As I was preparing this article for our bi-monthly newsletter, the breaking news was that the credit rating agency Standard & Poor's has downgraded the sterling U.S. credit rating for the first time in the history of the ratings ... citing concern about the rising burden of the federal debt. This announcement has prompted me to publish this sermon I preached a year ago ... because God's enduring Word has an answer to our economic crisis.

Not long ago, I came across the following (somewhat humorous) view of the economic policies of different political systems:

- In Communism: If you have two cows, the government takes both of them and gives you part of the milk.
- In Socialism: If you have two cows, the government takes one cow and gives it to your neighbor.
- In Fascism: If you have two cows, the government takes both cows and sells you the milk.
- In Nazism: If you have two cows, the government takes both cows, and then shoots you.
- In a Bureaucracy: If you have two cows, the government takes both cows, shoots one, milks the other, and then pours the milk down the drain.
- In Capitalism: If you have two cows, you sell one of them and buy a bull.

has two cows, a vote is taken, and whatever the majority decides to do, you do; and that's no bull!

Today, we will answer the question – “What does the Bible have to say about the economy?” And to do so, I want you to draw your attention to Acts 4:32-37 – “All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.”

Almost any poll taken today will reveal that the economy is high on the list of concerns. It is clear that the economy is, in the minds of the masses, one of the most important issues. The reason is not hard to determine ... as it has a lot to do with the rising cost of gas, food, services, and just about everything else as well. In addition, we have seen the rise of debt and home foreclosures impacting the economy in a negative way. In every area of the economy, people are finding it harder to make ends meet.

Some years ago, Henry Smith Leiper highlighted American affluence with some startling statistics. Even though these statistics are somewhat dated, I believe that they are still applicable.

Imagine that we could compress the world’s population into one town of 1,000 people (keeping the proportions right). In this town there would be only 60 Americans. These 60 Americans would receive half the income of the entire town. They would have an average life expectancy of 70 years; the other 940 persons would have less than 40 years. The 60 Americans would own 15 times as much per person as all of their neighbors. They would eat 72 percent more than the maximum food requirements; many of the 940 other people would go to bed hungry every night. Of 53 telephones in the town, Americans would have 28.

(Continued ... on page three)
President’s Corner

"A Miracle Journey"

December 7, 1941, President Roosevelt called a Day of Infamy, as Pearl Harbor was attacked, plunging America into World War II. Friday June 3, 2011, was my day of infamy that put me on a miracle journey — physically and spiritually.

I had just watched some morning news and weather, and started for the bathroom. It was about 8:30 a.m. I got to the hall doorway to our kitchen and down I went. This was my first miracle, as I did not break any limbs. I was just down the hall from our bedroom. I called to Clarys to phone 911. After that I heard voices (paramedics), but I saw nothing. I didn't see or hear anybody until I came to about 3:00 p.m. Then I saw my son standing by my bed. My first words, "I'm hungry!" A nurse said, "that's a good sign, food is on its way."

I knew prayer warriors had been alerted; thank you for those early prayers. Fear did not enter my mind as I claimed 2 Timothy 1:7, "God did not give us a spirit that makes us afraid, but a spirit of power and love and self control." I claimed this verse many years ago when going on a challenging Gideon assignment. God's promises never fail us. Our mission was successful.

A nurse came in and said we're moving you to a room on the fifth floor. They will be monitoring you every two hours all night. (You don't get much sleep in a hospital.) Becky came that first day with a beautiful prayer shawl. Thanks.

Morning came, breakfast, and a nurse came in and said we're beginning therapy today. I thought, "Wow!" and thought of the statement, "Where there is life, there is hope." It should read, where there is hope, there is life. To have hope you must practice believing as you pray that you will receive God's blessings, and trust that they are on the way to you.

I claimed Mark 11:24, "So I tell you to believe that you have received the things you ask for in prayer and God will give them to you." Believing, faith, trust because an important part of my journey.

As I began P.T. and O.T. therapy right away, the therapist and nurses called me the "Miracle Man." It took awhile for me to realize what they meant.

On my third day in the hospital, they began a series of tests, mainly on my heart. A nurse came in and said, "I'm preparing you for a special test; the cardiologist wants to take pictures of the back of your heart." This was one of the most uncomfortable tests I had done, going down the back of my throat to take pictures of the back of my heart. The procedure took place; it went well (I didn't gag too much). All I was told was that the cardiologist would review the tests and talk to me later.

In the meantime, we were told I'd be moved to a care center for therapy. A social worker will talk to you about where. She did, and we chose New Harmony Care Center. The nurse prepared us for the move, got a wheelchair and my son got my things together.

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The lowest income group among the Americans would be better off by far than the average of the other people in town. The 60 Americans and about 200 others representing Western Europe and a few classes in South America, Australia, and Japan would be relatively well-off. The other 75% would be poor.

Nevertheless, even though we are going through tough times now, America still has the greatest economy in the world.

So, “What does the Bible have to say about the economy?” I’ve provide you with an outline to guide us in answering this question. I invite you to follow along.

I. What Does the Bible Teach about Work?

It is important to note that the Bible is not a textbook on economics. Neither is it a textbook on politics. However, the Bible is truth, and it actually does have a lot to say about these subjects.

Some people believe that work is a curse to be avoided; an activity to be engaged in only when necessary. Some people have even said that work is the result of God’s curse on Adam. The fact is that God ordained work prior to the fall of Adam in the Garden of Eden. After God created the entire earth He created Adam. He placed him in the Garden of Eden, and commanded him to take care of it. Genesis 2:15 says, “The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it.” Therefore, work is good and ordained by God. It was something that God commanded Adam to do prior to the fall. Work is not a curse.

However, what is true is that after the fall of Adam, work became a burden because God cursed the ground. This is what God said to Adam in Genesis 3:17-19, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

And so work is honorable, it is good, and it is right. However, after the fall, work became aggravated, hard, difficult, and even painful.

Because sin is so pervasive, and because work is impacted by the effects of the fall, some people find ways not to work. The apostle Paul makes it clear about what is to happen to those who will not work. He wrote to the Thessalonians, “For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat” (2 Thessalonians 3:10). This does not refer to people who are unable to work. Clearly, there are people who are unable to work due to illness, infirmity, or some other genuine inability. Paul’s command, however, does refer to people who are unwilling to work. If a person is unwilling to work due to laziness, sloth, or sin, then he should not eat.

Many people don’t like to hear these words. It seems so heartless, so uncompassionate. But, as Dr. D. James Kennedy and Jerry Newcombe point out in their book titled How Would Jesus Vote?, “this is the most compassionate statement on the subject of economics that has ever been uttered.” Why is that? Imagine if a growing number of people had the attitude that they no longer wanted to work. They noticed that one of their basic necessities — food — would be provided to them by others, and so they stopped working. If the non-worker population grew, eventually there would be a growing shortage of workers to provide food. That would lead to famine and starvation for all. And so the most compassionate statement is in fact, “If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.”

II. What Does the Bible Teach about Private Property?

The first thing to note is that God owns everything. He created the universe and everything in it. He is the supreme owner of all things. And so the Psalmist says, “The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein” (Psalm 24:1).

When God gave the Israelites the land of Canaan as an inheritance, he said, “The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine” (Leviticus 25:23). This made the Israelites stewards of God’s land, just as Adam was a steward in the Garden of Eden. When the land was divided up, as we read in the Book of Joshua, every family received a tract of land as an inheritance. This land was a trust from the Lord. It enabled every family to produce enough for their own needs and share with their neighbors ... especially the poor and strangers living among them. The land remained the Lord’s (Leviticus 25:23), although He gave each family the right to produce goods and services from it.

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9/11

I am sure everyone can remember exactly what you were doing when you heard the news of the planes hitting the Twin Towers. I remember I was at work at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. A member of the Rifle Squad called the office and stated "America is being attacked." Immediately on our computers we pulled up the news. The cemetery as many of you know is sandwiched between two main airports.

I still recall the "eerie" feeling of quiet; I had been used to the sound of jets for so long when it stopped it was frightening. I still remember the panic feeling and I started calling all my children to make sure they were okay even though they lived here in the Twin Cities area and out West.

We had a visitor from the VA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. at the office. I remember her desperate need to get home. She was fortunate, she already had a rental car; it was not easy to obtain one once the airplanes were grounded. I remember we passed a hat around the office to make certain she had cash to get home. One of the gals in the office gave her a cell phone charger for the car.

When I returned home from work that day I remember watching over and over as the planes hit the Twin Towers. Most of all I remember the feeling of fear; I started praying and laid it in God’s hands.

Ironically one thing that "sticks" in my mind is the day the Global War on Terrorism began, I was staying with my mom who was dying of cancer. I had turned the news on when she remarked "Please turn it off I will never know how it will turn out." Here it is 10-years later and we still have no idea how it will "turn out."

2 Samuel 22:3-4 reads, "The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the strength of my salvation, and my stronghold, my high tower, my savior, the one who saves me from violence. I will call on the Lord, who is worthy of praise for he saves me from my enemies."

Plan to worship at the Chapel on Sunday, 11 September as we remember the terrorist attack of 2001.

— Kay Tennison,
Worship Chairperson

All Saints Sunday (30 Oct)

Definition: A church festival in honor of saints departed. Also known as "Allhallowmas" or "Allhallows."

As we remember those precious Foundation members who have left us and moved on to Glory this past year, we are reminded because of their faith in Jesus they breathed life into our Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation community during their time with us. We honor the memory of our departed brothers and sisters in Christ during this service giving thanks for their many spiritual blessings to us, as part of our Christian family.

— Kay Tennison, Worship Chairperson

John 5:24 — "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death into life."
The cardiologist, Dr. Panetta, came in to our room and reported that he needed to visit with us. We had expected to hear from him all afternoon. He apologized, as he had an emergency. The results of the tests showed I had a small hole in the back of my heart. No doubt I had had it all my life. That's where the blood clots were coming from. He drew a diagram on the white board as to how he proposed to repair it. He thought awhile and said, I think we should have you spend a few days at the care center before we do the surgery and start therapy. We will plan on it here, on the third floor, next week. What does one say ... Okay?

It was now about 5:30 p.m. We buzzed the nurse and said we were ready to go. My son got the car and the nurse waited and helped me in the car. As we arrived at New Harmony, my son knew the right entrance to drive up to as Clarys had been there three years ago.

They were ready for us. Denita, the main nurse on duty in the evenings, met us and said, "I remember you; your wife was here a while back." We said, "That's right." The next hour plus was spent checking in, checking vitals, getting me comfortable. Denita ordered sandwiches for us and fruit from the kitchen. My son was especially thankful as he had not eaten. We had a good first night. I was really thankful for the prayer shawl, as it was a little cool in my room.

Morning came and the orderly, Bill, came in to help me clean up and dress for the day. Bill is a tall black man with a sense of humor. Therapy evaluation began right after breakfast and some beginning exercise. Later in the morning I got back to my room. I called Clarys and she said our son's wife was bringing her down later after work to bring clothes, my Bible and devotional material, etc. Already she had cards to bring to me already. In that first batch of cards, someone sent a tract-like folder with Psalm 46 on it. Thanks to whoever sent it as this Psalm became a part of my devotions every day and in every phase of my journey. I kept saying, "The Lord is my helper, God is our mighty fortress, always ready to help in times of trouble, and so I won't be afraid. In every phase of the rest of my journey, Psalm 46 was with me.

The day came to prepare for my heart surgery. No food or drink ten hours before surgery. Denita, the nurse that worked the 3-11:00 p.m. shift, came into my room the night before surgery and said she would like to pray for me. She took my hands and said the most powerful prayers for healing I have ever heard. What a blessing and comfort. I rested well and the nurses woke me at 5:00 a.m. and got me ready. My daughter-in-law came to take me to the hospital as we were to be there at 6:00 a.m. I soon found out why I had to be there early. Surgery was scheduled for 8:30 a.m. It took two hours for prep. It was not a fun experience.

Ted Stamos kept telling me surgery will be "a piece of cake." I kept on repeating his words and Psalm 46. Into the surgery room we went. I asked a nurse standing close by me if I would be sedated. She said, "No, I'll be right here and we can visit." I asked her where she lived, she said, "Lincoln Lakes." "Oh" I said, "Do you know where Eagle Brook Church is." "I do," she said, "$'s where I go to church now. I used to attend another church in White Bear. I was invited to Eagle Brook and I never went back to my old church. There are three of us here this morning that go to Eagle Brook, including Dr. Panetta's assistant. We will be your guardian angels this morning!" How comforting, a God thing.

Surgery didn't last more than an hour, no cutting. They just went up through two veins from my groin and secured the patch. The operating room nurse stayed with me, told me about last Sunday's sermon, and visited more. She is an angel.

Recovery: 3 1/2 hours, no movement. Yes Ted, surgery was a piece of cake compared to lying flat and no movement. I was hungry, a nurse fed me. I was kept overnight for tests the next morning, to make sure all was okay. It was. My son came to get me and take me back to New Harmony. Chaplain Griffith came right down to see me and thank the Lord for a successful surgery. This was Friday so I missed therapy. The head therapist saw me on Saturday and said I could start therapy Monday. The weekend went fast, lots of visitors. Clarys made it down to go to the church service with me and have dinner. Chaplain Griffith and I had several good visits and prayer times. He is new to New Harmony so my Gideon friends brought Gideon Cards. He was out of them for his racks. We explained about the need for Bibles in the rooms. He had some on hand and wondered what to do with them. The Bibles are now in the rooms, P.T.L.

We really appreciated all the Christian workers, nurses, etc., that we came in contact with at

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From the Flag Line

Some of you may wonder why we stand and present, in my opinion, greatest symbol of our freedom. When my wife and I joined the Chapel Foundation we wanted to show our patriotism as well as introduce ourselves to the congregation. Flag Day 2009 my wife and I stood in front of the Chapel and started what has become a regular Sunday and Holiday fixture.

You may wonder if this is the only time we hold the flag. Most of us are Patriot Guard Riders, so we have over the years stood for the families of the Fallen Soldiers both present and veterans; as well as deployments and returning from deployments. We also have members of Tribute To The Troops.

In the last several weeks we have attended several funerals, as well as interments at our National Cemetery. Two weeks ago six members rode to Lisle IL and visited several Gold Star families. This last Saturday we rode to New London MN and visited another Gold Star family. We do this to show the family support and to let them know their Fallen Hero will never be forgotten. We also do this as it is the correct thing to do. God Bless the 1% that protect the other 99%.

— Les Hansen

World-Wide Communion Sunday - 2 Oct

An attempt was made to bring churches together in a service of Christian Unity by the Presbyterian Church in 1933 during the height of the Great Depression. It was primarily a regional function and drew Presbyterians and other denominations together.

With Nazism and Fascism hovering over Europe during World War II and becoming a threat to the entire world, World-Wide Communion Sunday revitalized Christians everywhere (despite theological differences) to take a stand that God is and always will be in charge and Christians need to unite against the evils in Europe and elsewhere.

In a world filled with terrorism, it is even more important Christians everywhere unite in this special celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion showing those who choose to destroy Christianity, that our Lord Jesus in now and forever in control.

Today Christians, poor and rich, servants and kings, join together in spite of politics, war and other world events to, again, stand against evil and still proclaim Jesus is Lord and that He is forever in control.

1 Corinthians 1:10 — "Now dear brothers and sisters, I appeal to you by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ to stop arguing among yourselves. Let there be real harmony so there won't be divisions in the Church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose."

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 — "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread."

— Kay Tennison, Worship Chairperson

Adult Ed Classes Start (10 a.m.) 11 Sep

On Sun, 11 Sep, we will kick-off our Adult Education Classes (once again) in the Fellowship Hall (10-10:30 a.m.) each Sunday.

The focus of this forum is to "equipping the saints" in the fight against the myriad of enemies of the faith and freedom. The words of the Psalmist serve as the textual motivation — "If my people would only listen to me ... would only follow my ways, how quickly I would subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes!" (Ps. 81:13-14 NIV)

Among the subjects to be addressed, include (but are not limited to): the silencing of Christians and conservatives via the so-called "Fairness Doctrine" ♦ the tearing down of the traditional family ♦ the promotion of same-sex marriage ♦ the radical homosexual movement ♦ the tolerance of Sharia law in our own courts, in competition with the U.S. Constitution ♦ the massive move toward socialism ♦ the economy ♦ political correctness ♦ and more.

You won't want to miss these timely biblical/theological discussions led by Chaplains Beale and Wallman ... along with occasional guest speakers.
God wants us to understand that He owns everything. We are simply stewards of what rightly belongs to God. This applies not only to property, but also to time, talents, and treasure. Everything belongs to God, and we are simply stewards of what He has entrusted to us.

God knows that in order for us to live in this world, it will be necessary for us to produce goods and services. To that end, God has permitted us to exercise private ownership of property.

Now there are some who say that America needs to abandon its commitment to a free market system and move toward a more socialist system. Some of our politicians don’t say it quite so blatantly, but if you decode their terms, that is what they mean. Some, who are more biblically knowledgeable, point to our text in Acts 4:32-37 and argue that the Bible itself teaches a form of socialism. But, I want you to notice a number of points in Acts 4:32-37.

First, the right to private property is upheld. Barnabas, we are told in Acts 4:37a “sold a field that belonged to him.” It is clear that Barnabas owned the field; it was his to sell. Even the statement earlier in the passage, “No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had” (Acts 4:32), indicates that the people owned their possessions.

Second, the action to sell was voluntary. There was no coercion. No one was forced or required to sell anything. God had moved upon the people’s hearts in such a way that they recognized that everything they had belonged to God; that they were stewards; and that they were glad to use it in any way that would further the grace of God.

Third, the money was given to the church and not to the state. Barnabas “brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet” (Acts 4:37b). This is so clear that I don’t understand why people think that this text supports modern state socialism. The church, and not the state, was the recipient of Barnabas’ gifts.

And finally, this spontaneous giving was never repeated elsewhere. The apostle Paul constantly stirred up God’s people in other places (such as those in Corinth) to give to the support of God’s work. However, there was never anything that required God’s people to give their possessions to the church (or to the state, for that matter). And God most certainly did not command it.

The Bible simply does not endorse a socialist economy. It teaches that we are to work in order to produce goods and services that will benefit our families and others as well.

There are different ways for the government to support a biblical approach to the economy. That would include allowing people freedom to work, earn a living, and own their own property.

However, I am concerned about our sinful propensity to move away from work towards laziness. In the early 1800s, someone (we really don’t know who) made the following prescient statement, “America will last until the populace discovers that it can vote for itself largesse [i.e., money] out of the public treasury.” Today, we have politicians who are giving us money out of the public treasury. Politicians promise to do all kinds of things when they get into office. We have to realize that most the things that are offered cost money. And in order to get that money taxes will be raised.

In the summer of 1861, the U.S. Treasury had only $2 million to fund the Union side of the Civil War. The North may have been rich in land and resources, but none of this could quickly be converted into cash to pay an army. And so on July 1, 1862, President Lincoln signed into law a federal income tax. Prior to 1862, Americans funded a much smaller federal government, largely through tariffs on imported goods. However, when the crisis of the Civil War ended, the income tax failed to win reauthorization — much to the disappointment of Senator Sherman of Ohio, who insisted, “the income tax is the only one that tends to equalize these burdens between the rich and the poor.” And so, personal income taxes were no longer paid after the Civil War ended in 1865.

Then, on October 3, 1913, President Woodrow Wilson signed a personal income tax into law. Citizens who earned less than $3,000 were exempt and the highest tax rate was a level of 7% for Americans earning more than $500,000. However, these rates did not last long. Soon, when America considered engagement in World War I, the government raised taxes. During the war, the tax rate for the wealthiest Americans soared to 77%.

After World War I tax cuts quickly followed under the conservative fiscal stewardship of Treasury Secretary Andrew Mellon; however, Pandora’s Box had been opened. Mellon said, “Once it was
Getting to Know You ...

What comes out of Iowa? I-35, of course. Karen Ayers knows 'em all. Jokes about Iowa, that is. But unlike Rodney Dangerfield whose "I don't get no respect" personifies him, Karen remains good humored and even adds her own fun. When some joker from Minnesota tells her, "Oh, you're one of those corn-fed girls", her saucy reply is, "No, I'm one of those lead feet," as in flooring it up I-35 after a visit back home.

We Minnesotans sure are hard on our neighbors to the south, aren't we? Why you'd be surprised how many of them have had the good sense to move to Minnesota. Karen's one of them. Since 1969, she's lived among us, but grew up in Fort Dodge, Iowa, 150 miles southwest of the Twin Cities. In the seventh grade, her family moved to a farm (naturally) where she learned the meaning of hard work and eventually took a job de-tasseling corn for the Dekalb brand. "That's how they develop seed corn," she said. "You de-tassel eight rows and leave two."

That was her day job. By night she waitressed at the Sardust, a mom and pop restaurant that served up such favorites as butterscotch and chocolate pie piled high with chocolate shavings — a forerunner to Baker's Square. "We had lots of regulars who'd come in for those," said Karen. And "made rights," an Iowanian version of the California Burger... steamed hamburger seasoned with a sloppy joe-type sauce and topped with lettuce and a bun. Mm mm.

Hard work is in Karen's DNA. "I've always had two jobs," she said. In the third grade she mowed lawns and shoveled snow and sold homemade hot pads to her aunts. "I've been crafty all my life," she said, and with a chuckle added, "That didn't sound right." Karen told me that one of her employers once told her that he'd hire a farm worker over someone else because of their work ethic.

Karen is one of four siblings in whom their parents instilled a work ethic they learned from growing up in large families and Old-World traditions. Karen remembers Thanksgiving and Christmas as "great occasions" at her maternal grandparent's home. "The table was set and all the men ate first," she recalled. "Dishes were done, the kids ate, dishes were done and the women ate." When Karen grew older, she made a point of telling her mother that when they started their tradition, apart from the grandparents, that the whole family would eat together!

Yes, Karen had her own ideas, ones that took her beyond Iowa. At eighteen, she chose the Army Reserve as a vehicle for her idea to travel, and was lucky enough to go to Germany for three weeks. One of the guys in her unit grew up in Germany and had worked in stained glass. As a result, Karen was treated to a tour of medieval church windows, and a quaint little town called Rotthenberg, curiously surrounded by walls that she's never forgotten. Twenty years later, her itch to see the world brought her back to Europe, accompanied this time by two friends, where she experienced the wonders of Rome, Paris and Prague and added to her "locker of memories."

In the meantime, she raised two kids, balanced simultaneous jobs and even found time to volunteer. She's worked with Habitat for Humanity, the Crisis Nursery in Minneapolis, and at the YMCA's Camp Streifland, a day camp for inner city kids. One of her four grandchildren joined her on that one.

For several summers, she volunteered on a South Dakota Indian reservation making use of her crafty side, showing kids how to ... (Continued ... on page ten)
Benevolent Giving ...

Officers' Christian Fellowship (OCF) of the U.S.A., a 501(c)3 non-profit Christian based organization was formed in 1943, in the midst of World War II. God has used OCF powerfully for His purposes ever since; in peace and in war. Today, OCF represents Christians from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces who are united by their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. All members are committed to living out their faith in the military society.

OCF STATEMENT OF FAITH: I am committed to the purpose of Officer Christian Fellowship (OCF), to glorify God by uniting Christian officers for biblical fellowship and outreach, equipping and encouraging them to minister effectively in the military.

As an expression of my commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and to His work in the military society, I will, by God's grace, participate actively and prayerfully in the ministry of OCF with my time, talents, spiritual gifts, and financial resources.

Leadership Objectives:
- Encourage and support programs across OCF designed to instruct and inspire military believers to live biblically.
- Implement a mentoring program by which OCF will reproduce itself across generations:
  - by empowering senior leaders and retirees to come alongside and encourage the current generation in the "trenches."
  - by developing programs and materials through which OCF members are encouraged to develop future leaders through example, instruction, and mentoring.
- Identify, communicate, and implement programs and culturally relevant methods across OCF that meet biblically sound fellowship needs and enhance personal growth and effective ministry outreach.

Outreach Objectives:
- Proclaim the Gospel throughout the military society by the example of our lives, particularly our military excellence. Provide members with the necessary tools for an effective ministry outreach into the workplace.
- Increase emphasis on family (and singles) friendly OCF conferences at the installation and regional levels and at OCF conference centers.
- Develop a synergy among local OCF ministries, chaplains, local churches, and other military para-church ministries.
- Specifically seek relevance to minorities, singles, women, and those with liturgical traditions in OCF organization and programs. Address all levels of leadership (staffing, Council membership, speakers), cultural sensitivity in programs, and leadership training to effectively reach out to the entire military society.
- Exhort, equip and encourage members to seek opportunities and implement efforts that reach beyond the local fellowship to affect the larger military community for Christ.

This a very powerful statement about an organization that is dedicated to creating and assisting our US military officer's to live by and to spread the work of Jesus Christ.

OCF has chapters in 49 states and in many countries. The local chapter team leader is Fred Zimmerman. He submitted a benevolence application in January 2009 for a benevolence gift. In April of 2009, the Board of Directors of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation approved a $500 benevolence gift for OCF. The Foundation has continued to support OCF since then.

(Continued ... on page ten)
create bird houses and candles and helping them discover their crafty side too. "If I had to name one thing that I have given my children and grandchildren, it's the joy of volunteering," said Karen. It's only a matter of time before Karen's great-grandson follows in her steps.

But it's the part-time job with the DNR that's got Karen's attention lately. She's the wedding hostess at the Fort Snelling Chapel. Although she's mainly responsible for opening and closing the Chapel for weddings on weekends and making sure no one walks off with the silverware, Karen, in true fashion, has employed her own ideas, basically reinventing the position her way.

"My kids", is how she refers to the jittery young brides and grooms in the continuous stream of weddings. Karen takes a special interest in the bride. "This is the one day that belongs to her," says Karen. She likes to keep the bride tucked away in the undercroft before the ceremony where no one, especially the groom, can see her in her wedding dress. Only after the bridesmaids and flower girls proceed down the aisle will Karen bring the bride upstairs to make her grand entrance and the romantic walk to the altar. "Good luck, smile, honey," Karen tells her, and another bride is born.

Yet it's more than brides and grooms and romance that compels Karen to go beyond her job description and reverently keep the Chapel as tidy as she would her own home. Two years ago, on her birthday, a doctor told her that she had breast cancer. As the meaning of that news sunk in, her battle began with chemo treatments every Monday. Yet by the following Sunday, Karen would be back to church, here at the Chapel. The Foundation members kept her spirits up with continuous emails and lots of hugs on Sunday. Of her friends at the Chapel Karen explains, "They're my family, and I need to be here."

Today, Karen's in remission and back to full throttle, working nearly sixty hours a week between her regular job in the billing department at ING Corp., and weekends at the Chapel. During the recent state shutdown, Karen felt sick about "her" brides and grooms who were forced out of the Chapel in search of last minute wedding venues. She was even willing to keep the Chapel open for them without pay. You just can't keep a good woman down.

So what does come out of Iowa, besides I-35? Good humor, hardworking, worldly, decent folks (dare I say the backbone of America?) who'll make you want to eat the words of every Iowa joke you've ever told faster than a Hawkeye can gobble down a made right. And that's no joke.

Submitted by: Barbara Sommerville

(Continued ... from page nine)

I made contact with Fred to get an update on OFC. Fred stated that they use the gifts from the Foundation to pay for outreach prayer dinner meetings with ROTC cadets and midshipmen at the Fort Snelling Officer's Club. They provided on average 47 new Bibles to newly commissioned officers with the emblem of their branch of service imprinted on it. In addition, OCF provides pizza lunches during the school year at the ROTC Armony where OCF provides an inspirational speaker.

One third of the members of the OFC are retired military, one third is active duty and the remaining are civilians who spend time mentoring the young cadets. OCF is actively looking for people who are interested in sharing their experiences with cadets at Bible studies or during luncheons. Chaplain (COL) Beale is a member of OCF and was instrumental in getting the local chapter off the ground. OCF of Minnesota is one of the smaller organizations, because of not having a large active duty military presence. In spite of this, they have the same drive as the large organization in helping our future leaders promote and lead a Christian life.

I would like to thank Fred Zimmerman and the other members of OCF for the fine work they do to promote the word of Jesus Christ. "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17). If you would like to contact or donate OCF, please call (952) 473-4284 or visit the web site www.ocfusa.org

— Pat Hoy, Benevolence Committee

This congregation tithes (10%) from its plate offerings. If you know of an organization/ministry ... that is in keeping with our purpose ... please feel free to secure an application to submit for financial support in 2011. Simply call the Foundation Office at 612/670-7896 ... and provide a name and mailing address.
(Continued ... from page seven)

possible to see a great revenue engine financing a gigantic conflict, taxing the wealthiest Americans at high rates, it was more possible to contemplate such an engine supporting a welfare state." Tax policies originally intended to fund a global conflict wound up funding Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal and, eventually, Lyndon Johnson's Great Society.

This goes a long way toward explaining the popular view of higher taxes as the answer to some of life’s most difficult problems. Some say that if taxes can be raised for some expenditures, then they should be raised for any expenditures. A government able to collect income taxes ought to collect income taxes. In short, in its approximately 100 year history, the income tax has become an austere and unquestioned institution, as American as apple pie. At present the lowest federal income tax bracket is 10% and the highest, 35%. (This, of course, does not include a variety of local, state, and other taxes.) But if the past is indicative of the future, these rates will likely rise.

Karl Marx once said, "From each according to his ability, to each according to his need." By that he meant that those who had more, pay more to fund those who had less. Frankly, this is inherently wrong. The Bible teaches a flat tax system. All Israelites were required to tithe. Whether rich or poor, all were required to pay the same percentage on their wealth.

Interestingly, some former communist and socialist countries have moved to a flat tax, with remarkable results. After Russia did away with its communist economy, it was burdened with a tax structure that had 30 separate federal taxes and over 170 local and regional taxes. The people still found it oppressive, and 60% of taxes went uncollected. In 2001, Russia switched to a flat tax of 13% on personal income and a 37% corporate tax, and government revenues have gone up every year since 2001.

III. What Does the Bible Teach about the Poor?

Jesus said, "For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me" (Matthew 26:11).

There will always be poor people. And the Bible is clear that we are to help them. The passage in Acts 4 is a description of a poor church. They were being cut off from their Jewish family and friends; and the Roman government was not at all sympathetic to any religious problems. So, there was a great deal of poverty. The church is to help those in need.

The Church is the instrument by which God’s love is to be shared with those in need. Government welfare programs often help people who are unwilling to work to remain dependent upon it. The Church, rather than the Government, is in a better position to help those who are poor and genuinely needy.

So, what does the Bible say about economics? And how would Jesus vote?

I believe Jesus would vote for a politician that promoted work, private property ownership, limited government, a low and flat tax, and church-sponsored programs to help the poor.

How about you?

Serving God and Country,
Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr.,
Chaplain
(612) 747-1059
E-mail: kenneth.beale@us.army.mil

The preceding article is a sermon preached by Chaplain Ken on 15 Aug 10 from the pulpit of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel. A DVD of this message is available to order, along with hundreds of other timely messages.

(Continued ... from page five)

New Harmony. I got a nice "graduation certificate" from therapy. They are good therapists — in two weeks they got me from a wheelchair to a walker to a cane! P.T.L.

Chaplain Griffin has called me since I got home to visit and see how things are going.

My story doesn't end here as far as God's leading on this journey. My transitional nurse is the therapist assigned to work with me twice a week throughout July. She is a former missionary who served in Africa, an area where I have been. Someone said, small world! No, I feel it is God's leading. Even though she has worked me hard, giving me lots of exercises, explaining what they would do for me, we have had lots of good Christian fellowship. She is now working with the missionary program for a large church in Minneapolis, meeting weekly with missionary candidates. Needless to say, we had much to talk about. She concludes her visits the end of July. Clarys and I will miss her.

Chapel friends, hold fast to hope, confide your deepest hopes to God, believe that He will hear them and deliver back what is best for you.

Nothing defeats hope. God is still performing miracles! May God bless our Chapel family richly.

Psalm 46.

Blessings and prayers,
Bob Peterson
Foundation President
(651) 484-5285
E-Mail: siline@juno.com
Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation

This is a non-denominational Christian church founded in 1967. We invite you to join us for worship each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. at this historic Chapel.

The Fort Snelling Veterans Memorial Chapel is a unique Minnesota memorial — a splendid monument to the patriotism, the moral earnestness and the convictions of the people of this state — a shrine to commemorate those who have died for their country. Weekly Sunday worship is sponsored by the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation and is not subsidized by the state.

For Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation information call the Foundation Office at (651) 456-4410, or write to the
Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation P.O. Box 211283 Eagan, MN 55121

or e-mail to info@fortsnellingmcf.org or check our web site at www.fortsnellingmcf.org

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The Snelling Spirit is a bimonthly publication of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation. We welcome your input, your letters and your suggestions.

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| 4       | **12th Sunday after Pentecost**<br>11:00 a.m. Worship Service<br>Sermon: "Liking Your Labor"
  Music: Singleton Street Band,
  Blue Grass & Old-Time Gospel/Folk | 5  Labor Day | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  **10th Anniversary of 9/11 Terrorist Attack** | 10             |
| 11      | **13th Sunday after Pentecost**<br>9/11 Remembrance<br>10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class
11:00 a.m. Worship Service<br>Sermon: "When the Bottom Drops Out"
  Music: Zuhrah Shrine Chanters | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 **POW/MIA Day** | 17 9:00 a.m. Board of Directors Mtg. @ Am Legion Post |
| 18      | **14th Sunday after Pentecost**<br>POW/MIA Sunday<br>10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class
11:00 a.m. Worship Service<br>Sermon: "Yea, Though I Walk ..."
  Music: Eagan Men's Chorus | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24             |
| 25      | **15th Sunday after Pentecost**<br>10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class
11:00 a.m. Worship Service<br>Sermon: "The Disciple's Cross"
  Music: Congregational Hymn Sing | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |                |
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| 30 20th Sunday after Pentecost  
All Saints Day Sunday  
10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Sermon: "The Saints of the Church"  
Music: Chapel Choir | 31 | Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation Staff  
Chaplain: Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr. — Phone: 612/747-1069 —  
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Website: www.fortsnellingmcf.org — Fax: 651/436-4411 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 1 |
| 2 16th Sunday after Pentecost  
Worldwide Communion Sunday  
10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class  
11:00 a.m. Holy Communion  
Sermon: "God's Global Goal"  
Music: Rod Lindberg | 8 | 9:00 a.m. Publicity Committee Mtg.  
11:00 a.m. Membership Comm Mtg. @ Am Legion Post |
| 9 17th Sunday after Pentecost  
10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Sermon: "A Christian Response to Israel"  
Music: Marys & Marthas | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 18th Sunday after Pentecost  
10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Sermon: "Governed by God or Ruled by Tyrants"  
Music: Shirley & Joyce Dahl | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 19th Sunday after Pentecost  
10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Sermon: "Just Say No to Stuff"  
Music: Litchfield Area Men's Chorus | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |