

New Life

BY PASTOR RANDY TRAMP
Assembly of God

They waited nine months and the day finally came. The family, in anticipation, would see new life appear. She would change everyone around her.



REFLECTIONS

Her parents welcomed her with tears, celebration and a new name. Her little life was in clear focus to all around her. She had their full attention and all was directed towards her. Life changed for them. They welcomed her into their home for the first time. A room was prepared. When they walked into their house with their new infant all felt brand new. Everything was bright. Newness was written all over their faces.

Genesis 2:7-8 The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

As I read the Genesis account I thought of an infant being born. I thought of how I felt when our children came into our home for the first time. Those were wonderful days that still produce strong emotions in me.

How did God feel after He created Adam? What went through the Heavenly Father's heart as Adam breathed his first breath on his own? I plan on spending a lot of time in heaven asking Him about this. I will listen to Him speak His heart on being a new parent. At this time we can only catch a small glimpse of His thoughts and I think it's in the birth of a new born. If you're a parent then you know what I'm speaking of. When you look into their eyes for the first time it's like looking into the awesomeness of creation. You know the explosion of emotions that erupted from your heart as you held your little one. You would do anything for the one that is now apart of you.

I do know that Father God's love is strong. He would do the ultimate to be with His new creation - Jesus and the cross. We can't fathom the depths of that love or the pain of new life. But I challenge you to try.

Country Church Observes Milestone

CLAYTON — Sunday, Aug. 14, St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Clayton will be observing their 125th anniversary. Worship service will begin at 10 a.m. Pastor Kenneth Soyk of Parkston is serving Clayton. Other speakers will be the S.D. District President Rev. Dale Saftgast, former pastor Rev. Dennis Angland, Rev. Terrell Huber, Rev. Anthony Ahrendt and Rev. Terry Borchardt. Special music is being planned. There will be a catered noon meal.

Traveling missionaries and preaching stations began serving the needs of southeastern South Dakota in the late 1800's. There were times when services were held only once in four to six weeks as an area of eight counties was served. Services were held in homes at times. Clayton, one of the missions, became a preaching station in 1881. St. Peter's was organized under a constitution in June 1886. In 1887 Candidate Martin Waechter was ordained and installed as pastor and missionary at Flensburg, SD (Plainview). From there he served five congregations and one preaching station. St. Peter's of Clayton was one of those congregations. In 1891 the

Alexandria congregation, located in Taylor Township of Hanson County installed a pastor who also served Clayton.

In 1898 St. Peter's congregation accepted an acre of land as a gift from John and Anna Langle. They purchased an additional acre in the same section for the sum of \$15.00

This site is in seebon 26 of Clayton Township, Hutchinson County. The congregation built a church in 1899. A school was built in 1902. A parsonage was built in 1908.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church joined the membership of the Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States in 1915. At a special voters meeting on May 4, 1924 it was decided to have a parochial school. The parochial school was in session until 1931.

A new brick church was completed and the dedication was held June 19, 1949. The former church was moved to Clayton where it still serves as the Clayton Community Hall.

An interesting change came about with the new

church building. There was a new seating arrangement for the congregation. The tradition of men on the right side of the aisle, women on the left, children in the front pews and already confirmed young people in the balcony came to an end. Families began being seated together for worship services.

A new parsonage was built in 1963. A dual parish agreement with St. John's Lutheran Church, Emery was implemented in 1982. In 1989 stained glass inserts were added to the windows in the church auditorium and entries. An elevator and handicap entrance to the church was completed in 2001. Air conditioning was installed in 2011.

Pastor John Wemer retired from the ministry in 2010. The dual parish agreement between St. Peter's and St. John's Lutheran congregations was dissolved in 2010 also.

St. Peter's is being served by Rev. Kenneth Soyk, pastor of Faith Lutheran in Parkston.

Nun Recounts Saving Congolese Couple From Deportation

BY GEORGIA PABST

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (©2011 MCT)

MILWAUKEE — Four years ago Regina and David Bakala, who had suffered torture in their native Congo and faced years of uncertainty in the United States, stood before an immigration judge in Chicago and heard the words they had waited so long to hear.

"I'm pleased to grant your joint application for asylum and hope you will have a long and happy life in the U.S.," Immigration Judge O. John Brahos said.

The words brought tears of joy to everyone in the courtroom.

Standing close to them in court was Sister Josephe Marie Flynn of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, a white-haired woman who rallied parishioners at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Hales Corners, Wis., and others for the "Save Regina" media campaign that helped raise more than \$50,000 for legal and other services.

Flynn, who had met the couple in 2000, became their chief advocate during their most difficult days after the evening of March 22, 2005, when Regina was suddenly snatched from her home by immigration officers and jailed. The mother of two small children, Regina, and later David faced deportation and possible death if they returned to Congo.

Now Flynn has written a book that tells the story of the Bakalas and their harrowing lives in the Congo as outspoken democratic political activists that led to torture and their escape from the country. It tells of the trials they encountered in this country with its often harsh and unpredictable immigration system, botched legal efforts and the fierce, unwavering battle Flynn and others waged that allowed the couple to beat the odds and win asylum.

"Rescuing Regina: The Battle to Save a Friend from Deportation and Death," (Lawrence Hill Books \$26.95) was published earlier this month. It's also a story of



Sister Josephe Marie Flynn, left, helped rescue Regina Bakala, center left, and her husband, David, who had been tortured in their native Congo and now live in Milwaukee, Wisconsin with their children, Christopher, 10, center right, and Lydia, 11.

the faith and prayers that guided the efforts.

The forward of the book is written by Sister Helen Prejean, the well-known advocate against the death penalty and author of "Dead Man Walking." She describes it as "a powerful book . . . that will warm your heart and outrage you."

After the asylum was granted and the celebrations died down, the Bakalas resumed the lives they had been living. They remain in the small, yellow house on the city's south side that they bought years ago. Regina, 48, still works in the development department at the Sacred Heart Fathers offices and David, 58, still works as a maintenance man at Sacred Heart Fathers.

Their children, both born in the U.S., attend St. Mary's Catholic School. Lydia, now 11, enjoys volleyball and art. She wants to be either an artist or fashion designer. Christopher, 10, likes basketball and soccer and wants to be a basketball player. Both were in the house when their

mother was taken by immigration officers. Christopher will say only that he remembers "when my mom got out of jail."

Lydia said she doesn't like to talk about it because "I get too emotional."

Unlike many in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Regina and David are both college-educated. Regina had been the principal of a school in Congo, David the financial manager at Kinshasa's five-star Hotel Intercontinental.

Regina said she would like to get more education, improve her English and maybe go back into teaching.

"I know that will take time, so I think maybe I will go into computers because that might be a better way for me to go," she said.

David, who was an accountant in Congo, would like to take accounting classes and maybe one day return to his profession.

But balancing work, classes and family schedules, along with the costs involved

makes it tough, they said.

While David suffered nightmares from the torture he received in the Congo for years, he said they have stopped.

"I'm legal, but when I sit down and watch TV and I see a show with someone in jail, it all comes back," Regina said. "I don't like to watch people in jail."

In the last year, Regina has taken up walking every day and smiles when she says she's lost 50 pounds.

David is an avowed news junkie who reads and watches TV, including French cable TV to keep up on the news from Congo. On the living room coffee table there's a stack of five books on the Congo that he's now reading.

"I love my country," Regina said. "It's a beautiful country that has a lot of riches, but it makes me sick to see the way things are now."

"We worked hard and nothing has changed there," David said. "But we are safe and so many are not safe."

Regina's family no longer lives in Congo, but David's 86-year-old mother and a younger brother remain.

Regina said she started to read the book, but stopped. "I'm going to read it, but it's not easy. It makes me cry."

Flynn, the founder and chair of the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Justice for Immigrants Campaign, dedicated the book "to asylum seekers and refugees, arguably the most needy and courageous of all the world's immigrants."

Regina said she and David remain thankful and grateful "to God and the Wisconsin people who supported us."

And she hopes her story and the book will help others.

"People will see what I went through and the way the immigration system treats people, and I think it will change. I hope. How many Reginas are still in jail and need help? Maybe we can save others."

CHURCH SCHEDULES

Abundant Life	Baptist	Catholic	Christian	Lutheran	Non-Denominational	United Methodist
ABUNDANT LIFE MINISTRIES , 517 Burleigh, Lawrence and Barbara Hladky, pastors, 665-0889. SAT 7pm Praise and worship celebration, SUN. 10am Worship. WED. 7pm Worship. Teens prayer daily 10am.	CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH , 2407 Broadway, Yankton. (605)665-5594. Rev. Jon Cooke, Pastor Jeremy Nelson, and Laura Kotalik. www.cbchurch.com SAT-URDAY August 13 8:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast SUNDAY August 14 8:30 AM Intercessory Prayer Time 9:00 AM Adult ENCORE Community 9:00 AM & 10:45 AM Worship Service Message: "Genuine Repentance" 10:45 AM Sunday School for all ages MONDAY August 15 9:00 AM Ladies SHOP (prayer time) 7:30 PM Service broadcast on Channels 3 & 98 TUESDAY August 16 2:00 PM HSC Service 7:00 PM Dorcas' Hands Work Day WEDNESDAY August 17 6:45 AM Men's Prayer Time 6:00 PM Intercessory Prayer 6:15 PM TORCH Praise & Worship 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study THURSDAY August 18 7:00 PM Baby Shower (Rebecca Corlew & Baby Naomi) 7:00 PM Celebrate Recovery.	ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH , Bloomfield, NE. Fr. Michael Schmitz SUN. Mass: 10:30am; TUE. Mass: 8am; THUR. Mass: 7pm. Confessions: THUR. 6:30-6:55pm. ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC CHURCH , 1500 St. Benedict Drive, Yankton, Father Ken Luff, 664-6214 (church), Masses: SAT. 5pm. SUN. 8:30am & 10:30am. ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC CHURCH , Menominee, Neb., Rev. David Fulton, pastor. SUN. 8:30am Mass. ST. BONIFACE CHURCH , rural Freeman. Mass on Sundays at 9am. or call Rev. Matthew Vazhappily. (605)583-4318. ST. COLUMBA CHURCH , rural Irene. Mass on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. or call Rev. Matthew Vazhappily. (605)583-4318. ST. GEORGE CHURCH , Scotland, SD. Rev. Matthew Vazhappily. Saturdays at 7pm or call (605)583-4318. ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC , Fordyce, Neb. Rev. David Fulton. SUN. 10:30am Mass. ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC , Lesterville. SUN. 10:30am Mass. ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH , Constance, Neb., Fr. David Fulton, pastor. SAT. Mass: 7:30pm. ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC , Wakonda, Rev. Scott Trayner, 624-2697. SUN. 8:30am Mass. ST. ROSE OF LIMA , Crofton, Neb. Fr. Michael Schmitz. SAT. Mass: 8:00am & 5:30pm. SUN. Mass: 8:30am. WED/FRI Masses: 8:15am. Confessions: WED. 11am-11:30am, SAT. 5-5:20pm. ST. WENCESLAUS , Tabor, (605)463-2336. Rev. Joseph Puthenkulathil, SAT. 7pm Mass. SUN. 8:30am Mass.	KINGSWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH , 19th & Burleigh, 665-6317. Joseph Mason, Pastor. 9am-SS; Worship 10:15am. Wed.-6pm-Kids games; 7pm Kids for Christ & Adult Bible Study. Church of Christ CHURCH OF CHRIST , 1114 West 12th, Yankton, 665-6379. SUN. 9:30am Bible study; classes for all ages. 10:30am Worship. Church of Jesus Christ CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS , 2300 Douglas, Yankton. Randy Campbell, (605)565-2016. Family History Ctr 665-0901. SUN. 10am Sacrament meeting. Episcopal CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH , 517 Douglas, Yankton. Rev. James Pearson, (605)665-2456. Sundays 8:30 Serenity 9:30 Holy Eucharist. Evangelical Cornerstone Evangelical Church , Pastor Oliver Omanson, Stewart Elementary School; Morning Service 10:30 a.m. Wednesday College Bible Study 1306 Maple Street. Mike Stevens 665-8750. EMMANUEL CHURCH YHS Theater, 1801 Summit, Worship Service 10:00 am www.emmanuelyankton.com (605)665-0404.	HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH , AFLC 200 South Wilson, Delmont. (605)935-6941. SUN 9am Worship. firsthope@santel.net Martinus Lutheran Church , Ulica. Pastor Dean Schroeder Sunday Divine Service 8am (605)589-3195 www.MartinusLutheran.org OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN , rural Irene. 263-3724. SUN. 9am Worship. OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN , LCMC/NALC, Menno. Interim Pastor Leon Schulz. SUN. Worship, 8:30am with potluck brunch to follow. Questions call (605)387-5256 OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN , LCMs, 12th and Elm, Springfield, Rev. Kenneth Johnson, pastor. SUN. 8am Worship. 9am SS. THUR. 7pm Adult Bible study. PRINCE OF PEACE , Wisconsin Synod, 201 East 25th St., Pastor Werre, 665-4793. Sat. 6pm Worship. South Dakota Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, MAIN STREET LIVING television program, 10a.m. (CST) on KDLT-NBC; and 11a.m. (CST) on KAUN-PAX; and 10a.m. (MST) on KKRA-PAX. St. John Lutheran Church , Tyndall. Pastor Dean Schroeder. Sunday Divine Service: 10:00am (605)589-3195. www.StJohnsTyndallLCMS.org	FAITH ALIVE , 501 Cedar St., Yankton. 665-4797. Contemporary Worship & Family Values. SUN: 10am service. WED. 7pm Care-Cells "Small Groups For Building Relationships" Various Locations. GLORY CHRISTIAN CENTER , 901 E 11th St. Yankton. Gail Ryken, pastor, 665-2369. SUN. 10am Service. WED. 6pm Prayer. GC School, call (605)665-1988. Presbyterian PEACE PRESBYTERIAN (PC/USA), 206 E. 31st. 665-0448. Rev. Dr. Nelson Stone & Rev. Marilyn Stone. SUN-10am worship. Coffee to follow. SS for kids 10:30am. Aired at 8pm Fri. on Ch. 3 & 98. Reformed RIVERVIEW REFORMED , 17th St. & Burleigh, Rev. Rodney Veldhuizen, pastor. 665-9204. SUN. 9:30am Worship, 10:15am SS. WED. Youth group & adult choir. Seventh-Day SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST , 722 Locust St., Yankton, 665-1032, SAT. 9:30am Sabbath School, 11am Worship. 665-4496, 665-4881. Pastor George Shaver Home phone (605)369-5496. United Church CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST , Newcastle, Neb., 303 Highway 12, Rev. Gary Kimm, pastor. SAT. 6PM Church school, 7PM Worship. Second THUR. 2PM Ladies Aid. FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST , 301 W. Franklin, Hartington, NE, (402) 254-6563 or 664-5310, Rev. Gary Kimm, pastor. SUN. 8:15am Church school, 9am Worship. PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL UCC , 103 S. Elm St., Coleridge, Neb., (402) 283-4824 or 664-5310, Rev. Gary Kimm, pastor. SUN. 9:30am Church School, 10:30am Worship. UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST , (Congregational) 210 West 5th St., Yankton. (605)665-7320 Rev. Joe Schulte, Pastor. SUN.-10am Worship, 11am-Fellowship, 11:05am Church Schl. Nursery Provided. UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST , Crofton, Neb., 412 W. Main St., (402)388-4124, Pastor Les Parmenter. SUN. 10:00am Worship.	FIRST UNITED METHODIST , Yankton. Rev. Ron Johnson Pastor. 665-2991. Sunday, Contemporary Worship 9:00; Trad. 10:30. Childcare 8:45-11:45. 8:30 AM Hour, KYNT. GAYVILLE-VOLIN UNITED METH-ODIST , Brook McBride, pastor. 624-2179. 9am Worship Service. 10:00am Sunday School. VERMILLION FIRST UNITED METHODIST , 16 N. Dakota, 624-2179. SUN. 10:30am Worship service. WAKONDA, IRENE, VIBORG, UNITED METHODIST , Pastor Mark Gronseth. SUN. 8:30am Worship at Wakonda; 9:45am Worship at Irene; 11am Worship at Viborg. KYNT 1450 AM Radio KYNT 1450 AM Radio SAT . 10:30am "Saturday Morning Live." SUN. 8:30am United Methodist Hour. 9:05am "God's Good News." 9:30am St. John's Lutheran Church WNAX 570 AM Radio WNAX 570 AM Radio . Lutheran Shows-6:30am, 8am, 11am. Wings of Healing-7:30am. Words of Hope 8:30am. Prov. Ref. Church-8:45am. Voice of Prop.-9:30am. Hr. of Hope 10am.ChristianCruaders-10:30am. MIX 106 FM Radio CLASSIC HITS 106 KVHT FM Radio SUN.-THUR. 10:05PM "Family Radio Rosary" with Bishop Robert Carlson. ESPN Radio 1570 ESPN RADIO 1570 SUN. 10:30AM Trinity Lutheran Church, Vermillion, worship. Knology KNOLGY. MON. 6:30pm St. John's Lutheran; 7:30pm Calvary Baptist. TUE. 6:30pm Trinity Lutheran. WED. 6:30pm Antioch Baptist; 7:30pm Grace Bible. THUR. 8pm Assembly of God. FRI. 7pm United Church of Christ; 8pm Peace Presbyterian.

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