

# THE CHRISTIAN NEWS

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August 2001

## Upper Midwest Welcomes New Global Mission Partners

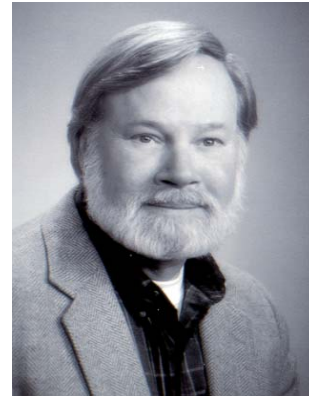
We have had two sets of Global Mission Partners for the past two years: Jim & Jayanthi Wilson and Jim & Sacha Elliott-Amen, who were serving in El Salvador. Jim and Sacha have gone off staff and returned to the United States. We have an opportunity to welcome to this partnership our second Global Mission Partner Family: Doug and Liz Searles and their children, MacKenzie and Mickey.

Doug and Liz have been appointed by the Common Global Ministries Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ to serve a three-year term (with the possibility of an extension) with the Sichuan TV and Radio University in Chengdu, China, beginning August 1, 2001. Doug and Liz will serve as English teachers.

Prior to their appointment to China, the family has been living in Schleswig, IA, where Doug has served as the interim minister at the United Church of Christ.

Since the Searles will be serving in China where mission activity is expressly forbidden, it is a new experience for us as Global Mission Partners. As you correspond with Doug and Liz, please be aware that China is a country legally closed to missionaries. Liz explains, "This means that we work with caution." In a recent letter, Doug has written:

"Our greatest call as a family of faith, however, would be to build positive relationships with Chinese friends-Christian, atheist, Buddhist, Taoist, or Muslim. We



will seek to offer positive and realistic images of what Christians can be like, and what people from the United States can be like. As opportunities arise, we will want to share the reality of Jesus' life and love, share the Bible, and share our faith. Christian workers in China must be careful and culturally sensitive, however."

Both Doug and Liz have requested that in all correspondence (mail and email) we should avoid spelling out certain types of words and instead use an informal abbreviation. A partial list of these words and acceptable abbreviations are: "Missionary" (M'y); "Prayer" (p); "Christian" (C); "Tibetan" (T'n); "Taiwan" (Tw); "Military" (avoid altogether!); "United States" (US); "Church" (Ch).

Liz continues, "It is best to send classic mail in PLAIN envelopes, WITHOUT A CHURCH RETURN ADDRESS or A LOGO WITH A CROSS. Remember that anything may be opened and read and that there is a filter on e-mail. We do love to get cards and letters, though, so we don't want to be discouraging about sending them!"

Special Dates for us to remember the Searles: March 6, MacKenzie's (Daughter) birthday [1988]; April 16, Doug's birthday [1942]; May 4, Doug's ordination anniversary [1997]; May 9, Liz's birthday [1951]; August 1, START DATE Anniversary as our Global Mission Partners; and October 9, McCleary's (Mickey - son) birthday [1992].

Their mailing address is:  
Doug and Elizabeth Searles, Sichuan Radio & TV University, No. 3 West Section 3, Ring Road 1, Chengdu, Sichuan, CHINA 610073



## CHI RHO RETREATS THIS FALL

(#1) October 5-6, 2001

(#2) October 26-27, 2001

Registration/Check-in starts at 7:00 pm on Friday night at the Christian Conference Center, 5064 Lincoln St Newton IA

## BEYOND LUKEWARM . . .

(TEACHING OUR YOUTH TO HAVE PASSION  
WITHIN OUR DISCIPLE DIVERSITY)

**COST: \$35 for each youth and each adult (enclose with form!)**

**Please make checks payable to:**

**Christian Church in the Upper Midwest (C.C.U.M.)**

**Turn into your local congregation which needs to mail the completed forms registration fees to:**

**CCUM, P.O. Box 41217, Des Moines, IA 50311-0504**

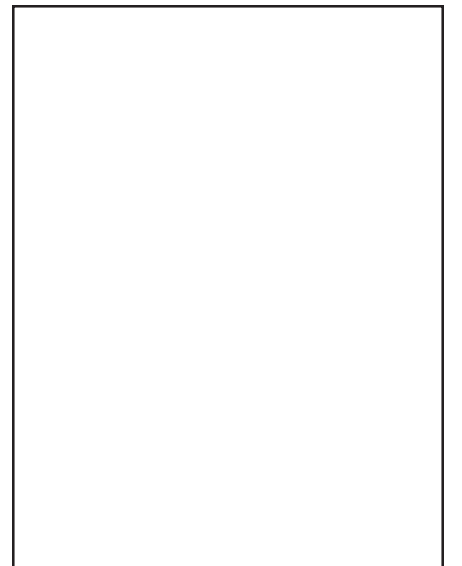
**THE ABSOLUTE REGISTRATION DEADLINE are Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup> for Retreat #1, and Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> for Retreat #2. These are "first come first serve" so get your registration in soon! Registration form & Money must be POSTMARKED by applicable date! Questions, contact Bill Spangler-Dunning at (641) 792-1266.**

## WOMEN, COME TO KORONIS!

Nothing could stop the women of First Christian in Ames from going to the Regional Women's Fall Retreat, September 28 - 30. Four women from Ames (Norma Dowell, Janet Lott, Anjeanette Perkins, & Sue Prins) are so excited about Retreat that they will leave a whole week early to get there. To show other women how important and meaningful Retreat is to them, these four will leave on September 22 from Ames and ride their bikes 300 miles to Camp Koronis in Paynesville, Minnesota.

Many women may hesitate to attend Retreat because of the long car ride (especially from Iowa), but the Ames women are taking seven days to get to retreat to proclaim that the long ride is definitely worth it! Encourage and help the women of your church come to Koronis. See registration form on page 3 of this issue.

Pictured are "De Cycles of Christ" of First Christian Church, Ames: Anjeanette Perkins, Aaron Lott, Janet Lott, Sue Prins, Diana Madsen, and Norma Dowell.



from the Regional Minister



## A CLOSER LOOK AT GEORGE W. AND OURSELVES

by Richard Guentert

The following article was written while reflecting on my vacation following the General Assembly. Perhaps it will give you pause for reflection as well.

Allow me to visit with you today about George W. .... but not the George W. you think. Vacation this year took Emily and myself to Branson, Missouri. On the way, we purposely took a detour to the west of Diamond, Missouri to the George Washington Carver National Monument. Because of the Region's Anti-Racism initiative, a growing appreciation for the broader contributions of black history have certainly been renewed in all of us.

Like most of you, I've known from childhood about George Washington Carver. Most Upper Midwest folk know of him because of his historic work at Iowa State, in Ames, Iowa. But visiting this out of the way National Monument gave us an opportunity to explore a new source of information about his contributions ... and it was a gold-mine of discoveries. I heartily recommend this site to you. It will be worth your time and effort to make a pilgrimage there. Allow me to share a couple of vignettes that I came upon unexpectedly.

In the early 1920's George was invited to go to Atlanta to assist them in easing the racial tensions in the south. Embedded in his remarks was this pearl of wisdom. "I hold before you my hand, with each finger standing erect and alone. And so long as they are held thus, not one of all the tasks that the hand may perform can be accomplished. I cannot lift. I cannot grasp. I cannot hold. I cannot even make an intelligible sign until my fingers organize and work together. In this we should also learn a lesson."

Also in the early 1920's he once wrote a letter to the college's Sr. Class where he was teaching. He outlined eight virtues. Though his wording may seem strange to us, his meanings are clear and resonate with the wisdom of the ages. 1<sup>st</sup> Be clean inside and out;

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Who neither looks up to the rich or down to the poor;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Who loses, if needs be, without squealing;
- 4<sup>th</sup> Who wins without bragging;
- 5<sup>th</sup> Who is always considerate of women, children, and old people;
- 6<sup>th</sup> Who is too brave to lie;
- 7<sup>th</sup> Who is too generous to cheat; and
- 8<sup>th</sup> Who takes his share of the world, and lets other have theirs.

This significant American gifted all of us with his science, his spirit, and his sagacity. Living from 1865 to 1943 his life was bounded by the Civil War and World War II. But this remarkable man was anything but a war hero or a military figure. He was a wonder-working peacemaker who revealed to the world the immense potential locked in a peanut and the sweet potato. Unlocking those possibilities was his life's work. As a result he was the incarnation of promise and hope. Dr. Carver was a great black American who gifted the whole world by rising above the bigotry that sought to block the development of his God-given talents.

I stand in awe of his spiritual roots, his personal stamina, and his unconquerable heart. God forgive us for all the George Washington Carvers we have discouraged along the way. God transform us to be open to and affirming of **all** the gifts, of **all** the world's peoples ... regardless of their race. God bless us with a new and inclusive hospitality that makes room for and celebrates the breadth of diversity that is the handiwork of the Creator God. Anything less will be a sinful waste of the rich racial tapestry God has given us to relish and enjoy.

May God stir in each of the congregations in this Region the desire to address the pride and prejudice of racism by having an anti-racism workshop/presentation in their own locale. As your Regional Minister I encourage you to patiently endure whatever discomfort there might be in exploring this subject matter. Taking this first step will ultimately enrich the spiritual growth and journey of every participant. To arrange for a presentation by the Region's Anti-Racism Task Group contact Rev. Terry Steeden at Lake Harriet Christian Church, (612) 926-2592, or write him one of his two e-mail addresses: [lhcc@mcg.net](mailto:lhcc@mcg.net) OR [steeden@mcg.net](mailto:steeden@mcg.net)

## Jim and Jayanthi Wilson, Global Mission Partners to Visit this Autumn

Jim and Jayanthy Wilson, our Global Mission Partners serving in Lesotho, South Africa, will be returning to the United States for a visit and sabbatical this Fall. On October 27<sup>th</sup> through November 11<sup>th</sup>, they will be speaking in many congregations in the Upper Midwest Region. Jim and Jayanthy are completing a three-year term with the Lesotho Evangelical Church. This has been a joint appointment by the Common Global Ministries Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. Their visit will be shared between both Disciples and United Church of Christ congregations.

To date, thirty-three congregations have been sent confirmations of a date for their visit. As the schedule is confirmed, a complete schedule will be printed in the September issue of [INFOPAK.DOC](#), so that congregations can be aware of when Jim and Jayanthy will be in their area.

Jayanthy has been serving as a Librarian/tutor at SOS Children's Village at Masianokeng and Jim serves as Instructor in the Department of Religious Education at the National Teachers Training College of Lesotho.

Make plans now to note which dates these Global Mission Partners will be in your area.

## Youth Event Calendar

October 5-6, 2001: Chi Rho Youth Retreat-1, Christian Conference Center

October 26-27, 2001: Chi Rho Youth Retreat-2, Christian Conference Center

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2002: Upper Midwest Youth Council (UMwYC) Applications sent to Churches

January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2002: Camp Applications Mailed to Congregations

February 28, 2002: UMwYC Applications Due

March 1-2, 2002: Junior Retreat 1, Christian Conference Center

March 8-9, 2002: Junior Retreat 2, Christian Conference Center

April 12-14, 2002: C.Y.F. Spring Assembly, Christian Conference Center

April 15-17, 2002: Heartland Regional Cluster Adult Youth Leader Retreat: (This event will involve Adult Youth Ministers from across Indiana to Kansas and everywhere in between. It will be a time to relax, refresh and get some new ideas. The Upper Midwest Region will host this event at the Christian Conference Center. Yes this is a Monday- Wednesday event!)

April 26-28, 2002: Youth Work Retreat -Christian Conference Center (Way more than Work, Grades 6 to 12)

April 18, 2002: Camp Registration Deadline for Summer 2002 events.

If you have questions about any of these events, contact Bill Spangler-Dunning, Associate Regional Minister at (641)792-1266.

### The Christian News

August 2001

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## SUMMER RETREAT ONE OF DISCOVERY

Twenty nine women from the Region gathered at Newton First Christian Church June 15-16 to become "Women of God's Rainbow" under the leadership of Phyllis Maupin and Patti Washburn, certified facilitators of Color Spectrum.

Based on the personality inventories of Myers-Briggs and Keirse-Bates, Color Spectrum uses the language of color to represent personality temperaments and interaction styles. Participants determined their "natural" color. Then the characteristics of the different colors were explored. Having learned the different characteristics participants had fun "identifying" the colors of their friends and family members, how to interact with them, what ticks them off, and how to tell if they are out of self esteem, etc. As one participant put it, the retreat was most useful and practical in "Applying the colors to other people so as to understand them better".

Time was also spent looking at the colors through a spiritual lens. With a spiritual

inventory, participants determined their "spiritual color". In the evaluations one participant said, "This was an excellent way to not only look at myself and my journey but also to discern how to use these gifts in service to Christ". Many discovered that even though they have a "natural" color, they really exhibit traits of the other colors as well, making them a "rainbow" of color.



## Mother Daughter Team to Lead Fall Retreat

Soon the golden leaves of autumn and brisk air off Lake Koronis in Paynesville, Minnesota will greet the women who will be meeting to re-connect with each other and with their inner spirit at the annual women's fall retreat.

Now is the time to reserve September 28-30 to attend this women's "get-a-way". This will be a spiritually uplifting retreat with Mary Lee Lamun leading the group on Spiritual Gifts and her daughter, Reverend Dani Loving-Cartright leading the worship experiences. You can expect time for journaling, gentle relaxation exercises, and time for helping others by making baby layettes, which has been selected as a service project.

Mary Lee is an experienced group leader and counselor who lives in Creston, Iowa where her husband is doing an interim ministry. Dani is an Associate Regional Minister in the Upper Midwest and a creative worship leader. As mother and daughter, they are a fun loving, creative duo. On Saturday evening, C.J. Floyd, representative to Woman to Woman, will do a program on her experiences in Vietnam.

The retreat will begin Friday evening following supper. Participants are encouraged to eat before arriving or to bring a picnic to enjoy on the retreat site. No evening meal will be provided. Plenty of time is being planned for relaxing, meditating by the lake, and walking the labyrinth. Send in your registration and plan to attend.

## TO ALL DISCIPLE WOMEN! Quadrennial is Next Year!

**It is time to take action!** Registration has started for the 2002 Quadrennial Assembly, June 19 - 23, 2002 in Louisville, KY. The theme is RENEW! RESHAPE! UNLEASH! Registration can be made by mail (registration forms will be available in your church office) or on line at [www.homelandministries.org/CHURCHLIFE](http://www.homelandministries.org/CHURCHLIFE).

The registration fee is \$350.00 per person and includes lunch and dinner each day. Special events are a part of QA and included in the fee. One of these will be a concert by contemporary Christian artist, Sandi Patty. Another will be an All Assembly Banquet with a featured program. Noted speakers, and special events will highlight each session each day.

Themes: Wednesday, June 19 "Ambassadors on the move...Reshaping,

Renewing, Unleashing", Thursday, June 20 "Reshaping Our Spiritual Perspectives", Friday, June 21 "Renewing Our Passion For Wholeness" and "Renewing Our Zeal for Justice", Saturday, June 22, "Unleashing Our God Given Potential", and Sunday, June 23, "Ambassadors Go Forth, Reshaped! Renewed! Unleashed!".

Register early and then call Louisville Convention Housing: 1-800-743-3100 to reserve your lodging. The Upper Midwest Region is making plans for a bus charter. Details will be available soon. Some will prefer to go by car and some by plane. Delta and Northwest Airlines are giving special rates to all QA attendees. Delta, 10800-241-6760 and refer to CODE - DMN177712A. Northwest, 1-800-328-1111 and refer to CODE - NEMFM.



### REGISTRATION FOR WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT

Lake Koronis, Paynesville, MN  
September 28-31, 2001

Registration Deadline is September 16

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Telephone Home:  
Church:

Work number:  
Town:

E-mail address:

My preference for roommate is (Name):

I need a room on the first floor? yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_  
(Check as appropriate)

I'm a late night person: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to retire early: \_\_\_\_\_

I have special dietary needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list special needs:

Registration fee: \$75 for double room. Send this form and registration check to **Barbara Rusinak, 2723 Gem St., Maplewood, MN 55109. Please make checks payable to: Minnesota CWF.** \$75 registration includes \$58 for two nights and 5 meals, \$17 for program.

## WOMAN TO WOMAN CANDIDATE SELECTED



Georgia Woodward is the Regional delegate for the Woman to Woman trip to Egypt and the Sudan in October. She is a member of the Disciples Women's Unit, representing Cluster 8. A member of Altoona Christian Church, Georgia is active in her CWF organization, has been an Elder, Christian Education Chair, and a puppet ministry coordinator.

For the past 28 years, Georgia and her husband, Bob, have been living in an 1872 Victorian house built by Tomas Haines. (Haines donated the land on which the Christian Church is now located.) The Woodwards have two daughters, Allison and Meredith and two granddaughters. Meredith's first child is expected in August.

Georgia's interest in the Sudan was heightened by having Sudanese children in her Head Start classroom in Des Moines from where she recently retired. She looks forward to this life changing experience, and asks for prayers for all the women who will be on this Woman to Woman trip. She will return with stories of her experiences to be shared with churches around the Upper Midwest Region. To all of those who have made this opportunity possible through giving to the Woman to Woman Scholarship, Georgia extends a very grateful "thank you".

## Ministry News



The Reverend Tom Smith has been installed as Associate Minister at First Christian Church, Burlington, Iowa. Participating in the service were: David Nash, Senior Minister, First Christian Church, Burlington; John Claussen, Minister of Fairview and Pleasantville Christian Churches, Pleasantville, Iowa; Tom Smith; and Alan Mace, Deputy Regional Minister, Christian Church in the Upper Midwest.



Gordon Miller has been installed as the minister of the Nora Springs Christian Church, Nora Springs, Iowa. Participating in the service were Richard Guentert, Regional Minister of the Christian Church in the Upper Midwest, Janell and Gordon Miller.



It was a full house when the Exira Christian Church, Exira, Iowa, celebrated its 125th Anniversary in early August. Participating in the festivities were Leaster Paeanson, former pastor; Alan Mace, Deputy Regional Minister; David Todd, pastor of Exira Christian Church; Tom Carpe, former pastor; Phil Jorgenson, Timothy of Exira Christian Church; Neville Clayton, former pastor; and Carroll Johnson, former pastor.

## Ministry Changes:

Wil Dilsaver is now serving as Interim Minister of Bondurant Christian Church, Bondurant, Iowa.

Bill Kanne is interim at Carlisle Christian Church, Carlisle, Iowa.

Tom Ingham is the new interim at Norwalk Christian Church, Norwalk, Iowa.

Altoona Christian Church, Altoona, Iowa, has called Tom Carpe to serve as Interim Minister.

Bob Haskins is now the Acting Minister at Garden City Christian Church, Garden City, Minnesota.

Chris Morton will shortly begin as Interim Minister at First Christian Church, Rochester, Minnesota.

## News from Our Newest Congregational Beginning

The Scott family (Lynn, Linda, Becca, Jeremiah, Nehemiah) continues to lay the groundwork for a new congregation in the northwest area of Des Moines. Jerry and Vicki Thordsen, and Dick and Denise Green are working with the Scotts' to develop the new church.

A Ministry Advisory Group (MAG) has been formed to provide care and nurture for the Scotts and to help guide the development of the new church. This group recently completed a statement of the new church's core values and beliefs. These have been incorporated into an introductory brochure. The group is now working with Lynn to form a mission statement. If you would like a copy of this brochure please call Lynn at the Regional Church Center and he will mail it to you (515.255.3168).

Lynn has met and interviewed several community leaders in Johnston, Polk City, and Grimes to learn about the people that live in these communities. He has also joined or attended several of the service clubs in these areas.

Two Vacation Bible Schools were conducted this summer as outreach events. During June the Scotts' hosted one in their backyard in Polk City. Another was at the end of July in Johnston. Both Vacation Bible Schools were well attended. Jerry and Vicki Thordsen, Jerry Sawyer, Jan Harris, Becca Scott, and Linda Scott assisted with these Vacation Bible Schools.

Lynn meets weekly with a group of area ministers to pray for the needs and plans for the new church. He also sends a weekly prayer update to an e-mail prayer group that continues to grow. If you would like to become a part of the e-mail prayer group send a note to: [lscott@uppermidwestcc.org](mailto:lscott@uppermidwestcc.org) stating your willingness to be a part of this group.

During July, Lynn attended the National Evangelistic Association (NEA) workshop in Kansas City. He and his wife Linda attended the General Assembly that followed the NEA workshop.

Plans for the Fall include once a week after school Bible clubs in Polk City and Johnston, two small groups, and outreach seminars dealing with 1) budgeting and debt elimination, 2) grief and loss, and, 3) better communication for divorcing parents.

June 6, 2001

Dr. Richard Guentert  
Regional Minister and President  
Christian Church in the Upper Midwest  
3300 University Avenue  
P.O. Box 41217  
Des Moines, IA 50311-0504

Dear Dr. Guentert:

I'm writing to thank the committee at the Metro Commission on Ministry for the scholarship awarded to me for the spring semester at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. The monetary support plus the prayers received has blessed my life.

My plans for the future are to complete my studies in the Masters of Divinity program with anticipation of pursuing a doctoral degree.

Again, I thank the committee for all of their support!

Yours in Christ,

*Harriet Wallace*

Minister Harriet Wallace  
PACC (DOC)  
East Orange, NJ

Each year, the Upper Midwest Region sends ministry scholarship funds to assist the Northeast Region in education new clergy. Her is one of the Thank yous received.

## A Work in Progress

When a large tree in front of Highland Park Christian Church, Des Moines, Iowa, died recently, creative minds went to work. Then came those with saws, and emerging from the trunk is a large chalice. When in the area stop by and see how the work is progressing.

