

*Baptist*

*September 2018*

# COURIERS FOR CHRIST

## FOUNDER/DIRECTOR

Rev. Donald Stertz

## REPRESENTATIVES

Rev. Kenneth Stertz

Rev. Larry Ingalls

Rev. Jeremy Ingalls

## *Campaigns Underway*

While reading this prayer letter please keep in mind that the Couriers staff will be in Croatia with a team of 35 distributing scriptures. After that campaign they will travel to Bulgaria to join a second team of 28 to carry out a scripture distribution and church planting campaign in Sofia.

Pray with us that our Lord will richly bless each campaign with many souls coming to Christ, that the fledgling church in Zagreb will be greatly helped, and that a new Baptist church will be started in Sofia.

Include in your prayers good weather for scripture distribution and good health and stamina for the Couriers staff and all the team members.

*350,000 Bulgarian John and Romans*



*The men at Bearing Precious Seed in Milford, Ohio, loading Bulgarian John and Romans*

On July 25 Bearing Precious Seed missionary Chad Robinson sent me a text and said that the container filled with 350,000 Bulgarian John and Romans was loaded and would be shipped. We want to express our gratitude to the Bearing Precious Seed ministry for printing these scriptures. We would also like to send a hearty thank you to the Seedline churches for purchasing the signatures, covers, and boxes, and for doing the work of assembling and boxing the completed scriptures ready for shipping and distribution.

Pray that this container of scriptures will arrive in Bulgaria without any problems and then for many Bulgarians to come to Christ because of these John and Romans.

## 2019 Campaigns

Please look over the following information regarding the 2019 scripture campaigns. Then pray about which one you would like to be a part of, fill out an application, and send it in along with your \$200 deposit.

*Dates:* June 11-21, 2019

*Country:* Lithuania

*Cities:* Siauliai and Kursenai

*Missionaries:* Chase and Valda Smith

*Cost:* \$2,300

*Goal:* To help start a church in Kursenai and to encourage and strengthen a Baptist church in Siauliai.

*Dates:* September 9-22, 2019

*Country:* Ukraine

*City:* Kiev

*Missionary:* Perry Demopoulos

*Cost:* \$2,300

*Goal:* To help Brother Perry's church and to reach Kiev with John and Romans!

For applications please call 920-379-8306 or go on the Wildewood website

# Ukmerge

## Baptist Church Building

This Lithuanian Baptist Church is in dire need of a church building. The building that they were renting has been sold. Thus the need to relocate.

I would like to share with you the following letter that I received in response to the church building need in Ukmerge.

*When I read the update on the Lithuanian ministry from 2004, it gave me great joy. Pastor Karl Morgenstern, my late husband (in glory 1/16/10) from Valley View Baptist Church, Little Valley, New York, went with you on that trip. He considered it one of the highlights of his life. When he was there with your team, he preached a Sunday service in Vilnius. It would have meant so much to him to see what God has done there since then. Our sons and I are sending this gift for the purchase of the Ukmerge church building fund in Karl's memory and to praise God as he would have.*

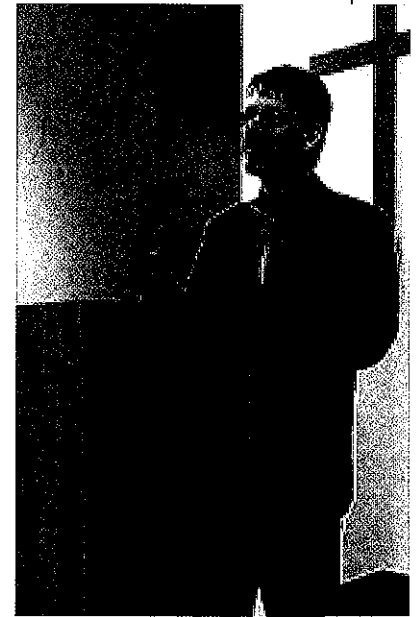
*I am now remarried to a godly man, a semi-retired pastor, Eugene Helmick, here in West Virginia. God has been so good in caring for me and giving me the same ministry as pastor's wife again!*

*Thank you for your faithfulness to the ministry for God's glory. Our church, Rock Cave Baptist Church in Rock Cave, West Virginia, supports your work, and we pray for you regularly. May God continue to enable and bless you as you serve Him.*

*Your fellow servant,*

*Lucille M. Helmick*

We send a hearty thank you to those who have responded to this need already, yet there is still a significant amount needed to purchase the building. Pray and help if you can.



Pastor Kestas preaching in Ukmerge

ferry across to Vancouver Island, using our bonus points accrued at a particular hotel chain, and stayed free for a couple of nights in Victoria to celebrate our 44th. While there we thoroughly enjoyed the great beauty of Butchart Gardens one day and the magnificent Victorian-era Scottish baronial Craigdarroch Castle another day. We walked around the town enjoying the local color and passing out a good number of gospel tracts to the locals wherever we went. It was a really refreshing and special time.

A month ago Don had a biopsy done on a suspicious-looking mole on his neck. Unfortunately, it came back as basal cell carcinoma. The doctor removed it on July 13 with about a two inch incision and nine stitches outside to close (with more inside). Thankfully, after review, the doctor felt confident that he 'got it all.' The site is healing nicely. Thanks to all who knew and prayed.

This year was an extra special year for our older son Josh. Twenty-five years ago (when he was 15 years old) at a conference in Montana after a message, Josh went forward and surrendered his life to preach. During that conference, after he had surrendered, he was given the opportunity to preach his very first message! That conference continues yearly at the Highway Baptist Church in Florence, Montana. This year both Don and I and Josh and his family were able to be a part of that conference. One of the nights, Pastor Will Zeiler invited Josh to preach, reiterating to the congregation that God had called Josh to preach at their conference years ago and that this year's conference

was the 25th anniversary of that call on his life, as well as the anniversary of his first message preached!! A real milestone! Josh is a youth pastor and still preaching today!! During that conference we worked up a Stertz clan special, as Ken and Tricia and their son Paul were also attending. It was super fun to have several generations of Stertzs singing praise to the Lord during one of the meetings.

One month from today (as I type this on August 4), Don and I and the rest of the staff of Couriers for Christ will be driven down to O'Hare International Airport in Chicago to board a plane to start the first of the two campaigns we will be holding back to back. All of the final details are being worked on, and the containers loaded with the scriptures are enroute. Please, please lift these campaigns before the throne of God as we work alongside two different teams of Americans and the missionaries, first in Croatia and secondly in Bulgaria. Pray specifically for open hands to accept the John and Romans and invitation to the evangelistic services. Ask God also to touch the people with open hearts to come and sit under the preaching of the gospel and receive a FREE copy of the Bible in their tongue. Lastly, pray for fruit that will remain as a result. Pray that folks will attend the Bible studies that each missionary (Brad Lowrie-Zagreb/Jeff Shergalis-Sofia) will hold with those interested after the campaign conclusion.

The Lord took such care to hand-fashion this work of Couriers for Christ and launch it in His perfect timing over 39 years ago. The deepest desire of our hearts is that God

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# UPDATE FROM DON AND LAURA STERTZ

by Laura Stertz



Clockwise from top left: Don and Laura celebrating wedding anniversary on Vancouver Island; Don and Laura then...and now, 44 years later; Stertz clan special left to right: Paul, Ken, Tricia, Caleb, Claudia, Laura, Don, Kelli, and Josh; Pastor Zeiler with Josh and his sons; Stertz grandchildren left to right back: Tanner, Claudia, Caleb, front: Jonathan, Julia, and Zach; 25th year anniversary of Josh called to preach

Psalm 33:21 - *"For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name."*

Looking back since last we posted some personal things about us, we are truly rejoicing over His watch care over us as we have either presented the work or updated churches in Indiana, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington. While out east, in between meetings, we had the great privilege of a first-ever experience of attending Capitol

Connection in Washington, DC. It was a tremendous venue and I can highly recommend it! (Google *Awake America Capitol Connection 2018 After Action Trailer* to learn more).

God gifted us with the joy of celebrating 44 years of marriage in early July, for which we are immensely grateful! While in Washington state for a meeting, we took the

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## ***Update from Don and Laura Stertz***

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will continue to use us to accomplish much sowing of the gospel into the various countries of Eastern Europe in the years ahead. Your faithfulness to the Lord encourages us. Each year that passes, that becomes more precious, and we are incredibly grateful for the gift God has given us

by blessing us with friends and supporters like you! Your love and prayers greatly strengthen us. THANK YOU for choosing all of us in Couriers to carry out this important commission in your stead.



**WYLDEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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***Opposed to all forms of compromise and deviation from God's word.***

Thank you for your sacrificial gift of \$ 100.<sup>00</sup> received in August.

*A ministry of*  *WyldeWood Baptist Church*