

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

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Newsletter of the Washington Christian Church

MAY 2006

2006 - YEAR OF CONSTRUCTION

THE WATCHER

by Margaret Widdemer

She always leaned to watch for us,
Anxious if we were late,
In winter by the window,
In summer by the gate.

And though we mocked her tenderly,
Who had such foolish care,
The long way home would seem more safe
Because she waited there.

Her thoughts were all so full for us,
She never could forget!
And so I think that where she is
She must be watching yet,

Waiting till we come home to her,
Anxious if we are late --
Watching from heaven's window,
Leaning from heaven's gate.

MOTHER'S WISDOM

by Carice Williams

"You are what you think,"
My mother would say,
As she spoke words of wisdom
For work and for play.
"Think mean, and you'll surely
Turn out to be mean.
Have thoughts that are pure,
And your mind will be clean.

I've tried to remember
While traveling life's way,
The wisdom that Mother
Would use in her day.
It's still just as sound
As a chain's strongest link:
"Remember, my child,
You are what you think."

FOCUS ON OUR FAMILY

by Kim Taylor

An Interview with Chris & Shanna Gerth

Two sixth graders from different elementary schools met while on a field trip to Chicago. Chris

was chasing Shanna. Little did they know what God had in store for them!

Chris was born on November 14, 1975, in Fairbury, Illinois, to Tom and Kay Gerth. He grew up on a farm in Chatsworth, Illinois, with his older brother, Eric, and his sister, Kelli.

On October 26, 1976, in the same town, Shanna was born to John and Sally Schaffer. Soon after her birth, her family moved to Chillicothe, Illinois. She grew up on a farm as well, with her three brothers, Clint, Erik and Craig, and one sister, Caitlin. Shanna's father had farmed what is now Three Sisters Park. When she was 10, her family moved back to the Fairbury area.

Although they attended different elementary schools, they both attended Prairie Central High School in Fairbury, graduating in 1994. Chris and Shanna began dating their junior year.

Chris attended Illinois State in Normal, Illinois, where he graduated in December of 1998, with his Bachelor's in Agribusiness.

Shanna attended the University of Illinois, Champaign, graduating in the spring of 1998, with her Bachelor's in Elementary Education. She is currently working on her Master's in Library and Information Science on-line through the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Chris and Shanna became engaged on December 18, 1998, the night before Chris graduated from college. They were at the Festival of Lights, and Chris proposed by the building where Shanna would later work.

They were married on August 7, 1999, in Normal, Illinois, at the First Assembly of God. Chris grew up in a Lutheran church and was baptized as an infant. He attended church every Sunday but admits his relationship was not much deeper than that.

Shanna on the other hand, grew up in an Apostolic Christian church. Chris and Shanna decided to find a church that was neutral--one where both of them felt content--instead of trying to

make the other conform. They lived in Fairbury until 2001. Shanna was teaching second grade, and Chris was working in lending. They attended Eastview Christian in Bloomington, but Chris said, "It felt temporary." It was also a big church, and, since they knew they would be moving, they were hesitant to become too attached. It had similarities to the Apostolic Christian church, which helped Shanna get over her shock of going to a different church.

Then through a mutual friend, Chris met and interviewed with Jay Morris, member at Washington Christian Church. Jay offered Chris a position with his company, the Morris-Bixby Group. Chris commuted until Shanna could finish the school year. Shanna then got a job at East Peoria District 86 where she has taught sixth and fourth grades and is currently the district librarian.

Once they moved to Washington, Chris and Shanna began searching for a church. Since they liked the services and the Bible-based teaching at Eastview, they wanted to try Christian churches. Shanna says, "It was important that the focus was on Biblical teaching because of my Apostolic background."

Jay Morris and his mother invited Chris and Shanna to Washington Christian Church. They liked Washington Christian, and enjoyed being a part of, "a church centered on Biblical teachings, but not hung up on traditions."

They attended the 101 and 201 classes taught by Ron Good. They learned about the church, its background, and its beliefs. Shanna said it was a real comfort. "A lot of the core beliefs I grew up in were in the church."

On July 13, 2003, they were baptized together. "Then," Chris explains, "things started happening." Chris says the classes also helped him scripturally on adult baptism. When he made the decision to be baptized, he knew deep down he wanted his family to be there, but he also did not want to disappoint them. He decided to be a witness to them and invited his whole family. His parents have been very supportive, and Chris' brother was baptized last year.

Chris explains, "To think about the sacrifice Christ went through--the pain and suffering-- it [baptism] seemed like a small issue in comparison."

The Gerth's stated the 101 and 201 classes were a big help, and led to attendance at the Young Adult Bible Study. Chris says, "It was the best thing we could have done. It helped us form common bonds,

and friendships," which they felt was especially important since they did not have family nearby and needed a good support system. Of small groups, Chris explains, "It helped us grow our relationship with Christ and become a part of the church."

Since that time, they have both become more involved in the church. Chris is a deacon, and Shanna helps on the Praise Team, in the Nursery, with King's Kids and Vacation Bible School; and both are part of the Children's Ministry Team. The Gerth's also are greeters and will be joining a LIFEGROUP in late April.

Of Washington Christian Church, the Gerth's shared that they enjoy Jeff's sermons, and they like becoming more involved in the church and church activities. Chris says, "It helped us grow in our walk."

Kendall, their two-year old born on February 8, 2004, says she loves coming to church. She often tells her parents, "I had fun at church today."

Kendall also likes to pray really quickly at mealtimes-- even before her parents sit down--so she can eat right away! The Gerth's say Kendall is, "one of the biggest blessings we've ever been given. She is a bundle of energy." And when Kendall had several health issues in the past, Shanna shared, "It made us put our faith in God, and she came through okay." The Gerth's said their small group was very supportive during that difficult time.

We are blessed to have the Gerth's as part of the family at Washington Christian Church! If you do not know them yet, please take time out and tell them, "Hello!"

REFLECTIONS FROM THE MINISTERS

Do you ever feel that Easter comes and goes every year and you feel a little bit like you missed it? Do you ever feel like you should've paid more attention to it? I do. And I'm not talking about bunnies and eggs and candy, either. I think we've got that covered. I'm talking about the Resurrection. I've just been having this feeling lately that I should devote more attention to the season surrounding Easter. It's almost like something is demanding more attention from me concerning it. Or maybe it's someone.

So my wife and I decided this year we were going to try and prepare ourselves for Easter. We spent a few weeks reading, meditating, and praying, asking God if He would help us understand the Resurrection a little more this year. Now, neither of us has ever participated in Lent or anything before,

so we didn't really know what to expect. But I'm telling you, the experience was awesome. The things I was learning, experiencing, noticing were exactly what I had been searching for. I just had no idea that they were right in front of my face.

Spring has to be my favorite season. I hope I don't lose any dude credibility when I say that I just love flowers and trees in bloom when spring finally hits. I love the first time I get to grill burgers outside. I love baseball getting underway. I love being able to go out in shorts and a t-shirt. I love seeing everyone out and about. I love hearing birds chirping and the whirr of lawnmowers. I love the warm sunshine on my face. I even love the feeling of the first slight sunburn I get every year. I just love the sense that everything has come back to life. I don't think it is merely random why I love spring so much.

Rebirth resonates with us because it is foundational to the world we live in. Creation is drenched in the Resurrection. To be sure, Jesus death and resurrection was for the forgiveness of sins, but is it possible that the meaning of the Resurrection does not stop there? Is it possible that the Resurrection is pointing to something beautiful about how the universe that God created works? I think so. And I'm not just talking about flowers and trees either. I think that is just a small glimpse. Look at Scripture. It speaks endlessly about restoration and renewal. God is always telling us that He is going to restore Creation to what He originally intended it to be. Go to the end of the Bible and you will read about a "New Jerusalem" and a restoration of all things. Who knows what this will look like, but we know that God will somehow draw all of creation to Himself and make it all new again.

Until then, God is constantly working to restore us, calling us to rebirth and renewal - resurrection. Think about it. We are called to identify with Jesus in His resurrection (Php. 3:10-11. Go ahead. Stop reading this and look it up.). This idea is confusing, but what I think it may mean is that God is calling us to tap into the way the world was created to function. Being selfless isn't just something we do to get into heaven. Being selfless is the nature of God and it is how we take part in the world as God created it. Jesus committed the ultimate selfless act by dying. Without his death, there is no resurrection. If we hope to take part in this resurrection, death needs to occur. There must be a winter before there can be a spring.

This is what I'm taking away from this Easter season: the more I die to myself, the more God restores me, the more I become what God created me to be. And I know that what God created me to be is infinitely better than anything I can imagine. I used to be confused by that passage in Philippians 3, but I think I'm beginning to understand. I'm really beginning to want to "know."

It is very hard to articulate the weight of what I've experienced this spring and Easter season, and I apologize if this does not translate well. I think this whole subject in general is too hard to explain. I'm sure that is why there are things like spring and flowers in bloom. Try to explain the beauty of a flower to a blind man. Some things are too beautiful to explain.

- Jon Pittman

EMERGENCY ON-CALL STAFF PAGER

The Ministerial Staff now have an After-Hours Emergency On-Call Pager which will rotate between whoever is on call for the week. If you have an after-hours emergency and need to get a hold of one of the Ministers please call this pager number: 689-9341. The On Call Minister will be on call from Monday through the following Sunday.

JUST FOR LAUGHS

The schoolteacher asked a boy this question: Suppose your mother baked a pie and there were six of you -- your mother, your father, and four children. What percentage of the pie would you get?

"One-fifth," replied the boy.

The teacher responded, "I'm afraid you don't know your fractions. "Remember, there are six of you."

"I know," said the boy, "but you don't know my mother. She' would say she didn't want any so we could have more."

MISSIONEWS

by Dick & Celia Adams

This Year, Little Galilee is "THE PLACE TO BE!"

Little Galilee Christian Assembly, located just outside of Clinton, is a special place! What other place has Christian leaders that help you have fun, make new friends, and teach you about Jesus in the middle of God's beautiful creation? It's a place that has top notch worship leaders and speakers that challenge you to live Christian lives.

You can swim in an Olympic size swimming pool, and enjoy the 11 foot high, water slide. There is a 5 acre stocked lake complete with canoes and paddle boats to explore, and fishing poles, too. There are miles of trails and camp fire areas at Main Camp, Wilderness Camp and Outpost Camp. The Ping-Pong, foosball and carpet ball tables have been moved to our old Chapel, because the 2006 Campers will be the first to enjoy the new Activity Center. There is also volley ball and basketball courts, and a softball field.

If you get hungry between the 3 tasty meals served each day, you can buy snacks in the Canteen. Everything from pop, bottled water, ice cream, chips and candy bars. Plus there are T-shirts and hats that make great souvenirs.

All of these things are there for one reason: so that you will see God and Jesus in a new way. If you are like most campers, you will wish that you didn't have to go home.

Here are few things you parents can do to help your child get the most from his/her camp experience. If there is anything that the camp can do to assist you, please do not hesitate to let them know!

MY CHILD IS NERVOUS ABOUT COMING TO CAMP.

If your child has never been to camp before, have him/her ask a friend to come along. Feel free to contact the camp for a tour so your child can see the camp and where they will be staying.

TALK ABOUT MONEY

To include your child in paying for camp, you can give him/her extra jobs to do around the house to earn money.

PACK TOGETHER

They recommend involving your child in the packing so they know what is in the suitcase. New clothes are not recommended for camp since your child may get them dirty or lose some things.

Little Galilee offers:

Prairieland Cycling... is a daily trek for beginning cyclist. Campers stay at Three Oaks Lodge and venture out to a new destination each day enjoying the sights of Central Illinois and the variety of activities offered throughout the week. This session is for those people entering 7th, 8th or 9th grade.

High School Mission Trip... 15 High School age students will travel to Florida to assist a work project sponsored through New Mission Systems International out of Fort Meyers. Let them know if you are interested in this trip.

Illinois Fishing Camp... If you love to fish, then make sure you sign up for this trip. You will spend the nights at Three Oaks Lodge and fish the local lakes during the day.

Athletes Week / Fine Arts week... If you love sports, singing, drama, playing musical instruments, etc. Sign up for July 3--8th.

Singles Retreat... Friday night, October 28, 29. Experience the fellowship of other single Christian Adults.

Little Galilee is hosting for the first time, a session for Home Schooled Children and their Families. The dates are August 3-5.

Little Galilee is "THE PLACE TO BE". They will be looking forward to seeing you this summer. You will have a GREAT time.

Check the foyer and Fellowship Hall bulletin boards for more information and schedules for each camp.

BILL CRANDALL'S VISIT

by Wally Born

On Palm Sunday, April 9, 2006 our missionary in Ecuador, Bill Crandall and his wife Karleen, visited with us. He brought an evangelistic message to us in both services; he participated in a question and answer gathering during Sunday School time; and then afterwards Bill and Karleen enjoyed lunch and fellowship with the mission team.

Bill's sermon was very much in line with Building Block #4 in the construction series that Jeff Browning has been preaching on. Truth, Worship, Faith, and now Evangelism have been covered; all this to disciple and equip us at WCC to carry out the ministry that God has for us to share the gospel of Christ to those we know and love.

Bill Crandall emphasized in his talk that we need to enter the other person's world and not to expect them to come to us. The victory is not when they come to church, but when they come to Christ. We must be confident in the gospel when we speak and to not fear because God is with us. He said that practical steps to achieving this are to cultivate a close relationship with God and to bury yourself and seek that God's will be done not our own. Finally, don't wait for them; you must go.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
ON MONDAY, MAY 29 IN OBSERVANCE OF
MEMORIAL DAY.**

It was interesting to note how seamlessly Bill's visit and message fit into the plan here at WCC. Everything from the worship songs to the overhead projector was synchronized with the message. To be able to do this on such short notice with an out of town speaker is a real tribute to the direction that Ed Taylor brings to the team.

During Sunday school in Bert Nordhielm's class Bill passed out questions concerning his work in Ecuador. As the class participated with these questions he had a chance to expand on what is taking place down there. He and Karleen went to Guayaquil, Ecuador in 1990 to begin a church-planting ministry and were joined by other missionary families from Team Expansion in 1992. Now 16 years later there are five congregations, two of which have national leadership. Bill concentrates his time with leadership development.

Betty Patterson explored some of the lighter side of the Crandall's ministry when she talked with Karleen. Among other things in Ecuador, Karleen works on the board of the Crisis Pregnancy Center. Karleen told about the fruits and vegetables they eat. She said that pineapples and bananas are plentiful and cheap there and that they love pineapples, but are getting tired of bananas. Karleen makes a lot of smoothies from all the fruit. Karleen said her favorite thing is hominy. It grows on a cob like corn, but has a completely different taste; it sounds much different from our hominy. Some things are grown along the coast, and then completely different things are grown in the mountains.

Betty adds that "Bill and Karleen are an example of a Christian family missionary that are totally dedicated to God. They are such wonderful people and very interesting to talk to. It is so hard for them to leave their children and their two new grand babies. Karleen said they don't question it; it is God's plan and Ecuador is their home. They have such a close relationship with God, and their faith is so visible to other people. We, like them, must step in the right direction and reach out to others."

Red Cross Apheresis Blood Drive

The Red Cross will be conducting an Apheresis Drive here at WCC in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, May 30, running from 10:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. If interested in donating to the Red Cross please call 674-7171 to set up an appointment.

Philharmonic Chorus

This Spring, the ICC Philharmonic Chorus will present it's Sunday, May 21st, 2006, concert "For We Wish You Music" at the Performing Arts Center at 3:00 p.m.

The theme "For We Wish You Music" starts with the acknowledgment that music was heaven sent to the spiritual "Roll, Jordan, Roll." From fast to slow, secular to sacred, the choir presents a wide array of songs that focuses on the inner spirit.

See Anamarie Morris, if you wish to get early tickets. The cost is \$5 for students and seniors and \$7 for all others.

Washington Christian Nursery School Annual Spring Program

You are cordially invited to join us on Tuesday, May 2nd for the 4-5's and/or Thursday, May 4th for the 3's Annual Spring Nursery School Programs.

The children are working very hard on their songs and fingerplays and it's such a joy to see them perform. Refreshments will be served after the program in the Fellowship Hall. Check the church bulletins closer to the date for times.

PRIME TIMERS PERSPECTIVE

Prime Timers Calendar of Events for May:

May's Prime Timers Outing ~ Trip to Springfield's new Lincoln Museum, Saturday, May, 6, 7:45 a.m.

WCV County Fair Day ~ Wednesday, May 17

WCV Volunteer Day, Tuesday, May 23 @ 9 a.m.

Johnson Bible College week of "Senior Saints in the Smokies" is June 5-9. If you haven't made your final payment, it is due.

Prime Timers' Springfield Museum Trip

Join us on Saturday, May 6th for a day of fun as the Prime Timers plan a trip to Springfield, IL. We will be going to the new Lincoln Museum. We will leave the church by van around 7:45 a.m. Cost is \$5.50 for Seniors. There is a sign-up sheet in the

foyer. See Carl Clang with questions. This trip will be in place of the May regular monthly breakfast.

Something to Plan For

On Sunday, July 2nd the Prime Timers will be a part of the worship service as Praise Team. We are sharing the service with the Youth C.O.R. Group.

A list of things our mothers taught us:

My Mother taught me LOGIC: "If you fall off that swing and break your neck, you can't go to the store with me," as well as, "If everyone else jumped off a cliff would you do it too?"

My Mother taught me MEDICINE: "If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they're going to freeze that way."

My Mother taught me TO THINK AHEAD: "If you don't pass your spelling test, you'll never get a good job!"

My Mother taught me TO MEET A CHALLENGE: "What were you thinking? Answer me when I talk to you . . . Don't talk back to me!"

My Mother taught me how to BECOME AN ADULT: "If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."

My Mother taught me about GENETICS: "You are just like your father!"

My Mother taught me about my ROOTS: "Do you think you were born in a barn?"

My Mother taught me about the WISDOM of AGE: "When you get to be my age, you will understand," or, "I will explain it all when you get older."

My Mother taught me ANTICIPATION: "Just wait until your father gets home."

My Mother taught me about RECEIVING: "You are going to get it when I get you home."

My Mother taught me RELIGION: "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

My Mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL: "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

My Mother taught me FORESIGHT: "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

My Mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS: "Shut your mouth and eat your supper!"

My Mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM: "Will you 'look' at the dirt on the back of your neck!"

My Mother taught me about STAMINA: "You'll sit there until all that spinach is finished."

My Mother taught me about WEATHER: "It looks as if a tornado swept through your room."

My Mother taught me about HYPOCRISY: "If I've told you once, I've told you a million times: Don't Exaggerate!"

My Mother taught me THE CIRCLE OF LIFE: "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

My Mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION: "Stop acting like your father!"

My Mother taught me about ENVY: "There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do!"

And the all time favorite thing my Mother taught me, JUSTICE: "One day you will have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you. Then you'll see what it's like! I can't wait!"

YOUTH PAGE

MISSION MEXICO MEETING: WEDNESDAY, MAY 24 @ 6:00 P.M.

Graduation Recognition Sunday

Graduation is right around the corner and we want to be sure and recognize all of our church people who will be graduating from Grade School, High School and College this year.

If you are, or have a graduate this year, please let the church office know their name and what school they are graduating from by Wednesday, May 10. It will be published in the May 14 bulletin.

Because WCHS graduation is May 21st and that falls right between Mother's Day and Memorial Day weekend we will be holding the High School Graduation Recognition and Potluck on Sunday, June 4th after 2nd service.

Check weekly bulletins for more information.

'Senior Night'

Join us on Wed., May 17 at 8:30 p.m. after Baccalaureate for WCHS, for a cake and punch reception for all of our graduating High School Seniors. Everyone is welcome to stop by and congratulate our 2006 graduates.

Invisible Children

Join us at the R.O.C.K. on Saturday, May 13th from 7-10 PM, as we will be watching the documentary Invisible Children, which focuses on the victims of the longest-running war in Africa.

This is for High Schoolers (although adults are welcome to come if they would like to be a part of it, but no one younger than High School.) We will take up an offering to go toward the relief efforts in Uganda so please be prepared to give generously. If you have questions please see Jon.

Sr High Youth Group

The High School Youth Group is meeting at the Pittman's on Sunday evenings from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

May's Youth Team Meeting will be held Wednesday, May 3rd at 7:30 PM. Please see Cory Hynek if unable to attend.

Annual All-Church Youth Fundraiser Garage Sale

Yes, with the prime garage sale season here we want to let you know that the Mexico Mission 2006 Youth Group is planning their annual fund-raising All Church Garage Sale. The date is set for June 8th, 9th, & 10th (Thursday-Saturday). Exact times will be published a little later.

So get busy and start cleaning out your closets, garages, and nooks and crannies. You can bring any of your good, usable items to the south parsonage garage through May. Again, this year we stress, bring only good, clean, usable items. Please no broken items or things that need to go in the trash.

Once again, this is a fundraiser for the Youth and all proceeds will go toward the Mexico Mission trip this Summer. If you need help getting your items here contact Jon Pittman.

Keep an eye on the weekly bulletin for updates and more details.

Fabulous Flamingo Fund Raiser!!

Don't miss this opportunity to add some "home improvements" to our local yards! For just a simple donation toward our Youth Summer Mission Trip to Mexico you can add a little 'tropical flavor' to a friend's yard.

Give your donation to Jon or Jessica Pittman. Please make any checks out to WCC; memo line reading "Flamingo Fund Raiser" and an address of which favorite friend you would like to "donate" our pink flamingo to for a short time period. Our little 'flamingo elves' will secretly decorate said yard with pink fun!

If the flamingo flies to your yard, how about a small donation for the elves to return for a "pick-up"? Don't miss the fun! We do all the work! The

Flamingo-Mobile is just a phone call away! Jon-444-2550 or Ginny - 444-7732.

VBS ~ Fiesta 2006 !!

Where Kids are On Fire for Jesus!

July 30th ~ August 4th

VBS 2006 will be here before you know it, but we need your help and talent to make it a success! Dates for this year's VBS are Sunday, July 30th thru Friday, Aug. 4th from 6-8:45 PM. Let's get fired up about Jesus! Mark it on your calendars!

Each Crew member will learn that Jesus is our friend, our life, our leader, our Savior and our helper! There will be daily challenges in Chadder's Desert Drive-in Theater, Cactus Crafts, Grande Games, Hot Bible Adventures, Maraca Munchies and lots of awesome music in Sing & Play Ole! Our mission will be Mission Mexico 2006.

This year the ages for kids to attend will be 4 year olds through 5th grade. We will take 3 year olds but only if you are a helper for VBS. Also, a Nursery will be available for worker's children.

Again this year we will offer a simple, fairly inexpensive meal before VBS starts each night, (except for Sunday evening) for those who are helping and their children that are attending. The menu and a sign-up sheet will be posted shortly before VBS starts. This allows those helpers who need to be here early or are coming directly from work to be able to eat and not have to worry about fixing supper.

If you would like to help, sign up on the Youth VBS sign-up display bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall or if you have any questions, please contact either Jess Bochart (444-8531) or Jess Pittman (444-5868).

We will need crew leaders to take the kids from station to station, Bible lessons teachers, Pre-School teachers, recreation, craft, drama, registration, and publicity people, snack helpers, and people who are willing to help decorate. So you see, there are plenty of areas available for you to be involved!

Thanks in advance for your prayers & support!

F. Y. I. -- For Your Information

From Nathan Hart:

I was meditating on and reading in the Gospels about Christ's sacrifice on Friday and God led me to write a poem. It was an awesome way to connect with God. You should try it... May you have an awesome Resurrection Sunday (Easter).

GOOD FRIDAY

by Nathan Hart

The Cross gives me hope
It sets man free
Jesus gave this hope
As a gift on Calvary

Jesus, your obedience to God
Drives me to my knees
Knowing that your death
Led to my victory

The thought of your pure blood
Brings tears to my eyes
Satan's last ditch effort
Was a blessing in disguise

They said you saved others
But yourself you could not free
All because you knew
This was the way to eternity

You did not utter one complaint
Even to your last breath
So that we would know the will of God
And how purposeful was your death

Now you sit enthroned on high
Setting mankind free
Waiting to draw the brokenhearted near
Through your gift on Calvary

Printed with Nathan's permission.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and Best Wishes go out to Michael and La Desta Libotte who were married Friday, April 21st, here at WCC. The new Mr. & Mrs. Michael Libotte will be living at 117 Bess St., Washington, IL 61571

Women of Faith Conference

Contagious Joy 2006

It's time again to think about attending this year's conference which will be stopping in the following cities:

Chicago, July 7-8 (early bird registration ends April 28th) Special guests: Avalon, Nicole C. Mullen, Anita Renfroe

St. Louis, Aug, 4-5 (early bird registration ends May 26th) Special guests: Donna VanLiere, Anita Renfroe, Natalie Grant, Sherri Shepherd

Ft. Wayne, IN, Aug. 18-19 (early bird registration ends June 9th) Special guests: Natalie Grant, Avalon, Carol Kent

To find out more information visit:

www.womenoffaith.com or talk to someone who has attended the conference in the past, contact Kara McClintock (309-444-1751). It's a wonderful experience, you don't want to miss it!

LIFEGROUP Meeting Places and Times

Sunday @ 6:00 p.m. ~ LIFEGROUP @ Gillespie's, 1506 Kern Rd.

6:00 p.m. ~ LIFEGROUP @ Heller's, 209 N. Pine

Monday @ 6:30 p.m. ~ LIFEGROUP @ Taylor's, 208 W. Holland and

6:30 p.m. ~ LIFEGROUP @ location various each week, check bulletin for weekly meeting place.

Wednesday @ 6:15 p.m. ~ LIFEGROUP @ Church

Two new Groups will be starting shortly. Keep an eye on the weekly bulletin for details. If interested in joining one of these existing groups or starting one on your own, please see Ed Taylor.

F.I.S.H. NEWS

The F.I.S.H. menus for May are as follows:

May 3rd: Spoon Tacos, Dessert; May 10th: LAST F.I.S.H.: Pizza, Salad, Dessert;

Please sign up in the foyer by the Sunday before the meal, and if you have to cancel, please call the office as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly. Cost: \$3 per person or \$7 per immediate family.

Join us after the meal (6:15 p.m.) for the Adult Bible Studies and Youth Groups.

In the auditorium on the May 3rd Jonathan and Amanda Moore will be joining us to speak about their experiences while in Africa and their future plans. Then on the 10th Mr. Larry Simonson from Christian Homes, Inc. will be speaking on a new Supported-Living Center to be built across from Washington Christian Village.

Please make it a point to join your church family for a meal and fellowship time for the last two F.I.S.H. nights of this season. After the 10th, we will be taking a break for the Summer. Enjoy.

WASHINGTON CHRISTIAN VILLAGE NEWS

submitted by Anamarie Morris

WCV Volunteer Luncheon

On Thursday, April 20, 2006, WCV held its Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at the Country side Banquet facility in Sunnyland. Over 100 individuals had a meal of either Italian Pasta or Baked Chicken with Salad and Dessert.

Sherry Gutermuth, the present administrator at WCV, welcomed everyone, and then Jim Powell from Richwoods offered both the invocation and later the benediction.

Larry Simonson gave a brief description of the Supportive Living Facility to be built by 2007.

The DC Trio, led by Dawn Clark, entertained the volunteers with some familiar songs.

Jim Gorby gave a short speech thanking the volunteers for all their work. Afterwards he presented some door prizes, had a kind word about the key ladies, and honored the volunteer of the year--Delores Knuppel, the cookie lady. Delores takes cookies to the Village every Friday.

Everyone who is active in some way is invited to attend the annual Recognition Luncheon.

WCV Auxiliary

During March, Anamarie collected Auxiliary dues of \$2 per person. Singles, couples, and as well as some complete families joined the WCV Auxiliary. Ninety four such units contributed a total of \$408 to WCV Auxiliary. Anamarie will let the Auxiliary members know in a later notice how the monies were used for the residents. Thank you all very much.

WCV Volunteer Day

If your children get completely bored and are driving you up a wall with the time honored expressions of "I'm bored." and "There's nothing to do." remember that the Washington Christian Village can use volunteers to help at 9 a.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month. Generally the volunteers fill water pitchers or visit with the residents. They may pass out mail or could stay and help during the lunch time meal. Everyone is welcome. Children will need their parents' supervision

WCV April 2006 Theme Party Report

On Wednesday, April 12, 2006, WCC volunteers held the WCV April Birthday Theme Party recognizing eleven residents celebrating April birthdays.

Thanks to Christy Archdale, Rose Bankes, Laurel Gillespie, Angie Hobbs, Tom Libotte, and

Cheri Taylor, there was plenty of delicious cake. After the residents devoured their share of ice cream and cake, the leftovers were left in the staff lounge.

While two groups of volunteers took cake and ice cream to the remaining residents who were in their rooms, Earl and Paul Born took turns calling the bingo games in the dining room for the residents who were interested.

The winners could choose from batteries, stuffed animals, crossword puzzles, candy, and other items. Special thanks go to Celia Adams, Earl, Paul, and Liz Born, Pat Connaughton, Doris Froebel, Pat Huskins, Marilyn McDonald, Anamarie Morris, Edna Neal, Joyce Nordhielm, and Patra Robertson for making time in their busy schedules to provide a fun afternoon for the residents at WCV.

Additional "thank you's" go out to "We Would See Jesus", "Real Life", and the "Young Adults" Sunday School Classes for their donations. The next special event at the Village is County Fair Days, Wednesday, May 17. We will need people to provide sliced strawberries and kiwi. There is always a need for additional help to serve the residents.

Circle of Friends Ladies Group

Circle of Friends met March 23rd at 6:30 p.m. and enjoyed snacks as we visited with one another. Shortly before seven, Angie and Olivia Hobbs started their Power-Point presentation using slides that they had taken on their mission trip to the Dominican Republic this past February with several other people from WCC and several from LCC.

During their trip one of the responsibilities they had was to help build an office on the fourth floor of the mission building in the city they were staying in. If you ask Angie she can tell you exactly how many steps there are from the bottom of the stairs up to the top carrying buckets of sand and gravel.

Both Angie and Olivia really enjoyed the trip, and both are planning to return to the Dominican Republic along with Steve and possibly Logan.

They carried materials, visited with children and were helpful in numerous ways. They had an opportunity to visit "The Hole" which is a huge area otherwise known as a city garbage dump where numerous people scrounge for a living. The group met with children who come to feeding centers.

The entire congregation had an opportunity to learn additional information from the entire mission team who shared their experience on Wednesday, April 26th during F.I.S.H.