

COURIERS FOR CHRIST



Laura Stertz, Marina, and Sue Crow holding Russian John and Romans.

RUSSIAN BIBLES NEEDED

Missionary Paul Gray emailed and said that all the Bibles that were purchased earlier this year are nearly gone, and he asked if we could provide more. He said that they are receiving many more requests for Bibles probably because of all the unrest there is in the world today. Let's work together to provide Brother Gray with 500 more Bibles.

One Bible - Cost \$7.00
Five Bibles - Cost \$35.00

Please pray about this request and help as the Lord leads.

WHO WILL YOUR LIFE AFFECT?

Laura received the following letter from a Russian lady who helped us distribute scriptures during the Kiev campaign.

Dear Laura!

Thank you for your present! It was unexpectedly nice for me! I will remember that day when I could be with you and help a little.

Sometimes I think the Lord sends other people into our lives as an example of how we should serve Him. Your team, Couriers for Christ, was a great example for me. You came to Ukraine in spite of the situation in our country, your age, and weather; but arrived as obedient children who listen to their Heavenly Father! I thank God for you and your work!

I want to give you this little tablet with my favorite verse Proverbs 3:5 because when you trust Him, He is able to do wonderful things in your life.

Thank God for this meeting!

Love,
Marina

2021 Campaign

Zagreb, Croatia
June 7-18, 2021
Cost \$2800

Trip cost includes air fare round trip from Chicago, hotel, all meals, and travel insurance. Pray about joining us on this exciting campaign to distribute scriptures throughout Zagreb as we assist Missionary Brad Lowrie to establish another Baptist church in this needy city.

To acquire an application go on line to
cfcwbc.org
or email
dstertz@wyldewood.org

PLEASE NOTE

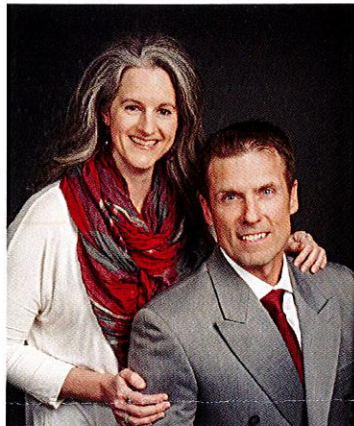
Newsletter Mailing Change

Major changes are taking place at the post office regarding third class (bulk mailing) in 2021. We are going to change over and send all of our newsletters electronically via email by spring of 2021.

If you do not have a computer and would like to continue to receive the newsletter, please write to Don Stertz and mail to the address on the newsletter. Please send your email address to dstertz@wyldewood.org.

Ready, Set, !

by Joshua Stertz



We watch intently as the cross country runners step up to the starting line. They have trained tirelessly and prepared relentlessly for this moment in time and they are ready to run. It will take them “cross country” for sure, as there will be mountain top experiences and valleys. However, they are up to the task. All they need to begin is to hear the gun which signifies, “GO!” How upsetting would it be for those runners

if, after the gun sounded and they ran the first 100 yards of the race, it was called off—for an indefinite period of time?

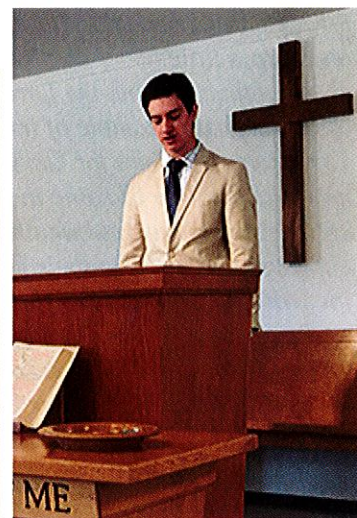
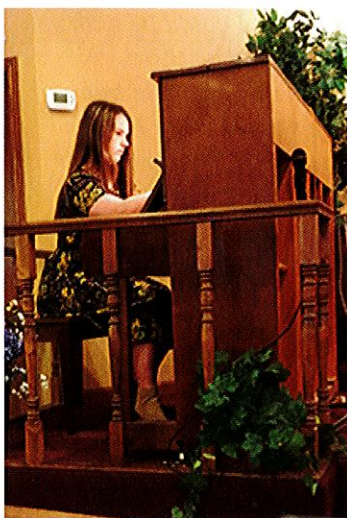
The Joshua Stertz family has felt much like the description above as a result of all that has happened in 2020 regarding the coronavirus and how it has affected our ministerial race. We officially became members of Couriers for Christ in November, 2019, and were fully expecting to be traveling full time by June of this year. We knew there would be mountains to climb and valleys to go through, figuratively and literally, as we travelled in the ministry, but we were prepared to go. Our year started out great as the doors were opening to present the work in meetings across multiple states. Then came the lockdown of mid-March, which drastically changed the schedules of many lives, including ours. Trips were getting cancelled, meetings rescheduled, and plans changed, yet I had to remind myself of the passage in Ecclesiastes 9:11, ***“I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong... but time and chance happeneth to them all.”*** This wasn't something that was unique to our family, as many were facing struggles throughout this worldwide event. Isn't it great that we serve a God who knows the end from the beginning, and none of this was a surprise to Him?

In spite of the change of plans for us in the short term, we have stayed busy. We travelled to Ohio, pre-coronavirus, and had a great missions conference, ending with the church voting to take us on for monthly support—Praise the Lord! We had a great time of fellowship and made many new friends that we look forward to seeing as often as possible. Two of our international trips were cancelled this summer/early fall, yet the Lord opened the door for me to stay busy with some local construction projects which have provided for our current financial needs. Several churches within the state called upon us to minister throughout the summer, and that gave us the opportunity to present the work. In late August another church took us on for monthly support—we continue to thank God for His provision. The kids are now actively engaged in their first year as home schoolers, and that has brought some interesting challenges, but we are all adjusting to them. We have two series of meetings yet in 2020, one in Ohio and one in the Dakotas. Please pray for safety and the Lord's power upon us as we minister abroad.

Through it all, we are not deterred from what God has called us to do. We recognize clearly that a man's heart devises his way but the Lord directs his steps. The Bible contains many examples of men of God who were surprised at the course changes their lives took, and yet as they were faithful to Him, He worked it out for their good and His glory. Please pray for us as we start to travel intensely, Lord willing, at the beginning of 2021. Yes, we are certainly looking to raise our personal financial support, but our earnest desire is to be a blessing, challenge, and encouragement to pastors and churches throughout the country. As we look to finish what could be considered by many as the strangest year of their lives, let us remember the challenge of Hebrews 12:1-2, ***“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith....”***



Claudia, Zach, Kelli, Jonathan, and Caleb



Claudia and Caleb providing special music during deputation travels

Update on an Unusual Year

by Ken Stertz

A few weeks ago we were out on our deck enjoying an outdoor lunch when Tricia said, “I don’t ever remember such a beautiful summer in Wisconsin!” I reminded her that that was because for the last three decades we had never been home for a whole summer in Wisconsin!!

Like so many others, we’ve had to deal with the challenges of a ministry that is centered around travel. We were at meetings in California in January and February when news of a strange virus was just starting to break. We happened to be in the city of Corona, California, for a few days and even made jokes about whether it would make us more susceptible to the coronavirus! Following that, after a short time at home, we traveled for meetings in Michigan, Virginia, and New Jersey, and for the first time began to experience people’s concern about keeping to a distance and trying to avoid infection. Driving back home to Wisconsin in mid-March, we first saw stores and restaurants that were closed or that had limited access. We arrived home in Wisconsin just as the stay-at-home order was enacted, and we all know how much crazier the world has become since then!

Anyone who has ever created an itinerary of meetings can appreciate how frustrating it was to have to cancel all of our scheduled meetings for the next couple of months, and how even more frustrating it was to have to cancel the scripture campaign in Berlin, Germany, which would have been in progress as I write this.

Our hearts go out to those who have been affected by the virus. We are thankful that so far we have stayed healthy and all of our family has as well. Tricia has been helping her 87-year-old mother organize, pack, and sell her home and move into a new home requiring much less maintenance. This has been a difficult and emotional time for her mom, so one positive aspect of the virus is that Tricia was able to be home to help with this process. We also made use of our stay-at-home furlough to tackle quite a few overdue maintenance projects on our vintage farmhouse.

I’m in the process of starting to rebuild an itinerary of meetings for the ministry, and we will be in Wisconsin for several meetings this fall. Please pray with us that nothing will hinder the scripture campaigns scheduled for Croatia in June 2021 and Berlin, Germany, next September.

We are so thankful for our dear friends and faithful churches; we pray for you and praise the Lord for you all.

Much love,

Ken and Tricia Stertz

