

## The saving of culture

By Reverend Michael D. Scott, M. Div.

(Pastor, First Congregational Church of Fruitport, 3212 Pontaluna Road)

In a recent reading of the book, *How the Irish Saved Civilization*, the author suggested that culture was not saved by the Romans, but the saints. The role of the saints has always been to be the light and life in a dark and dying world. Dr. Edwin Orr says the way this happens is through the united prayers of the saints. These prayers result in revivals that transform our cultures.

In the world we have seen six great awakenings or revivals since 1725. Every time a revival occurred, culture was transformed and a God consciousness pervaded the community. In the Great Awakening, God came down and transformed a culture. In 20 years, 150 churches were started and 30,000 people were converted.

In 1857, God put it in the heart of a businessman, Jeremiah Lanphier, to start a daily prayer meeting from noon to 1 p.m. daily. The first prayer meeting, six men showed up. Within a year, the *New York Times* reported 6,000 men were praying. The result is God came down in 1858 and over 50,000 people a month became Christians. The population of the United States at the time registered 30,000,000. The culture experienced a great transformation. And I don't think it any doubt that the end of slavery came on wings of revival.

In 1904 Wales, the churches were in despair. The youth had deserted the churches and the country lacked a God consciousness. The revival changed Wales, and statistics say over 100,000 people became Christians in six months. Also, the youth came back to the church. This revival launched the charismatic movement, which has transformed our world.

In 1949 the New Hebrides had a moment when God came down. Duncan Campbell says that this revival started in the humble home of two sisters, one 84 and the other 81 years old. The 84-year old sister began to pray for their church, which had no young people involved in its ministry. As she prayed, God showed her that the church would be filled with youth. She called her pastor and told him what she had been led to believe. The pastor, a godly man, relayed her message to the church elders, who began to pray very definitely for God to come down. The result was a revival, which literally brought people a God consciousness. This God awareness brought people to Christ and transformed a church and a community.

What is the point of all these stories? I would like to suggest that we need to come together as Christians and pray for a new move of God in our country and our churches. The Moravians started a Prayer Watch prior to the Great Awakening. The result is that God came down in great power. He found willing instruments in men like Theodore Freylinghuysen, John and Charles Wesley, George Whitefield, William Rowland and a host of others. Perhaps we could begin a prayer watch for our part of the world. We need God's help in our country and in our world.

If you are interested in being a part of this kind of prayer watch, please email me at mdadbk@mail.com. It is time for the saints to arise with faith in the power and mercy of God to save our world. •

## FAN want ads

**\$10 for the first 15 words**  
**20¢ each additional word**

Send your ad and payment to FAN  
420 N. Third • Fruitport, MI 49415  
(There is an additional charge of \$2 if we need to send you a bill.)

**FOR RENT:** Werschem Community Room at the Fruitport District Library for private family events. For more information, contact Rose Dillon at the Fruitport Township Hall, or call 865-3151.

**FURNACE REPAIR:** Expert furnace mechanic, semi-retired. I am familiar with all makes and models. Call any time. 24-hour service. Clip and save! Show this ad for discount. Call Dave at (231) 286-1193.

**FOR RENT:** Community Room at the Word of Hope Church's new Clothes Encounters building. Call (231) 865-3419.

**UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS BEEN DENIED?** Is an employer or the state fighting your unemployment benefits? For information and possible representation call (231) 773-8529.

**Fruitport Area News • December 2012 • Page 23**

## Rethinking kings and rulers of men

By Reverend Jessica Rivera-Walker

(Pastor, Edgewood Lutheran Church)

This past Sunday was the Festival of Christ the King. Christ the King is the celebration of the sovereignty of God, the ultimate King.

So it is only appropriate to ask: "What is a King?" Or, perhaps more importantly, what makes a king? Power? Of course, a king or ruler must have power over others and over property — a kingdom and subjects — for the very title is a title of power.

Wealth? Well, we would expect that. We would expect the king or ruler to have personal protection, the best technology, and the very appearance of power and strength.

This brings us to strength. A king would need to have the strength to defend the kingdom against enemies and to back up his claims to power.

We expect the king, a ruler, to be powerful and strong in the way that the world defines power and strength. We expect a king, a ruler, to be able to make change simply by a decree and the signing of a law. We have given them that power and we expect them to use it.

And yet the Gospel story we read on Sunday (John 18:33-37) presents a different kind of king — a king who is bruised, bloody, and humiliated — crowned with thorns instead of gold.

This is not a comfortable image of God.

Because, whether we admit it or not, we want a

conquering hero. When we are suffering, when we are in despair, when it seems that the bad win and the good suffer, we want God to stop it! We want God to heal our loved ones and punish the ones who wrong us. We want God to smite the enemy and lift up the hungry. We want a bigger-than-life God-King.

And yet the God we have does not stop the horrific things that happen in the world. God bears them in God's own being, and weeps with the broken hearted and despairing.

God does not punish the evil, or those we believe "deserve it," but rather God died for their sin, too, loves and bears their sin and ignorance just as God bears ours in Christ Jesus.

In Christ, God is revealed to be a King whose power does not reside in the ability to play with our lives and impose God's will on us; but instead, God is revealed to be a King who does not cause or desire suffering and who, instead, steps down into it, even into death, and destroys it.

For death, sorrow, despair and the devil do not fear human kings. All the strength and power that the world can provide cannot defeat them.

However, they tremble in fear, they fade and are destroyed in the presence of the broken King — crowned with thorns and robed with humility. To this King be the power and the glory; forever and ever, amen! •



**The former Beach School #1** on Black Creek Road has been torn down. This photo, taken by Jim Miller of Cloverville on November 12, 2012, shows what is left of the former school and boxing training center. Jim remembers being a student in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades (1955-1956) in the building.

## St. Lazare Retreat House holding day retreats

By Deb Hekman

Make this Advent one to remember with a Day Retreat at St. Lazare Retreat House in Spring Lake. Each day (December 11, 12 or 13) will feature a morning prayer, two talks by Fr. Frank Sacks and Fr. Vince O'Malley, and a closing devotional with seasonal carols.

The program begins at 9:15 a.m. and ends at 2:15 p.m. Lunch will be served. The cost is \$25 per person, and everyone is invited to join us for fellowship, a time for quiet prayer and revelation at the beautiful St. Lazare Retreat House, 18600 West Spring Lake Road.

Please register in advance by calling (616) 842-3370, extension 1 or by email at [secretaryst@att.net](mailto:secretaryst@att.net). Here is your chance to "Come apart and rest while." Mark 6:31.

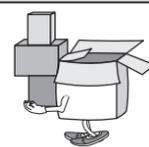
## 8th Annual Fruitport Old Fashioned Christmas

Friday, December 14th – 6:00pm to 8:00pm  
Saturday, December 15th – 3:00pm to 7:00pm

Fruitport Pomona Park  
(Third & Park)



**FREE!!!**



**Cardboard Sled Contest**



- View Lighted Christmas Trees on Display
  - Sliding on Hill (dress warm)
- Cardboard Sled Contest - Ages 5-12 (Judging 4:00 Saturday)
- Hot Chocolate & Coffee
- Cookies



**FREE!!!**

## SANTA CLAUS

will be in attendance both nights.

Friday - 6:30pm to 8:00pm  
Saturday - 5:00pm to 7:00pm



Christmas Carols sung by  
Fruitport School's Choirs – 4:00pm Saturday



Sponsored in part by the Fruitport Lions Club.