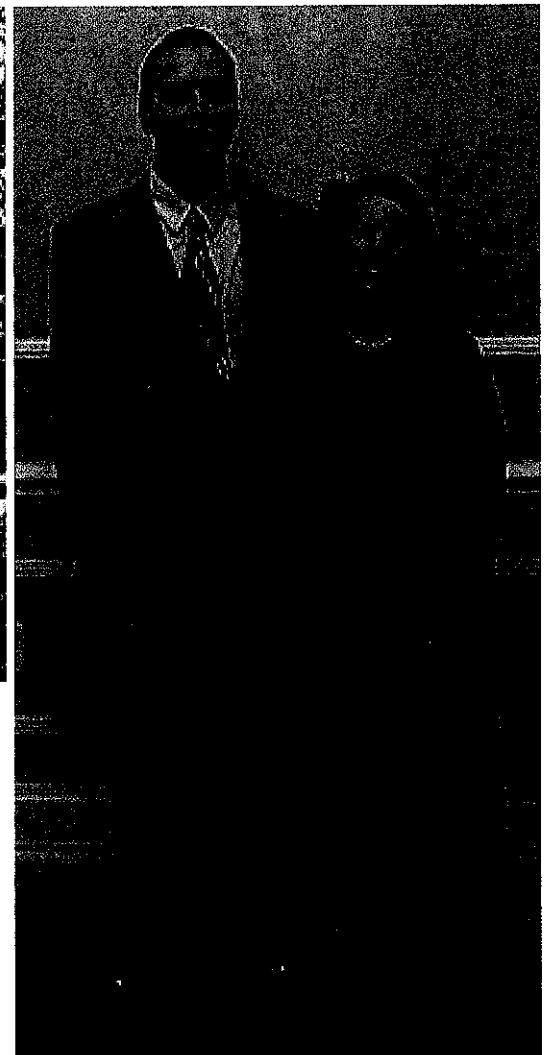


Baptist COURIERS FOR CHRIST

February 2019



Erica Meyer (above) and at right pictured with her husband John

Erica Meyer Homegoing

- by Tricia Stertz -

It is with profound sadness that we inform those who have not heard that Couriers for Christ lost one of our own on December 31, 2018. Erica Meyer, wife to John Meyer, was killed in a car accident as they were traveling home on icy roads from a midday New Years Eve church service. John suffered injuries as well, but is recovering.

Erica had turned 39 just two weeks earlier and was a treasured member of Wyldeewood Baptist Church and dearly beloved by many. The Meyers were the newest missionaries with Couriers for Christ and were featured in the December newsletter. John and Erica had patiently and faithfully served the Lord in many areas of ministry at Wyldeewood Baptist Church in Oshkosh. Their hearts' desire for many years, however, had been to serve in Eastern Europe with the CFC ministry. The Meyers had been team members on four scripture campaigns, in Cluj-Napoca, Romania; Prague, Czech Republic; Tallin, Estonia; and the latest on the campaign in Sofia, Bulgaria, in September of 2018. Erica was beyond excited to finally announce their introduction at the November missions conference as new Couriers for Christ representatives.

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"Where are you going next?"

by Larry Ingalls

And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth.

Mark 1:38

It seems like one of the first questions we get after greeting someone that is familiar with us and the Couriers ministry is, "Where are you going next?" or, "Where is your next trip?"

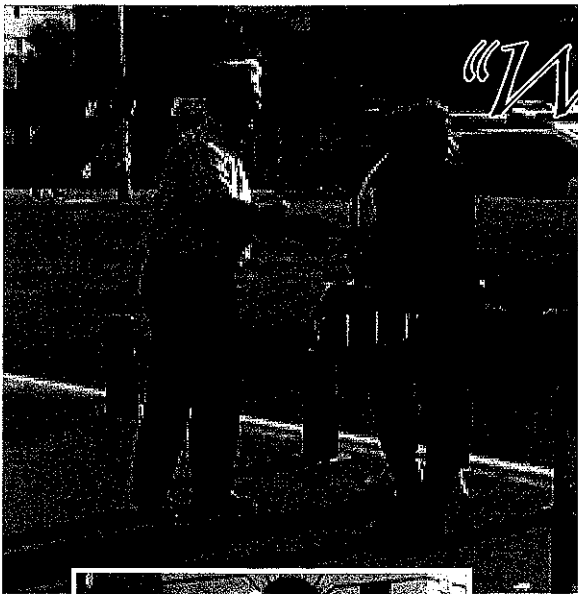
I realize that occasionally it is just polite conversation, but most of the time it is someone trying to determine if it is a country or city that they have an interest in or that they would like to visit. Usually there is already an understanding of why we go, and that is to help a missionary or national pastor start or establish a new work somewhere in Eastern Europe. The need for the gospel to be presented and preached is almost overwhelming when you actually see the lack of Baptist churches and the shortage of laborers in country after country and city after city, town after town!

So what can we do about trying to fill that void? Let US GO to the next towns and distribute the gospels of John and Romans with invitations to come to a special service where the gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and Bibles are distributed in their language so that they can hear and read the truth for themselves. God has called and sent many prepared men and their families to make a difference by teaching the Bible, as well as showing by their daily lives what real Christianity is. But the need is still great to have others come alongside of these missionaries just for their physical presence, helping hands, and words of encouragement.

For example, in Sofia, Bulgaria, last year Jeff and Grace Shergalis were wanting to start a Bible study that would eventually become a church. The call was sent out to churches and individuals, "Let us go... to help them." So instead of two people out on the street passing out literature, we had as many as 45 willing helpers. Instead of 4 or 5 hundred gospels going out, it was 15 to 20 thousand going out in a day! Jude 1:22, "*And of some having compassion, making a difference.*" Now every Thursday the Shergalises are teaching several people that come to the Bible study, asking questions, learning truth, and searching the scriptures. And the same is taking place in Croatia, Romania, Czech Republic, and Hungary because someone wanted to go "into the next towns."

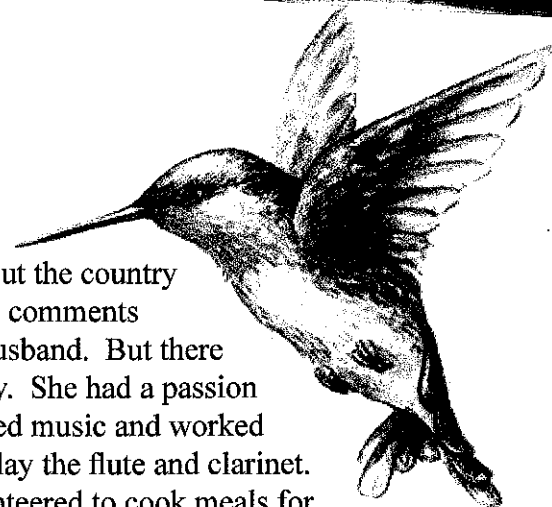
This year we will be going to two smaller towns, each with a population of about 100,000 people, in Lithuania during the month of June, and in September we will be going to the large city of Kiev, Ukraine, with a population of almost 3,000,000 people. Both need the gospel, both need laborers, and both missionary families need help and encouragement. The need is almost endless, whether it be in the big cities or in the smaller towns and villages where there is NO gospel witness or Bible preaching church. Because of communism in the recent past and organized religion for generations, the truth of the Bible has not been widely taught or distributed.

Will YOU join us in prayer and/or come with us and go into the next towns this year as we reach out to them with the Bible and salvation of Jesus Christ?



Erica Meyer Homegoing

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Tributes to Erica have poured in from friends and colleagues throughout the country and other parts of the world. The common thread through all of the loving comments always refers to her kindness, her love for the Lord, and her love for her husband. But there was another characteristic of Erica that set her apart, and it was her bravery. She had a passion to follow the Lord, set goals, and bravely go out to achieve them. She loved music and worked tirelessly to learn to play piano and sing, and she was teaching herself to play the flute and clarinet. She had a goal of writing a book and set herself specific targets. She volunteered to cook meals for church groups although she had no experience cooking for crowds. She threw her heart and soul into ministering to teens and college age adults and adopted them as “her” kids, although she had no children of her own. She found her niche teaching English as a second language to Chinese children in the online school VIPKid, a task that would terrify many. She had inherited chronic health issues which she fought fiercely to overcome, never complained about, and refused to let dictate her future plans. Her death came as a huge shock to all, but it was a bit ironic that she was the one who first crossed through the valley of the shadow of death, into her heavenly home, always the brave one.

Please continue to enfold John in your prayers during his time of grief and profound change.

During Erica’s funeral John shared Erica’s favorite verse, Romans 8:28: “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” Although John says he has an “Erica-sized” hole in his heart, he plans to pursue the calling placed before him, to continue as a representative of Couriers for Christ.



Obituary...

Erica Lee Ann Meyer, age 39, died Monday, December 31, 2018, as the result of an automobile accident in Outagamie County. She was born on December 20, 1979, in Shreveport, Louisiana, a daughter of Lowell Cable and Lori Ross. She accepted Jesus Christ as her Saviour at the age of 17. On August 10, 2003, she married John Wesley Meyer in Frankton, Indiana.

Erica was a member of Wyldewood Baptist Church, where she was very active. She and John were representatives for Baptist Couriers for Christ and had gone on several mission trips with them to the former Soviet Union. She was also a college age ministry leader with her husband and volunteered in the youth and children’s ministries. She had taught at Tabernacle Christian Academy in Lebanon, Missouri, and at Wyldewood Christian School in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. She also was a teacher for VIPKid, where online she taught Chinese children English as a second language. She volunteered at Assurance Women’s Center Crisis Pregnancy Center. She loved hummingbirds, singing, and playing the piano, and she was learning to play the flute and clarinet.

Erica is survived by her husband John, her parents Lowell and Lori Cable, one sister Andria Slater, one half sister Diana (Ricky) Laws, and several nieces and nephews, as well as her cat Callie. She was preceded in death by a half-sister Mandy (Kristopher) Maleport.

Thank you to Darren and Tamara Myers, as well as Marvin and Jacqueline Jackson, for helping Erica to understand how to be saved from her sins.