



# The Lamplighter

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## Thoughts About Heaven

*"But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."*  
(2 Peter 3:13 ESV)

It may appear somewhat strange to begin this new year with thoughts about heaven. After all, heaven is usually what we think about at the end of life. It hardly seems fitting to think about heaven in light of all of the associations we make with the beginning of a new year. But the reality is that there are most likely people reading this very article who will be in heaven before the conclusion of 2012.

Heaven is more than a destination; it is the *longing* of the people of God for the *place* where righteousness dwells (2 Peter 3:13). Ultimately that longing for righteousness is a longing for the Righteous One—Jesus Christ!

Whether heaven awaits us in 2012 or not, for every believer the day of arrival on heaven's shores is coming! With that in mind, I have included some encouraging quotes for you to consider as you begin this new year. Who knows? Perhaps 2012...

*Christ is preparing saints for heaven and heaven for saints.* -Anonymous

*There are no tourists in heaven.* -John Blanchard

*If we look around us, a moment can seem a long time, but when we lift up our hearts heavenwards, a thousand years begin to be like a mo-*

*ment.* -John Calvin

*A dog is at home in this world because this is the only one a dog will ever live in. We are not at home in this world because we are made for a better one.* -Vance Havner



*You must not only **seek heaven**; you must also **think heaven**.* -J.B. Lightfoot

*I wonder, many times, that ever a child of God should have a sad heart, considering what his Lord is preparing for him.* -Samuel Rutherford

*He is sure of heaven who is sure of Christ.* -C.H. Spurgeon

*Heaven is not a lease which soon expires, but an inheritance.* -Thomas Watson

*There is nothing but heaven worth setting our hearts upon.* -Richard Baxter

*In heaven, God will never hide his face and Satan will never show his.* -John Blanchard

*No one will ever be bored in heaven.* -John Benton

*When we learn to hold the world with a loose grip we are learning to take hold of the world to come with a firm grip.* -Sinclair Ferguson

*Heaven is a kingdom where there are no perils to brave, no loneliness to face, no wants to suffer, no crosses to bear.* -Basilea Schlink

*Here, joy begins to enter into us; there we enter into joy.* -Thomas Watson

*We ought to apply our minds to meditation upon a future life, so that this world may become cheap to us.* -John Calvin

*Heaven must be in you before you can be in heaven.* -George Swinnock

*'Difficulty' is not a word to be found in the dictionary of heaven.* -C.H. Spurgeon

*Heaven will chiefly consist in the enjoyment of God.* -William S. Plummer

Blessings in 2012!

Pastor Rob

# From Pastor Brian's Desk

## The Elephant and the Mouse

The story is told of two friends, an elephant and a mouse, who danced all night at a party. In the morning, to the horror of the elephant, his mouse friend was lying dead at his feet. He had been stomped on during the dancing and partying, unbeknownst by his friend. "Sometimes that is what it is like doing missions with you Americans," the African storyteller concluded. "It is like dancing with an Elephant."

There is much to learn when it comes to cross-cultural missions and much to learn when embarking on a short-term mission trip. We don't want to be the elephant who stomps on the mouse, so to speak. That is why we spend a great deal of time in preparation for a short-term mission trip, and we only connect with an IW in a field that needs what we have to offer. We have many resources; however, we want to use them to the greatest advantage.

The article that follows is a wonderful article on the helpfulness of short-term teams. It points out how short-term teams can be a catalyst for ministry in many cross-cultural settings.

### ENVISION ...

*Short Term Missions as a catalyst*

By Pete and Alice Brokopp

*The concept of teams and short-term workers causes many missionaries to shudder as they imag-*

*ine the time and energy it takes to make an experience successful. And to what end? A sightseeing trip? An experiential excursion? Many don't see the benefits of teams. But Envision, created by The Alliance to mobilize the next generation for Kingdom change, has created trips that enable people to become catalysts for ministries that missionaries, national pastors and local Christians can sustain when the teams depart.*



During a particularly hot and humid morning last summer, members of an Envision team from Pennsylvania were cleaning the inside of a youth center on the Tanguin property in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The center is one of many ministries on the site, which will include a church, an elementary school, a vocational/technical high school, a pastor's house and a soccer field. Other teams had offered labor and funds to complete some of the buildings, but this team was focusing on getting the center ready for the school year.

Suddenly, a throng of 50–60 children surrounded the work site. They were curious, excited to see the nassara ("white people"). While half the team continued to clean the center, the other half went

out to play with the kids, loving them and building relationships.

A few moments later, one of the young team members reappeared, distraught. A nursing student with experience in a doctor's office, she had noticed a boy with a deep cut on his foot. The foot seemed to be changing colors. She asked whether we had a first aid kit but soon realized that Hassan's wound needed more than mere cleaning and bandaging.

"Could I pay for him to see a doctor?" she asked.

The pastor was called over to look at the cut and was quite concerned as well. It looked like it might be too late to save the big toe and perhaps even the whole foot. If this boy didn't get treatment, he would probably die within a few days. The pastor agreed to take Hassan to a nearby Christian clinic on his motorbike. The nursing student insisted on paying for treatment.

A few days later, the team visited the pastor to ask about Hassan's condition. The boy was doing well. A strong antibiotic had stopped the infection, saving not only his foot but even his toe! Hassan's parents had been deeply moved by the girl's compassion toward their son. Why would someone from halfway across the world come to their town and show such love to their child? The parents indicated their desire to send their children to the Christian school on the Tanguin property and to attend the church that is to be built there.

*There is much to learn when it comes to cross-cultural missions and much to learn when embarking on a short-term mission trip.*

**This incident illustrates three ways in which Envision teams involved with the Tanguin property have served as catalysts for ministry.** First, simply by bringing money and labor for the construction of the projects, the teams are starting something that the church can continue. They are putting valuable tools—a church, schools, a youth center and a soccer field—into the hands of local Christians, who will use them for evangelism and discipleship.

Secondly, teams have shown care and concern for the community as they have worked. This has drawn community members to the property, making them more likely to become involved in the ministries that will take place there after the teams are gone. The children experienced love from this summer's team as the group played with them and hugged them. Previous teams have also loved on them, so once the church doors open, the school year starts and the youth center activities begin, the children will continue to come, this time being ministered to by a pastor, teachers and local church members.

One summer, another team was digging the foundation for a wall when a local imam (Muslim leader) arrived with a delegation from his mosque carrying shovels and pick axes. He stated that he wanted to help the group that was helping his community. The imam had seen Christ's love in action, and it compelled him to respond. Perhaps someday his ultimate response might be to want to learn more about this love and attend a church service or to send his children to the Christian schools.

A third way teams act as a catalyst for ministry is by showing compassion. A team member supplied the funds that the family didn't

have to treat Hassan's gangrenous foot and involved a local pastor who not only made sure Hassan's foot was cared for but also shared the gospel with his family. The team began a ministry to Hassan and his whole family that the pastor and school will continue. This is what Envision teams are all about!

**Short-term interns can also bring positive changes, beginning ministries that the church or other Christians will continue.** Before Envision was developed, a young woman named Shellie came to Burkina for four months as an ESL teacher but passed away suddenly during her term. Her testimony changed the life of at least one young man, Adama, who has become an evangelist, bringing many, some who could not be reached by missionaries, into the Kingdom. Or consider Paul, a Toccoa Falls College intern who developed a close relationship with a Burkinabé youth. That youth was considering the pastorate but had a long road ahead of him. Paul was able to keep in touch with him and encourage him. Today, the Burkinabé youth is one of our best pastors.

Envision team members and short-term interns usually aren't the type of people that want to be entertained or plugged into ministries just to have a "missionary experience." They may join trips to understand missions or to discover their calling, but ultimately they want to make a difference. When field leadership plugs these young people into a ministry plan they've developed with the national church, Envision teams can serve as catalysts for this vital ministry, precipitating events or changes with eternal value in local communities that international workers, pastors, teachers and local church members can continue after the teams and interns are gone.

## Wednesday Prayer Meeting

*Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.. (3 John 2)*

Here we are in a new year, with the prospects of a fresh start, new hope and promise. It's a time we often try to establish new goals, habits and practices. My hope is that it would include developing a strong(er) prayer life.

In his book, "The Weapon of Prayer," E. M. Bounds has written:

*"When the church is in the condition of prayer God's cause always flourishes and His Kingdom on earth also triumphs. When the church fails to pray, God's cause decays and evil of every kind prevails... Praying saints are God's agents for carrying on His saving and providential work on earth."*

So, church, it's important to establish a pattern of daily prayer that connects you

with God in a focused way. You can develop:

- your personal prayer - to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, and to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 12:2, Galatians 5:16, 25).

- prayer for family and friends - that the relationships you have may reflect the love God has for you. Where relationships have been broken, may you find reconciliation and forgiveness (Proverbs 17:17, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Matthew 5:23-24).

- prayer for the Church - that a fresh vision of Jesus would be in our midst that so transforms us that our community is forever changed (Romans 12:2, John 3:16-17).

- prayer for the Kingdom - that we

would seek His Kingdom first, longing to see Jesus rule in righteousness over our nation and the world (Matthew 6:33, Romans 15:12).

- prayer for the unsaved - that we would pray for specific individuals, that their eyes may be open and their ears would receive God's truth; that we would live in such a way that they see Jesus living in us (Romans 10:14-17, Galatians 2:20).

I encourage you to fill out the cards in the pew racks regularly with your prayer requests - for missionaries, your kids, your parents, your friends and neighbors, your coworkers; for salvation, ministry needs, health issues, work situations, family matters - whatever! And then, when God answers, don't forget to include your praises, too!

We look forward to joining with you in your prayers. Happy New Year!

Prayerfully Yours,

Larry Petry

# The Coffin of Darwinian Evolution by Dr. Todd Carsten

Arising since the 1960's is ongoing knowledge of the extreme complexity of all living cells. There is now known to be no such thing as a *simple cell*. The sheer magnitude of this knowledge effectively serves as the final nail in the coffin of Darwinian evolution. Topping the list of cell complexity is the accurate assembly of needful, highly specific, complex, chemical structures known as *proteins*. About 2,000 structurally different proteins exist within a one celled amoeba. Our human cells contain about 100,000 structurally different proteins. Every living cell requires this vast array of proteins because proteins serve as *legos* for cellular structure and function.

A protein consists of various amino acid molecules strung end to end to form a specific, sequential chain. Intracellular DNA provides the blueprint for the assemblage of all protein chains which can be anywhere from 50-5000 amino acids long (the average being about 500 amino acids). Thus, proteins are extremely complex structures requiring a master blueprint for accurate intracellular construction. Of course, evolutionists routinely claim that with enough time proteins can assemble themselves and thus life can arise by accident. Actually, it's a sophomoric myth and here's why — it's known to be mathematically impossible!



A mathematical probability study published as far back as 1983 by famed astronomer Sir Fred Hoyle and fellow mathematician Wickramasinghe (neither of whom were creationists) reveal that the probability of a living cell assembling all of its needful proteins by accident is essentially a big fat zero!

Let's embark upon our own little probability study so as to illustrate the kind of numbers the above two scientists encountered. We'll speak in terms of soldiers instead of amino acids for the sake of simplicity. If as few as 10 soldiers are instructed to fall in line in a specific sequence with none having any foreknowledge of the actual order desired by their commander, what is the probability that all 10 soldiers will assemble themselves correctly? Before believing such a task is readily achievable given enough time, please realize that each soldier has only a 1 in 10 chance of choosing his correct position in line, and this same difficulty will be encountered for each of the 10 soldiers.

My friend, according to probability science they will all drop dead from utter exhaustion before accidentally discovering their correct sequence in line! This is because they have only one chance in 10 Billion chances (that's B as in Boy) of correctly assembling themselves without supervision from their commander. Yes, it's unbelievably difficult for only 10 items to correctly sequence themselves by accident.

Suppose now that 12 soldiers (2 more than before) are instructed to do the same. The impossibility of being successful arises astronomically — they now have only 1 chance of being correct in 9 Trillion chances! We're talking serious numbers and we haven't symbolically assembled even the shortest of proteins (one consisting of 50 amino acids). Imagine the utter impossibility of accidentally getting no less than 500 soldiers (or amino acids) lined up correctly without a master blueprint! And recall, after assembling the first protein an amoeba requires nearly 2000 more proteins to even exist!

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The deadline for the February issue of the Lamplighter is Sunday, January 15th. Please submit your articles to the church office.

## Church Lock Up Schedule

This is a reminder for church officers who are on the lock up schedule for the month of January:

January 1	Eric Reed
January 8	Matt Coulter
January 15	Joe Kolceski
January 22	Matt Walker
January 29	Bruce Stowe

If you are unable to be at church on the day you are scheduled for lock up, please arrange to change with someone on the schedule.

(continued from page 4)

Such is the utter impossibility of accidentally assembling the first living cell in a primordial soup. Friend, you have just grasped the final nail in the coffin of evolution.

All thinking persons may now cease deceiving themselves over the nonscientific theory that life accidentally arose in the seas. But don't hold your breath awaiting for the majority of outspoken evolutionists to fall prostrate and begin singing in unison, "How Great Thou Art." All scientific proposals from the last century and a half describing the impossibility of life accidentally making itself have been either ignored or suppressed due to mankind's long war against his Divine Maker. Firm adherence to a prior atheistic world view effectively closes the minds of otherwise brilliant scientists from even considering for a proverbial nanosecond a divine origin for life.

According to the Apostle Paul, all such purveyors of evolutionary theory are wholly without excuse because even without knowledge of proteins or probability, any inquisitive human being can clearly observe within the grand gamut of the natural world, the Creator's eternal power and Divine Being.

Romans 1:20 (NIV) — *For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made [the Creation of the Cosmos], so that people are without excuse.*



## Johnson Family Project

Our church has an opportunity to help the Johnson family remodel their home to allow more living space for all the children. Some former firemen are working with contractors to design and remodel Dave and Diana's home. This has been on the television news and in the papers recently. The plan is to begin sometime in the spring and to finish it in a short amount of time. There will be various needs for the project including food for the workers. Please pray for this project and how you may be able to help. A list of specific needs will be made known soon and announced to the congregation. Let's show the love of Christ to this family who has cared for so many over the years with their sacrificial love.



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

January 2012

- 1 - Michelle Kolceski, Clayt Roberts, Jr.
- 2 - Geoff Lloyd
- 3 - Bob Loomis, Sarah Macie, Anna Woodford
- 4 - Kyle Sullivan
- 6 - Amber Vanderwerff, Faye Rheaume
- 7 - Isabella Macie
- 8 - Joan Fooks
- 9 - Charlie Ness
- 13 - Mark Oda, (Ralph & Sue Maloney)
- 14 - James Dow, Nicholas Murgia, (Joe & Michelle Kolceski)
- 16 - Allison Harrison, Wayne Rheaume
- 17 - Skip Praxl
- 18 - Han Smid
- 19 - Matt Walker
- 22 - Ericka Reed
- 23 - Jonathon Calderon, Daniel Ortlieb
- 26 - Jean Weerheim
- 27 - Hillary Chartrand
- 28 - Tim Negley
- 29 - Marie Murgia
- 30 - Nancy Graham
- 31 - Steve Kenyon

## Alliance Women Ministries Update

### ARE YOU A FOOT?

LADIES, if you're missing a foot, you need a crutch, right? It would work better to have a foot, though. Where can you find a foot? Someone knows. Who knows? God knows. (Hint: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27)

Please come to AWM's "SECOND SATURDAY" 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. January 14th and see what's "afoot"! By the way, we're also missing an eyelash, an ear, some internal organs... Which one are you? Don't know? God knows and He has a plan.

On the **SECOND SATURDAY** of every month ALL LADIES AND TEEN GIRLS who attend LaFayette Alliance Church are invited to gather in the children's church room for a time of fellowship, food and fun. Learn something new. Meet someone new. Try something new. It's a new year!

Babysitters will be available.  
Questions? Talk to Sue Maloney or Becky Mintz.

### Alliance Women's Ministries needs YOU!

The AWM planning meeting is moving to the **THIRD Tuesday** of each month. It will meet in Sue Maloney's Sunday School room. ALL LADIES who attend LaFayette Alliance Church are welcome and encouraged to attend!

We would like everyone to be thinking of **ideas for a Mother/Daughter event for May** and bring their ideas to the meeting January 17th at 7 p.m. Let the planning begin! Questions? Talk to Sue Maloney or Becky Mintz



## Quizzing Update

### Junior Quizzing

On Saturday, December 17, we had our 4th quiz of the season and Christmas party. The teams are showing great progress in teamwork. The Expert Examples were all able to answer questions which earned extra points for their team. They are now in 1st place. We celebrated after with a pizza lunch and white elephant gift exchange.

We will be preparing for the January 2nd "2 on 2" quiz with the seniors and adults and invite you to join us. Contact me or Georgia for practice times and/or more information.

We thank you for your continuing prayers on our behalf. They are working!



In His Service,  
Marie Murgia  
Coach

## *Closings & Cancellations*

In the event of bad weather (which may eventually occur this winter), here are the ways to find out if any activities have been cancelled here at church:

- ~ email from church (contact the office if you don't receive church emails)
- ~ call the church; there will be a message on the answering machine if there is no one in the office
- ~ check our website [www.lafayettealliance.org](http://www.lafayettealliance.org)
- ~ Channel 9, News 10 Now on Time Warner Cable
- ~ [www.9wsyr.com](http://www.9wsyr.com)
- ~ [www.ynn.com](http://www.ynn.com)

## *Annual Meeting*

The **Annual Meeting** of the LaFayette Alliance Church will be on Wednesday January 18, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

**Please mark your calendars for this important meeting!**

## *Senior Ministry Luncheon*

Our luncheon will be held on Thursday January 5th.

All are welcome! Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Come and be blessed by the food and fellowship!

## *Secret Sister*

Ladies, would you like to have another lady in the church family praying for you throughout the year? The Secret Sister program is a fun and easy way of letting your sister know that you are praying for her with cards of encouragement throughout the year. It is also nice to give a gift to your Secret Sister on special occasions. There are registration forms on the back table in the foyer. Please give completed forms to Kari Walker by January 8, 2012. If you have any questions, please see Kari Walker.

## *Thank You Church Family!*

We would like to express our appreciation for your kindness and Christmas love gift. The love and support you have shown us throughout the year means so much! Thank you for allowing us to minister to you.

May you and your loved ones have a blessed Christmas and New Year!

Pastor Rob & Jody  
Pastor Brian & Barb  
Matt & Ellen  
Carl & Barb

## *Offering Envelopes*



The **2012 Offering Envelopes** are available to pick up in the foyer. Using them really helps our counters and accurately records your giving. We offer quantities of 53, 26 or 12. Please contact the Financial Secretary, Larry Petry, in person or by note in the offering plate or through the office if you would like to receive a set of envelopes.

**LaFayette Christian & Missionary  
Alliance Church**

P.O. Box 150  
6069 Cherry Valley Turnpike  
LaFayette, New York 13084  
Phone: (315) 677-9810

Rev. Robert Gates, Senior Pastor  
[rfgates@twcny.rr.com](mailto:rfgates@twcny.rr.com)

Brian Mandigo, Associate Pastor  
[blmandigo@twcny.rr.com](mailto:blmandigo@twcny.rr.com)

Ellen Coulter, Office Administrator  
[ecoulter@twcny.rr.com](mailto:ecoulter@twcny.rr.com)



Our mission is to know Jesus Christ; exalt Him as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, Coming King,  
and complete His Great Commission.



*Defend • Rescue • Deliver*



**Sanctity of Human Life Sunday ❖ January 22, 2012**