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A City on a Hill Keeps Shining

Shreveport
Who is my Neighbor?

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Bearing Gifts and Traveling Far

Excerpt
A Prayer of Forgiveness
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VOL. 33, NO. 1

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FRONT COVER
For the last 40 years, some members of the Corvallis branch have lived in close proximity on “the hill,” where they have played outdoor games, planted vegetable gardens, shared lawnmowers and even raised cattle together. The Johnsons’ house is the two-story red house at the center. The community center is down and to the right from it, with other branch members’ houses surrounding them. Vine & Branches archives photo, by Paul Rentz.

BACK COVER
One day last October while making a South Bend-Chicago airport run, Jon Balsbaugh (South Bend) discovered the Shorebird Cafe in Chesterton, IN, which features more than one type of plate.

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Bearing Gifts and Traveling Far

BY CHRIS MEEHAN

This Christmas season Servant Branch members drove 2,640 miles to 23 different towns, many of them hundreds of miles from the Twin Cities, delivering Christmas gifts to the children of prisoners.

They went to places like Karlstad, Minnesota, a town of fewer than 1,000 people near the Canadian border and some 350 miles northwest of the Twin Cities. (The trip took two days.) In total, seven teams of drivers crisscrossed the northern half of the state and even dropped some gifts in South Dakota.

The effort is part of Project Angel Tree, sponsored by Prison Fellowship International, whose mission is to deliver presents to children on behalf of their incarcerated parents. A brief note from the parent accompanies each gift.

Servant Branch members have helped out for 35 years running, and they’ve earned a reputation for going wherever they’re needed. “I’m very impressed with People of Praise,” said Gayle Foster, who coordinates Project Angel Tree’s effort for an eight-state area. “They are willing to go the extra mile literally to help out”—traveling to towns where Angel Tree does not have any local church partners.

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More than 150 branch members joined the effort this year, says Bob O’Connell, who has been the driving force behind the branch’s efforts since the start. Their work included calling families to get gift recommendations, shopping for gifts and making baked goods. Jim and Norma Cahill negotiated with local grocery chain Cub Foods to procure turkeys for some of the larger families.

Bruce and Charlene Olson, the owners of Truestone Coffee Roasters, donated 48 one-pound bags of coffee, while others donated money.

Each child received at least one gift along with one clothing item and a Bible in the child’s native language. (The Bibles come from International Bible Givers in Anoka, Minnesota.) Families received a warm blanket, coffee and baked goods, while families with three or more children also received a turkey.

There were plenty of frustrations as well as laughs along the way. When Bob Krause and Brad Bye reached their last stop in Hibbing, Minnesota, they realized that they had accidentally dropped off the gifts intended for the family in Hibbing to a family in Chisholm, Minnesota (about seven miles away). They returned to Chisolm, swapped out the gifts, and made their way back to Hibbing!

Bob O’Connell has many moving stories from the past 35 years.

He remembers one time when a branch member called a woman who was caring for a young boy and girl to find out what kind of gifts the children would like. In conversation, the caller learned that the children, ages seven and nine, had been sleeping in the same bed because their caregiver did not have the money to buy an additional bed. The woman said she had saved up some money for a secondhand bed, but it had sold before she could buy it. The caller told Bob about the woman’s situation and together they spread the word among branch members. Someone donated a bed and they took it to her along with the Christmas gifts. She was stunned and delighted.

Another time Bob delivered a turkey to a grandmother, who walked Bob into her rundown kitchen and opened her pantry to show him one can of green beans—the only food she had. She said that, if not for the turkey, they would have had nothing but the beans for Christmas dinner.

“Most of the time, we don’t have these dramatic experiences,” Bob says. “We deliver the gifts and Bibles, and people say thanks and don’t invite us in, because they’re embarrassed about their lack of furniture or shabby living conditions. Some people we talk with and some we pray with, but we know that much of what we do is seed-planting. God is impressing upon the caregiver, the prisoner and the children that he is a caring God, and as we celebrate the birth of Christ it’s his love manifested through these gifts that will touch them and draw them to him bit by bit. This is what makes Angel Tree a richly rewarding labor of love for all our Servant Branch members.”
In Corvallis, a City on a Hill Keeps Shining

BY CHRIS MEEHAN AND ANNE OSTERHOUSE

If you stand on top of Mary’s Peak—at 4,097 feet the tallest point in the Central Oregon Coast Range—you can clearly see a large, red, colonial-style house which sits on top of a hill outside Corvallis. Set back from an idyllic country road, which is flanked on one side by a Douglas fir woods and on the other by tidy garden beds and a handful of well-pruned fruit trees, the house is at the heart of a cluster of 10 houses originally built and owned by members of The Vine and the Branches community, which later became the Corvallis branch.

For 40 years, it has been the site of many branch gatherings, parties and meetings, the house where scores of people have stayed for a night or a few months, and the yard where many branch children have played games long after dark on summer evenings. This year, since long-time owners Francis and Betty Johnson have moved into an assisted living facility, it is switching owners—but—to the relief of many—it is staying in the community.

When Tom and Jessica Melton’s fifth child, Lydia, was born last March, they knew their house, a few miles away from “the hill,” as the cluster is known, wasn’t going to last their family much longer. They had already felt like their house, at 1,350 square feet, was bursting at the seams even before adding a new baby to the mix. They were confident that the Lord would provide for their need, but they had no idea how. They started considering building an addition.

Last summer, Francis, 91, and then Betty, 95, each developed congestive heart failure, which hastened their decision about whether to stay in their house. Both builders by nature, Francis was part of the group of men who built most of the houses on the hill, and Betty and he had spearheaded the creation of an assisted living center in town, where they moved in December.

When the Johnsons decided to sell their house and move, branch members started asking, “How can we keep it in the community? Who could live in it?” The Meltons certainly needed more space, but they knew the Johnsons’ house would be too expensive for them. They never even considered it.

John and Mary Lou Carey have lived down the hill from the Johnsons for many years and shared a garden with them. In 2001, while the Careys were remodeling their own house, they and two of their teenage children moved in with the Johnsons for two months. Mary Lou is a retired nurse, and as the Johnsons began developing health problems last year the Careys often walked up the hill to assist them. When the question of what to do with the Johnsons’ home arose, the Careys realized that they could help, even though they weren’t looking for a house themselves. They agreed to purchase the house as an investment and offered it to the Meltons on a lease-to-own basis.

Jessica Melton is the daughter of branch members Chris and Colette Taylor and grew up on the hill. Her father, Chris, built the Johnsons’ house in 1977 along with Francis and Chris’s brother, Frank. “Having the opportunity to live in Francis and Betty’s house was totally unexpected—the farthest thing from my mind,” says Jessica. “Although the Lord had made it clear to me that he was going to provide the additional space we needed, I never imagined I would be able to live across the street from where I grew up, in a house my father built. It’s really awesome that the Careys have made it possible for us to afford it.”
The Johnsons’ house will be a big upgrade in space for the Meltons. It has 2,700 square feet of finished space, plus a large, unfinished basement. The first floor has a kitchen, living room, master bedroom, bathroom, family room with a fireplace and a dining room. Upstairs there are two bedrooms, another bathroom, a small sewing/hobby room and a very large bonus room that is 15 feet wide by 30 feet long, in which the Johnsons kept many beds, almost like a dormitory. (The Meltons are renovating the bonus room, adding a wall to turn it into two bedrooms, bringing the total number to five.)

Francis explains that they had not originally planned to make the house so big. “At first we weren’t especially focused on hospitality, but we built the house extra large because the Lord told us to.” Eventually they were hosting so many people that the house became known as the “Johnson Hotel”.

“The Johnsons were gracious enough to let community children and their friends play around their house on summer evenings, even after dark,” adds Tim Wagner. “Because it was centrally located and there were shrubs and trees for hiding plus a deck to use as home base, Francis and Betty were happy to have the children play, even after they had turned in for the night.”

It was the kind of life that the founders of the hill, or Christian Village, as it is also called, had hoped and planned for. In 1977, Fr. Charlie Harris, C.S.C., the Johnsons, the Hackenbrucks, the Taylors, the Wagners and a few other families then part of The Vine and the Branches community, bought 12 acres of rolling farmland together. They divided the property into one-acre lots and eventually built 10 houses, positioning them on the corners of lots to allow for future growth and for large common spaces between them, spaces that have served as sites for picnics, pig roasts, volleyball games and relay races over the years. An 11th home, belonging to Phil and Jean Monaco, lies across Nash Street and was not part of the original parcel of land. One of the lots already had a small farmhouse on it, which served as Fr. Charlie's home and office. Now expanded, the house serves the branch as a community center. Six of the original 10 homes are still owned by community members and the community.

For the longtime residents, the hill is full of memories—like the time three families went in together and bought a few head of cattle. As Tim recalls, “One day they escaped their pen. I still remember us running down the road trying to round them up.”

“Sometimes I’ll just see someone’s car in their driveway and use it as an excuse to stop by,” Tim adds. “The other day I delivered a mincemeat pie to Connie Hackenbruck, who shares my taste for them, and she, Terry and I sat around and reminisced about community history for 30 minutes.”

“We’re so grateful for the Careys’ generosity which will allow our original vision for shared life to continue,” says Phil Monaco, the principal branch coordinator. “This has been a big change for us. The Johnsons have always been literally at the center of our life, and we greatly miss them up on the hill. Their magnanimous generosity to every person has been absolutely beyond compare and inspiring, but it will be great to have a young family filling the gap. Our proximity has made a lot of wonderful things happen over the years and it’s precious to us.”

Tom and Jessica are looking forward to continuing all the hospitality a house with five children will allow once they move in, probably in February. “It’s a consolation to me that they will love it like we did and will take care of it,” says Francis. He and Betty have recently been heard to say, “The Johnson Hotel has new proprietors, and from now on will be called the Melton Hilton.”
But [the lawyer] wanted to vindicate himself, so he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” (Luke 10:29).

It’s 7:00 a.m. and Ben Reinhardt hears someone yelling and pounding on the front door of his house on Dove Street in Shreveport’s Allendale/Lakeside neighborhood. He opens it and finds his neighbor Cedric from across the street, warning him that a water main has burst and is flooding the Reinhardts’ lawn. Later that afternoon, Ben and Cedric commiserate together on Cedric’s porch, chatting with the city workers and waiting for the water for their block to be turned back on.

Mary Beckley and Lori Twining, teachers at Praise Academy and members of the Sisterhood who also live on that block, are a bit puzzled because someone keeps hauling their trash out to the road before they can do it themselves. Mary finally figures out that the culprit is Kenny, a quiet neighbor. He has been taking care of their trash for more than a year and does so for everybody else on the block as well.

When Brandon’s job takes him to Houston to help with renovations after Hurricane Harvey, sisters on the Christians in Mission team bring his wife LaToya and their kids meals each night for the first two weeks. They have three children at Praise Academy and live on the same street as Ben, the Sisterhood women, Cedric and Kenny.

It’s not uncommon for young moms on the Christians in Mission team to swap baby clothes and baby-raising tips with the moms of Praise Academy students. When a bag of hand-me-down clothes falls into the hands of Vanessa, one of Kathleen Reinhardt’s neighbors, she hollers across the street to see if Kathleen’s family can use any of them.

A cold snap hits Shreveport in early January and the whole neighborhood has to deal with frozen pipes. Joan Pingel and John and Jo Zimmel offer to do laundry at their house for a Praise Academy family that has no water, only to discover that the one pipe in their home that is frozen is the one leading to the washing machine. The other community households on the block divide up the laundry among them to get it all washed.

LATE ONE AFTERNOON, David Zimmel receives several urgent texts and calls, because Miss Agatha’s house is in flames. He rushes over, ready to pull the wheelchair-bound Miss Agatha and her grandkids from the burning house, but is relieved to find the family standing on the street. Firemen shoot water through huge holes in the roof, and David quickly realizes that the house and everything in it are lost. More neighbors gather around the house, checking on Miss Agatha. David finds Miss Agatha’s daughter Jasmine and asks, “Is there anything we can do to help?”

“I don’t know,” she replies. “I don’t
know what we’re going to do.”

After the firemen leave, David confirms with Jasmine that the family has a place to stay for the night. He repeats his offer. “Please let us know what we can do. We would love to help you with anything.”

Later that evening, Jasmine calls. “David, when you said ‘anything,’ what did you mean? . . . My Mom is going to need a bed.”

The next morning David goes looking for the bed. He soon establishes that the CIM team has an extra mattress and another neighbor has a box-spring and bedframe. Other neighbors bring over food and spare cash. One neighbor brings bed linens, towels and other basic household supplies that she has just bought for her own family, telling David that Miss Agatha needs them more.

David brings everything over to Miss Agatha’s. “I want you to know that this stuff didn’t come from me,” he says, since all the neighbors requested they remain anonymous. “God is really taking care of y’all, and everyone in this neighborhood wants to help.”

Miss Agatha keeps pulling items out of the bags, saying, “We sure need this. . . . Yep, we need this, too.”

**ON A MILD DECEMBER MORNING** Joan Pingel gets a call from a Praise Academy mom, Shabarbara. She explains that she can’t bring her daughter Paris to school that morning because her tire is flat and asks for someone to come and bring a compressor. Jared Gonzalez drives over to pick up Paris and learns that Shabarbara also has older kids to drop off at school, a work appointment to get to, and two toddlers and an infant to take care of.

While David heads over to the house with a compressor, Jared drops off Paris and the toddlers at Praise Academy and then takes Shabarbara and the other kids where they need to go. John and Jo Zimmel, prompted by the Holy Spirit during their personal prayer, arrive at the school from their house next door, offering to help. They take the toddlers, enabling the teachers to go on with their classes as usual.

Jared and Shabarbara return with her infant to her house, where they learn that the compressor didn’t work. David and Shabarbara drive over to a shop to pick up a new tire. On their way back home, she turns to David and asks him, “So, are you part of the family?”

“What do you mean?”

“Well, I know that some people are related and some people aren’t, but you are all like one big family.”

David grins. “Yeah, I’m part of the family. Do you want to be part of the family?”

Shabarbara reflects a moment, then answers. “I feel like Paris is already part of the family, because you all treat the kids like they’re family. So I guess that makes me part of the family.”

They arrive at Shabarbara’s car and David replaces the tire.

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**COLLEEN BOWAR** is hustling to cart her twin toddlers and all their gear out the door of her house and into her car. She drives the one-minute route that takes her around the cemetery to Yale Avenue and parks in the last available spot in front of Praise Academy. Opening the car door, she is ambushed by eight children who have come running from the school to welcome her to the Thanksgiving party. Latisha, the oldest student, whisk baby Claire away. Other students grab the rest of her things. With baby Jack in one arm, she feels her free hand being yanked by the smaller hand of a girl who wants Colleen to come see her work inside the school. As the child drags her towards the building, Jabbareanna, a young woman who volunteers at the school, asks to take baby Jack. Colleen hands him off and is carried away through a round of show-and-tells. Where are my kids? she wonders, suddenly realizing she has lost track of them. She scans the room, which is full of Praise Academy families and school volunteers, tables loaded with meat and greens, and finally she spots Latisha and Jabbareanna happily tending to the twins. Oh, I don’t have to worry, she says to herself.
RECIPE

CALICO HOT DISH

RECIPE BY NANCY MADDELN
PHOTO BY JENNIFER KENNING
Bacon, beef, brown sugar . . . it is clear why Nancy’s Beans are ubiquitous at Appleton branch gatherings. For almost 30 years, Nancy Madden has brought this crowd-pleasing Wisconsin comfort food to potlucks, Lord’s Day celebrations, picnics and the branch’s annual corn roast. She never takes any back home.

Most months, the entire branch—over 50 adults with a dozen kids—celebrates a Lord’s Day meal together at their center, and Nancy’s recipe is often requested. “The beans are definitely a favorite,” says Steve Pable. “They are hot and plentiful, and people of all ages enjoy them, including our children.”

The kidney, lima and butter beans could all be replaced by different varieties of beans, and the recipe can easily be cut in half for a smaller crowd. If a crockpot is unavailable or time is short, the dish may be baked in an oven at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Nancy notes, “The longer you cook it, the better the flavor is. It can be frozen and is great warmed up.”

**CALICO HOT DISH**  
**SERVES 40-50 AS A SIDE DISH**

**Ingredients**
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 pound bacon
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 teaspoons dry mustard
- 2 teaspoons vinegar
- 1 cup catsup
- 1 1/2 cups brown sugar
- 2 16-ounce cans pork and beans
- 2 15-ounce cans lima beans, drained
- 2 15-ounce cans butter beans, drained
- 2 15-ounce cans kidney beans, drained

**Directions**
1. Chop bacon into bite-sized pieces. Brown beef, bacon and diced onion together, then place in a 6-quart crockpot.
2. Add remaining ingredients to crockpot and stir. Cook on high for about 4 hours or on low all day, stirring several times (keeps well on low or warm).

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Have a recipe idea? Contact Elizabeth Grams at egrams@peopleofpraise.org.

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**A PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS**

Mary Frances Sparrow stumbled upon this passage about forgiveness while reading an article on the *Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius* by Philip Endean. We hope you will find it helpful.

The British journalist Mary Craig, writing of how she coped with bringing up two severely disabled children, quotes a prayer that was reputedly found wrapped round the body of a dead child in Ravensbrück, the concentration camp outside Berlin:

O Lord, remember not only the men and women of goodwill, but also those of ill will. But do not only remember all the suffering they have inflicted on us. Remember the fruits we have bought, thanks to this suffering: our comradeship, our loyalty, our humility, our courage, our generosity, the greatness of heart which has come out of all this; and when they come to the judgment, let all the fruits that we have borne be their forgiveness. Amen.

If we live through suffering in dialogue with God, a “greatness of heart” can emerge, a fruit which can become a token of forgiveness and healing.

TRIBUTES

MARYLYN BARRETT
By Tom Noe

Ed and Marylyn were baptized in the Spirit in 1969 at a prayer meeting on Notre Dame campus, and were soon eagerly serving on Life in the Spirit Seminars and introductory sessions. Over the years, Marylyn volunteered countless hours for Work Release, Meals on Wheels, Home Management Services, Girl and Boy Scouts, the Niles hospital cafeteria and our branch’s LaSalle Bookstore. As a lay leader in the church, she held several offices, led women’s groups, taught Sunday School and participated in a national Episcopal women’s organization. For several years she took college-level courses through Bible Study Fellowship, diligently setting aside an hour to prepare every assignment.

Ed and Marylyn were eager hosts: guests could write their names in indelible ink on the tablecloth, and fun and laughter enlivened those meals. Marylyn kept a notebook where she recounted stories about God’s presence in her life, especially as a wife and mother. She called it, “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Heaven, and Other Unfinished Stories.” She also enjoyed sailing on Diamond Lake, traveling, gardening, reading (avidly) and bird-watching.

As Marylyn’s son Larry said at the memorial service, she really was “the gold standard” as a mother. Outwardly soft-spoken, she was firm and focused when it came to what really mattered. The atmosphere of peace and joy that surrounded Marylyn was a lantern illuminating the way so that others could begin to experience similar peace and joy in a relationship with the Lord.

MARYLYN BARRETT

facts

- Marylyn Wensloff was born May 1, 1931, in Hastings, Michigan, and died peacefully at home in Niles, Michigan, November 3, 2017.
- She and Ed Barrett were married February 17, 1950, in Hastings and moved to Niles in 1958, joining Trinity Episcopal Church. They raised three children, and the family now includes six grandchildren and many nephews and nieces.
- Ed and Marylyn made the covenant of the People of Praise January 28, 1979.
- Among her many activities, she was on the staff of our New Heaven/New Earth magazine from its start in 1983 until 1985.

FR. JOHN REUTHER
By Arlene Meyerhofer

Fr. John was truly a gentle man in every way. As a priest, his ministry included service as a seminary administrator, parish priest and chaplain. He brought the tender love of Christ everywhere the Lord called him. The last few years, he lived at the Brothers of Mercy nursing home, ministering to residents, staff, family and friends. Known for truly listening to anyone who came to him, he became a favorite confessor for many, healing the broken-hearted and shining the unconditional love of Christ into even the darkest places.

He was very active in Marriage Encounter for many years, leading weekends that reinvigorated and restored countless marriages. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus for over 50 years and served as their chaplain for 14.

We remember him especially for his passion for fishing—both for fish and for people. He also enjoyed photography and painting. He often shared with friends his hand-crafted fishing lures.

Fr. John had requested all five verses of “How Great Thou Art” as the recessional at his funeral. When the song began, brothers and sisters in the People of Praise lifted their hands in worship. Slowly, with each verse, more and more in the congregation raised their hands. During the final verse, sung by the branch’s music ministry, almost all had raised their hands in praise. Fr. John always knew just what it took to bring people closer to Christ!

FR. JOHN REUTHER

facts

- Fr. John Reuther, a Consolata Missionary priest, was born in Lackawanna, New York, December 5, 1937, and died November 1, 2017, in Amherst, New York.
- He earned his degree in poultry husbandry, then started a career that included supervising production at more than a dozen hatcheries.
- In 1963, a Newman Center chaplain urged him to consider the priesthood. He was ordained in 1973 in his home parish in Hamburg, New York.
- He made the covenant of the People of Praise in Buffalo November 20, 2005.
Welcome to our newest brothers and sisters:

Births and Adoption:

- **Busk Ridenour**
- **Mara Kathryn Thompson**
- **Sylvia Catherine Thompson**
- **Philomena Charity Coney**
- **Michael and Naomi Coney**
- **Emma Grace Coney**
- **Mara KathrynConey**
- **Mara Kathryn Coney**
- **Sylvia Catherine Thompson**
- **Philomena Charity Coney**
- **Michael and Naomi Coney**
- **Luke Emmanuel Coney**
- **Elise Marie Coney**
- **Amy Gapp**
- **Bethy Brophy**

Weddings and Anniversaries:

- **Paul and Veronica Putzier** (South Bend), who were married January 17 to Joe and Mary Ridenour (northern Virginia).
- **Joe and Sarah Bowar** (Mission, Evansville) recently received her MBA degree from Louisiana State University in Shreveport.
- **Steve Walker** (northern Virginia) was recently appointed to head the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) in Arlington, VA. Steve, who was the deputy director of the agency for four years and interim director since last January, has focused on advancing the science and technologies associated with hypersonic flight and rapid access to space.

Deaths:

- **Steve Walker** (Mission, Evansville) died December 7, 2017.
- **Paul Frenz** (Indianapolis) has a new position as a warrant officer in his field of IT network management.
- **Amy Cramer** (Indianapolis) has a new position as a therapist at Ascent 121, a Christian nonprofit focused on assisting girls who have been or are at risk of being recruited into the sex-trafficking industry.
- **Bernie Schwab** has been appointed to a second three-year term of office as area coordinator, effective January 28, 2018.
- **Chuck Shreffler** has been appointed to a second three-year term of office as area coordinator, effective January 28, 2018.
- **Ann Boyle** was released from the covenant of the People of Praise January 3, 2018.

Executive Office Announcements:

- **Northern Virginia:**
  - Keith Justen has been appointed to a second three-year term of office as area coordinator, effective January 1, 2018.
  - Paul Frenz was granted tenure as a coordinator of the People of Praise, effective December 7, 2017.
  - Bernie Schwab has been appointed to a second three-year term of office as area coordinator, effective December 7, 2017.
  - Chuck Shreffler has been appointed to a second three-year term of office as area coordinator, effective January 28, 2018.

Congratulations to Army Sgt. Joe Ridenour (northern Virginia), who just completed training at Fort Rucker, Alabama, graduating on December 13 in the top 20% of his class as a warrant officer in his field of IT network management.

Elizabeth Pease (Servant Branch) has a new position at Thomson Reuters as a content workflow specialist, involved in project management of internal software and workflow for publishing legal data in print and online.

Lisa LaChance (Shreveport) recently received her MBA degree from Louisiana State University in Shreveport.

Pat Kaiser (South Bend) has retired from serving as special events food coordinator for People of Praise headquarters from time immemorial, during which she regularly planned, purchased and prepared meals for groups ranging in size from nine to 150.

Peter Putzier (Mission, Evansville) recently began a new position as a staff geologist at EnviroForensics, a firm specializing in environmental services, legal support and turning environmental liabilities into assets.

After 10 years of service, **Mark Doherty** has stepped down as head of the branch leaders team in Rockford. **Steve Ambrose** is now serving as head of the team.

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- We’ve received word of the deaths of several community members. We pray for their friends and families in this time of loss. Tribute articles will follow in an upcoming issue.

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- **Dale Scott** (Oahu) died January 9, 2018.
- **Ray Bowar** (Servant Branch) died January 20, 2018.

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- **Bernie Schwab** has been appointed to a second three-year term of office as area coordinator, effective December 7, 2017.

- **Steve Walker** (northern Virginia) was recently appointed to head the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) in Arlington, VA. Steve, who was the deputy director of the agency for four years and interim director since last January, has focused on advancing the science and technologies associated with hypersonic flight and rapid access to space.
“How small a whisper do we hear of Him” (Job 26:14).