

Baptist COURIERS FOR CHRIST

NEWSLETTER
April 2019

Working Together

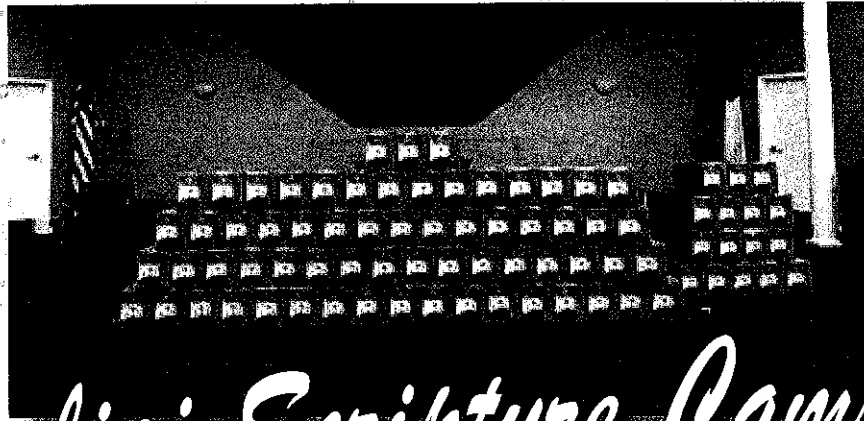
by Don Stertz

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Psalm 133:1

What a joy and blessing it is to work together with the BPS Seedline churches! These photos were provided by Missionary Scott Sandy, director of Northeast Baptist Seedline. Their network of churches purchased the paper and provided the hands-on labor so that Lithuanians could have a portion of the Word of God. Thank you for freely providing these scriptures.

The last week in March I will have the privilege of preaching at the Wings Bearing Precious Seed Conference in Adrian, Michigan. Pastor Doug Rogers and Berean Baptist Church are hosting the conference. The remaining Lithuanian John and Romans (of the 250,000 that were printed) will be completed there. We are planning on shipping the container at the end of the conference directly from Adrian to Lithuania. Wings Bearing Precious Seed director Allen Johnson said that Wings would cover the cost of shipping the container. Thank you, Brother Johnson and the Wings ministry, as well as a special thank you to Pastor Rogers and Berean Baptist Church for hosting the conference.

The saying "many hands make work light" is so true. What a blessing it is, and so much is accomplished as brethren continue to work together to freely provide the Word of God to a lost world!



Siauliai Scripture Campaign

June 11-21, 2019

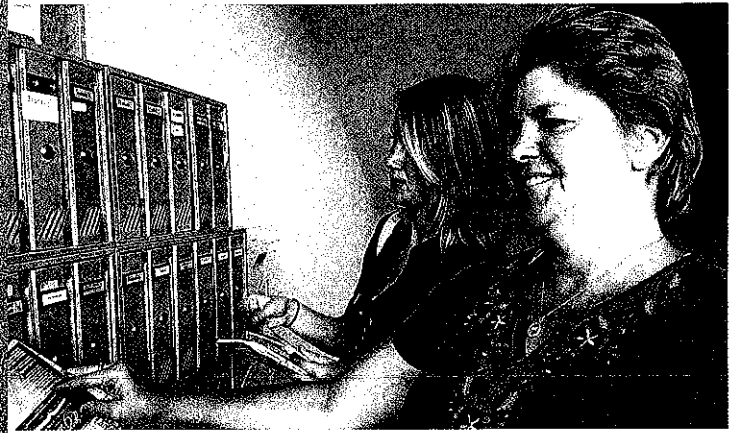
In just two months our team will arrive in Siauliai to undertake the opportunity to distribute the Word of God to a religious but lost people. Please pray for much fruit!



Southeast Bible Baptist (Rochester) did 25,000 Lithuanian John and Romans for their annual project this weekend.



Campaign Testimony



Jeanne Nicolini with her daughter Maria

My daughter Maria and I were part of the Zagreb Scripture Campaign in Croatia for September of 2018. I have been on two other mission trips before, but not ever with Couriers for Christ. This was an amazing mission trip! I was impressed not only by how well they took care of us (best food ever!), but also by the organization of the program so that things ran smoothly. We had a schedule, so we knew exactly where we were to be and exactly what we were to be doing. During the majority of the day we handed out scripture. This resulted in an abundance of God's Word being delivered to the city--the purpose of our being there! When the airlines did mix up our connecting flight in Germany, the team leaders handled the situation graciously.

There were several other things that really impressed me on this trip. One was the spiritual challenge that was delivered to us each morning. This helped us refocus each morning on the spiritual warfare in which we were about to engage. It helped us to see the casual resident who passed us on the street, or who came hurrying off the tram, as a soul whose only hope for eternity might be the scripture that we were about to present to them. Brother Stertz daily reminded us that we should not just stuff the John and Romans in the mailboxes to accomplish a job, but to quickly breathe a prayer for each name of each mailbox that we stuffed--for that soul needs Jesus just as much as we do.

Another thing that impressed me was the genuine interest that the team leaders took in getting to know each one of us as individuals. We were not just workers, but truly sisters and brothers in Christ with whom they were interested in building a relationship. I also saw this in the love and compassion that was given to the Zagreb missionary families.

Another point of interest was that they encouraged us, as we went home, that our mission trip was just beginning, because we would need to continue to bathe in prayer the scriptures that were handed out so that they would continue to work in the hearts and lives of the Croatian people long after we were back on American soil.

A final testament to the Couriers for Christ campaigns is the sheer number of people who were on our trip who had previously been on a Couriers for Christ campaign. For some it was their second campaign, but for others, it was their fifth! Several people who were on the Zagreb campaign travelled right along with the team leaders directly on to the Sofia, Bulgaria, campaign. This speaks volumes.

I know that I grew spiritually on this campaign. I was challenged to be bolder for Christ--not in a brash way, but in a compassionate way. I learned not to let fear hinder my witness. I learned to look at a passing pregnant woman and pray that she would take my outstretched scripture, not just for her own eternity's sake, but also for the sake of her unborn child's eternity. I was reminded that my friendliness, even in receiving rejection, would make an imprint on that soul. A verse that was shared one morning that I repeatedly quoted to myself throughout the week was II Timothy 1:7, "*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*"

I would highly recommend that every Christian go on a Couriers for Christ campaign! I am looking forward to my next one!

Jeanne Nicolini

Ken Stertz Family Update

by Tricia Stertz



Please consider making a trip to the mission field. We promise you that it will change your life. There are still a couple of openings for the June Lithuania Campaign and ten openings for the September Ukraine Campaign.

Dates: June 11-21, 2019

Country: Lithuania

Cities: Siauliai and Kursenai

Missionaries: Chase and Vaida Smith

Cost: \$2,300

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

Dates: September 9-21, 2019

Country: Ukraine

City: Kiev

Missionary: Perry Demopoulos

Cost: \$2,800

Goal: To strengthen Brother Perry's church and to assist in starting another work.

Bible Need

Thank you to all who have sent gifts to purchase Bibles. The amount needed to purchase the Russian Bibles has been met; however, funds are still needed for Lithuanian Bibles. Please help as the Lord leads.

Today as I'm writing this we are finally enjoying sunshine that has enough power to do damage to the massive ice and snow banks here in our part of Wisconsin. This has been a particularly cold, snowy, brutal winter, even for us native Wisconsinites. In February we had several meetings in southern and central California, and were really hoping for relief from the snowstorms and sub zero "arctic vortex." Even though we were thankful to miss the -40 degree wind chills, for a couple weeks, unfortunately I think we brought a touch of winter to California with us (sorry, guys). We experienced days of cold rain and flooding, chilly nights that made me glad I had my winter coat along, and even an unprecedented 12 inches of snow in central California! Back here at home, as we are clawing our way toward spring, the changes have been dramatic. The end of our driveway has been washed out into deep gravel gullies, and our son took his kayak down a town road adjacent to our house!

As we continue in our interesting life of travel, we are always thankful for God's provision and protection. I wish we had kept track, but we have certainly traveled millions of miles since becoming a part of the ministry of Couriers for Christ in 1984. We have a very busy schedule for the year ahead, with meetings in Washington, Oregon, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nebraska, and Montana all before we head to Lithuania for the scripture campaign in June! We have had the privilege of being in excellent churches with some of God's finest people.

Being in what is called the "sandwich generation," sometimes we feel pulled in many directions trying to be supportive of my 86 year old mom and our children and grandchildren who will soon be spread over 4 different states, while still keeping our calling to minister to the people of Eastern Europe as a priority.

By the time you get this newsletter, Ken will have celebrated his 70th birthday. We are enjoying good health, are praising the Lord for His watch-care over us, and do not take it for granted. We are so appreciative of the churches and friends who support us and pray for us—it is a precious gift and a blessing always. It brings to mind the words of the apostle Paul: "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you. Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy. For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now." Philippians 1:3-5

Much love,

Ken and Tricia Stertz

*Thank
You*

Memorial Gift Received

*A donation has been given for Russian Bibles
in memory of*

Dennis Sills Story City, Iowa



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Thank you for your sacrificial gift of \$ 100.00 received in March.

A ministry of  Wyldewood Baptist Church