



JULY - AUGUST 2016

In Touch WITH COMMUNITY

CHRISTIAN LOVE: WALKING IN ANOTHER PERSON'S SHOES

Submitted by Mary Seaman

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us" (2 Cor. 5:20). How humbling to even imagine ourselves as representatives of Jesus Christ to all who do not know him! "God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him." (1 John 4:16)

While God is the source of love, Jesus' walk on this earth provides us with examples of His perfect love. Our ability to say, "Jesus is Lord" and the talents and gifts needed to carry out God's purposes are manifested in us through the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12: 3,11). The apostle Paul says, "We are to be "imitators of God" who "live a life of love, just as Christ loved us..." (Eph. 5:1); we are to "follow the way of love" (1 Cor. 14:1). Jesus, our Savior and teacher, says, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12).

Jesus doesn't suggest or request; He commands that we do! And, in the Golden Rule, Jesus clearly states that love is an action: "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets" (Matt. 7:12). Action requires us

EMPATHY IS...

*Seeing with the Eyes of Another,
Listening with the Ears of Another,
and Feeling with the Heart of Another.*

---Steve Mueller

to get out our comfort zone, to become personally involved, and to make an effort. That doesn't leave any room for apathy or indifference. The call is for action that glorifies God, and denies self-glory.

How does one move beyond lofty rhetoric to putting Christian love into practice? The Native American proverb, "Don't judge a man until you have walked a mile in his shoes" is a good place to start. During my years of teaching English, I used Harper Lee's novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*,

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for teaching tolerance. In the novel, Atticus imparts his wisdom to his young daughter, Scout, echoing his version of the same proverb: "You never really know a man until you understand things from his point of view, until you climb into his skin and walk around in it." Figuratively, we are being told to experience the world from another person's perspective; to view life from his/her living conditions and to feel what it feels like to be that person. This capacity of identifying and understanding another person's feelings is empathy. Our ability to empathize leads to compassion rather than anger, criticism and judgment; we are growing toward a Jesus-centered love for others. Compassion is the action side of empathy. How we display compassion will vary with each case, yet all of our actions should be an outgrowth of prayer for discernment provided by the Holy Spirit. Prayer guides us to appropriate action rather than emotional reaction.

The metaphor of "walking in another person's shoes" is being used effectively for teaching empathy in a number of places outside the church. I'll share a few that I find particularly interesting. David Dillard sends his staff of young architects on "sleepovers," so they can understand the needs of those for

whom they design housing. They put on pajamas and spend 24 hours in a senior living center in the same living conditions as people in their 80's and 90's. Dillard says, "The biggest benefit is [that] when I send 27-year-olds out, they come back with a heart 10 times as big. They meet people and understand their plights" (Rodney Brooks, *USA Today*). Another example is the White Ribbon Campaign to Walk A Mile in Her Shoes, created by Frank Baird from Westlake Village, CA. Participants are required to literally walk a mile in women's high-heeled shoes. The purpose of this campaign is to help end violence against women and girls through preventive education. It helps men to better understand and appreciate women's experiences, and informs women of services that are available for recovery. A "Walking in Another's Shoes" program is also used for training those who provide residential care for people with dementia. This is a shift from simply imparting knowledge to an experiential education program so that the care workers can provide "person-centered care, which focuses on the individual living with dementia and their needs and preferences" (Canterbury District Health Board). All of these secular examples illustrate what the Christian church should be doing if we are sincere about being

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Submitted by Mary Seaman

CONGRATULATIONS AND BLESSINGS TO:

- ◆ Chad and Bethany DeKorte on the birth of their son, Joel. Proud grandparents are Tom and Evelyn DeKorte.
- ◆ Justin and Heather Thorpe on the birth of their daughter, Felicity Kathryn. Proud grandparents are Roger and Jackie Rozema.
- ◆ Chris and Kari Maki on the birth of their 3rd daughter, Ailyn Jo. Proud grandparents are Bud and Judy Boss and great-grandparents are Bob and Mazie Potter.
- ◆ Maria Pierpont on receiving the Adjunct Professor of the Year Award at North Central Michigan College.

SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS TO:

- ◆ Carolyn Kantola on the passing of her mother.
- ◆ Dennis and Dianne Priess and the rest of the Boss family on the passing of Diane's father, Dale Boss.
- ◆ The Potter family on the passing of Mazie Potter's sister, Marcy Balthaser.
- ◆ The family of Fred Siegwart, wife Mary, Brett, Ethan and Sheila, on his passing after a courageous battle with cancer.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN UGANDA

Submitted by Nancy Whitley Balchik

Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated, as if you yourselves were suffering (Hebrews 13:3).

The most powerful message that God's Holy Spirit ever spoke to me was when I was in the midst of hundreds of prisoners in a prison yard in Uganda, Africa. The reason I was there is that a group of people from our church went to Uganda on a medical mission trip. It was certainly an experience of a lifetime, in a place where most are not privileged to go. God knit our group together and off we went to do His will. It was not simple to pull together a medical mission trip—much preparation was needed, but by God's grace and many people helping, the day came when we got on that plane and headed to Uganda. There is a Christian ministry that is established there, and in prior years, we had others go before us. This time we would set up day clinics in remote villages and in prisons. We had a home base and many there to help us set up the clinics.

From the very beginning, I felt like I was in God's perfect will for my life; there was no hesitation when talk of going to Uganda started. I think God opens all the gates that might be obstacles for us when He calls us to the mission field in a country far away or to a mission field that is in our own neighborhood. He compels us and removes

anything that might hold us back. He takes care of us as we walk forward to do His will! When I have gone on a mission trip to a far away country, I've always felt very privileged and in awe that God chose me! God's truth is so powerful; when He speaks to our hearts, there is no saying "No"! He is having His way with us, and through us, He lives and shines—we are not our own but God, Himself, living and working through us.

After traveling many, many hours we arrived at Entebbe, Uganda airport. People from the ministry where we would be staying were there to pick us up. There were two vans; we barely could squeeze and jam in all of us and our luggage. The ride was quite uncomfortable, but no one complained too much. We were in a state of disbelief of really being there, after having anticipated this trip for SO long! The smell of the place—the people walking everywhere—shop after shop, crudely put together of old tin somewhat like a farmer's market, African style—these were our first impressions. Then, we arrived at the house we would call home for awhile. It was on the top of a high hill that overlooked the city. The haze and the dust and the rough road up all took their toll on our already hot and tired bodies. We were very weary travelers who were about to enter into one of the greatest adventures of

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ambassadors for Jesus who invite others to follow Him.

Most of us can think of people, that God put in our lives, who have shown empathy and compassion to us and, by their actions, have been role models for us to follow. When my children were young, I left the teaching profession to be a stay-at-home mom. After seven years, I desperately needed something constructive to do outside the home. Sandi Spieles, Director of the Media Center at Char-Em ISD, knocked on my door one day when I was folding a mound of diapers. With a big smile, asked if I would like to do something else for three hours a day: be an assistant in the Media Center handling previews by teachers and making recommendations for purchases. Believe me, doing anything with adults after being home-bound for seven years (we couldn't afford a second car) sounded like a triple-chocolate sundae dessert. Sandi, who was just an acquaintance at the time, said, "I have three kids close together too, and I thought that about now you could use a break away from home (she offered a knowing grin); besides, I really need your help." Knowing that martyrdom does not equal a good mother, I took the job and it provided just the relief that I needed so

that I could sanely handle all the challenges I was dealing with at that time. What wonderful support I received from the women with whom I worked! The pay I received was, both literally and figuratively, the least of the benefits. They didn't just give me superficial "sweet" talk; one, who was an excellent seamstress, even gifted me with some new pantsuits, and her smile was bigger than mine when they fit perfectly. In the three years I worked at Char-Em, I experienced numerous empathetic actions that said, "I love you."

I feel blessed to be in a church that is moving more and more in the direction of reaching outside the walls of our church. I see CRC "helping people find and follow Jesus" from local ministry like Safe Haven and Helping Hands, to mission trips abroad and selling merchandise for Women at Risk. We are making an effort to "walk in another person's shoes" and share Christian love, the love of Jesus. Bible commentator C.K. Barrett writes: "Love is an activity, the essential activity of God Himself, and when men love either Him or their fellowmen, they are doing (however imperfectly) what God does." I think we are walking in the right direction.

WOMEN AT RISK

Interview with Becky Berg

- ◆ *800,000 people are illegally trafficked against their will every year. 50% are children; 70% of the women are sold into sexual slavery, chained to beds of horror.—U S State Department*
- ◆ *Human trafficking is the fastest growing segment of organized crime. 100,000 are trafficked inside America.—FBI*
- ◆ *2,000,000 girls a year are brutally circumcised.—Secretary General*
- ◆ *Every 14 seconds, a child is orphaned by AIDS. 19,000,000 women live with HIV/AIDS.—United Nations*

The purpose of Women At Risk (WAR) is to give voice to the silenced cries of women of the world who flow through their projects, “creating circles of protection in the name of Christ.” WAR offers a “safe place to turn crisis into a story of hope by wrapping arms of love and whispering the message of hope.” The goal is to see each woman or child rescued, restored and empowered to support herself with dignity. A big emphasis is being placed on “prevention” to try to stop trafficking.

Becky McDonald is the president and founder of WAR International. Her Personal Mission includes these words: “I am not going to fight with violence, but will face this evil by ripping away shrouds of ignorance and apathy. Since the day a 14-year-old acid attack victim was thrown into my 14-year-old life, I have been on a personal mission to wrap arms of love around any woman who comes across my path.” Ms. McDonald asks that we all become involved in the war against the evils perpetrated on women.

After having heard Ms. McDonald speak one evening here at CRC, Becky Berg felt she could not simply walk away and do nothing. The statistics are almost unbelievable, and if our hearts are not broken when we hear them, then we are sorely lacking in empathy. Becky says, “Knowing people who had been abused as children has given me a heart for abused women.”

How can we become involved in the WAR ministry? WAR partners with Safe Houses in selling merchandise made by the women. Marketing plays a key role in sustaining Safe Houses as all but a small percentage of the money goes back to them. Before Christmas, Becky will sell WAR merchandise in a booth at the church. Lucy Witthoeft and Evelyn DeKorte, who also have a heart for this ministry, help market WAR merchandise, as well. (The Christmas ornaments are especially beautiful!) There are also opportunities to host or attend a party, volunteer your talents, and make donations. To help or to shop, call 616-855-0796, email info@warinternational.org or visit their website: www.warinternational.org.



BOOK REVIEW

THE SAME KIND OF DIFFERENT AS ME

By Ron Hall and Denver Moore

While this book was written in 2009 and is not a new release, it is one of my favorites. Since the theme of this newsletter is about loving and walking in another's shoes, I thought it was appropriate to suggest this book.

Two men from different worlds author this book. One white man, Ron Hall, an art dealer with all the money and resources in the world and one black man, Denver Moore, who is homeless and thought to be dangerous, meet in a Louisiana shelter. Hall's wife is responsible for introducing these men and a lasting relationship is developed beyond anyone's imagination. This true story shows how two different worlds can come together in a meaningful and humbling way. I think Denver said it best when he wrote, "I used to spend a lotta time worryin that I was different from other people, even from other homeless folks. Then, after I met Miss Debbie and Mr. Ron, I

worried that I was so different from them that we wadn't ever gon' have no kind a' future. But I found out everybody's different—the same kind of different as me. We're all regular folks walkin down the road God done set in front of us. The truth about it is, whether we is rich or poor or something in between, this earth ain't no final restin place. So in a way, we is all homeless—just workin our way toward home."

Each man gives his life-changing account on how their relationship developed. It is interesting to read each man's perspective. Since publication of their book, these men have gone all over the country, telling their story. It is one story of loving the "unlovable" that you will want to read.

----Submitted by Joy Klooster

CONSISTORY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

MAY CONSISTORY NEWS

- ◆ Pastor Chip encouraged the Consistory Team reps to contact the leaders of CRC's various Ministry Teams to develop a relationship for the purpose of providing regular updates to the Consistory. There simply isn't enough time to allow each team to meet individually with the Consistory.
- ◆ The Executive Committee confirmed the Community Service and Concealed Weapons policies, which must be approved by Consistory at the June Meeting.
- ◆ Jeremy did a brief review of the financial reports, noting the shortfall from budget. The deacons will work with Lynda Stolt on a communication piece to the congregation relative to tithing.
- ◆ The Executive Committee approved the internship for Lily Matchett from June 10 to September 10 of this year.

JUNE CONSISTORY NEWS

- ◆ Kris Way presented a devotional based on the books of Ezra and Nehemiah in which the Jewish people were returning to Jerusalem for the purpose of rebuilding the temple and their lives as well. Kris used this story in correlation to her personal, family life-story, the tragic loss of Kari, and how her family has been and continues to go through the process of rebuilding their lives. Kris emphasized the importance of seeking after God, His timing, unity, faith, hope, renewal, planning and new beginnings, which generated extensive conversation.
- ◆ The conclusion of the above discussion was that Consistory must listen to the heartbeat and continue to move forward by (1) developing a Prayer and Scripture Plan, (2) restructuring the Imagine (Communications) Team, and (3) recognizing more clearly the urgency of our Mission/Vision. It was decided to form two teams: Pastor Chip, Kris, Theda and Ted to develop the Prayer and Scripture Plan; Kris, Ron, Jeremy and Gail to do a restructuring of the Imagine Team. Both teams will report back to the Consistory with their recommendations by July 1st.
- ◆ Consistory adopted the CRC Community Service Policy and CRC Concealed Gun Carry Policy as presented by the Executive Committee.

---Information provided by Pastor Chip

Ministry Updates



Safe Haven Update

COMMUNITY GAMES & GRUB

CRC's Community Outreach and Safe Haven Ministry teams have come up with a great ministry idea to help feed the children of Charlevoix, who during the school year are on the free or reduced lunch program.

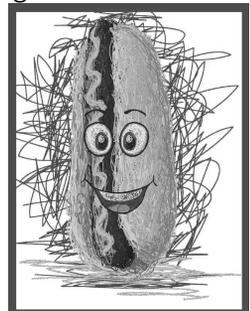
We will focus on one of the most concentrated areas of kids in Charlevoix at the Pine Cove/ May Street Apartments.

Our plan is to go in with a portable basketball hoop, some yard games, jump ropes etc. We will grill hot dogs and provide a picnic lunch from 11:30 - 1:30 for 8 Wednesdays this summer beginning July 6th.

We will use volunteers to grill, play games, serve lunch and build relationships with the kids.

As the kids leave, they will receive a bag full of groceries for the week. Bags of food for the week will include items such as:

- | | | |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| * Fruit | * Peanut Butter | * Jelly |
| * Tuna | * Apple sauce | * String Cheese |
| * Crackers | * Granola Bars | |



WE NEED YOUR HELP:

Donations for yard games for eight weeks (corn hole, ladder-ball toss, balls, etc.)

Volunteers: grillers, game players, driver with vehicle with trailer hitch, packers of "take home bags" (Tues. 5:00 p.m.)

Contact Jan Boss at (231)-547-9482 or spenser3@yahoo.com.

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Safe Families for Children

Join us for a
 Safe Families
 for Children
Kick-off Cookout!

Are you currently involved,
 supporting, or interested in
 learning more about
 Safe Families for Children?

Then grab a lawn chair and join us
 for a cookout at the beach!

Hotdogs and hamburgers
 provided!

Short program by Program
 Coordinator, Clint Cleveland, and
 current Safe Families volunteers.

Sunday, August 14th
4pm - 6pm
Depot Beach, Charlevoix
Cost: FREE
 (DONATIONS WELCOMED)

Please RSVP to Clint Cleveland by August 8th.

Phone: (231) 215-1645

E-mail: ccleveland@bethany.org



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Children's Ministry Update

Day Camp at Community Church!

Submitted by Gail Cherry

How do you describe the laughter and enthusiasm of 133 kids and 24 Spring Hill staff as they started each morning with their dance party? Giggly, wiggly, rowdy, exuberant, gleeful!

With heartfelt thankfulness, we are thrilled for the week of kids' involvement in day camp here at the church. Spring Hill staff shared their boundless energy, talents, and the love of Jesus. We genuinely recognize that the camp's fantastic success was based upon a solid foundation of your contributions to this wonderful team effort. We are grateful for all who contributed scholarship funds, prepared and served meals, baked cookies, volunteered for the medical and adult areas, signed up the neighbor kids, and prayed for safety and sunshine.

Here are some results from the kids' post-camp surveys:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 27 kids | I committed my life to Jesus for the first time. |
| 17 kids | I re-committed my life to Jesus this week. |
| 46 kids | I committed my life to Jesus before coming to camp |
| 28 kids | I have not committed my life to Jesus, but I am interested in learning more. |
| 17 kids | none of the above |
| 64 kids | I want to pray more. |
| 89 kids | I want to read my Bible more. |
| 85 kids | I want to tell others about Jesus. |
| 86 kids | I want to go to church more. |
| 93 kids | I understand better what Jesus did for me. |
| 93 kids | I want to grow more in my relationship with God. |



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68 kids People will notice a positive change in me after this week



As we read these responses, don't you just want to have our own giggly, wiggly, rowdy, exuberant, gleeful dance party?! *Many children have taken steps of faith in finding Jesus and are on a lifelong journey of following Him! We are praising God and ask for continued prayer for all of our precious children.*

Only when you
understand apathy and
see beyond sympathy
will you achieve
empathy.

- Melchor Lim

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GLOBAL OUTREACH UPDATE

Arbin and Bimala Pokharel are visiting Charlevoix during July.

Join us for a picnic on July 15th at Ferry Beach at 6:00 p.m. to welcome them back to Charlevoix. Please bring a dish to share.

Arbin and Bimala will be speaking at all three services on July 17th.

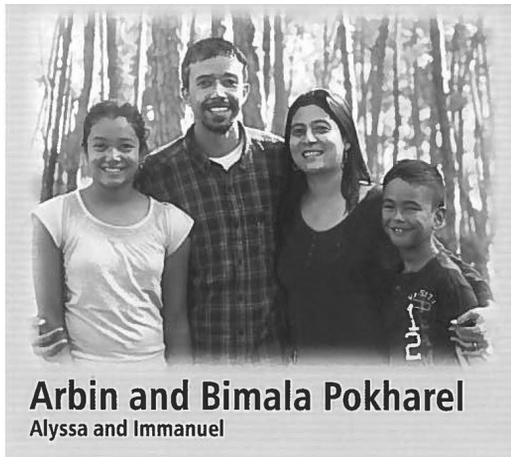
Arbin and Bimala are both natives of Nepal who studied in the U.S. and are graduates of Calvin Seminary. They shared a vision to return to Nepal to share God's love in their impoverished country and followed a call to the mission field in 2002. They started Cross-Way Church from their small apartment in

Kathmandu in 2004. Cross-Way has outgrown two locations and now meets at a new campus where about 300 people come each Saturday for worship. Cross-Way has already planted 17 churches in surrounding Nepali villages. Arbin is also involved in leadership at Evangelical Presbyterian Theological Seminary, which was established in 1999 to develop and

produce dynamic and spiritual leaders, many of whom go on to plant churches

through Cross-Way Church. Through Bimala's dream to share God's love with the disadvantaged in Kathmandu, the Higher Ground bakery and craft business was born in 2006. Higher Ground now has over 30 employees, most whom were rescued from

human trafficking or were "at-risk" women and youth. Employees develop their spiritual, social, and financial wisdom, in addition to learning the concrete skills of baking, coffee making, jewelry design, and more. All the profits from Higher Ground go to a non-profit created to support the disadvantaged in the local community.



Arbin and Bimala Pokharel
Alyssa and Immanuel

The Same Old Argument

Article submitted by CRC Marriage Enrichment Team

What happened was silly. I was downstairs and opened a bill. Since my wife handles our bills, I ran upstairs to discuss it with her. I bounded into the room where she was engrossed on the computer. She was re-watching a 600+ slide show of wedding photos to find a particular photo. I interrupted her and, when she waved me off, I did not take the clue and told her we could handle this quickly.

Unfortunately, I ignored and flustered her, causing her to lose her place and end the slide show. She was upset and told me so.

I justified myself. She reiterated her disappointment. I weakly said, "Sorry."

She explained how she felt, and the inconvenience I'd caused. I said, "Don't freak out." Things got worse. Duh!

The conflict was growing and I stood there, defending myself in my heart, looking blandly at her, while thinking about how often we have this stupid disagreement. Finally, I zipped my lip and went downstairs.

When I sat in my chair, I thought, that is about the 1,948th time we've had that exchange.

I began a conversation with God that went something like this. God, "Why does that happen so much? I meant well, but then I offended her, then I hurt her, then I made it worse."

The thought God gave me in return was this: Jeff, "You're more upset that you had the conflict than you are that you inconvenienced her. And you're more upset that you had the conflict than that you hurt her feelings by defending yourself and showing no real empathy. You always want her to adjust and accept you. You ask for less of these instances of offense and conflict, but you should be asking Me to help you change. You need to want to not hurt her more than you want to not feel bad that you messed up."

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Wow ... That led to a very introspective and intense prayer time, and a decision. I aimed to change so that I could be a better apologizer, be less defensive, and truly be more interested in Stacy's feelings than my own.

I went upstairs, got down on a knee next to her, and told her I was wrong to not apologize fully at first. I was wrong not to want to hear from her how I had inconvenienced her. I was wrong to defend myself. I did not care for her feelings well, and I want to.

I concluded with four things: "I was wrong. I am sorry. Will you please forgive me? I want to change." Stacy teared-up in a good way and swiftly loved me back with her forgiveness, her own apology, and a hug.

(Adapted from Facing the Blitz: Three Strategies for Turning Trials into Triumphs, Copyright © 2015 by Jeff Kemp, Bethany House Publishers.)

Forgiveness
is not an occasional act,
it is a permanent
attitude

- Martin Luther King Jr. -

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our lives! We were told to be up by 4:00 a.m. We thought it was a joke, but we, indeed, did get only a short sleep and then off to a prison far from where we were. I couldn't sleep—I was over-tired, over-excited, and over-stimulated by the smell of the Ugandan air. Music and people speaking on loudspeakers sounded throughout the night. It didn't upset me; it was a rhythm that I hadn't known before. This was Africa and God let me feel that to my very core—God is with us!

The ride to the prison was long. We were told no cameras allowed, so whatever we saw or experienced would be what we would engrave on our hearts. Upon our arrival, we had to wait until they opened the door to the guardroom, which then led into the prison yard, through a door on the other side. They briefly checked our bags of pharmacy and other supplies we needed to set up our medical clinic. When the door opened to the prison yard and we walked out, I was amazed at what I saw and felt! There were hundreds of prisoners, all kneeling or squatting down as we entered. Every single eye was on us as we walked into this sea of neon yellow (the color all the prisoners wore) in contrast to the blackest skin I had ever seen. There were drums beating and people chanting as we walked in. It was an experience I will never forget!

The next prison was where I had an experience that will never be forgotten! This

time, we were in a prison yard that was much smaller, with many prisoners packed in like dominos. Once we set the medical stations up on the hill, we started triaging the prisoners through. They all needed medical attention of some kind. I was the one who saw them first, at the front, and took down their name, got their weight, and sent them over to the next place that got the rest of their vitals and sent them on to one of the three medical stations. Everything went fine for a while, but then things started to get backed up. The med stations were overflowing; they sent down the word to stop the line for a while until they got caught up. So I found myself with nothing to do. I heard God say to me very clearly that I should not waste this time—that I needed to talk to the prisoners or pray with them. I had one of the ministers from Uganda, who was with us, to be an interpreter. I talked to them first and told them my story of how I never could have survived and been there on that day except by the hand of God. I told them that I also knew that some of them may have prayed for us to come, and we were there as an answer to their prayers. I, then, asked them if anyone would like to come up and I would be happy to pray with them. There was a little hesitation at first; then, one came forward and I prayed with him. I couldn't even understand all he said but felt everything he was speaking of in my heart—tears were flowing down both of our cheeks! The rest of those in line then wanted to

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PARENT-TO-PARENT CORNER

LEARNING WHAT LOVE IS

By Barbara Rainey

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us. (1 John 4:10)

I have learned more about God's love through our adopted daughter, Deborah, than from any other person on the planet. Although our five biological children certainly tested and tried us, Deborah tested our love more than all five of the others combined. Dennis and I faced countless opportunities just to walk away and say, "Look, this is too hard. We're not going to do this anymore." But we chose—over and over again—to love her, because we knew we did. And we knew God wanted us to.

I wrote in my journal: If Deborah were not mine, if she were not my child, would I love her? If I just passed her on the street, like I do countless other people each day, what would draw me to her? What would make me love her out of all the other people I see? She could be just another human being in my path, but she's not. God has made her ours somehow. And I have discovered a kind of love for Deborah that is unlike my love for any of our other five children. I have discovered a taste of God's unfathomable, undeserved, unexplainable, extravagant love—a supernatural love defined by His

grace. Because of Deborah, I know God in a way I could never have known Him otherwise. He has called me to lengths and depths of love I didn't know I was capable of but which I learned He can supply, because He is love. I don't love Deborah more than our other five children, but I do love her in a different way, and I know more love for my other kids than I would have ever known without her.

Anyone can love a child who is theirs by birth. But to love one who is adopted—this is to know the love of God.

(From *Moments with You*,
LightSource@crosswalkmail.com)

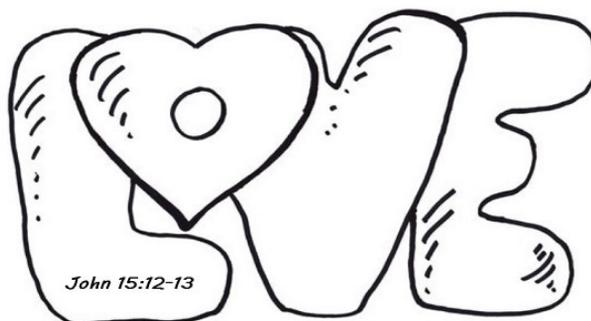
(P.S. Change the name and number of children, and this article could have been written by me. I think the supreme quality inherent in the love I discovered is PATIENCE.)

----Submitted by Mary Seaman

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come; they pushed to the front. Some fell down because they were stacked just like dominos. This caused a near riot with much screaming and pushing, but the appointed guards among them, with big sticks held high, got them quieted down in a hurry. They all were wanting to pray, each one—I was surrounded by a sea of neon yellow and black men, all pushing in and trying to be the next one to pray with me. Many were Muslims, and they told me that before I prayed. I told them that God is Creator of us all, and He watches down in happiness as the different religions work together. I never prayed so many prayers with so many at once, and understanding their words seemed not to be important—God was speaking to them through me. I have never experienced such deep-felt prayers. Afterwards, the medical teams up on the hill said they had looked down to where I was sitting in a chair, surrounded entirely by a yellow and black sea of prisoners! I was so lost in what I was doing that, the next time I looked up, all my fellow team members were leaving. That's the hardest part—having to leave when you feel your work is not finished!

God of Mercy, full of grace, you know who they are. Lord, please guard them and protect them, and give them enough. Please keep them safe, and hear their prayers, as they thirst for grace and mercy. God be with them 'til we meet again!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Submitted by Mary Seaman

New members **CHUCK AND TRUDY CENTER** have lived in this area most of their lives. Chuck grew up in Concord, MI (Jackson Co.), moving first to Boyne City, then to Charlevoix in 1975. Trudy graduated from Onaway High School and moved to Petoskey in 1978. They were married in 1983 and currently live in Charlevoix, celebrating 31 years at their Old Orchard Rd. home. They have one married daughter, an RN, who lives in Madison, Wisconsin and one granddaughter.

Chuck served in the US Army from 1965-1968. In 1975, Chuck began his career as a car salesman at Charlevoix Oil Co. (later Fochtman Chevy Buick); then he moved to what is now Fox Motors. In 1991, he became the owner of South Pt. Auto Sales, which he operated until his retirement in 2008. Chuck has served as the Charlevoix Township Supervisor

for 3 ½ years.

After moving to Petoskey, Trudy ran a hair salon and continues to own and work in the Center Hair Salon in Petoskey. Trudy loves to create, as evidenced in her career choice, but she also enjoys decorating. She relaxes by knitting, while Chuck enjoys playing golf.

Chuck and Trudy had been driving to the Walloon Community Church for a number of years and, finally, asked themselves, "Why are we driving this far to go to church?" They had visited CRC and have friends in the church, but what really "turned the tide" is Chip's joining the Rotary where he and Chuck were able to connect on a personal level. Trudy says she "enjoys the church, loves the people who are so welcoming, and they have made new friends."

COMMUNITY REFORMED
CHURCH

Phone: 231-547-9482
Fax: 231-547-9598
Email: crcoffice@communityreformed.net
www.communityreformed.net

Join us for Worship:
Sunday, 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Nursery: all services
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Prayer:
Sunday, 7:45 a.m.
Monday - Friday, 6:15 a.m.
Wednesday (2nd floor City Hall), 12 p.m.
Wednesday, 5:00 pm
Saturday, 7:15 a.m.

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Contacts at CRC:

Chip Sauer, Pastor
Jan Boss, Director of Spiritual Formation
Ted Polleys, Associate Pastor
Lynda Stolt, Office Administrator
Michael Brown, Maintenance Engineer
Theda Williams, Pastor of Worship, Creative Arts
and Leadership
Gail Cherry, Director of Children's Ministries
Sarah Polleys, Office Assistant
Dianne Coolman, Kitchen Manager
Cindy Mansen, Choir Director

Love one another
as I have
loved you.
John 15:12