

**Membership** (Cont. from pg. 3)

Larry and Peggy Christensen share that as a young couple they searched for spiritual answers in the church in which they were married. As they sensed something missing in their lives, they also investigated other religions. Peggy eventually came to invite Christ as Savior and Lord of her life through the ministry of the "700 Club", Larry soon followed. They have called our church their home church for about four years along with their two college age girls, Kellie and Nicole, and high school sophomore, Ryan. Larry is a superintendent with G. I. Utilities and Peggy is a secretary at Grand Island Senior High School.



**Reviewing Blessings** (Cont. from pg. 1)

of the Evangelical Free Church

- Many people came to faith in Christ. Spiritual growth was experienced by the congregation through the "Purpose Plus" campaign
- "The goat left the building!"
- "The Passion of the Christ" led many to a greater appreciation for Christ's sacrifice on the Cross
- A very large crowd came to a better understanding of the Passover at a Seder meal celebration
- Great fellowship at the All Church Campout
- A Building Committee began preparing concepts for much needed Children, Adult, and Youth classroom space



January 2005

**Congregational Vision Night**

The Congregational Vision Night will be held this Sunday, January 23rd at 5 p.m. On this evening we will reflect upon all the good things that God is allowing to be accomplished within the ministries of this church.

- 4 p.m. Elder Candidates Q & A
- 5 p.m. Congregational Vision Night

Official business to be acted upon by the voting membership:

- Annual approval of the Pastoral Care position
- Building Committee Report
- Proposed 2005 Budget
- First reading of proposed Bylaw changes
- Financial Review Report

Handouts are available near the library. Everyone is welcome to attend.

A question and answer period with Elder Board Candidates will begin at 4:00 p.m. The present lay elders up for election are:

- Tim Jacobs
- Mark Stines
- Don Plinsky
- Birger Benson
- Tim Dunagan
- Steve Morris
- Kent Kincanon

**Family Night Features Geddy the Gecko**

The next Rock Solid Family Night will be presenting Geddy the Gecko at 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, January 26 in the Worship Center. Larger than life, Geddy, will take the audience around the world with fun music and songs from various countries accompanied by lots of laughs. Children and adults of all ages will certainly enjoy Geddy's pro sports mascot personality. Following the global adventure presentation, kids will be taught "How to Share Their Faith" using motions.



Geddy the Gecko - part sports mascot, part fun song leader, will inspire young and old to tell the entire world about Jesus

**Reviewing the Blessings of 2004**

- Addition of Pastors Aron and Micah to our ministry staff
- Over 200 women participated in Women of the Light Bible studies
- Record attendance experienced in Rock Solid, Vacation Bible School and Children's Sunday School
- Building mortgage eliminated after only four years
- Lay missions teams served in the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Zambia, and Chicago
- Basketball great, Jerry Lucas, shared Bible memorization techniques with the congregation
- 30 people became voting congregational members indicating their desire to grow spiritually and serve the Body of Christ
- The Sudanese Church plant became an official church plant

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"A Place to Belong"

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## Short Term Mission Opportunities

Application forms and informational sheets are at the Information Window.

**Zambia June 18 - July 1** ministering in schools, medical assistance, or construction. Application deadline Jan. 23

**Mexico July 17 - 24** children's Bible clubs, light construction, medical assistance, evangelism, or light construction. Informational meeting at 2 p.m. on Feb. 6 in Room 113. Application deadline is Feb. 27.

**Germany 11 days in late July or early August.** Various jobs at English camps for teens. Informational meeting at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 6 in Room 113. Application deadline is Feb. 27.

**Chicago Fall TBA** light construction, skills in HVAC, plumbing, electrical, drywall, etc.

### "The Transformed Life"

## Annual Women's Retreat

February 4 and 5 will be the dates for the much anticipated annual Women's Retreat. The event for women of all ages will take place on Friday evening and Saturday until 3 p.m. Seminars, worship, an excellent speaker, and plenty of time for friendship will highlight the event, organized by our own Women's Ministry Committee. Speaker, Nancy Cobb is a popular speaker at women's retreats and author. She led a Bible study of over 500 women for four



*Nancy Cobb will speak at the Women's Retreat Feb. 4-5*

years in Raleigh, North Carolina, and is the Leader of Women's Ministries at Christ Community Church in Omaha. Nancy will be speaking on "The Transformed Life" from Colossians 1-4. Registration is \$20. Forms are available at the table in the Lobby between services.

## High School Texas Trip . . . to Minnesota!

"Wait a sec," you might be saying to yourself, "Texas and Minnesota aren't the same place." Good job, geography genius! The Texas Trip has been a great Free Life Spring Break tradition for several years. But, this year, instead of going to Texas, we're going to Minneapolis. Why? Lots of reasons: Shopping at THE MALL OF AMERICA; exploring THE SCIENCE MUSEUM; getting close to nature at THE MINNEAPOLIS ZOO; cheering for THE MINNESOTA SWARM LACROSSE TEAM. That's right, Minneapolis has a lot to offer and we're going to check it out. The trip is scheduled for March 8 through 12 and the cost is \$125 (if you want to go, but funds are low, just let us know). On top of all the other stuff, we'll spend time worshiping God and digging into his Word. This promises to be a great trip. If you're in grade 9 through 12 and want to go, come into the church office and sign up by the end of February. If you have any questions, just call the church and ask for Micah.

## Young Married's Retreat

There is still time to register for the upcoming marriage retreat! The retreat is scheduled for Feb. 11-13, and the deadline for getting signed up is Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. The retreat will feature several sessions to help you and your spouse discover what it means to have a thriving marriage in a culture where it is difficult to just survive. Come enjoy a relaxing weekend connecting with your spouse and other couples who are recently married and build a marriage that thrives.

## Important Dates

**Rock Solid Family Night**  
January 26

**Red Cross Bloodmobile**  
January 28

**Women's Retreat**  
February 4-5

**Communion**  
February 20

**Pictorial Directory Updates**  
Feb. 20, 27 & Mar. 6

**Gary Oliver Marriage Seminar**  
May 6 - 8



Tom and Barb Garrison are the parents of four grown children. Barb is employed by the Olan Mills Company and Tom is self employed in the construction field.

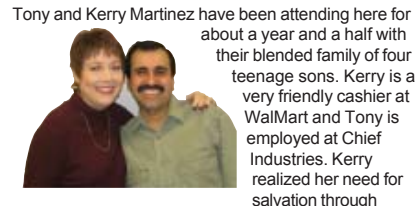
Both of them made initial commitments to Christ as Savior while young teens.

Over the years Barb was involved in Evangelical Free Churches in Loomis and Minden. Both experienced a stagnant period in their adult lives. Since then, Barb reconnected with Christ by rededicating her life to Jesus not long after she began attending here about six years ago. It has been within the last year that Tom also experienced a revitalized spiritual life and now attends church with Barb.



Larry and Wendy Graff have been making the drive from Farwell to church for nearly three years. They have both enjoyed serving in various capacities with the Singing Christmas Tree. On Sundays, Wendy is part of the Jericho Junction ministry team for children while working at Jacobs Ford

in St. Paul during the week. Larry is employed at Central Nebraska Community Services. Wendy began her life in Christ as a young adult, but admits to living a rebellious life for many years. In her own words, "God kept loving me back to Him over and over and over. I am now maturing in my relationship with God." Larry's story is somewhat similar in that he invited Christ into his heart at a men's retreat a number of years ago. He has experienced a remarkable change in his life in the past few years and is involved in a much closer walk with His Savior today.



Tony and Kerry Martinez have been attending here for about a year and a half with their blended family of four teenage sons. Kerry is a very friendly cashier at WalMart and Tony is employed at Chief Industries. Kerry realized her need for salvation through

Christ at a church camp as a child. She was a member of this church for a number of years in the past and is pleased to have returned to our congregation where she

especially enjoys serving the church through intercessory prayer. As a young boy, Tony recalls his mother speaking often of Jesus. However, Tony's didn't really come to faith in Jesus Christ until later in life through the witness of Kerry. He was baptized in August at the most recent outdoor baptism service.



Ron and Becky Senkble were married here last fall. Becky has attended here for eighteen years while Ron has been attending for the past eighteen months. They enjoy serving in the Greeters ministry and the Singing Christmas Tree Choir. Ron takes advantage of the growth opportunities offered in the Wednesday night Refresh class, while Becky benefits from the Women's Bible Studies. After coming to Christ early in her adult life, Becky experienced periods of distance from God. In 1993 she gave her will over to a strong walk with God and as she says, "He has walked me through some very dark times since." Although Ron grew up in a church home he did not come to know Christ as Savior until 2002 when he attended an event in which Ron Brown explained the Gospel. Ron responded by giving his life to Christ. He now describes himself as being passionate about learning the Word of God. Becky works at St. Francis Medical Center and Ron has been employed at CNH for many years.



Steve White is a familiar face in many of our homes as a reporter for NTV Channel 13. Six years ago Steve began attending here. He is a long time Free Life and Youth Sunday School volunteer. He has used his talents in the drama ministry, the Singing Christmas Tree, and the video ministry. Steve benefitted from the rich spiritual heritage

of his parents and as a result, came to follow Jesus at a young age. Thanks to the influence of many adults he flourished in his faith throughout high school and college. We gain insight into Steve's walk with God in the following statement, "By living in submission to the Lord, I am set free to have my passions, interests, and abilities put to work for kingdom purposes.

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These individuals have applied for church membership. They have been approved by the Board of Elders. They are now being presented to the church membership. Following a thirty day comment period, they will be welcomed as voting members of the congregation. Membership applications are available near the Information Window.