in our walk with Him. As you think about how to prepare your heart for Easter, consider these resources from our library:

*The Carpenter's Cloth: Christ's Journey to the Cross and Beyond* by Sigmund Brouwer

*Reliving the Passion* by Walter Wangerin

*The Challenge of Jesus: Rediscovering Who Jesus Was and Is* by N.T. Wright

*The Incomparable Christ* by John Stott

*The Crown and the Fire* by N.T. Wright

*The Gospel According to Jesus* by John MacArthur

*Jesus Among Other Gods* by Ravi Zacharias

*Jesus: The Greatest Life of All* by Charles Swindoll

*Jesus, the One and Only* by Beth Moore

*My Lord and My God* by Calvin Miller

*King's Cross: The Story of the World in the Life of Jesus* by Timothy Keller

*Scandalous: The Cross and Resurrection of Jesus* by D.A. Carson

*Slave: The Hidden Truth About Your Identity in Christ* by John MacArthur

We also have a wonderful assortment of children's books that adults will appreciate just as much as the kids! Here are some favorites:

*The Very First Easter* by Paul Maier

*The Legend of the Easter Egg* by Lori Walburg

*Benjamin's Box* by Melody Carlson

*Easter Bunny, Are You for Real?* by Harold Myra

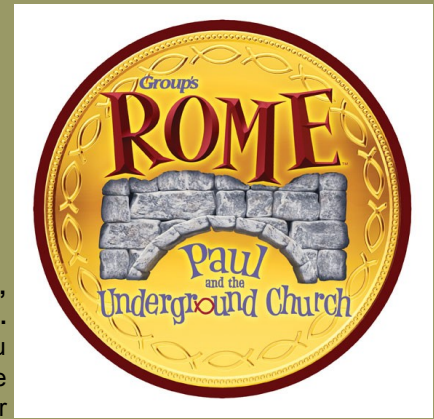
*Pail of Nails* by Harriet May Savitz

*The Tale of the Three Trees* by Angela Hunt

# C O R N E R

## 2011 Blackna11 VBS

Join us this year as we go back in time to ancient Rome where we will learn about Paul and the Underground Church. We will explore the caves of the Underground Church, meet the Apostle Paul, create cool Bible-time projects, experience thrilling real-life dramas, play high-energy games, sample tasty Middle Eastern snacks, and hear some unforgettable music all while learning about God's love.



**The adventure begins June 20 and ends the 24th, and lasts from 9:00am-12:00pm.**

We are looking for lots of people willing to celebrate with our children that week. If you would like get involved or just want to know more about what we are planning, please contact either Brooklynne Travis (919-236-3373, [brook\\_lynne\\_travis@yahoo.com](mailto:brook_lynne_travis@yahoo.com)) or one of the committee members.

- Erin Miller - Roman Families Coordinator
- Ashley Weinard - Shopkeeper / Marketplace Coordinator and 4th&5th grade art
- Ginny Busch - Decoration Co-Coordinator
- Ann Paulson - Snack and Friday Lunch Coordinator
- Dave Stuntz - Worship Leader
- Susan Kinghorn - Registration and Sign-In Coordinator & Photographer
- Barb Eyster - Co-Decoration Coordinator
- Traci Hoover - Drama Leader
- Jen Stutz & Elizabeth Nguyen - Pre-School Co-Coordinators
- Katie Hoppe & Sarah Coonley - Nursery Co-Coordinators

**See you in Rome!**

Are you wondering if your child is ready to receive communion during the worship service? Join us for a **“Children and Communion Conversation”** with Allan Poole on Sunday, April 3 from 5:00-6:15pm in the Parlor. If you’re planning to attend, please email Amy Rowell ([arowell@blacknall.org](mailto:arowell@blacknall.org))

# C O R N E R

**H T U O Y MARK YOUR CALENARS!**

**April 8 - 10**  
Middle School Retreat

**April 29 - May 1**  
High School Beach Retreat

**June 12**  
Summer Bible Study Begins

**June 26 - July 1**  
High School Mission Trip

**July 28 - August 2**  
Great Escape Trip

Visit [www.youth.blacknall.org](http://www.youth.blacknall.org) for weekly youth updates and additional info including downloadable camp forms.

***Interested in being a youth leader?***

The heart of our ministry is our volunteer leaders. More than anything, our ministry is centered around teenagers hearing the Gospel from adults who care about them and are consistently in their lives. If you have a few extra hours a week and love Christ and teenagers, then being a volunteer leader may be perfect for you! This spring we will be looking to add some folks to our team of youth volunteers. If you are interested in helping out or just want to learn more about Blacknall youth ministry, please contact Brad Turnage - [btturnage@blacknall.org](mailto:btturnage@blacknall.org).

## The gifts of God from the people of God...

Budget Plan:	\$226,450	Actual Expenses:	\$204,590
Tithes & Offerings:	\$221,165	Tithes & Offerings:	\$221,165
Excess or (Shortage):	(\$5,285)	Excess or (Shortage):	\$16,575

"...for God loves a cheerful giver." II Corinthians 9:7

## Holy Week Worship Schedule

The week is rich and full! It is an opportunity unlike at any other time of the year, to come and be immersed in worship built around the Gospel narrative.

**Maundy Thursday, April 21 – 7pm** – Blacknall will be joined by the congregation of Mt. Level Missionary Baptist Church. Mt. Level will provide the preaching and will “bring the music” – and how! A reception will follow the service. Childcare provided for those 4 years old or younger.

**Good Friday, April 22 – 7pm** – We will gather for a time of quiet, hearing the Passion narrative, with increasing darkness. This is a powerful time of coming face-to-face with the events of that day, when the Lamb of God took upon Himself the sins of the world. Childcare provided for those *Grade 2 and younger*.

**Easter Sunday, April 4 – 6am** – Blacknall will return Mt. Level’s visit by celebrating the Resurrection in their sanctuary (316 Hebron Road) at 6am. Blacknall will provide the music leadership and the preaching. Maps are available on the tables in the foyer and upper atrium. (We will worship at Blacknall at 8:30 and 11:00am as usual.)

## Final Notes

### Elected Officers for the Class of 2014

**Elders:** Bill Francis, Rich Frothingham, Tom Holahan, Susie Meghdadpour

**Deacons:** John Bratt, Doug Busch, Melissa DiSilvestro, Matt Eagleburger, and Kurt Golembesky.

### CCB, Church Database

**Our new online directory needs your input!** Please update your record by going to Church Community Builder (CCB) at <http://blacknall.ccbchurch.com>. Please call the Church Office if you need any help!

Please pray for these officers as they seek to serve Christ and the congregation in the coming years.