From Asuza Street to Every Street: The Remarkable Rise of Pentecostalism 1906-2006
Summarize a Pastoral Training Institute (PTI)? It’s a stiff assignment.

I heard five lyrical talks by Craig Lent, reports on city-building advances in two branches (Colorado Springs and Vancouver/Portland), Joel Kibler’s illuminating presentation about aging in the community, adventure stories from two of our mission fields (Allendale and Indianapolis), the most moving talk I’ve ever heard Paul DeCelles deliver, a closing prayer meeting with stirring reflections on three days of life lived on the inside of Psalm 133 (“How good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell together in unity!”) and, at 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 17, an ending as sudden as Wednesday’s start but with a louder boom, as 89 zealous men cannonballed back to their branches.

“...called to build the life of God in flesh and blood, visible and real and in the nitty-gritty. We’re called to build roofs and to cook meals. We’re called to build schools. We’re called to build a life where we take care of one another.”

—Craig Lent

This year’s PTI contained so much heart and fire, so much holy ambition and manly courage, such a compelling sense that we’re a community on the move, that I’m at a loss to pin it all down and somehow make it shine through these pages. So instead of carrying on about the general atmosphere, I’m going to stick to my writer’s instincts and give you the most pertinent facts.

The conference opened with five ambitious talks by Craig Lent. Hearing them was like watching a football game from a number of different angles—from the end zone, from the Goodyear blimp, from one of those shaky, onboard helmet cameras. Craig used several different lenses to look at the whole of our community life: where we’ve been, where we are now and where we’re headed, along with all that we’ve been thinking and praying about for the past 10 years, from the Christ in You teachings to city-building.

His first talk zoomed in on the individual community member. Each of us has a personal life in the Spirit: a life of prayer, of praise, of sonship, of freedom, of gratitude and faith. It’s a life that happens primarily inside us, and yet it can be surprisingly like walking. “Life in the Spirit is a life trusting in God, making a step and then another step—like Abraham walking out of Haran, like Moses walking to Egypt, like Joshua walking into the Promised Land, like Jesus stepping out of the tomb, like you putting one foot in front of the other, trusting in God.”

All Craig’s talks were just like that... pictorial and poetic and peppered with Scriptural images, allusions and insights.

Craig introduced the catchphrase “Called to build, sent to gather” in his fourth talk, which focused on the community’s mission. “We’re called to build the life of God in flesh and blood, visible and real and in the nitty-gritty,” he said. “We’re called to build roofs and to cook meals. We’re called to build schools. We’re called to build a life where we take care of one another, a life that includes pastoral care, men’s groups and women’s groups, area life, branch life, life for singles, for dedicated celibates and married couples, a life that invents new ways to be young, to be teenagers, to be empty nesters.”

But the life we’re building isn’t just for ourselves. It isn’t like the Shire in Tolkein’s Lord of the Rings, either—small, pleasant and comfortable. Rather, wherever we are, we are being called out of our comfort zones and sent out to gather new people into the community.

Some of us are even being sent out as full-time missionaries. “Our missionaries have a special role,” Craig declared. “They’re being sent...
out on the edge to build new cities. It’s tough work. We ought to applaud and encourage and take joy in our brothers and sisters who are out on the edge.”

Joel Kibler began his presentation about aging in the community by citing some statistics. According to 2006 numbers, 54% of the community’s 1,818 adult members (977 people) are aged 51 or older. Joel identified four fundamental concerns that will affect branches as we continue to age: meaningful roles for elderly members, housing, health and finances. He offered a number of creative solutions, from healing teams to small-scale models for nursing care, but said that he primarily hoped to stimulate further thought and conversation on this important topic.

In a session on branch city-building, Charlie Fraga gave a detailed recap of city-building efforts in North Portland over the past two years. He offered practical lessons on everything from selecting a target area, to purchasing real estate, to relocating people and businesses. The efforts in North Portland are off to a strong start. Currently there are 35 community adults, 25 children and two businesses in the branch’s target area.

Louis Grams addressed the challenges for city-building work in the sprawled out suburblike atmosphere found in Colorado Springs. The Colorado Springs branch hasn’t found a particular neighborhood to target for city-building; instead, they’re forming small groups of community households in several distinct neighborhoods. Louis said city-building

Top: Craig Lent.
Second from top (from left): Paul Barrett (South Bend), Noel Shirley (Kingston), Mike Hays (Yakima).
Third from top (from left): Tony Dal Pra (Rockford), Mike Wacker (Servant Branch), David Salmon (South Bend), Nathan Barrett (Allendale).
talk and actions have left their mark on branch growth. “It is easier to explain and demonstrate our life when we live closer together. In the last two years, we have grown 19% per year.”

In a session on city-building in new starts, Nathan Barrett and Brian Couch, Jr., spoke about their efforts to evangelize men in Allendale. Since December, they’ve talked to more than 50 men in our target area. Nathan and Brian have been frank about the problems in the neighborhood, inviting men to band together as brothers in Christ to solve them. So far they’ve baptized 21 men in the Holy Spirit and have been getting to know Allendale’s current crop of high-school-aged young men.

Rus Lyons shared about his experiences talking to students on the joint campus of Indiana University and Purdue University in Indianapolis. There, Rus, Jon Gapp and Nick Holovaty have had many opportunities to test opening lines for their conversations. (My favorite: “Do you think God talks to us today the same way he talked to the Israelites?”) They’ve also been preaching to the lunch crowd gathered in the student union building. Videos of their talks are available at jesusatiupui.com.

Paul DeCelles spoke about the spirit of our mission work and how it ties in with Jesus’ work, especially in the area of money. Jesus went out to do his work without money and never earned anything from his ministry. Like Jesus, our missionaries are going out poor, relying on the Lord to provide for their needs and not taking any payment for their efforts.

Paul pointed to a deliberateness in this strategy. Jesus went out without money because money doesn’t save people. “Jesus saved the world and he didn’t use money. He won his battle by enduring insults and contempt and by being utterly obedient to his Father—not calling anything his own, even his life. This is our strategy for victory, too.”

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—Paul DeCelles

From left: Louis Grams (Colorado Springs), Mike Coney (New Orleans)
Windows, Doors and More Opens in Allendale

By V&B Staff Writers

Just two months shy of the five-year mark for the People of Praise in Allendale, Windows Doors and More Outlet (WDMO) became the first community-owned business to begin daily operations in the neighborhood.

“We’ve wanted to start businesses in Allendale ever since we moved here in 2002,” store manager David Zimmel notes. “We want to build a People of Praise city in Allendale, and cities have commerce. This is a big first step toward that goal.”

After four months of running electrical wire, laying carpet and applying fresh paint, WDMO began offering its wares from its newly renovated Allendale building on March 24. The 2,500-square-foot showroom and warehouse sits on well-trafficked Lakeshore Drive, a few hundred feet from a busy Interstate 20 interchange. It’s about half a mile from six community-built houses on Yale Avenue.

“It’s going to be very accessible,” says company president Bud Rose. He sees long-term business benefits from the new locale as well as other plusses. “One of the things we would like to do is employ more Allendale residents. I hope we can offer good jobs at Windows, Doors and More to lots of brothers and sisters as the business grows. In fact, we’re very happy that two Allendale residents are already working part-time at the new store.”

WDMO, which offers discounted prices on doors, windows, paint and other building supplies, first opened for business in a row of rented warehouses in December, 2005. (See the February, 2006 issue for background.) After hearing about WDMO’s search for a more permanent home, Shreveport residents Charlie and Cindy Lindenmayer, owners of the building on Lakeshore, offered it to the community at no charge. This is just the latest in a string of generous gifts from the Lindenmayers: Charlie has never billed the community for professional plumbing work on our six houses.

Outfitting the new building was no easy task. The former thrift store needed new drywall, paint, carpet, windows and lights—in short, a major overhaul. David managed renovations while minding daily business operations at the old warehouse. He credits his success at both locations to the help he received from Brian Couch, Thomas Duddy, Jon Gapp and Joe Gleason, who took some time off college to volunteer. David is also very grateful to veteran volunteers Bob and Jim Ingram, licensed electricians and brothers from the northern Virginia and Servant Branches.

“Bob spent this past Thanksgiving Day in the unventilated attic of the new warehouse running electrical conduit,” David notes, “and he spent his evenings making sure we had all the supplies we needed to finish the job. He was a huge help!” Bob remembers his first trip to Allendale, when the community’s presence there looked like eight vacant lots, with houses and businesses that existed only in the imagination.

“I started volunteering when the first house was being built,” he recalls. “At that time, I was carrying with me the tragic loss of several military co-workers and friends who had recently been killed in a horrible plane accident. Working in Allendale, the sadness was lifted from me. I keep coming back every year now.”
One in five U.S. citizens are either Pentecostal or charismatic! Seventy-one percent of all Guatemalans and 56 percent of all Kenyans have witnessed a divine healing! At least 500,000,000 people worldwide are part of one of the fastest-growing segments of Christianity—Pentecostalism! These are just a few of the findings mentioned in a recent sociological study conducted by the respected Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.


The report, entitled *Spirit and Power* and available online at http://pewforum.org/surveys/pentecostal, is a 10-country survey of the growth and beliefs of Christians baptized in the Holy Spirit, including members of Pentecostal churches and Catholics and Protestants involved in charismatic renewal. It refers to the whole spectrum of such folks as “renewalists.”

Surveys were conducted in 10 countries with sizable renewalist populations, among a random sample of the public at large as well as among oversamples of Pentecostals and charismatics.

Here are some findings from the report:

- Twenty-three percent of the U.S. population (approximately 70 million people) are either Pentecostal or charismatic, which breaks down to 30% of Protestants and 30% of Catholics.

- In Brazil, Guatemala and Kenya, 50% or more of the population describes itself as Pentecostal or charismatic. (That adds up to 114 million people!) In Guatemala, 80% of Pentecostals say they are either Pentecostal or charismatic, and 60% of Catholics are charismatic.

- In all 10 countries surveyed, large majorities of Pentecostals (ranging from 56% in South Korea to 87% in Kenya) say that God has healed them of an illness or injury. In eight of the countries, majorities of Pentecostals say that they have received a direct revelation from God.

- Pentecostals also make a concerted effort to share their faith with nonbelievers. In eight of the 10 countries surveyed, majorities of Pentecostals say they share their faith with nonbelievers at least once a week.

- It is particularly appropriate that this report came out around the time of our 35th anniversary because we have played a significant role at several junctures in the spectacular growth of Pentecostalism, and not just in the U.S. As one of the talks in our Community Weekend points out, the large-scale outbreak of baptism in the Holy Spirit in the Roman Catholic Church originated at Duquesne University in early 1967. The joyful chaos of the Spirit soon moved to South Bend and Notre Dame, where it gained some notoriety (much as it did at Azusa Street). Thousands came to prayer meetings in South Bend out of curiosity and spiritual hunger. The Ranaghans, DeCelleses, Walterses, Plodowskis and Kollers, and many other future community members, were in the forefront of those providing order, guidance, prayer teams, living rooms and snacks for them.

In particular, hundreds of priests, nuns, monks and brothers attending Notre Dame’s summer school programs were baptized in the Spirit as they poured through the DeCelles household on the edge of campus and, once on fire, enthusiastically returned to their schools, monasteries and seminaries, where they started prayer meetings to spread the Spirit and the word. From those home bases, many went forth throughout the world, carrying healing and...
BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

(AND WHAT WE HAD TO DO WITH IT)

deliverance with them. Kevin Ranaghan remembers one person going to Australia; Tom Noe recalls praying over a priest going to Japan. A few years later Jeanne DeCelles and her friend Mimi Teasdale prayed over a retirement-age Mennonite bishop, Nelson Litwiller, jump-starting his ministry to Paraguay and beyond and sparking charismatic renewal among Mennonites.

We played a direct role in the ignition of the charismatic renewal in Poland when we prayed over the leader of Light/Life (an immense youth movement which became largely charismatic) and when we sent long-time community member Andrew Plodowski on a dozen trips behind the Iron Curtain to baptize thousands in the Holy Spirit right under the noses of Communist authorities.

Paul DeCelles and a pilgrim from Texas, Fr. Bush, prayed over Father Matta, the abbot of St. Macarius Monastery in Egypt, the longest continuously inhabited monastery in the world (since the fourth century). “I’ve converted 10,000 people in my life,” said Fr. Matta, “but I need the Holy Spirit, the power of God.” Afterward he led a powerful charismatic renewal among the Copts, who are Christians in predominantly Muslim Egypt.

And so baptism in the Holy Spirit spread like a wildfire from person to person throughout the world.

The Spirit and Purpose emphasizes that each one of us should be prayed with to be baptized in the Spirit, and charismatic experience lies at the foundation of the entire document.

Our mission has always been to foster the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, whether in Poland, Allendale, Indianapolis or in own backyard. And while stories in the mainstream press may seem short on !’s, we have no problem celebrating. To 500 million touched by the Holy Spirit, we cry “Hurray!”; to our call, we cry “Amen!”; to the Lord we cry, “Glory!”
In 1977, the People of Praise organized a mammoth worldwide conference in Kansas City, MO, bringing together charismatic Christians of every stripe: Lutherans, Presbyterians, Catholics, Methodists, Episcopalians, denominational Pentecostals, Baptists, Mennonites and Messianic Jews—more than 50,000 attendees. Evening gatherings were held in Arrowhead Stadium in sweltering heat. U.S. President Jimmy Carter phoned in his greetings.

Dan DeCelles (South Bend) served as conference director, managing 1,500 volunteer workers, and Kevin Ranaghan (South Bend) served as the chair of the planning committee. Most of the community (then located only in South Bend) traveled to Kansas City to sell books, run childcare, play music, manage transportation and perform hundreds of other tasks. “The People of Praise is going to Kansas City not to be blessed by the conference,” said then Overall Coordinator Paul DeCelles, “but to serve.”

The photos on these pages come to us from David Manuel, author of *Like a Mighty River*, a book on the conference. David recently recovered many of them from his former office, a Cape Cod lighthouse. They’re reprinted here with his gracious permission.
Cardinal Leon Joseph Suenens

Maria Von Trapp and Mennonite Bishop Nelson Litwiller
Lucy Cunningham loved her house. It had stained-glass windows, well-rubbed woodwork, a claw-foot bathtub, even a small turret. It had perched for a century on a hilly street near the Mississippi River and the lights of downtown St. Paul. This is the story of Lucy, her house, and something she loved even more, our life together.

Ben and Lucy Cunningham found this house—the first house they'd owned as a married couple—over five years ago. Lucy describes what it meant to her. “The house had a big front porch that was welcoming to guests and gave me a comfortable place to read, pray and relax. Inside, the original oak woodwork gave beauty and color to each room. A lovely stained-glass window on the stairway landing enriched this color.

“The kitchen was spacious and had been redone. There were new appliances a chef would love, and a large countertop peninsula that made it easy to entertain, as well as to prepare meals for my family every day. Its plaster walls and tall windows gave it the homey feel of a large farmhouse kitchen.

“Behind the house, we had built a two-car garage that gave us space to store the stuff we’d accumulated over eight years of marriage and the births of three kids. With the added storage, the house worked really well for us.

“But my favorite room in the house was the bathroom upstairs. It had a deep, claw-foot bathtub and linoleum with a small hexagonal pattern of years gone by. It reminded you of a bathroom you’d find in an old-fashioned luxury hotel.

“To sum it up, two words described our home: charm and practicality.”

But last fall Ben and Lucy moved to a new neighborhood, into a new house Lucy affectionately calls “the box.” (A one-story bungalow that doesn’t boast quite the appealing lines of their first home.)

“So, why move?” Lucy says, asking the obvious question. “Or, as I like to say, ‘Why think inside the box?’ Here are our reasons:

- our desire to share our life on a daily basis with our brothers and sisters in the People of Praise;
- our desire to be accountable to our brothers and sisters, and to be responsible for them too;
- our desire to be more visible, to share our life with our neighbors not in the People of Praise;
- our desire to encourage friendships for our children with kids in the People of Praise, kids they could see more regularly;
- my desire as a stay-at-home mom to avoid isolation
and loneliness during the day.”

When branch members John and Mary Lee informed them of a house next to their own about to enter the market, the Cunninghams jumped at the opportunity and signed an agreement before they had even sold their first home (it sold after a month).

A year later, Ben and Lucy are now settled in their house next door to John and Mary and their two young sons; branch member Shellee Lambrecht lives directly behind them.

“Life with the Lees and with Shellee is rich,” Lucy says. “We share our lives in practical ways: lending things, helping lift and move things, storing things, sharing recipes, shoveling, babysitting, watching one another get safely in the back door at night. We have plans for more. We want to install motion-sensor lights for the stone pathway we fixed up behind our garage that leads to Shellee’s place. We plan to share a vegetable garden on her property in the summer.”

The little cluster has established evening prayer two nights a week, at a time when everyone—including the kids—can be there. Before Sunday’s evening prayer, they have a dinner together in one of their homes, to which they have begun inviting neighbors.

Lucy describes her days: “Mary and I both stay home with our children. We share a lot of practical things throughout the day: we get groceries for each other, watch the kids so one of us can run an errand, share ideas about the art of homemaking. Mary is very thoughtful; she challenges me in my thought and my prayer. As a stay-at-home mom surrounded by kids, I appreciate her adult companionship and conversation very much. My days are more pleasant since I’ve been living next door to Mary.

She continues, “A common refrain at our house is, ‘Can we go over and see if Henry can play?’ We often find our girls playing on the Lees’ swing set or in their sandbox. This is now easy, since our area men’s groups spent a night removing the fence between our backyards. Ben and John spent the next Saturday morning building a gate across our driveway to totally enclose the two yards. Now the kids can run free! Twice the space is a great treat in St. Paul, with its small yards.”

The three households are growing increasingly visible in the neighborhood. This winter, the men built an impressive igloo in the joint backyard for the five kids. Several neighbors came to look or sent their own kids over to play. “It’s been interesting to see the visual things that attract people,” Lucy observes. She and the others in the cluster are brainstorming ways to become even more visible, to put money in common, to share large purchases.

As for “the box,” it’s actually fine, Lucy says. It even has some features the other house lacked, for example, a three-season porch suited for hosting men’s and women’s groups. Also, the new location is within walking distance of Ben’s workplace, allowing him to come home for lunch.

“All in all,” she concludes, “we are excited to make this new house our home, one that will serve us better as we share more in common with our neighbors. We are excited about making our covenant with Shellee and the Lee family more concrete, as we find new ways to love one another day by day. We are excited about raising our children together in Christ. We hope our life will be a witness to those around us, and bring them more deeply into life with the Father and with us.”

Once upon a time, Lucy had a house to love. Now she has a life to live, together with covenanted brothers and sisters.
After shutting down her hair salon in 2000, Patti Sorg—a hairdresser to her very core—wondered whether the hair dryers, rollers and shampoo balls collecting dust in her garage would ever find a proper home. After three years, a move across the state and her encounter with the People of Praise, they wound up in a freshly painted corner of the Muncie Rescue Mission. There, Patti and her clippers are at home again—this time cutting hair for the homeless. “This was God’s way for me to cut hair,” she attests.

Back in the late 1990s, Patti was successfully running her own hair salon in Columbus, IN, while she and her husband Gregg were raising their two children. But when she lost a baby, and its twin arrived with medical complications, the Sorg family was shaken. “I started reading Scripture and really soaking it up,” Patti remembers. “God made it clear he wanted me to know him.” Sensing that her children now needed Mom full-time, Patti decided to trust the Lord and close down her salon.

“It was really devastating to leave the business, because I thoroughly enjoyed it.” What’s more, it was a big financial blow to the family. “But I said, ‘Lord, I want it all to be for your glory.’”

Six years later, facing a line of homeless men and women, Patti sees the answer to her prayers in their faces. Since she began serving at the Muncie Mission three years ago, Patti has begged the Lord to hold her hand through many a session with a hostile, dirty or bedraggled man or woman. Those who have seen Patti in action will tell you that she makes a hard job look effortless, the way she chats pleasantly with those she serves, while washing and combing and cutting, not hesitating to pray with them or invite them to People of Praise outreach events.

Patti Sorg trims hair inside the barbershop she helped start for Muncie’s homeless people.
through rough times. So how did she wind up there?

Not long after she closed her salon in Columbus, a job change for Gregg brought the Sorgs to Muncie. Hungry for Christian fellowship, Gregg and Patti were eagerly looking—but not finding—others who shared their personal experience of the Lord, especially of the Holy Spirit.

Then at church one Sunday, Gregg noticed his new friend John Walker quietly praying in tongues. He asked John if he had ever been to a charismatic mass before. (They attended a Catholic parish.) John, a member of the Muncie branch, gave him a big grin and told him about the People of Praise.

The Sorgs quickly joined. As Patti puts it, joining the Muncie branch, being baptized in the Holy Spirit and living with other Spirit-filled Christians “exposed me to the fullness and depth of the Lord’s role in my life.” Our teachings on Christ in you and encouragement from brothers and sisters affirmed the desire that had been welling up within her to cut hair for the Lord.

Patti especially hoped to work with people who had “hit rock bottom,” she said, but she couldn’t figure out how to start. (It wasn’t as simple as standing on a street corner with a pair of scissors!) After one community meeting, she told Dick Shirey about her hope. Still new to the branch, she had no idea Dick was the township trustee for the City of Muncie, which meant he had responsibility for taking care of the city’s poor and unemployed residents. Dick worked with Muncie’s outreaches to the homeless every day, and immediately suggested that Patti might be able to serve under the wing of the Muncie Mission.

Patti and Gregg brought the proposal to then principal branch coordinator Tom Schmitt. He said he wanted the Muncie branch to do all it could to help Patti answer her calling. Tom and Dick set up a meeting with the Muncie Mission director, Rev. Ray Raines, who latched onto the scheme enthusiastically. Ray got a $5,000 grant to renovate a portion of the shelter, turning it into a simple space for haircutting. In a matter of weeks, the makeshift barbershop was complete and Patti’s equipment was dusted off and put to good use.

As Patti was starting up the barbershop—going in three days every week—she was simultaneously raising four children, expecting her fifth, and home-schooling the younger ones. She needed help, so sisters in the branch came to her rescue. They helped her gather information for homeschool and often watched over her children on days she was out serving. There is no question in Patti’s mind: from start to finish, she and Gregg couldn’t have done it without the People of Praise.

More recently, Patti has managed to recruit a few other local barbers to help take on the work. But, as Ray notes, that hasn’t lessened the demand for Patti’s haircuts! “Many of the guys want her to cut their hair,” he says. “The spirits of the men and women at the shelter, as well as the staff, really soar when they know that Patti is going to be coming in and cutting hair,” adds Dick.

Today the Muncie Mission is constructing a new shelter, complete with a fully equipped barbershop. So, with ample help from local barbers and a brand new shop on the way, Patti finds herself right back where she started, wondering what to do when the brushes and brooms, the hair dryers, rollers and shampoo balls are once again collecting dust in the garage.

She smiles. There’s no need to worry. “It’s all for God’s glory.”
Two Newly Covenanted Members in Tampa

Interviews by Patricia Brewer

Ron Folvarcik, 64, Substitute Teacher

What has been your greatest blessing in the People of Praise? Through the Holy Spirit, the Lord has called me to serve in his kingdom, to build his kingdom and to share my life with others. When I grew up I was like an island, I just wanted to be alone and do whatever I wanted to do. But in the People of Praise I learned how to love and be loved. I learned it through actively living.

How has our brotherhood and sisterhood affected you over the years? I have found that our relationships in the People of Praise have brought me closer to God. When we are together, God is with us. I know the other people would lay down their lives for me.

Knowing I can count on people affects my everyday life. When my wife Bonnie had breast cancer, there was an abundance of help for us. One of the women in the People of Praise stayed with Bonnie in the hospital, taking care of her so that I could go home. Families sent us meals every night. People came in during the day to visit Bonnie. One night, guys came over and helped me put mulch in my back yard. Everyone in the community was a great support. It’s the little things that count.

Bonnie Folvarcik, 59, Claims Adjustor for State Farm Insurance

How did you come to join the community? We came underway in 1984 and left in 1987 for some family reasons. For the next 11 years, though, we kept in touch with everyone. I believed that the Lord would be faithful. In 1998 we moved to Minnesota for my job and we spent a year working in Minneapolis and fellowshipping with people in Servant Branch. Ron went to a men’s retreat and Pat Murphy said, “You are with us so much, why don’t you come underway?” So when we moved back to Florida in 1999, we came underway in the Tampa branch.

What first attracted you to the community? We wanted a fuller, deeper life with people who lived the way it’s described in Acts of the Apostles.

What teaching in the People of Praise has been most life-giving or freeing to you? Our recent talks about being free in Christ. Now we are more open to loving and serving spontaneously. It is not just following rules and being regimented.

What is something you want to do in the People of Praise in the next few decades? I would love to go to one of our outreaches in Allendale, Dinkytown or Indianapolis to serve in that venue and visit firsthand what the Lord is doing in those areas.
Congratulations to Elliott and Rebecca Brubaker (Burnsville, MN), who have joyfully adopted their daughter Olivia. She was born August 8, 2002.

Congratulations to John and Jennifer Theis (St. Paul), who are celebrating God’s wonderful gift of Joseph Donald on March 13.

Congratulations to Jonathan and Lea-Ann Virnig (Burnsville, MN). On April 26 they happily completed the process of adopting their infant daughter Hannah, who was born January 8, 2006.

Congratulations to Peter and Monica Wolney (Burnsville, MN), who are praising God for the arrival of Lucas Elliot on March 23.

Congratulations to Jerry Rynda (Prescott, WI), who was ordained a permanent deacon in the Catholic Diocese of La Crosse on January 27.

Congratulations to Mike Wacker (Minneapolis), who made his permanent commitment to the Brotherhood of the People of Praise on December 25, 2006.

Yuhui Lu and Li Dong (Notre-Dame, IN) are rejoicing in God’s gift of Brady Dong Lu, who was born January 17, 2007.

Rich and Beth Preuss (Granger, IN) are spreading the happy news of the birth of Michelle Clare on March 8.

Congratulations to Rick and Ann Thomas (South Bend), who celebrated 25 years of marriage on February 20.

On March 5, Barbara Grodzicki (Indianapolis) was honored at an archdiocesan dinner for her 25 years of service as a teacher in the city’s Catholic schools. Congratulations!

Erin Davis has been transferred from the Corvallis branch to the Vancouver/Portland branch.

We remember with affection our sister Florence Burek, a member of the branch in Buffalo, who died on September 27. Our prayers are with her family and friends at this time of separation.

From the Executive Office

Buffalo:
Tim Hammer has been appointed to a second three-year term of office as area coordinator, effective March 10, 2007.

Muncie:
 Dick Shirey has been appointed to a three-year term of office as area coordinator, effective March 1, 2007.

South Bend:
Ed Page was released from the covenant of the People of Praise on January 26, 2007.

Tom and Carol Sullivan were released from the covenant of the People of Praise on February 2, 2007.

Servant Branch:
Gayle and Judith Fleming were released from the covenant of the People of Praise on February 9, 2007.

Barb Killeen was released from the covenant of the People of Praise on March 29, 2007.

Tampa:
Congratulations to the following members of the community, who made the covenant of the People of Praise on January 14, 2007:
Bonnie Folvarcik
Ron Folvarcik

Brian and Juli Jeffrey were released from the covenant of the People of Praise on February 3, 2007.
“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth” (Ac. 1:8).