

Thanks to all those who donated cookie dough and other items to SIM. It was all very much appreciated! – *SIM Team*

Excerpts from a letter written by Donna & Stuart Baliles
(from SIM headquarters in Charlotte, NC)

We want all of you to know how VERY grateful we are for everything that your team accomplished last week. What a huge gift of love - to SIM and more importantly, to the Lord! Every year, we are amazed and this year is no exception. We were talking with Dave Garst this morning, and he was thrilled with all that was accomplished and remarked about what a GOOD job that was done. What an encouragement the Bluffton Team was to all of us here! We're so glad for the big shot-in-the-arm that your men were to our maintenance guys. Dave said how great it was to get the big equipment serviced - something that rarely happens, and it's so important for the upkeep of the equipment. He and Brian were just SO pleased to have your men here to lend many hands and to be able to help cross quite a few things off their "to-do" list.

Having our freezers full, once again, of all the wonderful meat, cookie dough, casseroles, and all the rest is a constant reminder of God's provision of SIM's needs and every time we open a freezer, we think of all the love and hard work that went into everything we see. Our candidates and our veteran missionaries will be enjoying all that for the rest of the year and we make sure they know that their meals are a love-gift from the Lord and from the Ebenezer folks at Bluffton.

The four who worked over at International, in the Archives, were a real help to Tim Geysbeek. He always appreciates everything you accomplish when you come. His enthusiasm for preserving the records of what God has done down through the years, from the very beginnings of SIM, is infectious, and he has a way of getting people's interest when he talks about it. The Lord certainly has put the right man in that position. Thank you, once again, for all you and the others accomplished.

We're so glad for the new folks who came with the team this year. We missionaries need encouragement, too, as we serve the Lord here, and the Bluffton Team is ALWAYS a HUGE encouragement and boost to all of us. Thank you for your ministry to us individually and to all of SIM.

The following are the names of those who were on the SIM Team for 2009: Trudy Baber, Dennis Bassett, Ruth Anna Bixel, Frank Boehm, Vickie Cartwright, John Good, Tony Gratz, Wilda Hanthorn, Susan Hawk, Alan & Ruth Hefner, Marjorie Marquart, Janet Mitchell, Larry & Ginny Moser, Jim Needs, Dave & Mary Ream, Wanda Smith, James Spallinger, Bill & Joan Steiner, and Tim Stockman.

► UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ◀

- Feb. 27** Transport for Christ Banquet/Beaverdam Chapel (6:00 p.m., Marbeck Center, BU)
- Mar. 1** Communion Service (10:15 a.m., CMC)
- Mar. 2** Evening Sew (6:00 p.m., CMC)
- Mar. 3** All Day Sew (9:00 a.m., CMC)
- Mar. 7** Senior High/Agape Class (7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Home)
- Mar. 7** Men's Fellowship Breakfast (7:30 a.m., FH)
- Mar. 15** Lost & Found Puppet Team from BU (10:00 a.m., 4-year-olds – Grade 5, Sanctuary)
College Students' Meal (11:30 a.m., FH)
- Mar. 16** Wild Game Committee Meeting (7:00 p.m., FH)
- Mar. 19** Ladies' Reading Fellowship (7:00 p.m., Common Grounds)
- Mar. 22** Miracle Camp Representative (9:00 a.m., Grades 2-6, 9:30 a.m., Junior & Senior High Students, in the Sanctuary, all parents are welcome)
- Mar. 29** Hymn Sing (7:00 p.m., Sanctuary)
- Apr. 4** Ambassador Class (7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Home)
- Apr. 18** Wild Game Event (5:00 p.m., CMC)
- May 2** Berean Class (7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Home)
- June 14-20** Grade School Full Week (Grades 2-4, Miracle Camp)
- June 21-27** Middle School (Grades 5-6, Miracle Camp)
- June 28-July 1** Grade School Short Week (Grades 2-4, Miracle Camp)
- June 5-11** Junior High (Grades 7-8, Miracle Camp)
- July 12-18** Senior High (Grades 9-12, Miracle Camp)
- July 24-26** Family Camp 2009 (Maumee Bay State Park)

FAMILY CAMP 2009
Maumee Bay State Park - **July 24-26**
Contact Greg & Sue Luginbill for reservations.
kglugin@fairpoint.net or 419-306-4122/419-384-3586



EBENEZER
Emissary Weekly

February 15, 2009

Opportunities of the Day

- 9:00 a.m.** Adult Bible Fellowship
Membership Class (*Library*)
Sunday School (*2-year-olds – High School*)
- 10:00 a.m.** The Good News Hour (*2-3-year-olds, Room B10 & 4-5-year-olds, B17*)
- 10:15 a.m.** Worship Gathering – Pastor Dick (*CMC*)
- 11:45 a.m.** College Students' Meal (*FH*)
- 4:30 p.m.** ABF Teachers/Officers Meal (*FH*)
- 6:45 p.m.** Children's Choir (*Grades 1-6, Rooms 118-119*)
- 7:00 p.m.** Evening Fellowship Service/Ezra 4
The Restoration of the Temple (Sanctuary)
Junior & Senior High School Small Groups
- 8:00 p.m.** Senior High Game Night (*CMC*)

The Flowers in the CMC Foyer are given in memory of JuLee Chidester. – *From residents of the Vance Street Apartments.*

Congratulations to Don & Caroline Dawson on the birth of their son, Jacob Carlisle, on Thursday, February 12, weighing 6 lb. 1 oz.

Congratulations to Dan & Joanna Gratz on the birth of their daughter, Katherine Alexa, on Thursday, February 12, weighing 5 lb. 6 oz.

In the Hospital: Katherine Gratz – Children's Hospital, Columbus, Stephen Burkholder & Nelson Koogler - Blanchard Valley Hospital, and Luke Luginbill – Tampa General Hospital, Florida.

Attendance and Giving

Attendance on February 8:

Sunday School & ABF	(9:00 a.m.)	354
Worship Gathering	(10:15 a.m.)	399
Evening Fellowship Service	(7:00 p.m.)	143

Giving on February 8:

\$11,752.60

Benevolent Fund	775.00
Building Fund	108.00
Christian Education Fund	222.60
Current Expense Fund	5,265.00
Missions Fund	4,317.00
New Building Fund	1,065.00

Memorial for John Badertscher – General Fund \$200.00

Missions Giving –

\$50 to Gideons in memory of Mary Mathai, mother of missionary Joel Mathai, who passed away January 10.

\$200 towards the purchase of a mixer for the SIM kitchen.

\$200 to Children Choosing Christ.

Missionaries of the Week: *Rick & Pat Shaner* serve with **Avant Ministries** in **Alaska** at **Echo Ranch Bible Camp**. They praise God for all the kids coming to AWANA and for the Junior and Senior High kids attending the Youth Group. Pray for counselors and kitchen staff to work at camp this summer. Please take the time to send Rick & Pat an encouraging e-mail note at rpshaner@yahoo.com.

Attention Cherub Choir: There will not be rehearsal tonight.

Congregational Meeting: Our annual meeting to discuss last year's reports and this year's proposed budgets is scheduled for this Wednesday, February 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All other activities that evening are canceled. The Annual Report for 2008 is ready and located on the tables in the Crossroads Ministry Center or Missions Center if you would like to pick up a copy.

Opportunities of the Week: February 16-22

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. Walking Program – CMC

Monday	6:30 p.m. Ladies' Walking Program
	7:00 p.m. Constitution Revision Committee <i>(FH)</i>
Tuesday	6:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study <i>(FH)</i>
	6:30 p.m. Ladies' Walking Program
	7:00 p.m. Ebenezer Men's Basketball Game <i>(CMC)</i>
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. Game Time <i>(FH)</i>
	7:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting <i>(Sanctuary)</i>
Thursday	6:30 p.m. Ladies' Walking Program
	7:00 p.m. Deacon Meeting <i>(FH)</i>
Sunday	9:00 a.m. Membership Class <i>(Library)</i>
	Sunday School & ABF <i>(Various classrooms)</i>
	10:00 a.m. Good News Hour <i>(ages 2-3, B10 & ages 4-5, B-17)</i>
	10:15 a.m. Worship Gathering <i>(CMC)</i>
	5:00 p.m. VBS Committee Meeting <i>(Library)</i>
	7:00 p.m. Evening Fellowship Service/Ezra 5 <i>Restoration of the Temple (Sanctuary)</i>

~ Helpers for Sunday, February 22 ~

Nursery: Jeff & Jaime Combs, Vicki & Megan Kirkendall,
Jeremy & Christina Lemley

The Good News Hour: Sharon Forrer, Kayla Geiger,
Brittany Sheehan, Joan Steiner

TODAY'S GREETERS

Alaina Bixel, Kaitlin Thompson, Jamie Wickert, *Missions Center*
Rich & Arlene Garmatter, *Crossroads Ministry Center*

Attention All Kids Grades 1-6! The children's choir will be presenting the musical, *Arkeology-Remembering God's Plan and Promise*, this spring. Join us on Sunday evenings at 6:45 as we practice this fun musical. This Bible story is told using creative dialogue from the animal's perspective as God led Noah on one of the most outrageous adventures in the history of mankind. Contact Angela Steiner at 419-643-8260, Karen Steiner at 567-712-1908, or Renea Zimmerman at 419-369-4543 for more information.

Dear Ebenezer Church Family: Thank you so much for the Valentine's care package! I appreciated it so much! It is always nice to have extra snacks and school supplies! Special thanks to Women's Ministries for putting those together. I appreciate everyone's support and prayers! – *In Him, Megan Spallinger*

Dear Friends of Ebenezer Mennonite: Thank you for the items you brought to the Lima Rescue Mission: the Kleenex, Chap Stick, gas cards, and other items. We appreciate your thoughtfulness. Thank you also for your faithful support over the years through prayer, financial gifts, and coming to do the evening service. May God bless you! – *In His Service, Chuck & Colleen Ferguson*

Dear Ebenezer Mennonite Church: Thank you so much for the Valentine's care package. It's always exciting to get a surprise package in the mail! It was a definite blessing. Thank you again for thinking of me. – *Joyfully, Anna Yoder*

What were church services like when you were a child? We want our children to enjoy great worship experiences here at Ebenezer so they can have wonderful memories about going to church. To ensure this, we are in need of more helpers for the Good News Hour! We have been averaging about 30 children during the worship service for our 2-5-year-olds, which means we could use another helper in each class. Please call Joan Steiner at 419-358-0486 or Kathy Steiner at 419-358-2213 if you are willing to volunteer for even one Sunday a quarter. May God bless you and the Holy Spirit nudge you to help our little ones know Jesus.

Thank you so much for the very large mixer. The mixer will make our job easier. I know many people gave toward the cost of the mixer and we want to thank each and every one of you. Thank you to the Missions Committee for picking up the rest of the cost. You continue to send us wonderful people to assist us in any way here at SIM and for that we are very grateful. Thank you for making such a large impact on SIM year after year. – *Working to build God's Kingdom, everyone at SIM*