



# NEW LIFE NEWS

The official newsletter for New Life Presbyterian Church • October 2012

## MISSIONS IN URUGUAY

By Ben Erickson

**A**n-ni and I moved to San Diego two years ago with the intent of eventually serving God abroad. Both of us have felt a strong call to foreign missions for quite some time. Now that I am half-way through my M.Div. program at Westminster Seminary California, I have recently given serious consideration to where God would use me after graduation. The country that he has brought to our focus is Uruguay. Uruguay is the second smallest nation in South America, located on its east coast. Brazil is to its north and Argentina to its west. There are 3.3 million people in Uruguay, nearly half of them in the greater Montevideo area (the capital). Uruguay won its independence from the Empire of Brazil in 1825 and is a democratic constitutional republic.

We are excited to be leaving for our first trip to Uruguay on November 15th to return after the New Year. We both have a solid foundation in Spanish, and while we are practicing before we go, I know experience will be the best teacher. There is no PCA/MTW presence yet in Uruguay, but we have met with and corresponded with the OPC missionaries that are there: Steve Larsen and Mark Richline. There is also

a missionary in Montevideo from the Presbyterian Church of Brazil: Mauricio Rolím. Excepting a small and extremely liberal Waldensian church, there is no

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other Presbyterian or reformed presence in Uruguay. Sadly, there is precious little Bible preaching going on in the country at all.

By all accounts, Uruguay is the most secular nation in the Americas. Although 45.7% of the population is Roman Catholic in name, less than half of them attend mass. Another 30% believe in God, but have no religious affiliation. Add to that the 14% atheists and agnostics, at least 2/3 of the total population is non-religious. Uruguay was the only country in the Americas to not experience a recession between 2007 and 2009, yet it has a severe famine in the land—not a famine of bread, but of

hearing the words of the Lord. But as Jonathan said, “It may be that the Lord will work for us, for nothing can hinder the Lord from saving by many or by few” (1 Sam. 14:6). We believe in the power of the Holy Spirit working through his Word to gather his elect from the four corners of the earth. We believe that Uruguay is where God may be calling us to minister, a place where we could live for many years without despairing of the comforts of home. But you can only learn so much from the internet and the accounts of others.

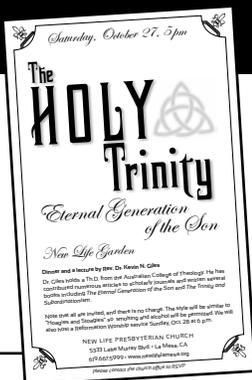
That’s why we’re going there in November to be immersed in the Uruguayan culture and Spanish language, to observe first-hand and participate in the missionary works already in place, to help confirm God’s calling to this country, to form relationships with those people we would eventually be serving and serving with, and to begin to imagine and plan different ways God might use us there after graduation.

We would appreciate your support through your prayers and your giving, and look forward in great anticipation to what God will do! ☛

## REFORMATION DINNER AND LECTURE

Submitted by C.P.

Join us for this special Reformation dinner and lecture, Saturday, October 27th at 5p.m. in the New Life garden area. The subject this year is “The Holy Trinity, The Eternal Generation of the Son,” and we are excited to have Rev. Dr. Kevin N. Giles as our keynote speaker. Dr. Giles holds a Th.D. from the Australian College of Theology. He has contributed numerous articles to scholarly journals and has written several books including *The Eternal Generation of the Son* and *The Trinity and Subordinationism*. Note that all are invited, and there is no charge. The style will be similar to “Hoagies and Stoagies” so smoking and alcohol will be permitted. We will also host a Reformation worship service Sunday, Oct. 28 at 6 p.m. ☛



*Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us. —Martin Luther*

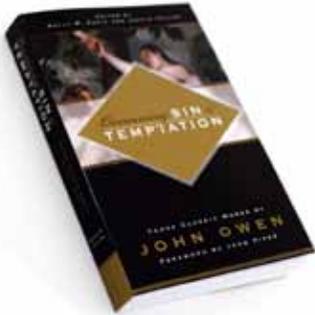
## NEW ARRIVALS!

by Deborah Creedon

### Books...

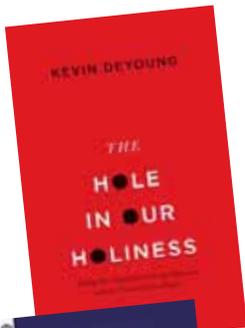
*Overcoming Sin & Temptation*

*Three Classic Works* by John Owen, Edited by Kelly M. Kapic and Justin Taylor



*The Hole on Our Holiness*

*Filling the Gap between Gospel in Passion and the Pursuit of Godliness* by Kevin DeYoung



*Letters from the Front*

*J. Gresham Machen's Correspondence from World War I* Transcribed and edited by Barry Waugh

*Last Things First*

*Unlocking Genesis 1-3 with the Christ of Eschatology* by J.V. Fesko

*When Helping Hurts*

*Alleviating Poverty without Hurting the Poor* by Brian Fikkert



*A Long Line of Godly Men Profile:*

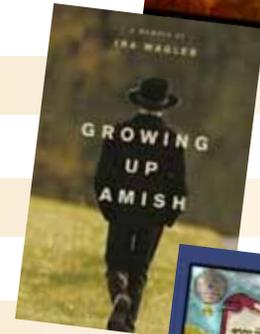
*The Gospel Focus of Charles Spurgeon*

*The Unwavering Resolve of Jonathan Edwards*

*The Expository Genius of John Calvin* by Steven J. Lawson

### Audio books...

*Growing Up Amish* by Ira Wagler



### Youth books...

*The Peleg Chronicles* by Matthew Christian Harding

### Children's books...

*All Things Bright and Beautiful* by Cecil Frances Alexander



*God's Names* by Sally Michael

*The Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd Jones

### DVDs...

*Dispatches from the Front:*

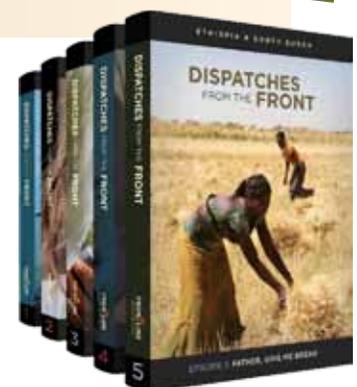
*Islands on the Edge (Southeast Asia)*

*A Bold Advance (Albania, Kosovo & Montenegro)*

*I Once Was Blind (West Africa)*

*Souls of the Brave (India)*

*Father, Give Me Bread (Ehtiopia & South Sudan)*



*Have a book request? Please see Deborah Creedon in the church library. She is knowledgeable, helpful and rarely bites!*

# TRUE DRINK: VAMPIRISM AND THE BIBLICAL VIEW OF BLOOD

By Lisa Mamma

Vampire mythology is currently enjoying resurgence in popular culture. One can scarcely enter a bookstore or drive down the freeway without seeing a reference to the “Twilight” novels and movies or the HBO TV series “True Blood”.

*Simply because God means what he says, life is in the blood.*

Why are we so fascinated by the idea of dead people extending and renewing their lives by feeding on the blood of others? As is often the case, fallen culture seizes upon a truth and distorts it. Unbelievers understand intuitively the biblical truth that we are all going to die, that we are in desperate need of something to save us, and that life is indeed in the blood. But having come loose from its biblical moorings, all manner of distortions on this theme have arisen.

Vampire myths are nothing new, and examples have been dated back to pre-Abrahamic times. One can trace the origins of these legends to the actual cultic practice of drinking blood in an attempt to subsume a human or animal’s life-force. In Genesis 9:4, God commands Noah and his family to “not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood,” seemingly to set Noah apart from a ritualistic practice of antediluvian pagan ceremonies. This prohibition is repeated in Leviticus 17. For millennia, various world religions have understood, dimly and with darkened minds, that blood carries in it more than mere biological significance.

The prohibition against consuming blood set the covenant people apart from the pagan nations surrounding them. Understanding this, we can more clearly see the offence Jesus gives to his Jewish listeners when he turns this commandment upside-down, stating, “unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.” Why would Jesus command such a

thing? Simply because God means what he says, life is in the blood.

The eternal life pagans have violently attempted to harness through the blood of mortals that which can only be found in the freely given blood of the Divine Christ. Now the covenant people are no longer forbidden to drink, but invited to drink deeply by the Lord Himself in His cry, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink” (John 7:37).

In their sinfulness, men have sought to obtain life apart from the Giver of Life. Though current pop-culture may not advocate the literal drinking of blood as did the cultures surrounding ancient Israel, the deep resonance of the vampire myth today showcases a truth that is written on all of our hearts; we need something to save us from this body of death. And only in the blood of Jesus can we find the life the Lord desires us to have. *Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink* (John 6:54-55). ☩

## SCOTT & VICKI McDERMAND

By Scott McDermand

Vicki and I met at Valhalla High School in 2001 and started dating shortly thereafter. We were both raised in nominal Roman Catholic families. Although we have loving families, we were never exposed to the gospel. By God’s grace we were converted in our early twenties and began attending an evangelical church. After some months there, we left in search of a non-dispensational, non-revivalist, non-altar-call church. We were introduced to New Life and found what we had been looking for – reformed theology. We started attending in 2010 and have been members for almost two years.

We currently live in Jamul, where

I grew up. Vicki works at a doctor’s office in Eastlake as a medical assistant, and I work in a restaurant as a server. We enjoy watching movies, eating and hiking. I like playing and watching sports, in particular football and baseball.

I went to San Diego State (B.A. History) and am currently attending Westminster Seminary (M.Div. and M.A.H.T.) My goal is to become a minister and a professor of history. My favorite areas of study are ancient church history and the history of catechesis. We teach the junior high



Sunday school class and have been impressed with the maturity level of children raised in this church.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to be an intern at New Life. I have already had conversations with many of the members here, and we look forward to meeting and talking with the rest of you. ☩

NEW INTERN

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. —1 Peter 1:22

## SON OF TEARS, A NOVEL OF THE LIFE OF SAINT AUGUSTINE

by Rev. Henry Coray • Reviewed by Mary Peterman

*Son of Tears* is a captivating, fast-paced novel on the life and conversion of St. Augustine in the Third Century, A.D. Augustine was born November 13, 354 in Tagaste, Numidia. The author recounts Augustine's restless youth and his conversion, and follows him from a debauched student life in Carthage to impassioned devotion as Bishop of Hippo, Algeria. It is the story of perhaps the most significant figure in all of Christianity since St. Paul, esteemed by Catholics and Protestants alike, and describes one of the greatest minds and theologians ever to live.

Though his mother, Monica, was a devout Christian, Augustine was not baptized in infancy. Coray describes Augustine's relationship with his mother who prayed "with tears" for the conversion of her husband and three children. Augustine had a natural restlessness and a wild streak, a man of dissolute habits which prevented him from settling down to a conventional life of marrying well and pursuing a privileged life style. The drama ignites when he escapes from his mother's influence to a student's life in Carthage at 19 years of age. He reads a treatise of Cicero and other pagan Latin philosophers that directs him to an interest in philosophy, and he becomes a follower of the Manichaeans, a materialistic dualism founded by Mani, a prophet of Persia 216-276 A.D. This philosophy contained elements of Christianity, Zoroastrianism and Buddhism. Interesting details emerge as his quest to follow pagan thought doesn't quite work out, and he becomes disillusioned with Manichaeism. Meanwhile, Monica has been spending her days in prayer, continuing her effort to see her husband and children embrace Christianity.

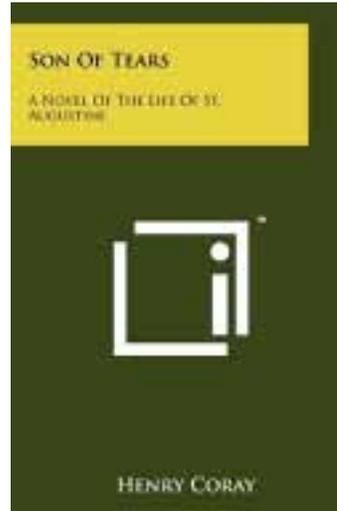
At the age of 28 things began to change when he went to Rome

and came under the influence of St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan. Ultimately, after 17 years of resistance, he converted to Christianity and was baptized by Ambrose in 387. He returned to Africa and was ordained a priest, becoming Bishop of Hippo in 396. He served as a pastor, teacher, preacher and civil judge. He died in Hippo at the age of 76, August 28, 430 A.D. Augustine wrote extensively, especially in controversy with heretical groups, and he wrote commentaries of the Scriptures. His masterpiece, *City of God*, espoused a religious philosophy of predestination.

Reformed theologians of this day consider Augustine to be one of the theological fathers of the Reformation due to his teaching on Divine Grace and Salvation. His writings have impacted many modern day reformed theologians, such as John Piper, who quotes from Augustine's *Confessions IX, 1*:

*How sweet it was for me to be rid of those fruitless joys which I had once feared to lose... You drove them from me and took their place, you who are sweeter than all pleasure, though not of flesh and body, you who outshine all light, yet are hidden deeper than any secret of our hearts, you who surpass all honor, though not in the eyes of men who see all honor in themselves... O Lord, my God, my Light, my Wealth, and my Salvation.*

*Son of Tears* recounts how Augustine changed from being a drunken philanderer to a giant of the faith and one of the most influential Christians of all time. The title is succinct, but has a powerful



application. What Christian parent has not prayed with "tears," praying their loved ones toward faith? Monica was to see her husband and all of her children embrace Christianity. Augustine is frequently remembered only as a "saint." *Son of Tears* helps to place him in perspective, a citizen also of this earth, where once he was a

mother's son.

About the author: After graduation from Princeton and Westminster Theological Seminary, Rev. Coray served in a Presbyterian church in Pennsylvania. He then became a missionary to Manchuria, and in 1940 worked as a home missionary and pastor in an orthodox Presbyterian church in Sunnyvale, CA. He is the author of a number of other Christian books and novels. ☛

### THANK YOU!

by Court, Tiffany, Emily and Miles Patton

If I and I want to thank everyone for the overwhelming love and support we received last week while Miles was in ICU. We are humbled by the love we were shown. While the situation itself was frightening, we had such peace, both from our Lord, who is an everpresent help in time of trouble and from his body, who fulfilled the biblical command to love one another deeply. We saw firsthand how, even in the midst of trial, we could have abundant life. Blessings to you all. And for those who know the history of Miles and his "Lightning Rod Head", you know to pray without ceasing! ☛