

# The Smith Soundings Quarterly Update June 2011

*Andy & Elizabeth Smith, Missionary Builders with Continental Baptist Missions*

## First Church Building Project: Calvary Baptist Church, Sauk City, Wisconsin

On April 28th we moved to Sauk City, WI to begin our first church building project with Calvary Baptist Church. We joined in the work with a team of six other missionary builders and Nehemiah builders (builders who do not raise financial support.) The church held their Groundbreaking Ceremony on Sunday, May 1st, and the project has been moving at what seems like lightning speed since then! The building is enclosed, the roof is on, soffit and fascia are up, and this week they have a youth group team from Grand Rapids, MI working on putting brick and siding on the exterior. There has also been great progress on the framing and electric work inside the building. With this being our first project, I am just amazed as I see what a team of builders can do with God's blessing and helpful volunteers. We



**Calvary Baptist Church, Sauk City, WI: Current completion stage as of June 20th. This new addition stands next to the church's current meeting place: a Morton-style building (to the right side of the picture).**

praise God for the ways He has blessed the work on this new building.

The builders have kept great testimonies to the church and to the community around them. They daily have opportunities to shine for the Lord. A new building in a small town has a way of attracting attention and we are seeing how true that is!

It seems everyone knows about the new church being built—from the librarian to the postal worker to the nurse at Asher's 6 month check up! Even our neighbor at the campground likes to hear Andy talk about the progress. It is a joy to share with people what we are doing and we pray they also understand why we do it too!

## Special Preparation for Andy:

It has been a special desire of Andy's to learn more about setting up the electrical needs in the church buildings. God has blessed this desire by placing him with two master electricians within the last year. While in Michigan, Andy worked with missionary Bernie Schermer and now he is work-

ing with missionary Charlie Gartin. Andy and Charlie have begun their work together this month. Praise God, last week's electrical inspection was passed. Charlie has been a very knowledgeable and patient tutor/mentor. Andy values this experience God is giving him!



**Andy with Charlie Gartin; looking over the electrical blueprints.**

### *In This Issue:*

- Building progresses at Calvary Baptist Church!
- Andy gets more electrician training!
- Judah and Asher enroll in summer reading program!
- Pastor Lindsey testifies about how the new building will bless their community!
- Gearing up for annual CBM Family Conference!
- My twin sister had her baby girl!
- Updated prayer requests!



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## Day-to-Day with the boys:

God has helped me establish a new normal routine with the boys since our move to Wisconsin. Each morning we take our walk to and from the build site, and we always include a walk down by the Wisconsin River. It is a nice morning routine. We pass the library each day and sometimes stop to get books for Judah and myself. I was encouraged to enter Judah and Asher in the summer reading program. Since we already read so many books at home, I figured, why not? Judah has turned in enough book titles to earn him a few prizes. Amongst the prizes was a pair of zebra-print sunglasses (pictured at right).

Judah continues to be outgoing in personality and happiest when in a crowd of people. There's no worry about baby Asher overshadowing big brother when that big brother is Judah!

Asher will turn 7 months this week and is teething again with his two front teeth coming in. I have complete strangers tell me he favors me, and we agree that he seems to resemble the 'Brant' side of the family. Asher brings so much joy to our home and always offers a smile. He sleeps wonderfully through the night and loves his peas and sweet potatoes. We are blessed by our boys.



Judah in his zebra-print sunglasses; one of his prizes for the summer reading program at our library in Sauk City.

## An Interview with Pastor Dan Lindsey:

In order to help you understand a little bit more about what we are doing here in Sauk City, WI, we interviewed the senior pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Pastor Dan Lindsey. We wanted to highlight his perspective on the building project:

**A&E:** "How would you describe what is being done with this building project?"

**PL:** "The physical purpose of our building program is to build a new auditorium for our growing congregation. Our old church building was demolished in 2010 because it no longer met our needs. It was too small, musty and falling apart. Access to the small auditorium was upstairs, and the classrooms and restrooms were down another set of stairs."

**A&E:** "What needs of the church are being met by this building project?"

**PL:** "The new building will give us some room to grow, and place everything, such as restrooms, on ground floor. Previously we found ourselves trying to carry people in wheelchairs up and down stairs—and some just wouldn't come. Now the building will be more welcoming and accessible to everyone."

**A&E:** "What does Calvary Baptist Church hope to accomplish by doing this building project?"

**PL:** "Our older building was a poor testimony to our community—but this new building will improve our testimony. It will be much more excellent for the Lord, Who deserves our best."

**A&E:** "How will this building project help Calvary Baptist Church further the gospel of Christ in their community?"

**PL:** "We hope through this building program to have a facility which can help us more effectively minister to our area. Here God will be worshipped, and His Word taught and preached. We will use the facility to help His people grow as His disciples. Also, we hope even the unsaved will come just to see what is happening — and that in this building many will come to know the Lord Jesus as their Savior."

Andy and I can testify that Pastor Lindsey and his family, as well as the people we have gotten to know at CBC, have a heart for people! It might be assumed that any church that is in the midst of a building project has a heart for their community, but that is not always the case. The leadership

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*—Pastor Dan Lindsey, Calvary Baptist Church, Sauk City, Wisconsin.*

and people of this church have been a great testimony of God's work in the hearts of His saints as they yield to His will. Most of all, we have been blessed over and over again by the preaching we have heard while at CBC. That is truly encouraging to us as we help this church to achieve their goals.



## Coming up next month: A trip to Iowa.

Please pray for our family next month as we travel to Ankeny, IA for our annual CBM Family Conference. We will be traveling to Iowa on July 18th and back to Wisconsin on the 25th. Pray especially for Andy on Friday morning (the 22nd) as he preaches. The theme for the conference is "Encouraging One Another" and will feature several missionaries with CBM as the speakers. Andy has the last time slot; on Friday morning. He has been working for a long time on this sermon and God has blessed him to be able to see his work entering the completion stage. Pray for Andy as he speaks, that God will help him to not feel nervous and that he will speak clearly and with the Holy Spirit's guidance. This is the first year we will be able to at-

tend the whole conference from beginning to end. We look forward to taking our boys along with us and seeing many friends again!

During our time in Iowa, we will also be able to meet our three new nieces! One of them is my twin sister's baby girl, Olivia Faith Demarest! THANK YOU to all of you who prayed for Deborah during her time on bedrest! Little Olivia arrived safely on May 26th.

Mixed with the joy of babies, we will also have the sadness of saying goodbye to my brother and his family before they move to Dallas, TX, and my sister and her family before they move to Houston, TX...both moves are planned for August.



**Welcome Olivia Faith! Thank you for praying for my twin sister's pregnancy and delivery! Olivia is doing well!**

## Please remember us in prayer:

Thank you for your prayers for us. Here are some praise and prayer requests for our family:

- Praise God we had a great meeting with our supporting church in Bensenville, IL a few weeks ago.
- Praise God for supplying some extra funds for us over the last few months as we have hit a financial crisis dealing with our 2010 tax return.
- Praise God for His work in Andy's heart and mind as he prepares his sermon for the CBM family conference.
- Praise God for placing us on this building team in Sauk City, WI and for the blessing of being a part of this ministry.
- Please pray for our family as we continue to transition to life in Wisconsin. We've been here almost two months, but at times we still struggle with getting used to the new life situations.
- Please pray for the situation surrounding the insurance claims for Andy's vehicle accident in January. Neither our auto insurance or medical insurance has paid for any of the claims. We have been working with the two companies for 6 months to try to get our claims covered, and have not yet succeeded.
- Please continue to pray for Andy's safety on the work site. Also pray for his testimony to the other workers, church members and visitors to the build site.
- Please pray for me (Elizabeth) as I transition to life here in Wisconsin and seek out how God would use me to serve Him.
- Please continue to pray for Judah and Asher's health, safety and, ultimately, their salvation.

I apologize for the lengthiness of this quarter's update; I guess we had a lot to report to you! It is good for us to remember that prayer is important and demonstrates our dependence on God. Thank you again for your prayers for our family!

By God's grace,

Andy & Elizabeth, Judah & Asher Smith



**Andy with his boys on Father's Day.**