

# CHRONICLER

Cape Girardeau, Missouri

www.evangelicalucc-cape.org

AUGUST 2009

## Peace to You Who Were Far Away

As a pastor, I receive an overwhelming flood of information on overseas missions, most of which, naturally, are designed to motivate me to contribute funds to worthy causes. This information comes in the form of mailings, e-mails, web pages, books, and phone calls. Many of these missions are just what you would expect—people from the USA going to help poor folks in far-off lands. Their missions seem to fall into two broad and overlapping categories: 1) missions to spread the Gospel by activities such as distributing Bibles, training pastors, and building churches, and 2) missions to improve the quality of life in those countries by activities such as drilling wells, building houses, and distributing mosquito nets.

**The UCC's Global Ministries** has the following purpose statement: **"We commit ourselves to a shared life in Christ and to an ecumenical global sharing of resources and prophetic vision of a just and peaceful world order, joining with God's concern for the poor and oppressed."** The goal is, "to timely and appropriately meet God's people and creation at the point of deepest need: spiritually, physically, emotionally, and/or economically."

Sometimes meeting physical needs seems to be the best way to carry out Christ commandment to **"Love one another."** This year, I gave my major support to the Blood Water Mission. Since 2004, this mission has conducted 617 water projects in 11 countries delivering clean water to 460,000 people in Africa. How did I choose this mission? They are sponsored by my favorite Christian music group, **"Jars of Clay."** When the group performed a concert locally a few years ago and the lead singer was describing the mission, an audience member asked if they distributed Bibles and preached the Gospel while they were drilling wells. The lead singer re-

sponded that in the poor African communities where they carry out their water projects, the local churches are doing an outstanding job of spreading the Gospel, in fact a much better job than many US churches. I found that to be a thought provoking statement. [For more information, go to [www.bloodwatermission.com](http://www.bloodwatermission.com).]

However, where there are not strong local churches, mission work probably needs to more directly address Christ's Great Commission,

**"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."** There are still millions or even billions of people who have never had the opportunity to receive the Gospel. Recently, I was using one of the world's best web sites, [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com), to do research for my sermon. I clicked on a banner ad for a free book by a missionary. What fascinated me was the name of the missionary, K.P. Yohannan. He is the founder

and president of an organization called **"Gospel for Asia."** He is an advocate of Gospel-spreading missions using locally recruited missionaries. His goal is to bring Asia to Christ by recruiting thousands of native missionaries. They are trained at local Bible colleges and sent to the poorest slums and villages where people have never even heard of Jesus. Their goal is to plant churches in those communities that will be self-governing and self-sustaining. These churches can be described as evangelical, non-denominational churches. Their doctrinal beliefs are similar to those of the Cape Bible Chapel.

Yohannan's approach, starting thousands of **small local churches, is consciously "post-colonial."** He believes the traditional approach of foreign missionaries coming into Asian countries and establish-



## Continued From Page 1

ing churches, schools, and hospitals has improved the quality of life of a few people in those countries, but has utterly failed in bringing large numbers of people to Christ. He adds that most Asian countries are closed to foreign missionaries—their governments will simply not allow them to enter the country with the intention of converting locals to Christianity. Therefore, native missionaries must do the job, working under difficult conditions and frequent persecution, including being beaten and sometimes killed. Yohannan believes that Christians in rich countries need to send prayers and money to these missionaries, rather than try to go there themselves. [You can learn more at [www.gfa.org](http://www.gfa.org).]

I do not endorse his organization, but he has tapped into something significant. Christianity is growing explosively in Asia and Africa. The two most populous countries in the world, China [1.3 billion] and India [1.16 billion] are “where the action is.” **The Church is growing explosively in China** despite the government's vigorous persecution of Christians outside of the state-controlled official protestant and catholic churches. The Church is growing more slowly in India, where deep-rooted cultural traditions make religion less a matter of individual choice than part of family, caste, and ethnic identification. The picture in Africa is complex, but in some countries, Christianity is growing explosively. Statistics on the growth of Christianity are unreliable and incomplete, but there are enough reports to indicate that something very significant is going on. Many experts believe that very soon, the majority of Christians and churches will be in Asia and Africa, if this has not already taken place.

The Bible translation movement has been critical to the growth of these churches. Currently, 1,168 language communities have access to the New Testament in their heart language and 438 language communities have access to the entire Bible in the language they understand best. Language communities with all or part of the Bible in their native language account for 6.3 billion out of the world's total 6.5 billion. This has allowed billions of people in Asia and Africa to read or hear the Bible without learning English or some other European language. [For more information on Bible translation, go to [www.wycliffe.org](http://www.wycliffe.org).]

This new majority Church is different from the churches we are used to. Many of these Chris-

tians see themselves as living out the Book of Acts. Their lives are full of poverty, hardship, and persecution, but also miracles, healings, and blessings. They experience all the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that St. Paul describes:

*1 Corinthians 12:7-11: Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.*

Overall, these are intensely Biblical churches. Many of them believe that “**The Bible is the verbally inspired, inerrant Word of God. It is the complete revelation of His will for salvation and the only unfailing rule of faith and practice for the Christian life [Gospel for Asia].**” Of course, implementing the Bible always means interpreting the Bible. Because these churches are not part of denominations with long histories of Biblical interpretation and theological exploration, some may find the interpretations of these new churches to be naively literal and simplistic. Similarly, these new churches are not part of our long traditions of liturgy and worship, and some may find their way of worshiping God to be strange. Because these churches may lack all the bylaws, rules, procedures, and regulations of our denominations, some may feel they are vulnerable to fraud, abuse, and mismanagement.

Most of these churches take a conservative Biblical position on social issues: family, homosexuality, role of women, marriage, divorce, and premarital sex. These churches have no affinity with the “**liberation theology**” movements of the past, where Christians concerned with social justice formed alliances with secular progressives, including Marxists. Their focus is not on social justice and social change, but on individual salvation. Although they are socially conservative from one viewpoint, as Biblical churches, they preach the radical equality of all human beings before God, something that can be a threat to traditional social systems, especially the caste system of India.

**Continued From Page 2**

No human being can predict the full social, political, and spiritual implications of a majority Christian Africa and Asia.

Regardless of these questions and doubts, something wonderful is clearly happening. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Word of God is reaching millions of people every year, many of whom acknowledge Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Looking around our congregation, community, and nation, we may sometimes feel that Christianity is in decline, that our faith is embattled and losing ground. A global perspective paints a very different story. Christianity is vital and growing and in Asia and Africa, and brave and holy people are putting their lives at risk everyday to spread the Gospel. There is no question that we should be praying for these new churches. The question of how to give them material support is complicated by the difficulty in deciding to whom to give that support! I can only advise on using prayerful reflection to decide how God is calling us as individuals and a congregation to direct our giv-

ing. The vision of the Holy Spirit someday uniting the whole world in the Church may be unfolding right before us. Pray that we will have the eyes to see it! I will again give St. Paul the last Word:

*Ephesians 2:17-22: He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

Your friend in Christ,  
—Pastor Dan Johnson

**What's Going On?**

**Union of Concerned Christians**

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream. The Ice Cream Social is back on! Mark your calendars for Sunday, **August 16th at Pastor Dan's house**, located at 2246 State HWY PP, Jackson, MO. As before, brats and hot dogs will be provided along with ice tea and lemonade. Be sure to bring a dish or two to go along with **the brats and hot dogs. Don't forget the best part homemade ice cream and desserts.**



**Rally Day**

Rally Day will be Sunday, August 30th, following worship services. There will be hot dogs, hamburgers, games, prizes, etc. No need to bring food, just come and eat with us.

**Friendship Circle**

The Friendship Circle will not have a meeting in August. Have fun with the rest of your summer!



**Mary-Martha Circle**

The Mary-Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, August 6th at 1:30 PM. Roxie Lindsay will have the devotions. Hostesses for the afternoon will be Roxie Lindsay and Meta Siemers. We would enjoy having guests join us for Christian fellowship and peaches & ice cream.



**Meals - On - Wheels**

Our week for Meals On Wheels starts on Monday, August 31st and runs through Friday, September 4th. Place these dates on your calendar and give Bob & Velma Roloff a call if you are available to help with this important local ministry.



## Memorials

<p><b>Memorial Fund</b>  <u>In Memory of Betty Maevers</u>                  Betty Vogel</p> <p><u>In Memory of Lawrence Maevers</u>                  Betty Vogel</p> <p><u>In Memory of Bettie Mehrle</u>                  Norma Blattner</p> <p><b>Scholarship Fund</b>  <u>In Honor of Bob Roloff</u>                  Union of Concerned Christians</p>	<p><b>Memorial-General Fund</b>  <u>In Memory of Bettie Mehrle</u>                  Louis Geldmacher                  Bob Dolle</p> <p><u>In Memory of Andora Peetze</u>                  Mr. &amp; Mrs. Marvin Best, Sr.                  Ramona Brinkopf</p> <p><b>Carpet Fund</b>  <u>In Memory of Bettie Mehrle</u>                  Daniel Johnson</p> <p><u>In Memory of Bettie Mehrle</u>                  Elly Herrmann</p>
--	---

## Jamaican Christian Medical Mission

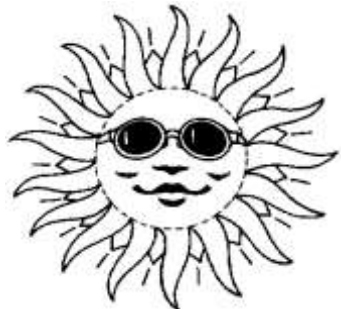
We will have a Celebration / Get-Together for all of the present and past group members and their families at Stanley & Ladonia Beggs home located on HWY 72 on Sunday, August 23. We will start at 3:05 PM, per Stanley, with sharing of pictures and stories from our recent medical mission trip to Jamaica. *This would be a great time to invite anyone that may be interested in going on the trip to come and meet the group, see pictures, and hear our stories about the mission.* We will then have dinner at 5:37 PM, per Stanley. The meat, drinks, tableware, homemade ice cream and peaches will be provided. Just bring a dish and your lawn chairs as well as your pictures.

Thanks,  
Christine — JCMM

## August Birthdays and Anniversaries

1 Kory Haman	17 Jacob Sailer
Cory Johns	19 Shirley Medlock
2 Rhonda Bolton	Kenneth Mehrle
Ruth Haman	20 Jonathan Popp
Andrea Walton	21 Lindsay Siebert
5 Paula Suzuki	23 Mary Ann Robertson
6 David Schaffner	24 Jose Izaguirre
10 David Schaffner, Jr.	26 Calvin Sailer
12 Carolyn Best	27 Terry Abbott
Frank Maevers, Jr.	Nancy Gibson
16 Bill Bolton	29 Charmagne Schneider
Sandra Sneathen	Leonard Moore

4 Curt & Penny Johns
10 Loyd & Imogene Bollinger
11 Tom & Linda Schild
14 Bob & Gail Best
20 Dave & Maxine Hale
22 Daniel & Joan Hope
28 Bob & Velma Roloff



## Council Financial Report

Beginning Check Book	Balance 6-1-09	\$43,870.76
Deposits	June	\$6,874.48
	Interest	\$0.22
	Transfer Edward Jones	\$6,874.70
Total Deposits for June		\$6,874.70
Disbursements	June	\$8,827.49
	Ruby Doughty—Invested	\$28,696.96
Ending Check Book	Balance 6-30-09	\$13,221.01
<hr/>		
Wachovia Securities/ A.G. Edwards {Memorial Fund}	Balance 6-1-09	\$11,194.61
	Interest	\$0.11
	Deposits	\$150.00
Ending Balance	As of 6-30-09	\$11,344.72
<hr/>		
Check Book Balance	As of 6-15-09	\$13,369.86

## Calendar Information

2009	August 2nd	August 9th	August 16th	August 23rd	August 30th
DIACONATE	Gary Metje	Barbara Oberbeck	Louis Geldmacher	Kaye Lee	Michael Bodine
GREETERS	Gary & Clodine Metje	Ernest & Ida Mae Jordan	Bonnie Wilkening	J.D. & Joyce Treadwell	Roxie Lindsay
LITURGISTS	Roxie Lindsay	Joyce Treadwell	Ashley Stahlman	Bill Bolton	Jennifer Stahlman
COMMUNION PREP TEAM	Bill & Rhonda Bolton Bonnie Wilkening	—————	—————	—————	—————
USHERS	CAPTAIN- Michael Bodine Bill Bolton Rhonda Bolton Louis Geldmacher Maxine Hale Kaye Lee Gary Metje Barbara Oberbeck Helen Owens Tammy Popp Calvin & Verla Sailer Rebecca Schild Tom Schild Brian Stahlman Bonnie Wilkening	CAPTAIN- GORDON WALTON Rhonda Bolton Barbara Oberbeck Van Sander	CAPTAIN- PAUL PROPST Bill Bolton Jeff Sneathen Alvin Spencer	CAPTAIN- RANDY COY Michael Bodine Bob Roloff Lori Siebert	YOUTH AND DEACESSE

# Prayer List

In case of hospitalization or surgery please notify our church office. When being admitted to a hospital be sure to tell them that you are affiliated with this congregation. \* indicates a new request. *Please note: after six months names will be removed from the prayer list, unless an update is made to the church office.*

*Please Pray for those on our Prayer List.*

<p>Jerry Baker; 03-09                  *Marvin Best, JR; 07-09                  *Ruth Bierschwal; 07-09                  Dora Briggs; 07-09                  Darlene Dow; 01-09                  *Lillian Graden; 07-09                  Joan Hope                  Dr. Bill Johnson [JCMM]; 04-09                  Ernie &amp; Ida Mae Jordan; 07-09                  Michael Juegens; 05-09  <b>[Lisa Spencer's brother]</b>                  Vergie Kies; 04-09                  Dana McClard; 06-09                  Bettie Mehrle Family; 06-09</p>	<p>David Metcalfe; 02-09                  Ester Nussbaum                  Willa Dean Propst; 04-09                  Vernon Robert; 04-09                  Bob Roloff; 06-09                  David Sailer; 06-09                  Irene Sievers; 04-09                  Chris Spivey; 05-09  <b>[Michelle's Nephew]</b>                  Jeff Strickert; 04-09                  *Marjorie Thompson; 07-09                  Norma Trickey; 05-09                  *Burnell &amp; Elizabeth Turner; 07-09</p>
--	---

# NURSING HOME & HOUSE BOUND

<p>Ratliff Nursing Home                  717 N. Sprigg Street                  Cape Girardeau, MO 63701</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Polly Wilmsmeyer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Veteran's Home</b></p> <p>2400 Veterans Memorial Drive                  Cape Girardeau, MO 63703</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Frank Maevers, Sr.                  Kenny Mehrle</p>	<p>Auburn Creek                  2910 Beaver Creek Drive                  Cape Girardeau, MO 63701</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Irene Orlando</p>
<p>Fountainbleau Lodge                  2001 N. Kingshighway                  Cape Girardeau, MO 63701</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Alta Proffer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lutheran Home</p> <p>2825 Bloomfield Road                  Cape Girardeau, MO 63703</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Loyd Bollinger                  Dorothy Cole                  Viola Geiser                  Leonard Moore                  Esther Nussbaum</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Home Bound</p> <p>S. G. Coy                  Mary Huckstep                  Helen Owens</p>



## 2009 Mission Trip to Biloxi

Dear Pastor Dan,

Thank you so very much for your hospitality in allowing our Biloxi-Bound group to stay at your church on June 13th. It was such a nice welcome you gave us and we appreciated the tour of your lovely church. The kids liked the gym and being able to wear off some energy after the long day in **the car. I'm enclosing a report of the trip** by our youth so you can see the results. Thanks again!

Mary Barnes,  
1st Congregational UCC  
Eau-Clair, Wisconsin

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit, and now for the third time, First Congregational UCC of Eau-Clair, Wisconsin, has sent down vans of volunteers ready to help. On the morning of Saturday, June 13, with Big Blue and 2 other vans packed and loaded, we hit the road for our two-day voyage. Several long naps, bathroom breaks, and movie marathons later, we arrived in Biloxi, Mississippi, our new home for the next six nights. Our Lady of Fatima welcomed us with open arms. We were so grateful to have such a nice, air conditioned and accommodating place to stay.

After attending a Back Bay Mission orientation on Monday morning, we arrived at the house we would be working on. The owner of the home, Mrs. Ngyun, is a 70 year old Vietnamese woman whose original house had to be demolished after sustaining severe flood damage during Katrina. During the construction of her house, Mrs. Ngyun was living in a FEMA trailer. However, around 3 weeks before we were in Biloxi, FEMA came to retrieve her trailer, without her knowing. The volunteers at the time did everything in their power to prevent the removal of her temporary home, which included parking a car in front of her trailer. Eventually the police were called and the act of civil disobedience was **stopped. When the volunteers couldn't stop the removal of her trailer, they quickly removed and saved as many of her possessions as they could, and told her the bad news when she got home.** After hearing this story, we were inspired to work even harder.

We spent the beginning of the week mud-

ding and sanding drywall for what seemed like countless hours. We now know that construction is indeed a slow and particular process. By Wednesday, we started priming each room of the two bedroom home and could finally see our accomplishments in plain view. On Thursday, paint hit the walls. Snow White and Country Pink were **Mrs. Ngyun's chosen colors and a huge smile** shone across her face as she watched them fill her home. By Friday afternoon, we had applied a second coat of paint and finished installing most of the sub flooring. It was exciting to see how much we had accomplished in just 5 days and despite the language barrier, Mrs. Ngyun had no trouble communicating her gratitude for our work with many smiles and hugs. While some were busy at the work site, others helped at Loves and Fishes, the local soup kitchen. Along with that, our food crew did an excellent job of keeping our stomachs full and our bodies hydrated.

Also on Thursday, our work site manager had much to do and insisted we take the afternoon off. Some went shopping, some went to the historic Jefferson Davis home, and others lay at the beach and played in the water in the constant 95 degree weather. In the evening we went on a two hour sailboat ride. It was a beautiful night and an amazing experience. After a long 4 days of work it was very much needed and deserved. Through work and play, our week was full of laughs, love, tears, and joy. And our group formed bonds that will never be forgotten.

Back Bay is an amazing organization that changes lives daily. It was predicted that the rebuilding of the damage from Katrina would take 8 to 10 years and only 4 years later, much help is still needed. Many organizations have had to stop contributing to the reconstruction effort, and even **though it's not publicized on the news, the victims of Katrina are still hurting.** The cities may look **like they're back on their feet, but as we grew to know and love Biloxi, we saw the devastation and the need for more helpful hearts.** We encourage you to continue to help, support and pray for the **victims of Hurricane Katrina and in God's name,** let them know that they are not alone.

—Written By  
Abby Grewe, Anna Burns, Laura Taylor,  
Joe Liegel, Michelle Gebert, & Kelsey Pulkrabek

Evangelical United Church of Christ  
33 South Ellis Street  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63703-6201

Pastor Daniel Johnson  
Church Phone: 573-335-5611  
Church e-mail: eucc-cape@sbcglobal.net  
Church Web Site: evangelicalucc-cape.org

Church Times  
Fellowship 9:00 AM  
**Children's Sunday School 9:30 AM**  
Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM  
Worship Service 10:35 AM

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
US Postage Paid  
Permit NO. 320  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63703-6201

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Thank You Notes

*June 2, 2009*

*Dear Pastor Dan,*

*On behalf of the Mehrle family we appreciate all of the personal time you shared with Mom and all of us. Thank you for your powerful prayers and know that Mom loved you and knows how much God needs you to minister to others.*

*Thank You Again,  
Debbie Kitchen  
Jane Koch  
Kenneth Mehrle*

*June 27, 2009*

*Dear Rev. Johnson,*

*We sincerely appreciate you being with us at our Mom's service. Thank you very much.*

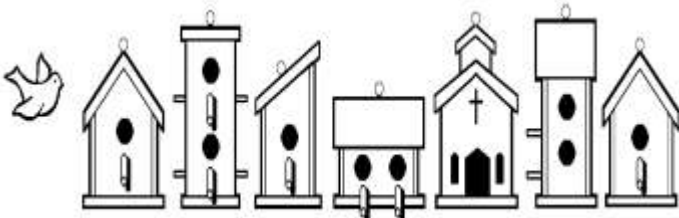
*The Herrmann and Seabaugh Families*

*June 2009*

*Dear Congregation of Evangelical UCC,*

*The Diaconate would like to give all the folks who helped in anyway with the Ham Supper a Big Thank You! We could not do this without your help. Our profit from the Ham Supper was \$901.15. We were able to contribute \$200.00 to the Jamaican Christian Medical Mission.*

*—In Christian Love,  
The Diaconate Members*



# August 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion <b>Cici's Pizza</b> -JCMM	3 <b>McAllister's Deli</b> 4-8 PM—JCMM	4	5	6 Mary-Martha Circle 1:30 PM	7	8 MO-Mentoring 10 Am-1 PM [lower auditorium]
9	10 Board of Christian Education, 5:00 PM	11 Diaconate, 7:00 PM	12	13	14	15
16 UCC Ice Cream Social, 4:30 PM @ <b>Pastor Dan's</b>	17 Council, 7:30 PM	18 Friendship Circle helping JCMM Roll Dumplings	19	20	21	22
23 Celebrate JCMM 3 PM @ Stanley & LaDonia Beggs house	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Rally Day	31 Meals On Wheels					

## SCRIPTURE READING FOR AUGUST 2009

August 2, 2009

2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a      Psalm 51:1-12

Ephesians 4:1-16      John 6:24-35

August 9, 2009

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33      Psalm 130

Ephesians 4:25-5:2      John 6:35, 41-51

August 16, 2009

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14      Psalm 111

Ephesians 5:15-20      John 6:51-58

August 23, 2009

1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43      Psalm 84

Ephesians 6:10-20      John 6:56-69