



News from the Heartland

Volume 1, Issue 3

Lamoni Heartland Mission Center

October 2007

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PATHWAYS OF PEACE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"You are called to create pathways in the world for peace in Christ ..." Doctrine and Covenants 163:3a

Today, we are called to build pathways of peace. Peace building is not an easy task and requires specific attention to the world around us. Personal peace comes from reconciliation with our self, our world, and our God. Take time to reflect and pray for personal peace. Congregational peace comes from reconciliation with those

who we join with in worship and ministry. Take time to reconcile anew with one another.

Peace that reaches out to others can only take place if we feel the peace of Christ within ourselves and our congregational life. Every congregation is called to be an ensign of peace for their community. Every time we meet with our congregation let us be mindful of the many diverse people meeting with us. Let the words and actions that we share be a pathway for peace and every moment of ministry

viewed as an opportunity to bring peace to those around us.

You have shown me peace as I have traveled throughout the Mission Center. I have been met with pathways of peace everywhere I have traveled. I appreciate the support my family and I have received. I look forward to our continued journey in building pathways of peace together.

In the Love of Christ,
Kevin Brunner
Mission Center President

Mission Center Conference November 10, 2007

On Saturday, November 10, at 10:00 a.m. at the Lamoni Church the fall conference for the Lamoni Heartland Mission Center will convene. Worship will be held in the morning and will include the ordinations of Paula Slasor-Watson to the office of Seventy and Becky Ballantyne to the office of High Priest. In addition,

there will be a setting apart service for the leadership of the Mission Center. Apostle Mary Jacks Dynes will be sharing in ministry with the conference.

Lunch will be provided by the youth as a fundraiser for their mission trip for next summer.

A business session will be held in the afternoon to conduct business and approve the Mission Center budget.

Your participation in this important event is appreciated.

PRIESTHOOD ACCOUNTABILITY

On Friday, November 9, at 7:00 p.m. at the Lamoni Church there will be an opportunity for Priesthood and Spouses to visit about Doctrine and Covenants Section 163. The evening will include an opportunity to contemplate and discuss with other priesthood about what it means to be a priesthood member and reflect on the recent inspired words shared in March. Focus will include time spent on paragraphs six and nine of section 163. The priesthood is asked to make prayerful preparation for this

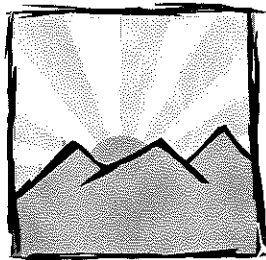
event and come ready to share insights and listen to other's thoughts. Apostle Mary Jacks Dynes will be present to share inspiration and participate in the discussion.

If you plan to join the activities on Friday evening and would like to stay overnight for the conference on the following Saturday, you may contact Linda Fisher at the Lamoni Mission Center office at (641)784-3353 to find a place to stay. If you live in the La-

moni area and are interested in housing some people for a night please contact Linda Fisher. The members in the Lamoni area are encouraged to open their homes to enrich the fellowship of the Mission Center Conference through personal sharing.

If you have questions, please call the Lamoni Mission Center office.

"Priesthood is a sacred covenant. ..."
Doctrine and Covenants 163:6a



"Claim a New Vision Together" is the theme for the 2008 Ecumenical Women's Gathering to be held June 19-22 at the Temple Complex in Independence, Missouri. This Women's Conference is sponsored by Church Women United.

Women are invited to "Come experience a fresh, new vision." There will be Bible study, plenary sessions, workshops, forums, music, creative worship, celebrations, denominational dinners, regional gatherings, and small groups. The event is for women ages 15 to 100

and will feature vibrant worships, small-group communities, and motivating workshops. Noteworthy speakers highlight the event: Glory Dharmaraj, United Methodist; Cynthia Hale, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Trinetta McCray, American Baptist; Kikanza Nuri Robins, Presbyterian Church USA; Nancy Hastings Sehested, United Church of Christ and the Alliance of Baptists; and Gail Mengel, Community of Christ. Contemporary issues will be addressed including peace and justice, diversity, racism, reconciliation, ecology, health issues, family, theological perspectives, outreach opportunities, and more.

2008 Ecumenical Women's Gathering

Community of Christ women will have the opportunity to further explore how to apply what they have learned and experienced once they return to their home communities to share the peace of Jesus Christ. A lunch and closing session will be held immediately following the final worship.

Early Registration (up to November 30, 2007) is \$160.00. Registration (December 1, 2007—February 29, 2008) is \$175.00. Registration after March 1, 2008 is \$200.00. Registration information and forms are available online at www.gathering08.org. Registration forms and information will also be available in the local congregations.

life when I needed to feel your presence.

Note of thanks from Scott Murphy

Dear friends,

As I continue to move forward in my journey of healing, I wanted to take the opportunity to express my deep appreciation and thanks for all the messages and cards you sent, along with all the prayers you lifted up for me and my family. Even though the severity of my injury and the added complications of

contracting pneumonia in the hospital has made for a long and difficult journey, I can still give claim to many profound blessings that have come during this time. One of those blessings was to be connected with you, again, through your calls and messages. I was blessed as I was remembered by a group of people I love and hold in my heart. So, thank you for bringing that presence of joy to my

Please know that I think of you often and remember you in prayer. May the presence of God's grace and peace continue to empower the ministry you bring in the Lamoni Heartland Mission Center. I look forward to when our paths will cross again.

With joyful memories,
Scott Murphy

Mark Your Calendars!

Nov. 2-4	Junior High Retreat at Guthrie Grove
Nov. 3	Harvest Dinner, 5:30pm, Osceola
Nov. 9	Priesthood & Spouse Gathering, 7pm, Lamoni
Nov. 10	Mission Center Conference, 10:00am, Lamoni
Nov. 17	Messiah Performance, 8 p.m., Independence
Nov. 22-25	Thanksgiving Holiday, MC Offices closed
Dec. 2	First Sunday of Advent
Dec. 9	Advent Service at the Temple in Independence, 7 p.m.
Dec. 24-Jan. 1	Christmas Holiday—MC Offices closed through Jan. 1, 2008
Dec. 30-Jan. 1	Senior High Yuletide Retreat at Guthrie Grove
Jan. 11-13, 2008	Covenant Discipleship Group training, Lamoni



HONOR GOD WITH YOUR HEART

In Mark Allen Powell's book, *Giving to God*, the introduction is entitled "Getting Completely Wet," where he invites readers to conjure up an image of the war-like Gauls of the middle-ages. Urban legend has it that when the Gallic territory was Christianized, the Gauls had a peculiar custom of keeping their arms out of the water when being baptized. Then when the next skirmish broke-out they could claim "This arm has not been baptized," as they grabbed a club, sword, or ax and rode off to destroy the enemy in a most un-Christian manner. While this story may or may not have any basis in fact, it is a peculiar image. It is extremely compelling to think of anyone trying to keep one part of their body, one aspect of their identity, free from the influence of baptism. This story has been cause for further reflection and imagining of persons being baptized holding their purse, wallet, item of value, or some other part of their identity out of the water as if to shield it from Divine

influence. Seems far-fetched on the surface, but is it? Many devout Christians find themselves shielding some aspect of their life when making and living their commitment to Christ . . . honoring with their lips, but their hearts are adrift.

Most Christians read Matthew 6:21 in the retrospective: *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* At first brush, this seems to be a scathing condemnation of our misplaced values when we surround ourselves with things that our culture lifts up as appropriate to our position and status (who are we really honoring?). Let's read it again, but this time proactively. The things we value will guide where our hearts will go. If we value our relationship with God and our community, that understanding will determine where our hearts will be found. This value system apparently drives our hearts instead of the other way around, so we are admonished to treat the things we value with the proper

attitude, as it is a spiritual discipline. Jesus is stating flat-out what will happen, regardless of how guarded we are about it — "where your treasure is, there your heart will be!" Your heart will follow what you value. The point is not about how the things we value reveals what sort of person we are, but it is about how we apply the things we value for the sake of others and the Kingdom that determines what sort of persons we will become. Our treasure is whatever we value — our time, our possessions, our families, even our physical bodies. Whatever we value is our treasure — and Jesus is saying, what we do with our treasures affects our hearts. The Good News is we can control our hearts by placing that which we value at God's disposal. Jesus gave us the formula for impassioned living, simply by deciding what sort of people we want to be, and then giving our treasure to those things that we want to care about.

Jim McKinney, Bishop

Newton Peacemakers Club

Last fall, Erica McCroskey came to the Newton Congregation and asked if we would be willing to provide space for an ESL class that she was teaching. At that time they were meeting in her apartment, but needed more room as the numbers increased. And there was a need for child care during the time the class was meeting. So she asked the congregation if we would be willing to help out. We said yes to both providing space for her class and providing childcare for the kids. At that time there were two one year olds and two ten year olds coming with their moms. Within two weeks the number had jumped to four or five older children and the need for a more structured activity was apparent. The volunteers decided to try the Peacemakers material and crafts to see if the youth would like that format. They liked it from the start! As the weeks progressed they began inviting others to come to the Tuesday night Peacemakers Club. We began to average ten to twelve children ranging in ages one to ten.

As the weeks went on the cultural barrier was broken down to the point that the youth trusted us to share their concerns and joys with us, and the moms trusted us enough to feel very comfortable entrusting their children to us. The youth enjoyed sharing their projects and activities with their moms and families at home. The moms were very proud of the things their children were accomplishing at Peacemakers.

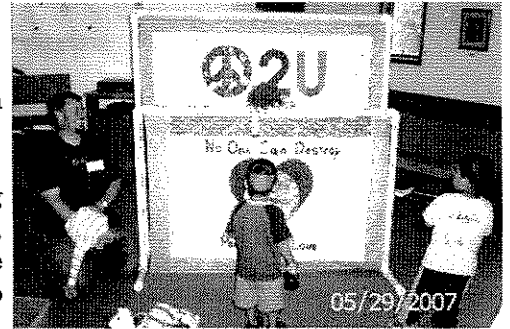
Through the year, the youth made a treasure chest, Aztec mirrors, a banner that we hung in the sanctuary, painted hand prints to

display in the entry, and went on a treasure hunt.

In the class portion of the evening they learned about peace for them, peace for others, and peace for the planet. The youth were so enthusiastic about the peace topic, we asked and were blessed with having the PeaceMobile visiting the last two sessions for 2007 (Thanks Jeannine Ward). The highlights of the year were captured in a camp log that the youth composed and the volunteers published.

Wrapping up our year in this way, the youth, mothers and the volunteers worked through the cultural diversity and gained a greater understanding of peace for all.

After going through the year by operating on the "flying by the seat of the pants" method, it became apparent the we needed to be better organized for the coming year. As a result, a grant application was submitted to the Mission Center to help fund the



club for 2007/2008 and beyond. The grant has enabled the congregation to purchase new material for the club and the mother's class, new storage units and craft items. Future plans include a basketball hoop, changing table in one of the restrooms, and possibly field trips to places of interest.

The 2007-2008 Peacemakers Club year started on September 4 with six mothers, with Dave Crandell serving as teacher, and eight youth. Since then we have grown back to the 10 - 12 youth with two new children joining the club. So, as the old saying goes, Praise the Lord and pass the glue! The Newton Peacemakers Club is on the move.

Submitted by Tom McClure



Clear Lake Youth Ministries

"Thanks to the Missionary Grant Program of the Lamoni Heartland Mission Center the Clear Lake congregation had an extremely successful Fall Kickoff for the youth of North Iowa. In recent years the program has grown from a handful of 7-12 year olds, to now requiring two youth groups by adding a teen program once again. "Youth Night" and "Night for Teens" will each meet once a month on the third Saturday and Sunday.

The Kick-off program featured "Sheltered Reality" (SR) drum group made up of youth age 7 to 19 playing high energy, choreographed drumming that shook the neighborhood for over an hour. Opening for SR was our own Branstad Family Band leading praise and worship songs. Testimonies of values and growth were shared along with fun games that all participated in. Dee and Terry Jones led fun activities and provided ministerial support.

Over 120 people attended, many of whom were first time youth guests who plan to come again. This was a great "come and see" event and youth program kick-off, thanks to the Mission Center support.

Sheltered Reality is a volunteer, Christian based ministry to instill character development in youth, especially for those of school age. Performance fees provide support to address homelessness.

Submitted by
Wanda Hagman

Mission Center Praise Band

All youth who are musically inclined are invited to participate in the Mission Center Praise Band. The youth praise band has been formalized for 2008 and beyond with significant support from the Mission Center and Northwest, Lamoni, and Bloomington Congregations.

Anyone who plays an instrument or enjoys singing is welcome to participate. Please contact Jeannine Ward (phone 515/222-0963) or e-mail the.wards@mchsi.com if you are interested. Our first practice will be on Saturday, November 3 at the Wards, 709 Valley West Dr. in West Des Moines at 5:00 p.m. We have been asked to participate in the Mission Center Conference on Saturday, November 10 in Lamoni. Please remember your

instruments if you plan to participate. Youth, also remember to check the praise band box so we know that your parents are giving you permission to play and travel with the praise band. Youth will not be driving to and from congregations just as they do not drive during other youth events.

We are willing to come to congregations throughout the mission center to share the talents that God has blessed us with. The music that we will play may be hymns or contemporary, a little loud or soft. There are so many talented youth in this mission center that a wide range of music will be rehearsed.

The praise band will play music for certain portions of your congregation's worship or pro-



vide the whole service including youth testimonies and prayers. If you would like to arrange for the Youth Praise Band to come to your congregation, please call Jeannine Ward at 515/222-0963 or e-mail the.wards@mchsi.com. The youth can provide a significant ministry to you and your congregation. Please include them in your planning for 2008.

Submitted by
Jeannine Ward

Ames Congregation Ministry



The Ames Congregation began a ministry of support for the rebuilding of Afghanistan by knitting hats and sending school supplies for underprivileged children who do not have access to the same types of items that American children do. During the July 2007 Lamoni Heartland Mission Center Reunion, several women, under the direction of Mary Ellen Silver, began knitting hats for the children. During the recent Women's Retreat, several of the women who had attended the reunion brought the hats they had made at home and are still continuing to make more hats. Gary and Mary Ellen Silver's daughter, Rachel Fant, who is serving in Afghanistan, will be coordinating the delivery of these items.



Those women who attended the women's retreat are ...

Pictured standing in back (left to right):
Paula Page, Barbara McKiernan, Amy McBirnie,
Marie Hawley

Seated in front (left to right):
Connie Sneller, Janice Rowley, Phyllis Weaver,
Deb DeVries, Joyce Moses, Mary Ellen Silver

Reunions — 2008

Dates have been set for the 2008 Reunions at Guthrie Grove:

Reunion #1—June 7-11, 2008

Reunion #2 — July 12-18, 2008

Reunion Directors for Reunion #1 will be Dan and Becky Long of the Lamoni Congregation. Guest Minister will be Apostle Mary Jacks Dynes.

Reunion Directors for Reunion #2 will be Brian and Skyla Mann of the Northwest Des Moines Congregation, assisted by Sandy Ranney and Chauntel Ranney of the Bloomington Congregation. Guest

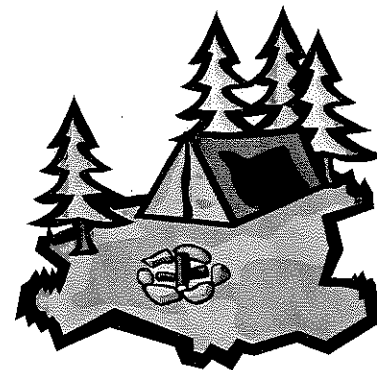
Minister will be Wim van Klinken, Director of International Headquarters.

A Big THANK YOU to Suzi Gruver and to Marla Cox and BJ Pinsonneault for their hard work in directing the reunions this past summer. A Big THANKS goes also to each person who served on the staff at the reunions and to all who attended.

Reunions are a great opportunity to draw apart from our busy lives to be spiritually fed as well as to enjoy the rich fellowship of being

community with others in our mission center.

We hope you will make plans to attend one or both reunions next summer at Guthrie Grove.



Back to the Future Senior High Church Historic Sites Caravan — July 11-18

On July 11-18, 2007, 44 Senior High youth and 9 leaders from the Prairie Bluffs Mission Center and the Lamoni Heartland Mission Center traveled 2,563 miles "Back to the Future." As the story of the church unfolded before us in Plano, Palmyra, Kirtland, Nauvoo and Liberty Hall, a sense of "belonging" began to grow in the youth. Knowing who we are and where we have come from, gives us courage and direction for where we are headed.

Participants from Lamoni Heartland Mission Center included Brian Anders, Patty Baldwin, Amanda Blum, Cody Brown, Alex Conrad, Casey Conrad-Davis, Shane Conrad-Davis, Mitchell Eagles, Kylie Good, David Gorden, Greg Hensley, Abraham Nicholas, Emily Nichols, Lisa Orndorff, Ethan Pitt, Ryan Pitt, Kelsey Shantz, Tom Ward, Jordan Webb, Julie Elliott, Dee Jones and Dale Ward.

Submitted by
Dee Jones

The following is a testimony of Lisa Orndorff's experience in the Kirtland Temple. Lisa was recently confirmed a member of the church and attends the Northwest congregation.

"Our group was very fortunate because we were allowed to have a Communion Service in the Kirtland Temple at night. As part of the worship, I had volunteered to share my testimony about the experience I had in the Sacred grove, the place where Joseph Smith, Jr. had his vision. I was a

little nervous about doing this, but the testimony that I shared about the Grove wasn't as big as the one I received that night during the service.

The worship started with singing and praising and slowly wound down to the more serious part. When it came time to stand and offer prayers about the concerns we were carrying, I wanted to share about my friend, Rahmana (Schooler), because I was scared for her. She was in the hospital and wasn't able to come on the Caravan at the last minute. Rahmana was going through a difficult time but as bad as I wanted to speak up, I was afraid I would lose control.

In the Kirtland Temple, each row of seats has a little door at the end that latches until you pull up on the lever for it to open. As I was sitting there thinking about Rahmana, someone in my row leaned back in the pew and rocked it a bit, and the latch popped open. One of the Temple guides noticed it was open and quickly re-latched it. All of a sudden, I found myself standing, praying for Rahmana. I hadn't realized how much I missed her and of course, I did lose control and started crying. But I felt strength and courage, too.

When it came time for people to share their testimonies, the door at the end of my pew was somehow open again. None of the other doors were opening by themselves. I got up to share my testimony and when I went back



to my pew, I made sure that I latched the door tight.

At that point, my attention was drawn to the front of the sanctuary where there are several specially designated chairs that the church leadership used to sit in. I began to pray silently, asking God to show me that He was really there and that I wasn't alone. I looked back at the little door, hoping that it would somehow pop open again. When it didn't happen, I focused my attention elsewhere. Then a few minutes later, I looked back and the door stood open again. This time I knew that the latch on that door wasn't broken, because I had locked it myself! I smiled and looked upward, knowing that God was looking down on me.

I think God is always there trying to unlock the doors we choose to close. It doesn't matter how long it takes, He will keep trying to unlock those doors until we let Him in. I will never forget the Kirtland Temple. It will remain my favorite part of the trip because that is where I honestly felt God for the first time. And He gave me the courage to stand up and say a prayer for Rahmana."

Lisa Orndorff
Northwest Des Moines
Congregation

LAMONI COMMUNITY OF CHRIST YOUTH WORK THEIR WAY THROUGH NEW ENGLAND

Youth from Lamoni spent a week traveling and working their way through Maine and Massachusetts in August on a community service trip. Preparation for the trip and the trip itself are designed to introduce the youth to community service and to their global church family. We earned all the funds needed for the trip itself through service-related fundraisers throughout the year.

Community service projects during the trip included weeding, laying mulch, and planting in the Freeport, Maine, community garden; weeding, cleaning, washing windows, reorganizing, and shoveling rock at the Beth C. Wright Cancer Center in Ellsworth,

Maine (Beth Wright was a Community of Christ member who was instrumental in the center's development - she passed away at the age of 29 and the center was named in her honor); and helping prepare chowder, cleaning out an attic, weeding, setting up craft booths, and picking up trash at the Onset Campgrounds in Onset, Massachusetts.

The 13 youth and 3 youth leaders enjoyed a lobster dinner at the home of church members Buzz and Suzanne Carver on Beals Island in Maine. We spent an afternoon on Buzz's lobster boat, along with the Carvers' 3-year-old son,

Noah, catching lobster, baiting the traps, spotting harbor seals, and generally learning more about God's creation. The lobsters cooked while we worked on a massive rock-moving project, then we got to eat our catch!



Lamoni youth Kapri Walling was baptized at Onset Beach in

Massachusetts. Kapri wanted her baptism to be in one of God's naturally beautiful locations. Plans were made prior to the trip for this sacrament, and it was one of the highlights of the week for all of us. Another highlight was our whale-watching tour "down on" Cape Cod. All creatures great and small - the Lord God truly made them all!

We also enjoyed some R&R time in Acadia National Park and Bar Harbor, Maine. We had an opportunity for somber reflection at the site of the World Trade Center, were able to glimpse the Statue of Liberty in New York City, and visited the Old North Church in Boston, made famous when the lantern in its belfry was used to signal Paul Revere during the Revolutionary War.

Plans are already underway for special activities in 2008.

Submitted by
Marjie Foster



Participants in the 2007 Lamoni Community Service Trip included: (front L to R) Mitch Foster, April Mohler, Casey Conrad Davis, Greg Hensley, Alannah Black, Hannah Jones; (middle L to R) Kapri Walling, Clint Foster, Dane Mahi, Joe Mickelson, Olivia Conrad, Dustin Mahi; (back) Brian Anders (not shown) adult leaders Janelle Anders, Marjie Foster, Mike Foster

From Seventy Kent Parker

Dear friends,

It seems like such a small way to greet so many, after so many years and after so many shared experiences with God and our Savior, Jesus Christ. But those two words characterize my feelings most profoundly for I count each and every one of you who count yourselves members of the Community of Christ and of the Lamoni Heartland Mission Center, as friends and fellow-travelers who seek the Christ just as I do. You have filled my life, in many ways, with joy and with a heart-felt wonder at the overwhelming love of our Lord as I have been privileged to witness that love being evidenced in your lives. For that, I thank you most joyfully and most humbly.

Many of you are aware of the path my life has taken since the first of the year. Loss of a long-standing job, death of my second parent and other events had seemingly all happened at once to essentially deflect

me and my ministry from that purpose God had put in place so very long ago. Well, for those of you that do not know, there is, as Paul Harvey would say, "...the rest of the story..."

I have been asked to take a position with Herald House. I felt this was an appropriate move for me and for my life and so accepted their offer. I will be moving of course, but I do so with mixed emotions. While I look forward to this new experience and the chance to make new friends and re-connect with old friends, I leave Iowa with a warm and deep sense of care and of love.

Having lived here for close to twenty years, I have been able to get to know many of you in ways that have shown me the "gold" that resides in your hearts and in your souls. I have been privileged to get a sense of the deep desire within the hearts of many to seek the "face of the Christ" and to embrace and encounter the Divine in all of its many aspects. Many times I have sat in wonder and awe at the depth of the Spirit resident in your beings and have praised God for that witness. I am DEEPLY thankful for your love and your ministry. To that end, I would leave you with the following thoughts.

Each of us wants to make our "mark" on life in general. Some of us make that mark through our children, some through our lives. Others make their mark on society and history through their giftedness and their exercise of those gifts. You, my friends, have been given even more.

Because you bear the name of Christ Jesus; because you are children of the Living God of Israel, you have been given a deep and abiding responsibility. You have charge of the "story". It falls to you to share that story of the Risen Christ who died that all might be redeemed and lifts a crying humanity to the realms of the Divine by His sacrifice and His ministry. You, as the keeper of the story, MUST tell it! Share the Christ every moment of every day! Capture the fire that God has placed in your heart and use it to break the shackles of despair and sin that bind so many souls. Share that which you have been given. DO NOT hold it to your-

self, but give it a way and then

watch it increase for you proportionately. My friends, if you do not have a clear and vibrant testimony of the love that your Maker has for you, then I have to ask you this question. Have you asked for such a testimony? If not, then please, oh please do so.

Then, sit back and watch the fireworks as God uses you in miraculous ways to touch the lives of those in need of the healing Grace of the Divine love. Become tools in the hands of the Master Carpenter. Spread the fire. I ask you to do this for two reasons.

The first reason is that this is the calling of a Christian and has been since time began! Share the story of the Risen Lord, the Good News. And my second reason for asking you to do this is a bit selfish. As I hear of the growth that Lamoni Heartland will undoubtedly experience, I will then feel as though I "made my mark" here in Iowa and shared the journey to the Christ with a band of friends and spiritual companions the likes of which the world has rarely seen.

I pray God's finest blessings on your homes, lives and families. I also pray that you share those blessings in wondrous ways with those around you that still seek the face of God. It is your calling, and it is God's joy to have you do this.

Now, at the risk of sounding like General Douglas MacArthur, "I shall return". May the God of the ages hold you close and give you peace. Amen and amen.



*It falls to you to share
that story of the Risen
Christ who died that all
might be redeemed*

Kent Parker

Children's Christmas Rally

Sunday, December 2, at West Des Moines

Mission Center Senior High will be hosting this unique party for children, 1st – 5th grades. Kids, join your friends for fun and games, a special visitor from the North Pole, and most importantly, an opportunity to share Christian love with a needy child from another country.

As part of our Christmas celebration, we will be packing gift-filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Last year, 7.6 million shoe boxes were delivered in over 100 countries, to children who might otherwise never receive a Christmas present. Children from Lamoni Heartland Mission Center are invited to be part of this amazing ministry by bringing a shoe box containing toys, toiletries and school supplies, a letter and photo for the recipient, some Christmas wrapping paper and \$7 to cover the cost of shipping.

Every child in the Mission Center is encouraged to participate in this activity whether they can bring gifts and the \$7 or not. As always, we will have an assortment of items available to choose from at the Rally, for those whose shoeboxes aren't quite full. Individuals/congregations can help the children with this project by donating small gift items and

cash. Contact Dee Jones (djones@cofchristlhmc.org) for more information.

This annual activity is teaching the children of our Mission Center to be generous disciples. They have been blessed, as they reach out to be a blessing to needy children all over the world.

Recently, Mariah Mann (Northwest Congregation) received this letter from the recipient of her shoe box:

September 29, 2007

Dear Mariah,
I'm very pleased that we're going to be pen friends. I'll tell you a little about myself, and you can do the same when you write to me.

I take your postcard one year ago in a gift in a church. Thank you very much for your gift. You are a beautiful girl and have beautiful eyes.

I live in a neighborhood of Lushnje called "18 Tetori". I'm Ornela. I live with my family and my grandmother. My father is dead in May 20, 2003 in Italy. His death was an accident and he was dead at 35 years old. My mother is Luli, 38 years old. She works in a garden of city Lushnje. My brother is



Lisander, he is 12 years old. He is in 7th grade. My grandmother is Emine. She is 80 years old. My mom is married again and had a baby. He is Orges. He is 1 year old. My stepfather is Fati. He is a very good person and loveable to us. He is a mechanic.

Now I write for me.

I am Ornela. I came from Albania and I live in Lushnje. I was born in 1992. My birthday is in July 18th. I'm in 10 grade. I like most subjects. History, geography, etc. In the evenings, I sometimes visit friends or stay at home and listen to music. I speak 1 language. I read a Bible every night. I believe in Jesus and go to church on Sunday.

How many languages do you speak? What kind of music do you like? Are you a believer in Jesus? Do you have any brothers or sisters? What do your parents do?

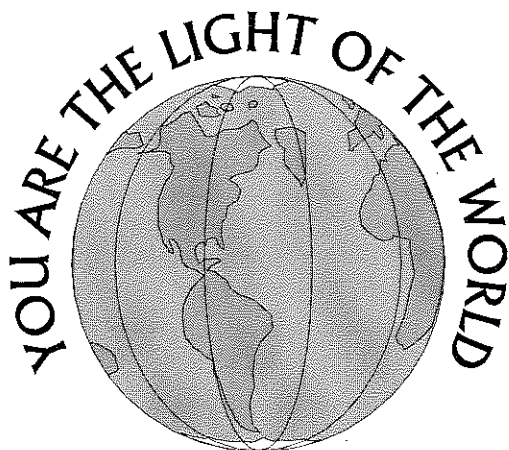
Please write to me soon! Good luck in school. Say hi to your family, your friends and your cousins.
from,
Ornela
ps Ornela + Mariah = Friends
Good-bye
I wait your letter!

Covenant Discipleship Groups

The Lamoni Congregation will host Carolyn Brock in a training session for Covenant Discipleship groups on Friday evening and all day Saturday, January 11 and 12, 2008 (specific agenda yet to be de-

veloped). This training session will be of interest both to those who want to lead Covenant Discipleship groups and to those who would like to, eventually, participate in the Covenant Discipleship

experience. There is a \$10 registration fee to cover cost of materials (\$5), and food (\$5 noon and evening meals on Saturday plus snacks).



Lamoni Heartland Mission Center Conference Weekend

“Called to Be a Disciple in My Community”

Guest Ministry: Apostle Mary Jacks Dynes

Priesthood and Spouse Gathering

Friday, November 9, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.

Lamoni Congregation

Dialogue on Doctrine and Covenants 163

Mission Center Conference

Saturday, November 10, 2007

Lamoni Congregation

- 10:00 a.m. Worship and Business
Setting apart of Mission Center Leadership
Ordinations:
Becky Ballantyne to the office of High Priest
Paula Slasor-Watson to the office of Seventy
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch provided by the youth -- Freewill Offering
- 1:00 p.m. Business Session

Conference Agenda Items:

- Sustaining of Mission Center Leadership
- Mission Center Budget for 2008
- Election of Guthrie Grove Board positions
- Guthrie Grove Budget for 2008

*Come and share in the spirit of sacred community as we
worship and fellowship together*



Community of Christ

1645 Pennsylvania Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50316

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2008 Camps and Reunions

At Guthrie Grove Campgrounds

May 27-31, 2008	College Age Camp
June 7-11, 2008	Reunion #1
June 14-18, 2008	Junior Camp #1
June 29-July 5, 2008	Junior High Camp
July 6-12, 2008	Senior High Camp
July 12-18, 2008	Reunion #2
July 27-31, 2008	Junior Camp #2
August 1-3, 2008	Camp Just Do It

Graceland Spectacular will be held July 19-26, 2008
at Graceland University.

Mission Center Staff

Kevin Brunner, Mission Center President
Jim McKinney, Mission Center Financial Officer
Linda Fisher, Administrative Assistant
BJ Pinsonneault, Financial Assistant
Dee Jones, Field Specialist

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