Out with the drug dealers, in with the missionaries

Christian community grows in the toughest part of Evansville

Muncie Fathers and Sons
Take On the Outdoors

Greenlawn Press:
Books in a New Format

E-books: A Quick-Start Guide
For Nongeeks on a Budget
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Seven years ago, when we first began producing Vine & Branches as a color magazine, we also selected a motto: “Christ in You, The Hope of Glory.” As you look through this redesigned issue of the magazine—our first major design update since 2005—keep your eyes peeled for instances of “Christ in You.”

You will find changes big and small: an updated masthead, a new table of contents, a news section at the front of the magazine, more photos, a recipe, a photo collage, a book excerpt and a brighter appearance all around.

In making these updates, we are aiming to proclaim “Christ in You” with even more boldness, vivacity and gusto. Part of the joy in our work comes when we see the Lord shining so brightly in the faces of you, our brothers and sisters. It’s our hope that you will see him, too, shining on the pages of our magazine.

I would like to honor and thank our graphic designers, Jennifer Kenning and Margaret DeCelles, who labored cheerfully over every detail.

Enjoy flipping through this issue. Rejoice! Because it’s all about Christ in you.

In Christ,

SEAN CONNOLLY, Editor
One:ten Aims to Improve Religious Education With New Resource Center

BY SEAN CONNOLLY & CHRIS MEEHAN

One:ten communications launched a new web site for Saint Mary’s Press (SMP) (www.smp.org) on November 1. The site brings bold splashes of color, fresh typography and a smooth ordering process to the Saint Mary’s Press catalogue of more than 500 books.

But lying just beneath the new site’s shiny surface is something perhaps fresher and bolder than the design: thousands of lines of computer code with the potential to impact the way religion classes are taught in schools, parishes and homes.

Go to www.smp.org and click on the light blue “Resource Center” tab at the top of the page and you’ll enter an experiment at the nexus of publishing, education and the web. The Resource Center is a curated collection of more than 5,400 videos, photos, articles, maps, lesson plans, tests, quizzes, worksheets and PowerPoints. The collection is meant to serve as a one-stop shop for school teachers, volunteer Sunday School instructors and parents looking for that little extra something as they try to teach the basics of Christian faith to the next generation. Each resource in the collection is categorized by age level and topic, making it easy to locate. Better yet, everything in this section of the site is available for free.

Looking for a short video that explains the recent changes in the translation of the Catholic mass? How about a few photos of Bethlehem to go along with a lesson on the birth of Christ? Perhaps an animated version of the Easter story to show to very young students? They’re all here.

The Resource Center is the result of two years of research, organization, design and computer programming that one:ten and Saint Mary’s Press embarked on together. Work began in early 2011 when one:ten employees traveled to schools and parishes in California, New York, New Jersey, Texas and Minnesota. Computer programmers and graphic designers sat at desks and watched religion classes unfold. They spent time with teachers asking detailed questions about how they compiled their teaching materials on a day-in, day-out basis. “We wanted to get as close to the data as possible, to see what the work of teachers is actually like,” explains Jeremy Osterhouse, one:ten’s lead programmer, who went on several of the visits.

About one:ten:
Based in South Bend, one:ten communications is a division of the LaSalle Company that specializes in web site development. The SMP web site is one:ten’s third major publishing-related web site. (The others are at www.comcenter.com and www.avemariapress.com.) One:ten currently employs 10 full-time and two part-time employees.

About Saint Mary’s Press:
Saint Mary’s Press shipped out 575,000 books from its home office in the Mississippi River town of Winona, Minnesota, in 2011. Their catalogue includes the bestselling Catholic Youth Bible and about 500 other religious education and catechetical books. The company employs 57 people and had net sales of $8.5 million in 2011.
The research revealed that, when it comes time to get lessons ready, teachers don’t just reach for their textbooks or manuals. Many turn to the Internet and Google, hoping to find supplements and aids to help make their lessons more appealing.

“We discovered that our customers were going to many different web sites to get what they needed to conduct class: an opening prayer, some religious news, an appropriate PowerPoint or video,” says Joanie Gamoke, SMP’s marketing manager. “Saint Mary’s Press already had a lot of helpful materials on hand, but they weren’t organized in a way to present them to the public.”

Collecting and organizing those resources took more than a year, with one:ten and Saint Mary’s Press staff working together to turn 5,400 items into a collection that would be intuitive to use. Part of the process involved building backend software that would allow Saint Mary’s Press to collect photos, articles, worksheets and other materials from their own back catalogue and integrate them with news stories and videos that are already available on the web.

“It was a massive effort,” says one:ten president David Salmon, who points out that most of one:ten’s 12 employees contributed to the project. “Jeremy, Jennifer Kenning, Collin Anderson, Laura Salmon, Annie Bulger and Lisa Ficker all played key roles, with Jeremy serving as the primary architect of the software behind the Resource Center,” David says.

David also notes that the project fits in well with the company’s mission to unite all things in Christ using technology. (One:ten’s name comes from Ephesians 1:10, in which Paul speaks of uniting all things in Christ.) “We hope that the Resource Center will unite Saint Mary’s Press more with the teachers they aim to serve, and that that unity will bear fruit in more effective Christian teaching in the classroom.”

Another kind of unity is already in place—between the employees of SMP and one:ten, thanks to two years of close collaboration. “We’ve gotten to know one another on a personal level,” says Ms. Gamoke. “One:ten’s employees have become part of the SMP family. They are a great team to work with.”

A Teaching Review Seminar on Headship and Men’s Groups

BY SEAN CONNOLLY & CHRIS MEEHAN

Headship is one means of transforming us into a flesh and blood community. It’s “how we put our lives concretely in common,” as Craig Lent explained during the 2012 Teaching Review Seminar. “It’s where I say, ‘I’m not doing this alone—we’re in this together.’”

The most recent TRS, in December of 2012, focused on the roles of men as heads: personal heads of other men, heads of their wives and leaders of men’s groups.

Craig considered five aspects of headship: accountability, formation and teaching, government, pastoral care and friendship.

In the community, personal headship is the primary place for accountability. This includes accountability for our basic agreements, such as attending community meetings and men’s and women’s group meetings. However, Craig stressed that our desire for a deeper community life can propel us far beyond these basics. Over the years, a man may freely place many other areas of his life (work, family, prayer, etc.) under headship and be accountable for them.

Likewise, the need for community formation doesn’t end when a member completes the basic teaching courses. Major life changes—such as marriage, raising children and retirement—are opportunities for further formation in the context of headship.

Heads play a major role in helping brothers and sisters find their places within the community. Through headship, a community member can declare to everyone else, “Here I am. What can I do to serve the Lord and my brothers and sisters?” Heads help community members to discern which roles to take on and which actions to choose. They connect members to community leaders and to the overall direction of the community.

Craig emphasized that being a wise head is not the same thing as being a boss, an expert or a human resources manager. A head is free to offer correction and direction, and the person being headed always remains free in his or her response. (Craig pointed to the Authority and Obedience talks, where these dynamics are fleshed out.)

Finally, Craig explained that, over time, a headship relationship can blossom into a personal friendship. He pointed to Jesus as a model for the kind of sharing which fosters friendship. “Jesus shared his life with his close friends. . . . He shared his joy when they returned from mission. He shared his dread of crucifixion.”

Kevin Ranaghan (South Bend) reviewed the CFS II teachings on headship in marriage, and on pastoral care and communication in marriage. He observed how community couples often choose wedding readings such as the Last Supper discourse in John’s Gospel,
Greenlawn Press: Books in a New Format

Editor’s Note: On December 8, Greenlawn Press published its first e-book, The Second Vatican Council: Ecumenical and Apolitical, by Paul DeCelles. In this interview, Anne Swan discusses the recent revival of Greenlawn Press. She is a project manager for the Center for Christian Studies.

V&B: Briefly, what is Greenlawn Press?
Anne: Greenlawn Press is the publishing house of the People of Praise. It’s named after the Greenlawn property in South Bend, where Trinity School and the community’s executive offices are located. Our goal is to share with the world the wisdom that we’ve gained over the last 40 years in the community.

V&B: What’s the history of Greenlawn Press?
Anne: The People of Praise started publishing books in the early 1980s and distributing them at the charismatic conferences we were administering. After the community reorganized and added program offices, we moved our publishing efforts to the Publications program office and began using the Greenlawn Press name. At that time, Greenlawn Press included not only books but also New Heaven/New Earth magazine, Vine & Branches and the Greenlawn Tapes audio series. Between 1985 and 1995 Greenlawn Press published close to 30 books. These included To Serve as Jesus, served by Clem Walters, Your Future, Your Choice by Kerry Koller (based on the community’s Provident and Resourceful teachings), and Into the Lion’s Den by Tom Noe, about Andrew Plodowski’s efforts to spread baptism in the Holy Spirit in Poland behind the Iron Curtain. Dan DeCelles served as the publisher for Greenlawn Press during that time. Publishing was an outreach of the community and was funded out of the community budget. In 1995 the board decided to discontinue subsidizing it.

V&B: Why revive Greenlawn Press now?
Anne: The publishing industry has changed a lot in 18 years. The current climate is much friendlier to small operations. With the rise of electronic publishing and on-demand printing, there are fewer financial risks for publishers. We no longer have to predict the number of people who will buy our books. We can deliver e-books anywhere in the world without worrying about shipping or warehousing. There’s a new category of short-form e-books that we think is well suited to the kinds of things we want to publish. We see a big opportunity to get our word out in this changed climate.

V&B: Do you expect to publish more e-books?
Anne: Yes. We hope to publish a few books each year. We have several manuscripts that we’re considering for publication, for example, a collection of the “For the Record” columns that used to run in Vine & Branches and a manual on the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola. We have thousands of audio recordings from conferences and retreats, many of which may be suitable for publication in e-book form. We’re also considering reissuing some of the old Greenlawn Press books.

V&B: Will Greenlawn Press ever publish print books again?
Anne: We’re open to that possibility. We believe that some Greenlawn Press books could do well in print. For the time being, though, we’re focusing on learning more about electronic publishing and about marketing in this new environment.

V&B: Who is involved in the work of Greenlawn Press?
Anne: Many people connected with the growth center worked on our first e-book. Sean Connolly, Collin Anderson and I converted the manuscript into a functional e-book. Margaret DeCelles designed the cover. Mary Frances Sparrow, Tom Noe and Dan DeCelles helped with editing. David Salmon and Jeremy Osterhouse from one:ten helped us understand the electronic publishing business. Greenlawn Press is a collaboration between the Center for Christian Studies, led by Paul DeCelles, and the Publications program office, led by Sean.

V&B: How can community members help?
Anne: Pray for our publishing efforts. Buy our books and give them as gifts. Help us spread the word about our books. Learn how to read e-books yourself! If you already do read e-books, volunteer to teach other brothers and sisters so that more of us can get the hang of reading in this new electronic format.
THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL: ECUMENICAL AND APOLITICAL

PAUL C. DECELLES
This past Christmas season saw plenty of news stories about the rise of e-books and electronic reading. Thirty-three percent of all Americans over age 16 now own an e-reader (think Kindle) or a tablet computer (think iPad), according to a very recent Pew study. That might seem like a lot of people, and it is, but you can also view the numbers another way. Two-thirds of Americans don’t own an e-reader or a tablet, and 77% of Americans don’t read e-books.

Since electronic reading is a new concept and Greenlawn Press has just published its first e-book (see p. 6), I want to answer some of the practical questions you might have as you consider taking the plunge into e-books.

Reading e-books is fun, affordable and easier to do than you might think. There are plenty of benefits: free classics and spiritual books, easy lending and borrowing, changing the type size to suit your eyes. Choosing to read e-books doesn’t have to mean saying farewell to the smell and feel of fresh paper. Many readers read e-books and paper books alike, and each format brings its particular advantages to the reader.

**Question: To read an e-book, do I need to shell out money for a Kindle or an iPad (and then learn how to use it)?**

No. In fact, there’s a good chance you already own a device that will work fine for reading e-books. Any sort of computer will work. A desktop or a laptop. A PC or a Mac. A smartphone like an iPhone, Android or Blackberry. An iPad or Android tablet or an iPod Touch. The best way to try out e-reading is to pick the device that you are most familiar or comfortable with and go from there.

Reading e-books is fun, affordable and easier to do than you might think. There are plenty of benefits: free classics and spiritual books, easy lending and borrowing, changing the type size to suit your eyes. Choosing to read e-books doesn’t have to mean saying farewell to the smell and feel of fresh paper. Many readers read e-books and paper books alike, and each format brings its particular advantages to the reader.

Question: I have a computer. How do I start reading e-books?

First, you need the right software. Unfortunately, most desktops and laptops do not come with this software, so you have to download it. The good news is that these software programs are free and easy to download and install.

Before you go too far, though, you have a choice to make. Greenlawn Press e-books are currently available from three vendors: Amazon (which uses Kindle software), Barnes & Noble (which uses Nook software) and Apple (which uses iBooks software). These three vendors have three different software programs for e-book reading, and there are more.

**Question: Kindle, Nook or iBooks...which software program should I pick?**

This is a fairly important decision. Unfortunately, it isn’t very easy to move e-books from one vendor’s software to another’s (and sometimes it’s impossible). If you get started using one program but decide to switch to another one later, some of your e-books might not be able to make the switch. It’s worth the effort to make an informed decision at the beginning.

Here are some advantages and disadvantages for each of the options:

**Kindle software (by Amazon)**
- Kindle software can be loaded onto the vast majority of electronic devices, including PCs, Macs, tablets and smartphones. If you own multiple devices, chances are good that you will be able to access your e-books on all of them.
- Amazon offers the largest number of titles: 22 million.
- Kindle software is especially good for lending and borrowing e-books.
- Kindle has the most users, which means there are more people you can borrow books from.
- Kindle books come in a proprietary file format, so they can’t be read by software from any other vendor.
- You can’t easily print Amazon e-books.

**Nook software (by Barnes & Noble)**
- Nook software works on the vast majority of electronic devices, and allows you to read your books regardless of the kind of device you are using.
- The Mac version of the Nook software...
allows you to print out your e-books—a nice advantage.

- The Nook bookstore has three million titles, far fewer than Amazon.
- Some Nook books, including books from Greenlawn Press, come in an unlocked EPUB format. This allows you to read them on software from other vendors (except Amazon).

iBooks software (by Apple)
- Apple’s iBooks software allows you to read your e-books on iPads, iPhones and iPod Touches. There is no version of the iBooks software for Macintosh desktops or laptops.
- The software comes preinstalled, so there’s no need to download anything.
- Apple offers about 1.5 million titles.
- There are no printing or lending options.
- Some Apple books come in an unlocked EPUB format.

Servant Branch Members Talk about E-books:

“Beth Bulger loaned me an e-book that really inspired me. It just appeared on my Kindle when she sent it to me, so I didn’t have to figure anything out.

“I take my Kindle camping and use it to read on long car trips. I can read and exercise at the same time now, because I don’t have to turn pages.”

Claudia Schmitz

“My Kindle has gotten me to read more than I did before, because it’s more convenient. I don’t want to carry a lot of heavy books around with me.”

Dan Ficker

“My iPad works really well for reading shorter things like news stories. I also refer to it when making meditations in my personal prayer.”

Kevin Daly

“I like being able to choose a new e-book and borrow it at midnight through my library’s web site. My phone is always with me, so I can pick up where I left off in the book I was reading on my iPad. When I go on trips, I just pack my iPad, not a lot of books. I’ve read some real “button-pushers” lately. (You can’t have ‘page-turners’ without pages.)”

Mary Jo Koplos
Once you’ve made your choice of vendors, you need to download the corresponding software onto your computer or device. Simply do an internet search for “Kindle software” or “Nook software,” and go from there. If you own a dedicated e-reader, you don’t need to download any software.

**Question: How do I buy an e-book?**

First, you need a user account with the vendor you have chosen. (This may require providing your credit card information.) If you’ve already ordered something from Amazon or Barnes & Noble or Apple, you can use that same account for buying e-books. Otherwise, go to the Amazon or Barnes & Noble web site to set up an account.

To buy a book, go to Amazon.com or BN.com. Sign in with your account information, then use the search feature to browse for e-books. (If you want to find the new e-book from Greenlawn Press, type “Paul DeCelles” into the search box.) Once you find a book you want, click the “buy” button and follow the steps set out for you. Select the device you want to read the e-book on, and it will appear like magic the next time you open your Kindle or Nook software. (You may need to press “sync.”)

To buy an e-book from the Apple iBookstore, open your iBooks app and select “Store” (at the top left of the screen).

**Question: What’s different about reading an e-book?**

One advantage to reading e-books is that you can adjust the type size and the typeface. Look for the menu button in your e-book software program and go from there. (You can also adjust the screen brightness, margins and background color.)

Unlike a print book, an e-book doesn’t usually have page numbers. This is because the text adjusts to fill your screen. If you want to find a specific passage, you have to use your software’s search feature to pinpoint its location.

**Question: What else can I do with my e-book software?**

**Lend and borrow books:**

Both Amazon’s and Barnes & Noble’s software programs allow you to lend books to others who use the same software. To loan a Kindle book, go to Amazon’s web site and click on “Manage Your Kindle.” Enter the email address of the person you want to lend the book to. Typically, you can lend a book for 14 days, but you can’t lend the same book out more than once. After you lend the book, it will appear on the other person’s device.

**Give e-books as gifts:**

In the Kindle and Nook stores, the “give as gift” option is on the web page right next to the “buy” button. You can give the e-book to anyone with an email address, but the receiver needs the e-reading software provided by the vendor you used when you purchased your gift.

**Read free e-books:**

Books in the public domain, including numerous classics such as *A Tale of Two Cities* and *Les Miserables*, are available for free through the Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Apple e-book stores. Look for the “Free Popular Classics” category in the Kindle store on Amazon’s web site.

Another source for free books is Archive.org/details/texts, which includes 2.5 million books in the public domain. Many spiritual classics can be found here, including the *Spiritual Exercises* of Ignatius of Loyola and the Bible.

**Borrow library books:**

Many local libraries now loan e-books as part of their standard services. You use your library card on the library’s web site to check out e-books. They will be on your device until the day they’re due, when they will automatically disappear.

**PDFs:**

All these software apps also allow you to store and read PDF files. This means that you can load PDFs from the community’s file library, such as *To Serve as Jesus Served*, by Clem Walters, or the “Love of God” series. Go to ccs.peopleofpraise.org and click on “File Library.”

If you still have questions about how to start reading e-books, perhaps the best advice I can give is simply to look around you. There’s probably a brother or a sister in your branch who’s already taken the plunge and would be happy to walk you through the process.

Happy reading!
EIGHTY-FIVE MEN AND BOYS enjoyed a weekend of brotherhood and outdoor fun at the Muncie branch’s 33rd annual campout in mid-October. Organized by the branch’s Boy Scout troop and led by Scoutmaster Peter Walters, the weekend included archery, boxing, prayer, hikes and campfire-cooked cherry cobbler. This year, in addition to scouts and their dads, the men from the Indianapolis Christians in Mission team joined the camp-out, as well as several alumni of the troop.

Left: Brady took a break from boxing to sit with his dad, James. Below: Although the weekend was one of the warmest for a branch camp-out in years, the mornings were still chilly. Chandler warmed up with some steaming hot chocolate.
On Saturday afternoon, the Scouts broke into small teams, or patrols, which competed in outdoor skill challenges. The skills included orienteering, archery, marksmanship, personal fitness, tree identification and Scout spirit. Above: Kobe took aim with a pellet gun during the marksmanship competition.

Right: After opening the Lord’s Day, the campers gathered around the campfire for stories, jokes and a testimony. The Lord’s Day meal included bacon-wrapped steaks, baked potatoes and cherry cobbler baked in Dutch ovens.
Above: Troop trumpeter Luke sounded Taps while Isaiah held the music.

Below: A patrol of Scouts planned its strategy for the next outdoor skills competition on Saturday afternoon. From left: Wesley, Zach, Ben, Jacob, Nate and Jackson.
Growing God’s Kingdom
IN EVANSTON
BY NICK HOLOVATY
A VISION FOR RIVERSIDE

Knife fights, drug deals, crowds of aimless youth roaming the streets—the Riverside section of Evansville, Indiana, has seen them all. But since April of 2012, when 13 members of the Missionary Company moved into the heart of Riverside, a new vision for the area has been spreading from person to person around the neighborhood. On front porches, on sidewalks and on the streets, the chaos halts as we share this vision with our neighbors:

God called us to Evansville to build a Christian community like the Jerusalem church in Acts. They didn’t have a building, so they broke bread together in their homes. They shared all their possessions and met together daily, praising God and listening to the Apostles’ teaching. The Lord performed miracles among them, but the biggest miracle was their unity. They were one in heart and soul!

“Imagine the witness that block would be to the rest of the neighborhood! People would say, ‘That’s where the Christians live.’ Neighborhood kids would come over because they’d be safe. Men and women would drop by because they’d want to get right with God. People would start moving closer because of the safety and quiet—no shootings, gossip or drug-dealing.

“We think God is getting ready to do that, and we want to invite you to pray about joining us to make it happen. If it’s the Lord’s will, maybe we could all move together onto the same block. Together, we could make a beginning.

“God wants the same thing in Evansville. Imagine a block, here in Riverside, where everyone is a Christian, brothers and sisters in Christ. People go in and out of one another’s houses. Kids run around in the backyards. In the evenings everyone eats and prays together.

Left: Evansville residents used to call Linwood and Madison “Devil’s Corner” because it was the site of so many fights and drug deals. Then missionaries moved into two houses on the intersection. Above: Rus Lyons (left) and Savoria Mosley are in men’s group together.
Our work in Evansville began three years ago, on February 17, 2010. Since then we’ve been watering and fertilizing around our fig tree, praying for figs. We’ve seen God do dramatic healings. We’ve seen people repent of their sins, turn their hearts to the Lord and change their lives. We’ve prayed with dozens of people for baptism in the Holy Spirit. We’ve seen buds and blossoms, signs of promise and hope. But in the last few months, as neighbors respond to God’s vision for community, it looks like we are beginning to see some figs. Will this be a great harvest? The stakes are high and we can’t control the future. Pray with us that many people will respond as we invite them to build community.

I want to tell you the story of how we arrived at this important moment, to take you down that long and winding road. Looking back over the last three years, it couldn’t be clearer that, wherever we traveled, the Lord had always arrived there ahead of us.

A ROOFER POINTS THE WAY

It was Saturday, November 9, 2008, a crisp and sunny fall morning, when Mike Wacker, Rus Lyons and I were walking out of tiny Sebree, Kentucky. We were on a 12-day hitchhiking trip, carrying little more on our backs than our sleeping bags, Bibles and one change of clothes each. We were about to walk past the last house in Sebree when we noticed two men working on the roof.

“Maybe we can offer to help in exchange for a ride,” Mike said. Soon we were swinging hammers next to Rob and his cousin Corey. Corey was a tall roofer from Evansville who had driven down to Sebree that morning to help Rob. We told them a few stories, and we learned about their lives. Corey was loud, talkative and coarse. He had spent 11 years in prison for cooking meth. But he also had a certain humility, and he wore his heart on his sleeve. He said, “So my boss tells me, ‘Corey, I went to Penn State, but you went to the state pen!’” Corey laughed harder than all the rest of us. He knew he wasn’t right with God and he admitted it, but he wasn’t ready to make a change. “I could probably use some missionary visits from y’all,” he said.
Indianapolis, we lived with the Porter family for a month until we found the right place to move. We wouldn’t have the same kind of support in Evansville. We didn’t know very much about the city. How were we going to learn? With the Lord’s guidance.

Back in Indianapolis, we had a series of prayer meetings to observe Advent and to prepare for a possible move. We wanted to do everything we could to make a good beginning in the Lord. We fasted together and prayed together. Some of us were healed of significant chronic health problems during that time. The Lord told us, “I am preparing a house for you.” By the end of Advent we were sure God was calling us to Evansville.

We made five reconnaissance trips between Advent, 2009, and February, 2010. The Allens put us up every time. (One time seven men and women from our Indianapolis team stayed with the Allens. The whole Allen family moved into the basement to make room!) We knocked on doors around the city, saying, “We’re Christian missionaries from Indianapolis and we think God might be calling us to move here.

We experienced the Lord in so many Evansville residents: in the Allens, with their love for Christian unity . . . in an old man wearing a Purdue sweatshirt who told us, with tears in his eyes, “What you are doing is important!” . . . in Gail, a Pentecostal woman who asked us to pray for her. Our hearts were burning, and we felt even more confident in our decision to move.

We needed places to live. It took a lot of persistent phone calls, but by mid-January we had found two rental houses side by side. The landlord offered us a six-month lease (shorter than usual, another miracle), and we signed. We moved on February 17, 2010. There were 14 of us: John Bowar, Annie Bulger, Joe Bulger, Abby Earhart, Catherine Ficker, Ryan Hardin, Liz Loughran, Rus Lyons, Claire Mysliwiec, Peter Putzier, Ellen Reed, Mary Timler, Chris Vieck and I.

**EXPLORING EVANSVILLE**

Like many Midwestern cities of its size (about 125,000), Evansville has a downtown that’s dominated by some municipal buildings, the rescue mission and a few urban-development projects. Our houses stood in a transitional area between the poor neighborhoods near downtown and the middle-class areas of the outer ring. We were well positioned to learn about our new city.

Our first task, after cleaning and moving in, was to figure out how to approach this new mission field. For a couple of weeks we prayed each morning, then divided up into teams, sending some to this neighborhood, some to that one, and some to local universities to talk to students. But soon it was clear that this approach wasn’t going to work. There were 14 of us and 125,000 of them. We were trying to harvest a wheat field with scissors!

Searching for a strategy, I phoned Paul DeCelles, who’s responsible for the program offices. He said, “Why don’t you have the team pray about which neighborhood to focus on for the next few weeks or months, or however long the Lord wills? We can’t be flitting around, going to a new place every day. Focus on one neighborhood long enough to really engage the people. Then, if they don’t receive you, move on.”

I’d been a missionary for three years, but Paul’s instructions hit me like a revelation. We’re here for the people! Specific people, on specific blocks. What does the Lord want for them?

Soon afterward, we had a prayer meeting. To everyone’s surprise, it was clear by the end of the meeting that we wanted to focus on our own neighborhood. We knew it would be tough. We knew that knocking on doors in middle-class areas was much harder than in poor neighborhoods. Middle-class people don’t have time to talk to missionaries.

Still, we found some bright spots. One afternoon, Annie Bulger, Abby Earhart and Ellen Reed knocked on the door of a little brick house with beautiful flowers. A man in his early 60s opened the door and smiled apologetically.

“I’m sorry, but I’m really busy.”

Annie had just enough time to slip in a word we had received for the Christians of Evansville.

“Christians, be one!,” she said. “Share what you have with one another.”

Something changed in the man’s expression. “I guess I’ve got a few minutes.”

Jim Landmark was a Spirit-filled Christian and he had just been reading John 17, where Jesus talks about unity. He asked them to come back and talk with his wife Elaine. When they did, Elaine asked, “Do you have any meetings? Something we could come to?”

Providentially, we had just started a little neighborhood prayer meeting on Monday nights, and Jim and Elaine started coming. A couple weeks later Elaine told us, with tears in her eyes, that she had
been praying for months about a vision God had put on her heart. It was a vision of what she called “the manifest presence of God” in a neighborhood. “I feel like you’re here in part because of my prayers,” she said. Jim and Elaine and the Allens became some of our most faithful prayer meeting attendees and overall supporters. They still are.

Most of our neighbors were not so receptive. Many said they were Christians, but few took the time for a real conversation. “Sorry, we’re busy” was a common response, along with “It’ll never work.”

Soon after we moved in, Liz Loughran and I went to meet our neighbors. We stopped two houses down and introduced ourselves to the teenage girl who answered the door.

“Let me get my dad.”

When her dad came to the door, he didn’t give us time to speak. “We’re not interested,” he said, then closed the door.

I called to him through an open window. “We’re your neighbors. We just moved in. We were hoping to meet you!”

He didn’t respond, and we walked away with heavy hearts.

When the summer of 2010 began, it became clear that our neighbors didn’t want what God had sent us to bring. We’d had significant conversations at 1,086 of the households in our area—about 50%. There were a few wonderful exceptions, but as a whole our neighborhood didn’t receive us. One missionary visit took on symbolic significance for us. Ryan Hardin and Ellen Reed knocked on a door, and a smiling toddler responded. Missionaries at the door—the most exciting thing that had happened all day! Then a woman appeared.

Ellen told her, “God has a gift he wants to give you!”

The woman didn’t hesitate. “We’re not interested!” She closed the door.

**FISHING**

We began praying about which neighborhood to focus on next. We didn’t find it that summer, but we did find a few key people—people who became pillars of our community-building efforts.

We met Savoria Mosley in June, 2010. He and his wife Netesha had recently reconciled after almost a year of separation. They were living together again with their seven-year-old son, Savoria, Jr. Big Savoria knew he needed God’s help. When Rus, Ryan and
Joe offered to pray with him to be filled with the Holy Spirit, he eagerly said yes.

We came back and met Netesha. She had already been filled with the Holy Spirit. We had a backyard prayer meeting at their house, with singing, praising God, and words from the Lord. Savoria played the guitar. Later Netesha told Chris Vieck, “I’ve always wanted Christian community. I remember telling my friends about it, but they just thought I was crazy so I quit talking about it.”

We met James Sandifer in another neighborhood. He’d worked at a good factory job, but a year earlier he’d been injured in a car accident and fired.

“I’m not used to this,” he told me. “I’m used to providing for my family and now I’m not. I got all these bad thoughts in my head.”

I led a quick deliverance prayer and James changed visibly. He was calmer. He invited us to come back.

I started visiting James weekly. We prayed with him and his wife Barbie to be baptized in the Spirit. He’s a regular at men’s group with Savoria, Rus, David Zimmel and me. Recently, he landed a temporary job at a plastics factory. If all goes well, they’ll hire him permanently.

**The Small Towns**

About midsummer, 2010, Rus came to me with a sense that the Lord was calling us to start hitchhiking again. We hadn’t been hitchhiking since the trip Mike, Rus and I took in the fall of 2008, when we met Corey.

Rus proposed that we hitchhike once a month: leave Evansville on Thursday morning and be back in time to open the Lord’s Day on Saturday night. Over the next 20 months, small teams of missionary brothers made 12 hitchhiking trips, traveling to every town in a 75-mile radius with a population of 1,000 people or more.

Our mission work before then was very neighborhood-focused, but the Lord was sending us out in a broader way, to the region. Most of the people we made strong connections with were married people between 25 and 40. Many had gone through drug problems in their teens and early 20s but had begun trying to follow the Lord.

Sometimes Rus and the brothers seemed to show up at the exact right time. In Dale, Indiana, Rus, Peter Putzier and Joe Bulger met Dan and Amber. It was almost dark, but they offered to help Dan with a deck-building project he was working on. Later Dan told them, “I had asked all my friends to come help me, but none of them would. I was pretty sore over it. Amber said I should ask God for a blessing. I had never asked God for a blessing before. I asked him three different times. And then you three came in from the dark!” The brothers prayed with both of them to be baptized in the Spirit.

With the new year, 2011, we tweaked our regular schedule so that the whole team could spend some afternoons visiting these outlying towns. One or two days each week we would maintain our Evansville contacts, then head for the corn and tobacco fields of southern Indiana, southern Illinois and western Kentucky.

Why did God send us to people in the small towns? We don’t know for sure. But if he pours his Spirit out on this region, we’ll already know some of the people. Rus has about 60 on an email list, and every month or so he sends out an update. Many write back and say they’re praying for us.

Maybe the Lord sent us to the small towns to get the region ready for the next great outpouring. We’ll see. That’s something to pray for!

**Riverside**

Is the Lord calling us to move to Riverside?” This was the big question in late summer, 2011. We knew that the middle-class neighborhood we’d been living in for 18 months was not where the Lord wanted us long-term. We’d done mission work throughout the city. Some areas seemed moderately receptive; others clearly were not.

But in the Riverside area something was different. On our first day doing mission work there, Ellen Reed, Gianna Priolo and Rus had approached a group of five high-schoolers. Within 15 minutes...
they’d all asked for prayer to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Lots of people in Riverside wanted to talk with us about the Lord. Savoria and Netesha had even moved to Riverside. That made the neighborhood much more attractive.

Riverside is the poorest section of Evansville, so houses are affordable. Riverside is also one of the most dangerous areas. Drugs are a problem, though that’s been improving over the last five years. We take security very seriously in our mission work. We knew that if we moved to Riverside we would pay a high price in terms of convenience for the sake of security, especially for the sisters. But if the Lord wanted us in Riverside, no price was too high.

We did mission work in Riverside throughout summer and fall, 2011. We talked and prayed about moving there. Over time it got clearer. The answer we were moving toward was “yes.” We looked for houses to rent, but we couldn’t find any suitable ones—none close enough together or big enough. Then, in early January, 2012, our current landlord told us he was going to tear the sisters’ house down after our lease expired in February.

Homelessness is a powerful motivator! We redoubled our efforts, but we still weren’t finding any good options. On a recommendation from Paul DeCelles, we spent an afternoon walking around Riverside in small teams and praying. When we gathered to talk afterward, we realized that every team had noticed and been moved by the same section of the neighborhood. It was a specific couple of blocks, right in the heart of things, where many of the problem houses stood.

We looked at a map of that area. Peter Coleman said, “Big Sammy told me last week that they’re moving out. They’re getting evicted.”

Big Sammy’s house was the very worst of the problem houses, 1201 Linwood. There were always hordes of young men hanging out on the porch and spilling out into the street. It got so bad in summer, especially after dark, that the city bus driver left his normal route to avoid the crowds.

Mary Timler remembered that she’d seen a house almost across the street from Big Sammy’s advertised for rent on Craig’s List. That was 1167 Linwood.

What if the Lord wanted us in those houses? It was an alarming thought. Out with the drug dealers! In with the missionaries!

Big Sammy’s landlord said the house needed a ton of work, but we could clean it up in exchange for a reduction in rent. The other landlord said it would take him a month to clean his place up. The previous tenants had kept six dogs inside. “It’s pretty bad right now,” he said.

Paul said it would be good to ask our friends in Riverside if they thought God wanted us to move into those houses. Rus talked to one man who had spent his whole life in Riverside, 45 years. “Big Sammy is moving?,” he said, stunned. “God is in this, man! God is in this!” Everyone knew about Big Sammy’s house.

These two houses were just a block away from Savoria and Netesha. Netesha was so excited that we might be moving nearby. Savoria shared a vision with us. In his vision he saw his family and the missionaries standing together on the front porch of Big Sammy’s house. We were all singing, “Proclaim the might of our God.” Then a river began to flow from the porch, rushing down Madison and Linwood Streets and filling up the neighborhood—a river of God’s peace.

After more prayer and deliberation, we signed leases and got to work. We decided to spend all of March, 2012, fixing the houses up. It was a whole lot of exhausting, disgusting work. The carpets at Big Sammy’s were worn down and stained so badly in some places they looked like packed dirt. We did so much work we didn’t pay rent for five months!

On Good Friday, 2012, we spent our first night in Riverside. The next morning we felt tired from the move, but as the day wore on some of us had dizzy spells, lightheadedness, sore throats and runny noses. Chris and I were worried. There were still horrible smells. One of the houses smelled like urine, and I remembered reading that meth labs could smell that way because of chemicals. Even brief exposure could cause health problems.
We considered our options. We knew people who could put us up for a few nights, but what about after that? Where would we go? What about Evansville? What about all the people in Riverside that God loves so much?

We also experienced a strange joy at the table that night. Someone said, “Wow, we’re suffering for the Lord!” People were smiling. The Lord’s presence was apparent to us.

The next day we decided to leave early for the Action Conference in South Bend. While we were gone, some friends helped us bake the houses—turning the heat up to 90 degrees to get rid of the fumes. After the conference, the smell was definitely better in Big Sammy’s house, but the sisters’ house was still noxious. On our hands and knees, we followed the smell to some kitchen cabinets. We decided to see what was behind them. There it was: thousands of roach carcasses! It took a week to replace those cabinets, but the sisters came back to a house that smelled better and was much healthier.

Through the whole ordeal, a word kept coming back to us: “You’re going to know what it’s like.” We were able-bodied adults, with the People of Praise growth fund available to front us money for repairs. What does a single mom do when she moves into a house like ours? We were beginning to understand. Our love for our neighbors grew deeper. Chris told Netesha about our difficulties, and she replied with a prophetic word of welcome. “God wants you to know! He wants you to know what it’s like for people in this neighborhood.”

We had become part of the neighborhood through our trials.

**Men, Women, Boys and Girls**

Even though Big Sammy was gone, the sidewalks in front of our house were still a gathering place for young toughs and drug dealers. The neighbors suggested we call the police, but we hatched another plan. Every time the young toughs came to our corner, we sent one or two of the missionary brothers out to talk to them about the Lord. It took a few weeks, but eventually they all but gave up hanging out in front of our houses. The neighbors say the summer of 2012 was the quietest summer that corner has seen in years.

The young toughs may have walked away from us, but some strong men heard our message and have been coming to our men’s groups. There’s Keith Treadwell, a former professional martial arts fighter. There’s Andre Floyd. At one of our men’s group meetings we prayed with him to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Keith told his testimony to Dorian. A few weeks later we prayed with Dorian, and now he’s coming, too. There’s Dean Gomez, a self-employed auto

Missionary Anne Raway (right) dances with a neighbor during a girls’ group gathering.
mechanic with four children, and Reggie Eastwood, a member of one of the neighborhood’s most influential families.

We now have three groups for neighborhood men. At each meeting we share the moment we felt closest to Christ from the week before, and we talk about which other men in the neighborhood we can evangelize and invite to men’s group. The men love the meetings and they tell their friends about them. When we’re out of town, Savoria visits the men in his group, encouraging them and praying with them.

After we moved in, the neighborhood kids started coming over all the time. One day we heard a knock on the door. Seven kids between four and 12 were on the porch.

“What can we do for y’all?”

“Um, . . . can we have some water?”

They’re little. How to make them disciples? Girls’ group and boys’ group! Every Saturday morning the sisters gather three to seven neighborhood girls for 90 minutes of games, drawing and Bible stories. At the same time, in the park around the corner, the brothers play flag football with the neighborhood boys. After football there’s Bible stories. Some of the men from the men’s groups bring their sons to the football game, and their sons are becoming friends.

One week the girls behaved particularly poorly. There was name-calling and fighting, and the sisters almost had to send a few of them home early. Afterward, when the sisters were walking them home, they were still calling names. Mary Timler told the worst offender, “We don’t call each other names and we will never call you names.” The girl ignored her, but when they got to the girl’s house she said, “I’m not going home. I want to stay with y’all. When can we come over again?”

In May, 2012, Chris and some of the other sisters went to a park on a Sunday afternoon for recreation. In the parking lot, they noticed a woman in the car next to them reading the Bible. Alice Ross was excited to hear that missionaries had just moved into her neighborhood. “My people need to hear the gospel,” she said. Later that summer she came out and did mission work with us. Now her 11-year-old daughter is a regular at girls’ group, and Alice comes to women’s group, one of four local women who attend.

Thanksgiving, 2012, was a time of great rejoicing for us. We had spent more than six months living in Riverside. We had conquered the smells in our houses and turned those tired, 100-year-old structures into our homes. Our men’s and women’s groups were growing. On Thanksgiving Day, 36 people came to pray and eat and relax in a house that used to be the neighborhood’s most notorious drug house. Most of our friends were there: Savoria and Netesha, James, the Johnsons. Children played outside and ran through the house. Our women’s group had planned the meal we ate. They spent most of Wednesday fixing it, just like family. After the meal, we all went over to the small Pentecostal church.
that Savoria and Netesha attend, for a joy-filled prayer meeting. (Savoria was just ordained as an assistant minister there.)

Of course, most Americans gather on Thanksgiving with family members they have known for as long as they’ve been alive. We gathered as new brothers and sisters drawn together by the Lord in less than three years. Will we continue to grow in love and unity, and live as a true Christian family? Will we move closer together still, becoming neighbors? Will many more be added to our number? More of our Riverside neighbors? Christians in Mission members from other parts of the People of Praise? Will the Lord pour out his Spirit anew not only in Riverside, but in the city of Evansville and on the whole region?

We don’t have all the answers, but every day we pray, with our hearts still burning within us, “Father, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Our Mission:

10 Things You Can Do To Help

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It occurred to me that many community members living in branches will wonder, after reading Nick Holovaty’s article, what they can do to help our work in Evansville. I asked Nick for suggestions and he came up with the list below. He also added some items that will help our work in Allendale and on the South Side of Indianapolis.

Nick didn’t mention it, but I know that the missionaries and Christians in Mission teams always appreciate care packages with celebratory foods and other goodies. Also, we need more people to move to Allendale and to Indianapolis. Pray that the Lord will send more workers to labor in these vineyards.

In Christ,
Sean Connolly

1 Contribute money to an alms fund. Alms funds help neighbors with emergency needs. In the past they have helped with utility bills, rent, medical bills, legal fees, fines, groceries, funeral expenses and gasoline. Whenever possible, money is given to neighbors secretly. (Applies in Allendale, Evansville and Indianapolis.)

2 Send acoustic guitar strings and guitar picks for use in prayer meetings. (Applies in Allendale, Evansville and Indianapolis.) Also, People of Praise songbooks are needed in Allendale.


4 Plan a short trip to help with home renovation projects. Both skilled and unskilled volunteers are urgently needed. (Applies in Allendale, Evansville and Indianapolis.)

5 Gerry Deakin needs a stock of bicycle inner tubes for his bike repair ministry in Allendale. He needs 16,” 20” and 26” inner tubes, as well as rim strips for those same sizes. Similarly sized tires are also helpful but not as urgently needed.

6 Donate supplies for summer camps. Allendale: portable CD player, card table, sidewalk chalk, kick balls, plastic tablecloths, large area rugs, large pillows, 10’ to 20’ carport tents. Indianapolis: sports balls, large beach balls, Pinewood Derby car kits, drumsticks, jump ropes, poster paint, colored duct tape and copies of the Jesus Storybook Bible. Gift cards to Walmart, Michaels or Hobby Lobby for craft supplies are also welcome in either Allendale or Indianapolis.

7 Donate road-worthy cars for missionary work and travel. (Applies in Evansville.)

8 Help provide garden supplies. Indianapolis could use Lowe’s gift cards to purchase mulch, fertilizer, pavers and fencing for keeping neighborhood cats and other critters out of the garden! Allendale could use basic gardening tools and gift cards for purchasing other garden supplies.

9 The Evansville missionaries are working to furnish and supply a guest house. Contact Nick for more details on how you can help.

10 Adopt members of the Missionary Company or Christians in Mission team members and commit to praying for them. Write them letters letting them know you are praying. Also, you can join an intercessory prayer group dedicated to praying for the missionaries. Contact Nick Holovaty for further details.

Contacts:
Allendale: Ben Reinhardt.
Indianapolis: Michael Coney.
Evansville: Nick Holovaty.
The Asian dessert known as Butter Mochi or Bibingka (bee-BING-kah) can be found everywhere in Hawaii, from the formal dining room to the 7-Eleven store on the corner. Bibingka has a sticky or springy texture that comes from sweet rice flour. This texture may surprise those who have never tasted Bibingka before, but have no fear—this dessert is simply wonderful.
This easy Bibingka recipe is known around the Oahu branch as “Denise’s Bibingka.” “The recipe is very forgiving, so it’s hard to go wrong,” says Denise. “If you bake it too long that just means it’s crispier on the outside.”

**BIBINGKA**  
(FILIPINO FOR BUTTER MOCHI)

**Ingredients**
- 5 cups sweet rice flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 1/2 cups sugar
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1 stick of butter, melted
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 cups coconut milk
- 2 1/2 cups milk  
(Optional) Grated coconut

**Directions**
1. Place the beaten eggs and the remaining ingredients in a large mixing bowl. Thoroughly mix the ingredients together.
2. Grease a 9 x 13 pan (or line the pan with foil), then pour the mixture into the pan.
3. If you desire, sprinkle the grated coconut on top of the mixture to add flavor and a crunchy texture.
4. Bake at 350 degrees until the edges are a deep golden brown, 50 to 60 minutes.
5. Let the desert cool, then slice it with a knife and serve.

Note: *Sweet rice flour, also called “mochiko,” or glutinous rice flour is available at Asian grocery stores and can sometimes be found in the Asian section at supermarkets. Do not substitute regular rice flour.*

**THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL:**  
Ecumenical and Apolitical

by Paul C. DeCelles

Editor’s note: The year 2012 marked the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council. In his first Greenlawn Press e-book, Paul DeCelles (South Bend) discusses some less noticed aspects of the Council, including the spirit of unity that marked the Council Fathers’ approach to decision-making. Rather than forming political factions that jostled for position, they strove for unity of mind and heart. This led to some remarkable results: virtual unanimity in many major decisions. Here is a short excerpt from the e-book.

Often the press, at least the United States press, reported on the Council as if a power struggle between progressives and conservatives was happening. Sometimes one comes across this point of view in history books too. The Council was not, however, a factious political debate; it was, rather, an open, sometimes sharp, but always thoughtful exchange of ideas. That’s part of the glory of the Council. Often people changed their minds. One bishop commented, “Personally I widened my horizons of ideas. I came with my own little ideas, thinking that they were the best. Instead I saw that others had better ideas than I had.” It isn’t the case that one faction of the Council Fathers was defeated by another faction of the Council Fathers. Instead, they came to virtual unanimity. They came to what can be regarded as the mind of the Lord, that is to say, the will of God.

Even though voting was involved, it’s a mistake to think the Council followed typical parliamentary procedures. In fact, some people criticized the Council because it didn’t use typical parliamentary procedures. For example, when someone spoke in the Council hall, no one could tell how many other Council Fathers agreed with him. Five could argue in favor of something, and five others could argue against it, but did they have the agreement of a hundred? A thousand? Or none at all? In a normal parliament, so the critics would say, individuals spoke as representatives of organized political groups or factions. You knew whether they represented a small or a large portion of an assembly and therefore knew how much weight to give their words.

In a political situation, an element of control or even force is always present. “I belong to such and such a party and I’ve got x number of people behind me.” The veiled threat is: “You can see that we will crush you or we’ll walk out if we don’t get our way.” The Council organized itself in such a way that this wouldn’t happen. Each person spoke as an individual, and the only power at his disposal was the truth of his words. It was a radically Christian way of doing things.

The Second Vatican Council: Ecumenical and Apolitical by Paul DeCelles is available as an e-book from Amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com and from the Apple iBookstore. The price is $1.99 and the e-book is approximately 20 pages in length.

To find the e-book, go to the Amazon or Barnes and Noble web sites and type “Paul DeCelles” into the search bar. For more information on purchasing and reading e-books, please see our article on p. 8.
**LIFENOTES**

### Making the Covenant:
Congratulations to the following members of the community, who recently made the covenant of the People of Praise:

**Servant Branch, September 9, 2012:**
Matt Brickweg, Beth Fondell, Mark Olson, Mary Reinhardt

**Rockford, September 29, 2012:**
Marti Nutter

**Northern Virginia, October 21, 2012:**
Cathy McAleer, Jessica Temeles

**Shreveport, October 18, 2012:**
Lisa LaChance

**South Bend, October 21, 2012:**
John Bowar, Annie Bulger, Mary Claire Busk, Michael Busk, Gina Busk, Meghan Couch, Abby Earhardt, Christine Gaffney, Pete Gaffney, Evan Lent, Liz Loughran, Claire Mysliwiec, Ben Reinhardt, Allesha Thomas, Ricky Thomas

### Births:
**Marcus and Beka Nayo (South Bend)** are announcing the birth of Marie-Juliette Terese, born February 8.

**Ricky and Allesha Thomas (South Bend)** are celebrating the birth of Jesse Brian, born on February 6.

**Chris and Kayla Abramowicz (Rockford)** welcomed their son Jeremiah Christopher on December 28, 2012.

**Matt and Staci Ambrose (Rockford)** traveled to Poland to adopt Micah (six) and Adam (two) on December 17, 2012.

**Sophie Catherine, daughter of Therese (Northern Virginia) and Bryan Rosenthal,** was born on October 26, 2012.

**Eric and Liz Bomkamp (South Bend)** are announcing the birth of their daughter, Norah Grace, on October 11.

**Cara (Rockford) and Patrick Vermett** celebrated the birth of their daughter Autumn Elizabeth on August 9, 2012.

### Weddings and Anniversaries:
**Congratulations to Becca Feeks (Northern Virginia) and Billy Brophy,** who were married at Holy Cross Church in South Bend on January 19.

**Best wishes to Tim and Ann Marie Pingel (South Bend),** who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on January 9, 2013.

**Congratulations to Dave and Donna Mazanowski (Indianapolis),** who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on July 4, 2012.

**Congratulations to Dave and Terri Porter (Indianapolis),** who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on June 13, 2012.

### Graduations:
Congratulations to these community members, who received college degrees:

**Catherine Pingel (Tampa), B.A. in history,** Indiana University Bloomington.

**Ginny Timler (South Bend), master’s degree in special education (M.S.Ed.),** Indiana University South Bend.

**Jon Grams (Colorado Springs), M.A. in history,** University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

### Work:
**Craig Lent (South Bend)** is the author of *Learning to Program with MATLAB: Building GUI Tools,* published in January by Wiley. Craig developed the text after creating courses in computer programming for students at Trinity Schools.

In late December Army Sergeant Joe Ridenour (Oahu) began a nine-month deployment to Camp Joyce in Afghanistan. Joe works in satellite communications.

After years of selling from booths at festivals and markets, Orox Leather Company celebrated the opening of its first retail store on December 15 in downtown Portland. Orox Leather is a leathercrafting business owned...
and operated by Jose Martin Martinez and his sons Martin, Levi and Kevin (all Vancouver/Portland) and Martin’s father-in-law John Carey (Corvallis).

Indiana National Guard Major Martin Couch (South Bend) returned home safe and sound December 14 from a nine-month tour of duty in which he spent six months training local military in Afghanistan.

Amy DeCeles (South Bend) is now an assistant professor of mathematics at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul.

John Bowar (Mission Division, Shreveport) has started work as a field technician at Gulf States Environmental Laboratory in Shreveport.

Nick Raway (Mission Division, Shreveport) took a new position in December as a commercial estimator at Allen Millwork, Inc., in Shreveport.

Congratulations to Joan Pingel (Allendale) a third-grade teacher in Bossier City, Louisiana, who received a $1,000 grant from a local television station to continue a project she began, where students can talk about a famous painting, write about it and create artworks based on it.

Deaths:
Since our last issue, we’ve received word of the deaths of these members of the People of Praise. We pray for their families and friends in this time of loss. Tribute articles will follow in an upcoming issue.

Rosie Cedergren, northern Virginia branch, died February 17, 2013.

Gini Chaput, Tampa branch, died February 18, 2013.

Jim Feehly, South Bend branch, died September 23, 2012.


Harold Meeks, South Bend branch, died December 12, 2012.

Karin Treiber, Servant Branch, died December 27, 2012.

Mary Quella, Appleton branch, died January 9, 2013.

Dianne O’Connell, Servant Branch, died January 18, 2013.


Executive Office Announcements:

Northern Virginia:
Andrew Zwerneman was appointed to the position of division coordinator for Trinity School in the Education Program Office on November 13, 2012.

Servant Branch:
Tom Caneff has been appointed to a three-year term of office as an area coordinator, effective January 26, 2013.

Harold Coulter has been appointed to a second three-year term of office as an area coordinator, effective January 26, 2013.

John Fasbender has been appointed to a second three-year term of office as an area coordinator, effective January 26, 2013.

Dick Stauble has been appointed to a three-year term of office as an area coordinator, effective January 26, 2013.

Rodnie Williams has been appointed to a one-year term as a nonvoting coordinator for purposes of training, effective January 26, 2013.

South Bend:
Tim Pingel has been appointed to a three-year term of office as an area coordinator, effective January 17, 2013.

Chris Rowland has been appointed to a second three-year term of office as an area coordinator, effective January 18, 2013.

Matt Urbanski has been appointed to a one-year term as a nonvoting coordinator for purposes of training, effective January 17, 2013.

Vancouver/Portland:
Fred Dang has been appointed to a second three-year term of office as an area coordinator, beginning December 1, 2012.
Jim loved the Lord with all that he said and did. His large family always knew he got up early to pray and sing and read Scripture, receiving his daily bread from the Lord. Brothers in his men’s group remember that his first response to any challenge was, “Let’s pray!” Jim and Evelyn prayed for one man for over 20 years, and he finally accepted Jesus as his Savior.

Jim loved taking walks and frequently took us kids along the Mississippi River, pointing out God’s creation everywhere: trees, bushes, and—his greatest joy—singing birds. But these walks served another purpose. They showed us how a husband cared for his wife. He was giving his “sweetie” Evelyn a break from the stress of raising nine children.

He was always willing to serve, and he literally whistled while he worked. During his years as a bus driver, he would greet strangers with “Peace of Jesus” and leave them with “God bless you.” He would take lost-and-found mittens, scarves and hats along with him on the bus and offer them to those who needed them. Sometimes he brought passengers home for a good meal.

Visitors to the Bittner house often left with the family singing to them, “May the blessing of the Lord be upon you.” Many recognized the joy of the Lord through Jim’s grin, a casual, joyful and often goofy grin. In later years his favorite phrase became, “Joy is the net of love in which we catch souls.”

Jim loved taking walks and frequently took us kids along the Mississippi River, pointing out God’s creation everywhere: trees, bushes, and—his greatest joy—singing birds.
In 1975, I (another Tom Caneff) joined a charismatic prayer group in Hastings, Minnesota. Dad and Mom got curious about what “young Tom” was up to. Soon the two of them also became regular attendees of those prayer meetings. They came underway in the community, and both made the covenant of the People of Praise on March 31, 1991.

Dad was perceived as the strong silent type. In a group of three, he’d likely talk the least. In a group of two . . . ! The men in his men’s group held him in high esteem and loved him for who he was. His actions spoke for him: from his quiet service setting up chairs before area meetings to visiting an ailing brother in the community, Leonard Beskar.

He was a big sports fan. Many fellow fans enjoyed discussions with him about the Minnesota Twins and the Gophers. He also loved Notre Dame (he was a proud Irishman). Gil Rynda was Tom’s close friend for most of his last 12 years and recalls hearing about Dad’s trip with other veterans to the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. “As quiet as Tom normally was, once you got him talking about that trip to DC, he’d go nonstop for an hour,” Gil says.

He was faithful to friends, to his employers and, first of all, to God. “You can always depend on your dad” is something the Caneff kids heard often growing up.

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**JIM FEEHLY**

**facts**

- Born in Baltimore, Maryland, on July 13, 1936. Died on September 23, 2012.
- Married for 54 years to Pat Feehly (South Bend).
- The Feehlys raised four girls, including Cathy Feehly (Mission Division, Indianapolis).
- Made the covenant on September 24, 1977.
- In the Air Force, he was an airplane mechanic at Andrews Air Force Base. Other jobs included electronics repairman and quality control manager for an electronics company.

Jim was a quiet man, but because God was a natural part of his life he talked openly and effortlessly about the Lord. People sensed his sincerity, so he could evangelize without appearing to evangelize.

He led a men’s group for many years, and he was a mainstay in the Elkhart, Indiana, chapter of Christians in Commerce. The night before every meeting, he phoned all the members. They called him “Mr. Dependable.”

“I admired Jim’s fun-loving way of looking at life,” says his head John DeLee (South Bend). “After hearing community teachings, reading the Bible and learning life’s lessons, Jim came to firm conclusions. He said that, when a husband and wife heard the Christian Living Series talks and lived according to Scripture, there was no way they couldn’t live happily together all their lives.”

He worked for years as an electronics repairman, but for him it wasn’t just a job fixing machines; it was his chance to help people out.

For a man so dedicated to caring for others, Parkinson’s disease was a terrible trial. His daughter Cathy says, “After I joined CIM and moved to Indianapolis, I started getting cold feet because I felt I needed to be back in South Bend helping my mom take care of my dad. But he encouraged me to ‘listen to the Lord, trust the Lord.’ He never asked me to move back.”

“He’d sing his heart out praising God,” his wife Pat says. “He was a very, very wonderful man.”

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**TOM CANEFF**

**facts**

- Born on a farm near Hastings, Minnesota, in 1922. Died in Hastings 90 years later, on August 9, 2012.
- World War II veteran who served in Europe and earned the rank of corporal.
- Tom and Margaret (Servant Branch) were married for 64 years. They had seven children, including Servant Branch member Tom Caneff.
- His jobs included swing shifts at 3M, driving a milk truck and a school bus.

In 1975, I (another Tom Caneff) joined a charismatic prayer group in Hastings, Minnesota. Dad and Mom got curious about what “young Tom” was up to. Soon the two of them also became regular attendes of those prayer meetings. They came underway in the community, and both made the covenant of the People of Praise on March 31, 1991.

Dad was perceived as the strong silent type. In a group of three, he’d likely talk the least. In a group of two . . . ! The men in his men’s group held him in high esteem and loved him for who he was. His actions spoke for him: from his quiet service setting up chairs before area meetings to visiting an ailing brother in the community, Leonard Beskar.

He was a big sports fan. Many fellow fans enjoyed discussions with him about the Minnesota Twins and the Gophers. He also loved Notre Dame (he was a proud Irishman). Gil Rynda was Tom’s close friend for most of his last 12 years and recalls hearing about Dad’s trip with other veterans to the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. “As quiet as Tom normally was, once you got him talking about that trip to DC, he’d go nonstop for an hour,” Gil says.

He was faithful to friends, to his employers and, first of all, to God. “You can always depend on your dad” is something the Caneff kids heard often growing up.
On a frigid weekend in early January, a group of 45 women from 10 community locations came together in Rockford for a two-day conference. The conference was a reunion for high school students and coaches who are participating in the Action division coaching program. (High school students in the program commit to a regular meeting with a “coach,” an older brother or sister who is directly involved in the community’s growth work. Check out the spring, 2012, issue of Vine & Branches for more details.)

The conference was jam-packed with updates, talks on prayer and discernment, new music and even a praise dance to the song “Revive This Land.” “There was a lot to soak in,” said tenth-grader Tess Pingel, who came from South Bend.

There’s a lot more that could be said about the content of the conference, but I want to focus on a different aspect—the logistics.

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On Friday night, Annie projected the video chat from her laptop screen onto a wall, so that everyone seated in the room in Rockford could see the women attending from afar. Then she turned the laptop so that her webcam faced the Rockford group. The women in the far-flung locations could then see all of the women in the room with Annie.

Some said that this moment of seeing everyone was the highlight of the weekend. During breaks women flocked around the laptop to catch up with their sisters in the other locations. Nadia Busekrus (Oahu) woke up at 5:30 a.m. with her cousin Cassie Busekrus to join the video conference for the Saturday morning session. “Being able to participate remotely was awesome,” she said.

The combination of traveling in groups from some nearby locations and video conferencing meant costs could be kept very low. The conference cost a grand total of $2,100, or about $60 per person, including travel costs.

Of course, the generosity of the Rockford branch was also a huge factor in the low costs. Branch members provided hospitality, offered the use of their branch center and helped provide some of the food. C.J. and Amy Newburn hosted 10 participants in their home, and C.J. said he appreciated the chance to serve. “The brothers and sisters involved in missionary work, CIM and Action are representing all of us, and when they go forth the whole body goes forth with them. But in Rockford we don’t always get to experience that very much. Whenever we have people stay with us, we get a chance to participate more fully. That’s what we want to do.”

On that frigid weekend in January, creativity, generosity and video conferencing technology came together in Rockford, enabling a new style of community gathering.
Winter Recreation

Lower right and top left: Hannah Caneff (Colorado Springs, left) and Abby Olson (Colorado Springs) skied at Keystone Resort, west of Denver. Credit: Abby Olson.

Lower left and top right: About 100,000 people, including some Servant Branch members, gathered in St. Paul for the annual Red Bull Crashed Ice competition in late January. During the event, racers on ice skates made their way down a winding course. (Lower left photo, from left): Katie Maslow, Nicole Gapp, David Bowar, Rachel Miller, Kevin Daly. Credit: Charlie Reinhardt.

Center left: Justin Walters (Mission Division, Indianapolis), pulls his two-year-old nephew, Henry, on a sled through a Muncie street. Henry, from Charlotte, NC, had never seen snow before. Credit: Cathy Walters.

Lower middle: Over the New Year’s holiday Trish Brewer (Campus Division, Indianapolis) joined Bill and Carolyn Reinhardt (Servant Branch) and their children for a visit to the ice castles at Minnesota’s Mall of America. Front to back: Jane, Peter, Daniel, Carolyn (holding Marie in blanket), Bill and Laura. Credit: Trish Brewer.

Middle right: Jim Jacoby (Servant Branch) took this snapshot of his wife Konnie (middle), his godson Micah Olson (right) and Micah’s wife, Rachel (left), on their annual ski trip.
“By the breath of God, ice is given” (Job 37:10).