



BAPTIST COURIERS FOR CHRIST

EST 1979

SEPTEMBER 2026

Container 139 has arrived!

by Josh Stertz

A conduit by definition (figuratively speaking) is a person, organization, or system that transmits information, money, or goods from one place to another. Aside from our scripture distribution campaigns and outreaches, involvement in special needs projects, and assisting in scripture translation endeavors, it is such a blessing to be a conduit of receiving finances and ushering those into the transportation of God's Word throughout the world. The Lord has supplied the finances and connected us with the opportunity to ship four containers already this year, with several more on the way. We just got word from Clif Keister (missionary in Bologna, Italy) that the container with Italian John and Romans for our fall scripture distribution campaign has arrived.

What does it take for this to happen? First it, takes a need expressed. We cannot wait to assist the Keister family in their outreach to Bologna and the surrounding area by taking a team of 27 people to distribute portions of the Word of God. Next, it takes someone to produce the scriptures. Enter Bearing Precious Seed, Milford, Ohio. CFC has enjoyed a long-standing relationship distributing scriptures across Europe and beyond that BPS in Milford has produced. This also requires assembly of said scriptures. Bearing Precious Seed Seedline churches assemble millions of John and Romans booklets every year to be distributed throughout the world. This particular container pictured below was assembled by the folks at Faith Baptist Church in Chelsea, Michigan.

Money must also be raised to ship the containers around the world. We are so thankful for the partner churches across this country that sacrificially give so that we can send these containers (costing anywhere from \$4500-\$10,000 per shipment).

It also takes a ton of logistics. Thanks to the many men and women behind the computer screens that work tirelessly to coordinate this operation from door to door around the world.

Most of all, it takes the protection of our Lord over His Word to make it safely through all the pitfalls that Satan tries to put in the path of the life-giving message of the gospel making it to a lost and dying world!

"And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region." Acts 13:49



Missionary Clif Keister (left) with team of Italians that he assembled to unload about 300,000 Italian John and Romans booklets



Somebody hands down the high boxes!



A parking space the Lord opened on the narrow streets right in front of the church building!



Well over 100,000 miles traveled in our van with this crew. (It brings a little tear to my eye to think how quickly they grew up!)



Singing as a family in Kountze, Texas



Visiting the Butler farm and helping deliver calves



One of our many ministry partners, the Jerry Power family—Friendship Baptist Church

From Sea TO Shining Sea

by Kelli Stertz

Nine years ago this month, while on a Couriers campaign, the Lord spoke to Josh and me during a morning team meeting. While missionary to Vancouver, Jay Dempsey, was challenging the group to take the next step in our Christian lives, we both realized that the next step for us was the Couriers ministry. After much prayer and counsel, the Lord gave us peace about stepping away from the youth pastor position at our home church for the purpose of taking the gospel to the regions beyond.

We now have been with Couriers for almost seven years, with six full years of traveling, and it's a completely different life than what we had known for the first twenty years of marriage. We still have the same church family, still reside at the same address (when we are not on the road), and still have the same normal tasks. There are challenges that come with missionary travel and deputation that I imagine all missionaries face in various phases of life. These things are not grievous—they are just part of the experience.

If you are praying for traveling missionaries, I encourage you to pray for a few specific things.

- 1. Pray for families with school-age children.** Occasionally we are between hotels or housing and have to find a way to get our schoolwork done. We have found all kinds of places: mall food courts, small-town libraries, hotel lobbies, and Sunday school classrooms.
- 2. Pray for the missionary kids that make friends in churches all over America, and then have to leave them behind once the missions conference is done.** For our family, sometimes we have to leave the children with other families while we travel internationally, which can also be stressful.
- 3. Pray for our connectivity with our community.** We miss birthday parties, school events, funerals, anniversary celebrations, and church outreaches when we are on the road. It feels neglectful not to be there for friends or neighbors in their time of need, but we understand that this is the life that God has called us to.
- 4. Pray for the coordination of things that need to be done while we are gone.** The lawn-mowing and snow removal still need to happen. We are thankful for those who cover the bases while we are gone.

continued...

When Secrecy is Paramount

by Josh Stertz

Couriers for Christ has been following the Lord's command to take His Word into the world for more than 45 years. Throughout the first decade of the ministry, that meant taking it into the restricted access nations of Eastern Europe. Every operation had to be handled with discretion, as it put at risk all those involved. The Bible was considered a dangerous book and was labeled propaganda by the Russian government controlling the USSR and the other European Communist countries. Couriers had to keep the whereabouts of its operations completely undisclosed to the free world and many of its missions silent until well afterwards. Each person involved with the delivery and receipt of the scriptures was kept anonymous or given a code name to protect his true identity. We have a return to that type of ministry in one of the countries that we recently did a project for. Many of you stepped up to fulfill a need we expressed to purchase audio Bibles for a restricted access nation. We recently received an update from our contact and were so blessed to hear that many of those MP3 players have been placed into needy hands. We asked our contact to write a short story about one of the recipients. Just like in the old days, he and wife had to choose code names:

"In the restricted access country where we minister, my wife Esther and I (Zechariah) have been able to stock up on audio Bibles and share them with various people. One of the ladies that received an audio Bible is considered a social outcast. She is unable to read, her husband is addicted to drinking, and most of the people that live in her neighborhood do not speak to or interact with her. The fact that she is able to access the Word of God for herself using her audio Bible is a source of great encouragement to her. Thank you to each one of you who gave towards this method of sharing God's Word!"

The Couriers team cannot thank you enough, each of you who partner with our ministry through prayer, monthly support, financial love gifts, and participating with us on scripture distribution trips. Your love for the work that God has called us to do

and your involvement in it makes opportunities like this a reality for people in spiritual darkness around the world. We count it a privilege to be labourers together with God for the furtherance of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death..."

Luke 1:79



BUT, there are abundant blessings that the Lord gives us that we would not get to experience in normal life. We have friends all over the world who are brothers and sisters in Christ. We get to invest in their lives, hear the stories of how God is leading them in His will for their lives, and be amazed at the Lord's power to coordinate every detail. We have friends who have sacrificed to help us fix our van, blessed our children with gifts, fed us, housed us, laughed and cried with us. When we are on the road I have more time for Bible reading and prayer, because I don't need to spend time cooking, cleaning, and running errands. Our family has visited many famous places, including Washington D.C., the Alamo, the Rocky Mountains, and Niagara Falls. Traveling about half of the year is **NOT** a vacation, but it **IS** a **BLESSING** to fulfill the Lord's calling on our lives. These are just a few musings and prayer requests from the heart/mind of a missionary wife who is on perpetual deputation and who is so thankful for the opportunity to serve the Lord full time with her husband/family.



WYLDEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
3030 Witzel Ave.
Oshkosh, WI 54904-6599
www.wyldewood.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oshkosh, WI
Permit No. 441

DIRECTOR

Rev. Joshua Stertz

FOUNDER/ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR

Rev. Donald Stertz

REPRESENTATIVES

Rev. Kenneth Stertz

Rev. Larry Ingalls

Rev. John Meyer

Opposed to all forms of compromise and deviation from God's Word.



Please scan the code at left
to visit our ministry web pages
for more information.

A ministry of  Wyldeewood Baptist Church