



BAPTIST COURIERS FOR CHRIST

EST 1979

MAY 2026

More Seed is in the Barn!

by Joshua Stertz

Thank you to all who sacrificially give and pray so that we can send the much-needed word of God into foreign countries. Last month we had three containers filled with scripture on their way to Europe. Those containers carried nearly 60 TONS of John and Romans, New Testaments, and/or Bibles! We know that all glory belongs to the Lord--for without him we can do nothing. However, he chooses to use us in his work to share his gospel with the world. We asked many of you in recent newsletters to pray that these containers would make it safely, and God is answering those prayers. The attached pictures are from the container sent to missionary Brad Lowrie in Zagreb, Croatia. He and his church people are faithful to regularly sow the seed of the word of God in their city. The other container arrived safely in Stuttgart, Germany, for our summer scripture distribution campaign with Missionary Patrick Jobway. We count it such a privilege to be used to ship the scripture that was painstakingly produced by Bearing Precious Seed of Milford, Ohio, to missionaries in Europe and beyond. It is with great gratitude that we reflect on the fact that these two most recent containers are numbers 136 and 137 that CFC has shipped since the spring of 1990! It is only God's grace and the sacrificial giving of God's people that have allowed us to send so many millions of pieces of the word of God to foreign lands. **"A sower went out to sow...The seed is the word of God."** Luke 8:5,11



Can God Furnish a Table *in the Wilderness?*

Laura spoke several times for a ladies' conference in Honduras.



Theme for conference

by Laura Stertz

As Don and I departed to fly to an area of the world we'd never been to in the middle of March, I pondered this question in Psalm 78:19. We'd met the Hodges at a missions conference in Alabama the year before. Our hearts knit together, and they invited us to come and see their ministry and speak to their people.

What would we find in the small primarily agricultural city of Sabanagrande? It is home to over 22,000 people in a mountainous area of the country of Honduras. Its history dates back to the 1600s, and it sits in a humid, subtropical area of the country. Sam and Julie Hodges arrived in 1997 and began New Life Baptist Church in 1998. As their ministry developed, other outreaches were begun including men's and ladies' fellowships, youth ministry, a thriving Christian school, Bible institute in both English and Spanish, and a vibrant outreach program aimed at surrounding regions.

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Can God Furnish a Table in the Wilderness?

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To say we were “blown away” seems insufficient! The buildings were designed by Brother Hodges and were not only adequate for each one’s intent but also visually pleasing. What was once a steep incline has been transformed into an incredible, working campus on ten acres. Their school alone boasts 250 students K-12, and their church runs a membership of 500. God truly, through the Hodges’ efforts and determination, furnished a table in the wilderness that is reaching many Hondurans for Christ.

Julie organizes a ladies’ meeting each year, and ladies from all over Honduras, even as far as 10 hours away, come to participate in a very special time to refresh, reread, and recommit to the Lord. She has a wonderful staff to assist in all the aspects of the ladies’ meeting.

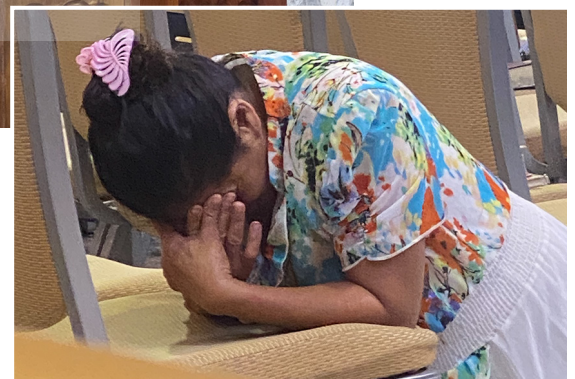
This year the theme was “Bearing Another’s Burdens,” Galatians 6:2. The conference began Friday evening and concluded on Saturday at noon, and I’d been asked to challenge the ladies with this verse as the speaker for the conference. Julie held one split session for teens on Saturday. I admit I was dealing with some anxiety, particularly over having to teach through a translator. But when it came time, God gave peace—I believe through the prayers of my friends and family back home, as well as ladies’ groups in our supporting churches.

Brooklyn Hodges, Julie’s daughter, was a tremendous interpreter through my three messages to the ladies, and that certainly eased my concerns.

Over 250 ladies attended the conference. The music brought by the young ladies of New Life Baptist Church was beautiful, as was a staff special. A couple of skits were presented in conjunction with the theme, and a game employed the need to lean on another for success.

At the close of the conference many came to the altar and made decisions for Christ. To God be the glory! Then Julie had the staff pass out sticky notes, on which ladies were to write their name, church, and city, and find another lady in the auditorium to give it to. That lady would then pray for her through the year as a way to bear another’s burdens by means of prayer! (I Timothy 2:1, James 5:16) So this closing task was a means of bearing burdens and, supporting and aiding in spiritual battles for another sister in Christ.

I am praying for a Honduran lady who gave me her name, and she is praying for me. Galatians 6:2 in action!!



*Top photo: Ladies that attended conference
Above inset: Sam and Julie Hodges*

Above: Special music during the conference

Left: Laura speaking to ladies with interpreter Brooklyn

Below: Hearts touched by the message

Staff Family Update

Ken and Tricia Stertz



by Tricia Stertz

As I'm sitting down to write this update I am reflecting on how it doesn't seem possible that we are entering our forty-second year of this adventure called Couriers for Christ. Ken and I were discussing the outreach to Puerto Rico "in January" only to realize that somehow over a year had already gone by: since that outreach many, many miles have been traveled; many churches have been visited and ministered to; a campaign in Brazil is now in the books; and here we are already quickly approaching the middle of 2026!

We started out this year in the southeast. Along our way we made sure to make a quick stop to see our three little great grandsons in southern Missouri, and on the way back stop for a couple days in Tallahassee, Florida, where our youngest daughter and her family had just moved because of a job opportunity for her husband. They are settling in nicely (so far--but it's not July!) and getting accustomed to the weather and culture changes from their previous life in central Iowa. In March we were back east but to the mid-Atlantic area this time, with the privilege of presenting the ministry in some new churches in Pennsylvania, as



well as reporting back to other partner churches. April had us on the opposite coast reporting back to churches in Nevada and California. We are always amazed at God's wonderful creation! Just a few days ago we were driving through Death Valley and marveling at the eerie beauty of the thousands of acres of shimmering white salt in the dry river basin, and this morning we were awed with the view of a similar shining white, but this time in glimpses of the snowy peaks of Mt. Lassen through the pine forests of Northern California.

One of our great joys as we travel is the fellowship and friendship we enjoy with the faithful pastors and church members who remember us, pray for us, and make the ministry of Couriers for Christ possible. We are so humbled by this gift.

June is rapidly approaching and will take us, Lord willing, to Stuttgart, Germany, to be part of a large team working with veteran missionaries Patrick and Crystelle Jobway.

On the future calendar is travel to the Mountain West; the evangelistic campaign in Bologna, Italy; and then meetings back on the western coast.

We have so much to be thankful for! Our daughter Jennifer was in a serious car accident last year. She was hit on the driver's side at highway speed, which caused a concussion and fracture of two thoracic vertebrae, often a fatal event. After four months of rest and rehab, she is healed, back at work, and feeling well. We are always thankful for our continued health; and thank you also to all who have prayed for my (now 93-year-old) mother, who is still living independently and has been staying in good health "for her age," as she says!

We are so grateful for your prayers and support and friendship. May God bless you in return abundantly.

Ken and Tricia



Andy



Joey and Luca



- Laura's ongoing back issues
- Cheryl's foot to heal in time for Germany campaign
- Preparations for the Knowledge of the Truth Campaign
in Italy
- Seedline scripture assembly for needed
Italian John and Romans



Unloaded boxes of scripture--more seed is in the barn!



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