

The McNatt Messenger

May & June 2008



Our McNatt Mission Families: Crums and Gasses

The Crum family has been serving in Kenya, Africa since Sarah (eldest child) was 3 yrs. Old. She was married May 12, 2007 to Chris Odell and they graduated from Azusa Pacific Univ. this May. Dan Crum is an ex-band teacher from So. Wells HS, his wife Connie, and 2 other children, Rachel and Josiah have had McNatt connections for many years. Dan and Connie live in Nairobi (a city of late Winter uprising and unrest.) They serve the Maasai people working through CMF International. They have recently (almost a year now) returned to serve the Maasai, and are feeling the separation from their children that are in the states. The focus of their mission is planting churches and helping to educate the Maasai to be self sufficient in sharing the message of Jesus Christ to their fellow countrymen.

Herb, wife Jana, Alicia and Caleb Gass are our newest missionary family and they are serving in Papua, New Guinea with the New Tribes Mission. Mike Piquene and Herb worked together at Macallister Machinery Co. in Fort Wayne when Herb and Jana felt God calling them into mission work. This is our McNatt connection with them. Their first 2 ½ years were served in the out country. Recently they have been transferred into a new ministry as dorm parents. They will be serving in Lapillo which is the headquarters for Papua, New Guinea.

Jana says in a recent newsletter, "The dorms are "family style" dorms, which means that brothers and sisters stay together in the same house. The dorm program takes students from 7-12th grades so we felt that it was a good fit for our family with out kids being in that age range. This will be a new and challenging ministry, but we feel up to the task. When we came to the mission field, it was with open hearts to serve

(cont.)

wherever and however we could, so even though the decision was not an easy one to leave our home and jobs at ITF, we felt that God was calling us to fill this position. We will begin in July and are committed to doing this for one year, and as of June of 2009, we will be headed back to the states for our furlough."

Those of us in HIS church have busy schedule and agendas that we are most concerned with, but let us not forget to hold these families high on our prayer lists.

In Connie Crum's newsletter, she speaks of those "vulnerable" people of the world. "The HIV/AIDS pandemic sufferers in Africa; the missionary traveling to war-torn countries leaving wife and children at home alone; the missionary kids who return to their passport country for college, after being raised

on the mission field, knowing that they look American but don't think or completely act like one; the Maasai family that loses a child to malaria or dysentery or a snake bite; the urban poor man willing to scrub floors and do someone else's dishes in order to earn an income to hopefully some day fill a dream of getting his family out of the slum; the missionary family that is robbed repeatedly; the church with a leader who desired further education but doesn't have the means to pursue school; and medical clinics operating without sufficient water."

"Vulnerable people exist at all levels in every place in our world. Our call as Christians is to look past ourselves, say "no" to something and "yes" to something else in order to show the compassion and justice of Jesus. That may be our time, our financial resources, our abilities, our prayers, or our mind thinking beyond what is comfortable."

www.maasai.net and www.ntm.org



Paver Reminder

The timeline for our paver project, located between the two front entrances, has been somewhat moved back. However, there is still time to purchase a memorial paver before the initial construction takes place. The wet weather has not been helpful at all. Also, we've had requests from those who would like to use their government stimulus check for this purpose. What a great way to keep that money here in our community and country!



There can always be new memorials added at any time. However, doing the majority at the time of construction will be the easiest, cheapest and most efficient. If you have any questions, or need to request another form, contact Lois Slusher (260) 375-3845 or at yslusher@citiznet.com.

Congratulations Graduates!



Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Congratulations to our two 2008 Southern Wells High School graduates Hamzah Khan and Natalie Lewellen! Hamzah's future plans include joining the Air Force and he plans to be a cryptologic linguist. Natalie is planning to attend International Business College in Ft. Wayne, IN to major in Veterinary Technology. We are all very proud of our graduates and we wish them all the best for the future. Make us proud!



Congratulations to Jared as well! We are so proud of you!!

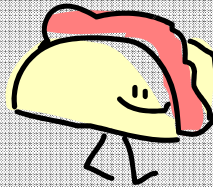
Jared's new address:
SR Stoffer, Jared L.
320 Dewey Ave
BEQ 834 Rm 215
Great Lakes, IL 60088

It's that time again, our favorite time of year. Summertime? Nope!

Taco Salad time!

McNatt will once again be selling their delicious, famous taco salads at the Warren Salamonie Summer Festival which takes place the weekend of July 4th. We will be selling taco salads Friday night and Saturday during the festivities. It's time to roll up those sleeves and help out (after you wash your hands and put on your plastic gloves of course!)

Be looking for a sign up sheet at church or contact Norm Schweikhardt for ways to help out. We can always use all the help we can get for this event as this is a big project and we generally have a large demand for our goods. Come hungry and ready to help! We hope to see you all there!



Pastor's Update:

The ministry questionnaire given out has come back with some very helpful information. It is really good to see that the responses showed the interest and importance put on our worship lives here at McNatt. Almost all of you did not want any change in worship times, and they will not be changed at the present time. Your input as to music, worship styles, and pastoral ministries were very much appreciated and will affect the ministry here at McNatt in the following months. THANK YOU for all the input you have given, it will help us to serve you better in the coming year!

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Bill

Coming up!!
McNatt Golf Outing
August 23



Dogwood Glen in Warren, IN
Watch for further details or contact
Nick Miller (260) 273-0183

Summer School

Once again, we will be taking a summer vacation from having Sunday School classes during the summer months. There will be special events during the summer including another Friend Sunday on June 29. Jr. Church will continue throughout the summer as usual.



Grandma's Corner



Last week was busy for an older lady but I did keep up. Jefferson Alumni was Saturday evening and since I am one of the older graduates it's great to see old friends again. Sunday was church and breakfast early. It is so good to greet each one and pass the hugs around. I was told years ago that a hug is some-

thing you can't keep, you need to pass it on. It is so great to receive one back. Today was the primary election in Indiana, another busy day.

I have come to the conclusion that to enjoy life you need to keep busy, even if it's only a nap- and it seems like I get my share! As we look ahead to summer and all the ball games, reunions, visits from the children and grandchildren, it will soon be school time again. Isn't life interesting with all the things we can do?

With love from Grandma

Editors note: I think this is becoming my favorite part of the newsletter. This month's letter reminded me of the cards I used to get from my own grandma- those cards with the random events and thoughts from her day- life's little things that she wanted to share with me. Even though my grandma is no longer with us, I feel incredibly blessed to have a "surrogate" grandma like Grandma Shirley to "send me cards" and keep me reminded of the important things in life. Thank you for all you do for all of us Grandma Shirley!

Bill's Bits

The winter is OVER! I just love seeing the green start to come up again in the spring. There is just something about having all that life that feels good. God gave us creation and its beauty as a little clue to His personality. Sure, we experience God in worship and prayer and solitude, but He is also the God that brought us the colors of springtime. Take some time to know God through the gift of His creation this spring. He is truly AWESOME!

Spring time Blessings!
Pastor Bill



Happy 94th Grandma Shirley!

NOTE: It's time to restock our military supplies to send to the troops! There is a list on the back table in the church of the items needed and the items we're not allowed to send. Thanks so much for your support!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May: 1st Brittney Morton
1st Julie Thompson
3rd Fred & Barb Kellogg
8th Sally Lewellen
11th Tim & Julie Thompson
12th Jared Stoffer
13th Norm & Peg Schweikhardt
13th Norm Schweikhardt
14th Jana Gass
19th Jacob Slusher
22nd Ann Blackmond
25th Shelly Huffman
25th Sarah Jane Jones
26th Bill & Jane Van Haften
26th Dan Crum



June: 7th Tori McClain
9th Mark & Sally Lewellen
13th Dawn Schweikhardt
14th Larrie & Rhonda Stoffer
15th Donna Gilbert
18th Travis Slusher
21st Fred Kellogg
24th Jake Stoffer
24th Dewayne Jones
26th Tim & Shelly Huffman
26th Kathy Drayer
26th Tom Gilbert
29th Leigh Lieurance
29th Verlis Slusher



*Search me, oh God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.
Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along
the path of everlasting life. Psalm 139: 23&24*

*McNatt United Methodist Church
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