

March 2014

Thank you all so very much for the very generous love offering.

And also for the prayers.

Sincerely,

Dot and Gary Burke

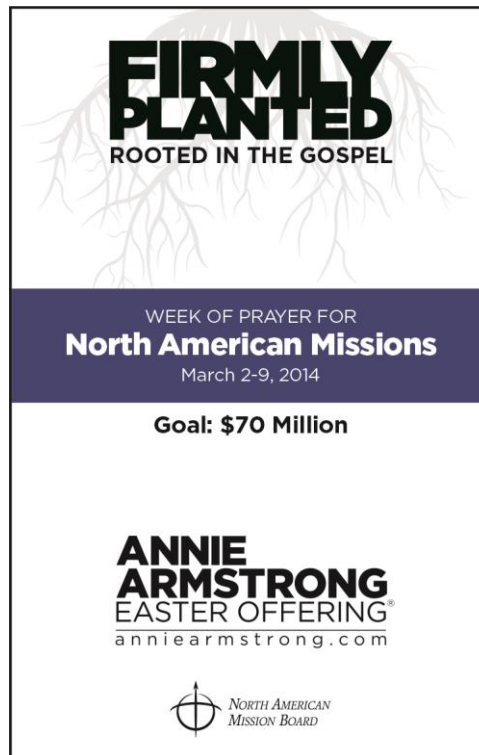
Greetings;

Your beautiful surroundings, the music and sermon were all great, although, the way each of you showed Christ's love to me, gave me a wonderful excitement!

Martha Cole

Annie Armstrong Offering for North American Missions

Church Goal - \$2500



Sunday Evenings

One More Week of Early Start

March 2 – 4:00

Regular 5:00 Starts Return on March 9

March 5 Ash Wednesday, Lent Begins

March 9 First Sunday of Lent - Daylight Savings Begins

March 26 – No Wednesday choirs

April 2 – Last Children’s Choirs Rehearsals

April 6 – Sunday Evening Children’s Choirs Program

April 13 Palm Sunday  
Covered Dish Dinner and Quarterly Ministry Meeting

April 17 Maundy Thursday Service

April 20 Easter

Sympathy – Teresa Pendergrass

Operation Christmas Child – items for each month mentioned in Dec/Jan newsletter as starting with this one. **Say what?**

### ***Cups of Blessings***

Spring Retreat

Christian Ladies of Collinsville

Saturday, March 1

10 – 2

Lunch Served at No Cost to Those Attending  
Worship Leaders – Claire Chandler, Johnna Traffanstedt

Speaker – Ann Sisco

Please allow time for Trade Day Traffic when arriving.

**March Lord's Supper** – J.R. and Donzella Bobo  
Altar Flowers –Lisa Gibbs (Mar 2), Frank and Annette Wardrup(Mar. 16 in  
memory of parents), Donzella Bobo (Mar 23), Open (Mar. 30)

Spring Break, Dekalb Schools – March 22-30

Words that scare us.

*Cancer.* This word was really scary for my mother. As a girl, she had seen a relative die of cancer. So the very word cancer became a scary word. And then mother got cancer. And she faced cancer bravely and faithfully. She beat it. She beat the disease. But she stayed afraid of the word.

*Hospice.* That has become a scary word for many of us. When my sister called to tell me mother would be going to a hospice in Nashville, hospice meant death. And mother only lived about a week. She was comfortable at the hospice. And then she was gone.

Hospice used to be a word that meant a place where people received hospitality -- food and a bed, at a monastery. It is still a very important word in most monasteries. The monks take seriously the ministry of providing hospitality. I have stayed a couple of times at a Trappist Monastery. And it was very nice. Nice food. Very simple, comfortable room. And peace and quiet.

But somewhere along the way hospice became a word that meant you were about to die. And hospice care means exactly that. Most of you know that Gloria's mom was told by a doctor that she had less than six months to be with us. That she was a hospice patient. So she came here to be with us for whatever time she had.

That was nine months ago. She got better. A doctor had to tell her that she had *graduated* from hospice. That she no longer qualified.

If you know Gloria's mom, you know who she credits for her improvement (a hint – it's not the doctor, though she appreciates him. Or the nurses and aides who worked with her while she was a hospice patient, though she really appreciates them. It's not even her children who took such loving care of her. And she really loves and appreciates them.) Just ask her. And she will say, "It was the Lord." All credit and glory to Him.

As we approach Lent this year, we will remember the path that Jesus followed. A path of obedience. And death. And meditate on the fact that to follow Jesus is to follow a path to death. We die to self when we make Jesus our Lord and Savior, when we follow Him to the cross.

And as Christians we do not find it scary to say that we are all hospice patients. That we will all die in this world some day. God may reach in and work miracles at times (just ask Gloria's mom), but we will all someday die (unless Jesus comes back first). During Lent, I hope that you will meditate on what it means to follow Jesus to the cross. To a recognition of the need to die to this world.

Cancer and hospice are scary words because they equal death. But do you notice that Jesus can make even a word like death change its meaning? For Christians, we have already died to this world. So we see death in this world differently. Death for us will be *graduation*. Graduation to a place with no death or pain. Gloria's mom graduated from hospice for a while. My mom graduated from hospice forever. And so shall we all who follow Jesus.