Summer 2004

Fort Wayne Alumnus

Taylor University Fort Wayne

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Our Heritage is *A Vine of God's Own Planting*
Wiebke Homestead, built in 1882. The house became part of the campus property when the remaining eight acres of Wiebke property were purchased in 1958. A life-lease on the house was a condition of the purchase, as Miss Emma Wiebke, one of the four Wiebke children, continued to reside in the house. After failing health caused her to be moved into a nursing home in 1959, the property was released from the life-estate condition. Modernization of the house was completed in 1966.

Insert: Miss Clara Wiebke gives the deed for the south campus to Dr. S. A. Witmer and Mr. S. A. Lehman.
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President
Dr. David J. Gyertson
V.P. for University, Advancement
Mr. Harold Hazen
Assoc. V.P. for Advancement
Mrs. Sherri Harter
Assoc. Director of Advancement
Mr. Michael Mortensen
Assoc. Dir. of University Relations
Mrs. Lisa Allen

Writers
Lisa Allen, Aimee Betsui, Katie Broecker,
Holly Ekyholt, Laura Fischer, Jim Garringer,
Dr. Paul Gentile, Rev. Bill Gerig,
Dr. Jared Gerig (posthumous), Dr. David Gyertson,
Dr. Dennis Hensley, Debbie Melone, John Silcox

Photographers
Lisa Allen, Nila Augustyniak,
Jim Garringer, Michael Mortensen

Graphic Designers
Lisa Allen, Tricia Halferty

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W. Rudisill Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46807.
I developed a passion for history the year we studied the British Empire in high school. There is something about the accounts of battles won and lost and the human spirit's response to triumph and tragedy in the face of great opportunities and insurmountable difficulties that inspires me. My view of life's ultimate meaning is shaped by the exploration of this important field of study.

After I became a Christian, exposure to the Old and New Testaments, as well as the maturing Church, provided new motivation to examine the great cloud of witnesses whose legacy each succeeding generation shares and must protect. This interest turned from a focus on the facts of the people and events to the Author of mankind's unfolding story. As I read the accounts of the past I want to discover God's purposes - as someone said "His-story" - behind the record. As I embrace the reality that our Heavenly Father is at work both to will and do His good pleasure I am discovering a rich resource. In understanding the past I am better equipped to serve the present. The hymn writer summed up my motivations for the disciplined study of history, "To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill; O may it all my powers engage to do my Master's will."

Although my formal academic training is in other fields, some of my most
fulfilling experiences as a faculty member came while teaching Church History at the Asian Theological Center for Evangelism and World Missions in Singapore. This unique educational entity, dedicated to equipping house church pastors to extend the mission of Jesus throughout the Far East, provided an intensive Seminary level education. Individual courses were taken one at a time in three to four week blocks. I taught the history of the Christian movement to dynamic, deeply dedicated, well-educated men and women. Seeing the progress of the Church through non-western eyes opened mine to the complexity of God’s work across multiple generations and within divergent, often hostile, cultures.

Through history I am learning many life-shaping lessons. First, the Church often is most effective in times of challenge, difficulty and uncertainty. The much-quoted adage that “power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely” is visible in the ebb and flow of the Church’s historical currents. It seems that God did not intend for His people to have a king. Since He was to be their Sovereign, the words of the prophet and the work of the priest were to be the primary ways His plans and purposes would be achieved. However, longing to be like the other tribes and nations, they insisted on a human monarchy.

From the time of King Saul forward, Israel was distracted by affairs of State and deflected from the higher callings intended for God’s chosen people. Over the centuries, the Church experienced similar challenges. It appears, at least to date, that all efforts to set up the Kingdom of God before the King of Kings takes up residence eventually fail and compromise the redemption message. The Church, according to record and precedent, transforms lives and cultures best when it stands as a conduit of God’s mercy and providence (particularly to the least, the left and the lost), speaks with the wisdom, discernment and compassion of a Spirit-filled counselor, kneels as an empowered, persistent intercessor and, when required, serves as a martyred living sacrifice.

Second, whether prospering or persecuted, God always has a people – a remnant equipped to preserve the faith and present the Gospel with life-changing impact. It is in the times of profound persecution that spatter many of the pages of history where one finds the most celebrated heroes of the Christian faith. Early in my study of the Church I was exposed to Foxe’s Book of Martyrs. In that simple but powerful recounting, I learned that no matter how dark the age, the Spirit of God preserves the message of redeeming love through those willing to pay the ultimate price to protect and promote it.

The prophet is told in the sixth chapter of Isaiah that there will be times when the message is rejected and its impact seemingly ineffective. However, God comforts His servant, “even though the tree is cut down, out of the stump shall spring a branch that will bear fruit in later days.” As Bill and Gloria Gaither’s wonderful Gospel song “Let the Church Be the Church” so powerfully declares it - no power in, upon or under the earth can defeat God’s plan for His people across the generations. The study of Church history planted an unshakable truth deep in my spirit - that when it is all said and done, God’s prophetic promises will have said it all and His power will have completed all that He promised.

Finally, when it is all said and done, history will reveal that its main character is Jesus Christ and its greatest story the unquenchable love of the Father God for a lost and damaged creation. As a direct result of my education in Christ-centered institutions, I now look for Jesus on every page of Scripture and in every chapter of history. The Bible declares that Jesus was there before history began. John opens his Gospel with the revelation that our Lord, as the Word that became flesh, was there “in the beginning.” The New Testament affirms that in Jesus we live, move, and have our being – that in Him all of creation exists and holds together. And the Book of Revelation trumpets the final words of recorded history - “Maranatha” - God’s people joyfully welcoming their King’s triumphant return.

As a Christ-centered institution of higher education, Taylor University must not just teach but live out these lessons of “His-story.” Since 1846 our mission remains clear - to challenge each succeeding generation of students to live in the full awareness that faithfulness to God’s plan and purposes, no matter what the cost or consequence, is their highest calling. Those who have gone before us taught and lived the belief that Jesus is the cornerstone, the building block and the capstone of the Church’s presence in every age. The value of our legacy tomorrow depends on faithfulness today to the lessons of yesterday. Our passion remains the equipping of those who hold the future of the Gospel in their hands. May we continue to serve so that when it is all said and done, our students will be numbered among those about whom it is said “served the purposes of God in their generation.”

Dr. David Gyetson, president, with Robyn Bender, senior, Fort Wayne.
He is the Vine

The following excerpts are taken from Dr. Jared Gerig’s book, “A Vine of God’s Own Planting,” written on the occasion of Fort Wayne Bible College’s 75th Anniversary. The Fort Wayne campus continues to faithfully hold to the values, vision and virtues mentioned by Dr. Gerig. Dr. Jared Gerig served the college as president from 1958 to 1971.

“A Vine of God’s Own Planting,” as a highly descriptive designation for Fort Wayne Bible College, must be credited to Rev. J.E. Ramseyer, one of its founders and its administrative leader for 33 years. He used it many times across the years when referring to the college which was very dear to his heart.

The college was planted in Bluffton, OH. It was transplanted to Fort Wayne, IN, where it took deep root and had room to grow. From Fort Wayne it sent out its students and graduates to the seas and to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Its influence through the spiritual ministries of its graduates has literally reached the ends of the earth. The college has become noted for its thorough training, academic excellence and spiritual life emphasis.

Fort Wayne Bible College is a vine of God’s own planting. He not only planted it but He has mercifully watched over it during the years. He has used a succession of vine-keepers, and we can be assured that He will continue to guard and prosper the vine if He is left in over-all control.

FWBC has always united the intellectual with the spiritual and the head with the heart. Dr. S.A. Witmer called it “Education with Dimension.” This type of education had the Bible central to the curriculum and the primary aim was the training of ministers of the Gospel.

In keeping with this truth, we recall the virtues of those who were used of God to found Fort Wayne Bible College. Although it is impossible to recognize all of the individual virtues of each man, their virtues brought to mind the “Seven Cardinal Virtues” extolled by James Stalker in the Heart-Life Classics...wisdom, courage, temperance, justice, faith, hope, and love.

The founders of Fort Wayne Bible College possessed an unusual wisdom. It did not originate in the schools but in the fear of the Lord. It was wisdom aimed at making life rather than making a living. It was a wisdom not of books but of the Book. This wisdom, which originated in the fear of God and was enhanced by the Word of God, was completed in the Spirit of God. This wisdom these men knew and practiced.

There was a disciplined dignity about these men...they believed the cross as a way of life. It was the old cross, which meant no truce with the flesh nor the world. The cross made no compromise. Their evaluation of things was true to the Bible and the Christian philosophy of life.

This keen sense of values reflected itself in their way of life. While we class them in the ranks of a past generation not faced so desperately with complexities of this advanced day, yet we dare to believe that this day would not have changed their solid convictions nor their way of living. Their lives were characterized by an “other-worldliness” – little interest in this present world and its offerings but high interest in spiritual and eternal things.

Their way of life placed the emphasis not upon externals but upon internals, not upon this world but upon the next, not upon the physical and material but upon the spiritual and eternal. They had learned how to be in the world but not of it, touching it but not attached to it, using it but not dominated by it. This keen sense of values reflected itself in their philosophy of education.

Their philosophy of education placed the Bible in the heart of the curriculum. All other books must be secondary to the Book.

In their philosophy one also finds a large place for the application of learning in service and ministry. The

Neither is the impression to be left that the old days were the best days...The call is not backward, but beyond us, to the future if Jesus tarries.

school was founded “for the teaching of students in the Word and the training of students in the work.” The motto of the school for many years was “Training for Service and Service in Training.”

Education to them must be Christ-centered, Bible-integrated, Holy Spirit-warmed and energized and task-related.

The founders had a great vision of God. God was their God and adequate for every situation. They knew how to turn to God in times of crisis rather than to man. Their vision was always true to the great task embraced in the Great Commission. The founders of this institution had a vision of the eternal. They labored not for earthly gain nor matched material rewards. The sacrifices they made were stimulated by a vision of another world. They had a vision which saw beyond this present world and this earthly life.

cont. next page
I have over 60 years of memories of the Fort Wayne campus. Although unplanned by me, God’s will for my life has led in and out of Fort Wayne over and over.

In the 1940’s, when my father, Jared Gerig, was dean of students, I remember playing on the foundation walls of Founders Hall while it was under construction; learning to play tennis on the tennis court behind Founders Hall where the apartments are now located; helping my Grandpa Eicher (Uncle Pete to others) sell ice cream and candy out of the snack window during the summer conferences of the Missionary Church; sitting among the college students and being forever influenced by the “Mission Band” services held every Friday night of the school year; playing basketball (as a grade schooler) in Founders’ gym with the college “men” – Bill Pannell, Lon Randall, Gene Poncho, Paul Erdel, the “whistler” Dale Lewis, and many others. I have not forgotten their kindness to the “Dean’s son.”

In the 1950’s, as a high school student, it was my privilege to occasionally drive the van for my Grandpa Eicher to pick up day-old baked goods and damaged merchandise to sell in the “married students” store in the basement of the ad building (now Schultz Hall); to attend rousing basketball games in the old State School gym, to witness first hand in the President’s home the struggle for academic recognition for a top quality Bible College program.

In the 1960’s, I returned again as a married student seeking to prepare for missionary service. Joyce and I vividly remember living in the Founders Hall basement apartment and having many eager student babysitters for our new baby, Sandy. How she slept through the pounding of feet and basketballs above we will never understand. I remember chapel speakers and faculty members who challenged and encouraged us in our Christian walk. We were constantly encouraged “to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18.

Missions courses with Dr. Timothy Warner helped to form our vision of missionary service. How could we forget the Student Missionary Fellowship chapel where the SMF presented us with the keys to a VW van for our missionary work in Sierra Leone, Africa? The van was sitting on the stage in Founders’ auditorium. How did they do that?

In the 1970’s we returned again after 15 years in Africa. What a joy to teach missions courses to young men and women eager to obey and serve the Lord. Three years as director of correspondence studies made me realize that God has people around the world looking for a Christ-centered education.

Then in the mid 1980’s through most of the 1990’s, as alumni director, I had the privilege and honor to serve the alumni of Fort Wayne Bible Institute, Fort Wayne Bible College, Summit Christian College, and Taylor University Fort Wayne.

I have witnessed first hand with an increasing fascination the growth and development of this campus while a child, as a son of a dean and president, as a student, as an alumnus, as a teacher, and as an alumni director.

One hundred years ago in 1904 Bethany Bible School (Bluffton, OH) relocated to this plot of land in south Fort Wayne. What is it that has kept this “Vine of God’s Own Planting” on Rudisill Blvd. alive and vibrant over these 100 years? What is the heritage of this institution, that even with many different “vine-keepers” has kept her true to the faith and effective in service? We could list many characteristics but I would like to emphasize only one.

For 100 years the administration, faculty, and staff have realized and emphasized that spiritual formation through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ was and is the number one priority for every student. Graduating with high honors is commendable, but comes second to a vital relationship with our Lord and Saviour. He is the source of all wisdom and knowledge and empowers us for service to mankind. Those who came before us not only strived for academic excellence on this campus, but also planned for spiritual growth and development through chapel services, small group Bible studies, days of prayer, spiritual emphasis weeks, and Christian service experiences. Faculty members prayed and counseled with students, and student services personnel promoted spiritual growth opportunities. This vital characteristic of spiritual formation continues to this day.

Spiritual formation is an important part of this institution. May this characteristic of spiritual formation for every student continue to be uppermost in the mission of Taylor University.

May we always remember that the disciples, seen as unlearned men, turned the world upside down because they had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13). They had been spiritually formed by the Master. All of us connected with this institution have had the privilege of excellent academic training as well as challenging spiritual formation. May the world not only see us as well educated, but as men and women of spiritual power because we have been with Jesus. God bless Taylor University and keep her true to her mission and heritage.
Taylor University has long held roots in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Taylor University began in 1846 as a Methodist college for women, named Fort Wayne Female College. The college became coeducational less than 10 years later, and becoming Fort Wayne College in 1855, until 1890 when, because of the school’s indebtedness, the National Association of Local Preachers (NALP) purchased the school. Christian Stemen, local Methodist preacher and widely recognized surgeon, introduced NALP to Fort Wayne College and was instrumental in bringing together Fort Wayne College, The Fort Wayne College of Medicine and NALP, which gave birth to Taylor University in 1893.*

Dr. Paul Gentile was honored as Indiana Academy of Family Physician Doctor of the Year Award, 2003. His acceptance speech was published in Fort Wayne Medicine, Winter 2003 issue and appears here in its entirety also.

At the time the Fort Wayne College of Medicine became a part of Taylor University, it was one of the best of the Indiana medical schools and the only one in northern Indiana...admitting both men and women. Forty medical students enrolled and 19 graduated during 1892-93, the last year that Taylor operated in Fort Wayne. (ibid 63)

In the decade after the Taylor relocation to Upland, the medical school merged into what in 1908 became the Indiana University School of Medicine. (ibid 63)

Dr. Paul Gentile, g52TUU, Taylor University Board Member, and Fort Wayne physician, was named the Indiana Family Physician of the Year – 2003. Each year the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians honors one of its members who best exemplifies the tradition of the family physician. His acceptance speech follows:
"It's a privilege for me to be here. To say I'm honored and most grateful for this award would be a gross understatement. To receive this award is not just by mere chance, it is by divine guidance – a miracle. It is more significant than the Hall of Fame, the Emmys or any other recognition. I thank God for the many miracles in my life.

I want to recognize the people in my life that have made this recognition possible. They are my heroes – just ordinary people that have influenced and prayed for me. Ordinary heroes – two words that do not seem to fit together – but that's what we would like to be and pass on to our patients. For me to become a physician was indeed a miracle.

I must acknowledge my parents and siblings. I am the son of an immigrant. My grandfather came to the U.S.A. ahead of his family to establish himself. My dad and the rest of the family followed, and while matriculating through Ellis Island, they learned of his sudden death. The many hardships they endured only strengthened their determination to make a life in America possible. My father – he loved America – as one of the oldest sons in the family, quit school and lied about his age to obtain a work permit at the age of 13. During World War I, he was quick to enlist and worked his way to Master Sergeant, an accomplishment that made him proud. He was one of my first heroes.

On December 7, 1941, when World War II broke out, my two oldest brothers enlisted and became my heroes. It was an ugly war and they were in the thick of it, Dave in the Navy and Dan in the Army.

My mother, like many other mothers of service people taught my younger sisters, Ruth, Becki and me how to be in on the action. She taught us to pray and trust in God – more heroes. Much later in life when Dave was in a terminal state, I learned how important those prayers were to my brothers.

In 1948, Dan, my oldest brother, having graduated from Notre Dame, was driving home to Connecticut and picked up a hitchhiker who was a student at Taylor University. Dan asked him to send me an application since I had just graduated from high school. Like most "know it all" high school graduates, and since I knew nothing about Taylor, I had no intention of going. But out of love and respect for my mother I found myself matriculating there.

I met another major hero at Taylor, my wife Barbara. She has been a beautiful and wonderful part of my life. I want to thank her for tolerating me and making all this possible. God made her special. We celebrated our 50th anniversary last year.

I must also recognize our children. We had two children when I started medical school, Doug and Becki. Steve was born at the end of my third year, between Internal Medicine and General Surgery exam. Tricia was born during our internship in L.A. County. In Fort Wayne J.P. brought up #5: all of you are my heroes – you Doug, Becki, Tricia, Steve and J.P.; you served as a powerful incentive for me to do things well.

I came to Fort Wayne in 1961 not knowing anyone and began a solo practice – another miracle in my life. Our first office was an office above a drugstore, and we were handicap accessible: we carried our patients up the stairs. God partnered me with wonderful nurses – more super heroes. Two of them are here. Betsy started with me in 1961, and Jeanie started in 1964. There were other great nurses that were unable to be here tonight. It has been a great team. Betsy put a sign in the office: the patient does not care how much you know until they know how much you care.

At Taylor when the students graduate they get two items: a diploma and a service towel. The service towel is the symbol of Jesus washing the feet of His disciples – that is what being a Family Doctor is all about – caring and serving.

I must recognize all the professors and colleagues over the years that were patient in teaching me. I also learned from those I taught – more heroes.

The family practice specialty, and it is a special specialty, is one of the most challenging of all. It is the backbone, the vertebral column that supports the structure of all the other branches. It is a specialty in every phase of medicine since it takes on the whole person – physical body, mind, emotion and spirit – from conception to the grave and beyond.

You – the Family Doctors are the real ordinary heroes in medicine. You are there 24-7. Who ever started that phrase anyway? It must have been the mothers of this world. The Family Doctor is always and forever available - always and forever learning - always effective. You can't put a price tag on that!

My son J.P. sent me a book, Looking At The Man In The Mirror. Look at yourself and tell yourself – it is not about you. It is about giving and caring for others that brings the real joy into our profession. Yes, you will be taken for granted, taken advantage of and won’t be paid your worth – but you are not in family practice to get rich. You are here to serve and care. “What you do for the least of these”, that is what makes it a profession.

Family Doctors must seek unity; and unity does not mean uniformity. We are all different, but we have a commonality – serving and caring for the whole person. Think of the snowflake, small, fragile and each uniquely different – but when stuck together they can stop traffic. We must support each other. I accept this award on behalf of all of you – all of the heroes of medicine.

“For me to become a physician was indeed a miracle.”

In closing I would like to quote a passage from a book by E.S. Stead, What This Patient Needs Is a Doctor: “No greater opportunity, responsibility or obligation can fall to the lot of a human being than to become a physician. In the care of the suffering he needs technical skills, scientific knowledge and human understanding. He who uses these with courage, with humility and wisdom will provide a unique service for his fellow man and will build an enduring edifice of character within himself. The physician should ask of his destiny no more than this; he should be content with no less.”

*(Taylor University: The First 150 Years, pgs 1, 27, 33, 59, 61)*
Completing

Celebrating the completion of the largest campaign in Taylor’s history.

Dreams

The $75 million campaign is a landmark in Taylor’s 158-year history. No previous campaign had topped $20 million, yet the total for the “Taylor Tomorrow” campaign reached nearly $80 million.

In addition to funding endowed academic chairs, scholarships and expanding and enhancing academic programs like the Master of Environmental Science program and the Center for Teaching Excellence, the campaign changed the landscape on both the Upland and Fort Wayne campuses, adding five new buildings and expanding the Hodson Dining Commons. The following charts and photos help tell some of the story of the University’s successful campaign.
Goal: $75 million
Number of donors: 15,488
Over seven years Taylor faculty and staff gave nearly $1 million.
Percentage of donors who are alumni: 70%
Total received: $79,667,000

SOURCE OF GIFTS

- Foundations 29.2%
- Churches .2%
- Employees 1.2%
- Parents and Students 1.1%
- Corporations 7.7%
- Estates 8.8%
- Friends 9.6%
- Trustees 18.3%
- Alumni 23.9%

FACTS

- May 1995
  Plan for Actualization approved by the board of trustees
- October 26, 1996
  Taylor Tomorrow Capital Campaign made public during the Sesquicentennial Celebration
- April 18, 1997
  Ground breaking for Samuel Morris Residence Hall
- October 30, 1998
  Dedication of Samuel Morris Residence Hall
- May 21, 1999
  Ground breaking for Eicher Student Commons
- May 24, 2001
  Dedication of Eicher Student Commons
- October 5, 2001
  Ground breaking for Modelle Metcalf Visual Arts Center
- September 28, 2002
  Ground breaking for Calvin English Library
- April 4, 2003
  Dedication of Modelle Metcalf Visual Arts Center
- May 9, 2003
  Ground breaking for Kesler Student Activities Center
- December 31, 2003
  Campaign concludes
Jerry B. Jenkins, author of the staggeringly successful Left Behind series (64 million copies in print), and Dr. Dennis E. Hensley, author of 43 books and more than 3,000 published newspaper and magazine articles, recently sat down for an interview regarding the newly established relationship between Jenkins's Christian Writers Guild (CWG) and Hensley's Taylor University Fort Wayne professional writing major.

Jerry B. Jenkins first gained national recognition as a sports biographer when he was selected by such superstar major league baseball players as Hank Aaron, Nolan Ryan, and Orel Hershiser to write their life stories. He has been an editor with Moody Publications, a speaker at numerous national writers' conferences, and the author of nearly 100 books, ranging from the Margo Mystery Series to his latest novels Soon and The Youngest Hero. He and his wife reside in Colorado Springs.

Dr. Dennis E. Hensley is a professor of English at Taylor University Fort Wayne, where he has been director of the professional writing major since he created it in 1997. He has been a writer in residence or guest professor at more than 60 colleges and universities, including the 2001-02 academic year when he served as “Distinguished Visiting Professor of English and Journalism” at the graduate school of communication arts at Regent University. Dr. Hensley holds four degrees in communications, including a Ph.D. in English from Ball State University, where he was named “Distinguished Doctoral Graduate in English.” He has written six novels, eight textbooks on writing, more than 150 short stories, and 30 other books on such diverse topics as time management, motivation, Christian doctrine, futurism, and public relations. He and his wife live in Fort Wayne.

**Question: How long have you two men known each other?**

**Hensley:** Jerry and I have been friends for more than 25 years. We used to see each other all the time when we were on the circuit of lecturing across the country at various writers' conferences. Jerry would represent Moody Press as an editor and I would be there as someone who taught aspects of how to become a full-time professional author.

**Jenkins:** I remember one of Doc Hensley's speeches called "Word Power," and I asked him to come to Colorado Springs in 2003 to give that talk and lead some workshops at our first Christian Writers' Guild writers' conference. He was such a hit, I asked him to come back the following year to do three keynote addresses. He now sits as a member of my board of directors for CWG.

**Question: What are the common goals of the Christian Writers' Guild and Taylor Fort Wayne's professional writing major?**

**Hensley:** We started the professional writing major at TUFW as a way of developing a new generation of Christian writers who would work both in Christian and secular media. Our goal was to train talented writers in the areas of journalism, freelance writing, scriptwriting, poetry, public relations, and business writing so that they could serve our worldview with those who have not as yet come to a saving knowledge of Christ.

**Jenkins:** My aim in acquiring the Christian Writers Guild was to restock the pool of Christian writers. I miss being able to teach at writers' conferences as widely as I was able to before the media crush following the visibility of Left Behind. This is a way to give back to the Christian community while allowing me to keep a hand in teaching writing.

**Question: How have Taylor and CWG joined forces?**

**Hensley:** People who enroll for correspondence courses and online classes with CWG can now do more advanced versions of those courses and receive college credit through Taylor University. The student still uses the mentor/teacher provided by CWG, but then I also require extra assignments that I, personally, grade and edit.

**Jenkins:** Right from the beginning of CWG it was one of my long range goals to be able to provide college credit for students. We couldn't be happier about our link to Taylor. Dr. Hensley has caught our vision and has helped us institute a relationship that should serve as a model for other schools.

**Question: In what other ways are the two organizations cooperating?**
Hensley: We are also doing a faculty exchange. We are setting arrangements in motion for Jerry to come to Taylor's Fort Wayne campus in 2005 to lead a writing seminar as a guest instructor. Similarly, I am going to the CWG annual writing conferences in Colorado and North Carolina as one of the guest workshop leaders and keynote speakers.

Question: Is there a real desire among would-be Christian authors to find career help?
Jenkins: No question. Our first Colorado based CWG writers' conference drew 100 people in 2003. In 2004 we more than doubled that number, and with Rick Warren (author of The Purpose Driven Life) as our keynote speaker in 2005, we'll probably double again. Additionally, our Christian Writers Guild is enrolling more than 100 new correspondence school students every month. This convinces us of the extent of the desire among would-be Christian writers to find quality instruction and career guidance.

Hensley: I totally agree. The professional writing major at TUFW is the fastest growing major in the entire history of Taylor University. We started with two part-time students in the fall of 1997. Today, we have more than 40 full-time students on the Fort Wayne campus majoring in professional writing and another 100 each year who take writing courses part-time. We offer a one year professional writing certificate, a two year associates degree with an emphasis on writing and, of course, the full four year professional writing major.

Question: In what special ways are both Taylor and CWG trying to motivate Christians to become successful writers?
Jenkins: For one thing, CWG is sponsoring an annual contest to discover the best new Christian novel written by an unknown, unpublished author. We have had more than 300 entries this first year. The winner will have his or her novel published by Tyndale House, and will receive a $50,000 advance. Next year we are expanding this to include the best nonfiction book, too.

Hensley: As part of the TUFW writing curriculum, our students are required to submit their class writings to editors and publishers. As a result, more than 500 manuscripts written by TUFW students have been purchased and published worldwide. This includes devotions, personal testimonies, short stories, novels, interviews, poems, and news reports. I bring editors right to my classes to lecture to the students about how the business of publishing works.

Question: During the past decade The New York Times "Best-Seller" list has been filled with Christian books by Rick Warren, Jerry B. Jenkins, Bruce Wilkinson, Tim LaHaye, James Dobson, Robert Schuller, Billy Graham and many others. What do you think this says about 21st century readers?
Jenkins: I believe the popularity of evangelical books on the lists indicates a God-hunger, whether people admit it or not. They are also buying books by the Pope, the Dalai Lama, the Eastern mystics, and the inner healing gurus, looking for something beyond themselves. The market is wide open for Christian writers seeking to expand their audiences.

Hensley: For too long the quality of Christian writing was poor and the packaging of Christian books was second rate. Thanks to outstanding writers like Jerry, that has changed. As a result, the secular media have had to take note of what Christian writers are offering to the public. Our job at Taylor Fort Wayne and CWG is to keep that level of quality writing high in coming generations of Christian writers. Our students have excellent writing skills, as evidenced in their success in getting published. We are giving them the training, skills, and insight needed to become professional writers who will have a God-honoring impact on the world.

For information about CWG's online writing courses visit www.christianwritersguild.com. For information about the professional writing certificate program at Taylor University, contact Kevin Mahaffey at the Center for Lifelong Learning, (260) 744-86000. Inquiries regarding the professional writing major at TUFW can be made to the office of admissions at (260) 744-8600.

JERRY JENKINS PLEDGES $60,000 TO TAYLOR FORT WAYNE PROFESSIONAL WRITING PROGRAM

Jerry B. Jenkins notified Taylor Fort Wayne that he will donate $60,000 to assist its professional writing program. A series of $20,000 gifts will be made by Jenkins each summer to TUFW for three years, beginning this July.

“The amazing success the Taylor Fort Wayne program has had in helping writers enhance their craftsmanship and get published in a wide variety of periodicals has greatly impressed me,” Jenkins says, 54, from his Colorado Springs home. “My long-time friend, Dr. Dennis E. Hensley, has designed a writing major that should serve as a model for other colleges to emulate. I want to help insure that this good work continues for a long time.”

Each of the three $20,000 donations will be used in two ways. Half of the money will be invested into a newly created Professional Writing Endowment Fund so that fund earnings can provide future money for worthy students. The remaining money will be awarded as two $5,000 “Jerry B. Jenkins Writing Scholarships” to TUFW writing majors each autumn.

In accepting the Jenkins donation, Dr. Hensley, director of Taylor Fort Wayne's professional writing major says, “This money enables us to provide academic training for talented writers who want to come to Taylor Fort Wayne with the goal of making a positive impact on the world through writing. Receiving it is a great encouragement to us and we are very grateful to Jerry for his generosity.”
To the Least of These. . .

Mark Earley, president of Prison Fellowship Ministries (PFM), made the announcement of a joint relationship between PFM and Taylor Fort Wayne during chapel, April 16. In addition to the announcement, he spoke on Christian worldview and the biblical view of prison ministries.

“Taylor Fort Wayne and Prison Fellowship Ministries (PFM) have joined together to fight crime while building relationships with the children of inmates,” Dr. Steven Smith, professor of justice studies, shares. He continues, “PFM and TUFW have joined together to expand the service learning opportunities for Taylor students while impacting the lives of Allen County children. The joint venture will help reduce the incidence of crime in Allen County.”

As part of the criminal justice core requirements, students will receive initial and advanced training from PFM. Following the training, students will be paired in a mentor relationship with children of Allen County prisoners. “There are 900 children of inmates in Allen County, “ according to Willie Jenkins, director of the state’s Prison Fellowship.

Dr. Smith shares, “Our students are receiving a special opportunity to learn about the justice system’s clients early in their college careers while receiving valuable training and experience. Taylor Fort Wayne is always looking for opportunities like this to provide meaningful experiences for our students while serving the community. This is very consistent with our Christian beliefs.”

Charles Marseilles, student administrative assistant for the project, says, “This is an opportunity for Taylor students to really make a difference in the community.”

“Taylor Fort Wayne is the only university in the country that provides hands-on experience for freshmen in the criminal justice major. While this new proposal is exciting, it is important to note that community-based activities have been a part of the justice studies curriculum for some time,” Smith concludes.

Founded in 1976 by Chuck Colson, Prison Fellowship partners with local churches across the country to minister to a group that society often scorns and neglects: prisoners, ex-prisoners, and their families.
Redemption on Calhoun

A non-profit group led by members of Fellowship Missionary Church has taken the first steps toward redeeming one of Fort Wayne’s run-down landmarks. The group, which calls itself The Reclamation Project Inc., has purchased the 80-year-old Rialto Theater on South Calhoun Street.

It hopes to raise enough money to renovate the dilapidated building and turn it into a multipurpose venue for community ministry, live theater, education and social programs.

Once a grand movie house, the Rialto closed in the late 1980s in the wake of a push in Fort Wayne to drive out pornography. The Rialto was showing X-rated films at the time.

Should The Reclamation Project succeed, it would be the second time in five years a vacant X-rated Fort Wayne movie house has been renovated for other uses.

Jeff Jacobson, a claims manager with K&K Insurance and the drama minister at Fellowship Missionary, 2536 Tillman Road, said the restoration proposal resulted from a play he started writing nearly four years ago.

The script, titled “Auditioning Jesus,” was a contemporary retelling of the Gospel story. In the play within a play, the characters set out to produce a play about Jesus, but after facing some obstacles find themselves having to perform their low-budget show in an old, run-down theater.

The plan was to stage the performances at the church in early December 2002. After the production was postponed because of budget constraints, the group decided to produce the show independently.

In a case of life imitating art, Jacobson and the production team started looking for an old, run-down theater in which they could stage their play.

The search led them to the Rialto, but it was obvious, Jacobson said, that the facility could not meet their needs.

The Rialto, 2616 S. Calhoun St., was built in 1924 by James Heliotes as a 700-seat neighborhood theater. It was remodeled during the early 1940s and a balcony was added.

The movie house remained in the hands of Heliotes’ family until it was sold in 1967, and again in 1980, when it started showing Mexican and Spanish films.

And by the mid-1980s it was the site of daily pickets protesting the X-rated movies that were being shown there.

Eventually, the owners and employees of the theater and a health club above it were arrested, amid allegations ranging from prostitution and distributing pornography to violations of the state’s anti-racketeering laws.

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Taylor University Loses a Dear Friend: Joenita Yost

Joenita K. Yost, 68, passed away at her Fort Wayne home May 21, after a long battle with cancer. The Huntington County native received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Manchester College and a master's degree in elementary education from St. Francis University. She was a member of Grabill Missionary Church.

Her husband, Daryl R. Yost, was the former provost at Taylor University's Upland campus and retired as executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Fort Wayne campus. He continues to work for that campus in various other capacities.

Also surviving are Kent and Janice Yost; Brian and Marlene Yost; Lana and Trace Roth; and nine grandchildren.

Joenita loved her family and enjoyed being involved in the lives of her children, grandchildren, and the communities (especially Taylor University and Grabill Missionary Church) in which she and Daryl lived and served. For nearly 20 years, she served as "professional colleague" to Daryl, as he served in various capacities at Taylor University. Service to others was indeed Joenita's greatest passion.

Daryl and Joenita enjoyed nearly 47 years of marriage.

Memorial services were held at Grabill Missionary Church.

Spiritual Formation

Dr. John Coe, director for the Institute for Spiritual Formation at Talbot Seminary, led the full-time faculty on the Fort Wayne campus in an all-day workshop on incorporating spiritual formation within the classroom, in late February. He offered a rationale and specific models for intentionally inviting the Holy Spirit to interact with the students and course content for the purposes of fostering Christlikeness. This approach could be seen as taking the integration of faith and learning to the next highest level, by employing Christ-centered methodology as well as content.

The following day Dr. Coe spoke in the Foundations of Christian Thought class and interacted with the student development staff, the spiritual formation task force and the community life committee.

Scholarships Awarded Totaling $258,000

Taylor University Fort Wayne recognized 123 students for their academic excellence, extra curricular leadership and commendable Christian commitment during a special Scholarship Awards Luncheon on April 22, 2004. Three hundred parents, students and scholarship donors were in attendance. One hundred twenty three students received scholarships, totaling over $258,000.

Galen Maust, representing Niblick Family Foundation, shared why he and the Foundation had chosen to give to Taylor University. Scholarship assistance is very near Galen's heart, the youngest of 12 children, college would not have been possible for him, without it. The Niblick Foundation agrees that Taylor is worthy of their support.
Around the World in a Week

Taylor World Outreach (T.W.O.) sponsored four separate trips to New York City, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and Ecuador. Although each trip had a prevailing purpose such as a building project, working with homeless, painting a hospital or teaching English, they all had one goal -- to share Jesus with the lost.

Bud Hamilton g68TUU, athletic director and campus pastor, led a team to New York City. They ministered to people in the Manhattan and Brooklyn areas and worked primarily with the New York Rescue Mission. Members of the team shared that a highlight of their experience was witnessing the influence of Christ on the lives of the people of New York, through Christian politician, Hermes Caraballo.

Dick Baxter g70, associate dean of students/director of career ministries, led a team to Jamaica to work on two houses and a clinic as well as minister to youth in the area. One student realized his purpose for the trip after talking with a Rastafarian man. He said, "Our work with the kids is so important because if we didn’t come, (the) Rastafarian (religion) would be all they have."

The team scheduled to travel to Haiti traveled to the Dominican Republic instead, due to turmoil in the country. The group, led by Dr. Randall Dodge g81TUU, associate vice president of student development and dean of students, taught English at an academy, visited an orphanage, worked with Compassion International and also did street ministry. Two students traveled to Haiti apart from the T.W.O. ministry team. They spent the week with a missionary family, encouraged the mission staff, visited several orphanages and participated in the weekly ministry team meetings. One student who has been there several times reflects, "The atmosphere was typical; we weren’t affected by the turmoil."

The Ecuador team, comprised 28 people, ages 15-65, was led by Michael Mortensen g91TUU, associate director of advancement and Dick Ehresman g74TUU, bookstore manager, Upland. They performed construction work, cleaned and painted HCJB’s hospital, and held VBS for missionary kids in the area. Eleven people came to Christ after showing the Jesus film twice and a student was able to lead a woman to Christ on the airplane. Five students were also baptized while in Ecuador.

Maximizing Residence Hall Space

Student development will implement new housing programming which will better serve the student body next year. Schultz Hall, housing male students, will see a capacity reduction of half due to the aging structure and the infrastructure not able to meet the housing and technological needs of 21st Century students. Bethany Hall will continue to house female students. With each floor secured and having separate key-core access, first year male students will reside on Hauser Hall’s first floor; first year female students will reside on the second floor. Oakwood Apartments will house upperclass women, female student teachers will reside in the newly purchased Lillian Rolf Home (pictured above) and male computer technology students will call Clyde Taylor House their home (at right). After much consideration, and after consulting the historical society, it was determined the cost to renovate Wiebeke House exceeded the cost to utilize the Lillian Rolf and Clyde Taylor Houses for additional student housing. Plans to raze Wiebeke are pending.

In FWBC’s beginning, Schultz Hall housed administrative offices, classrooms, library, chapel and cafeteria, it also served as the primary residence for both male and female students. September 1993, as Taylor Fort Wayne, Schultz Hall again housed male and female students on separate floors. Next academic year, the first time in Hauser Hall’s history, male and female students will reside on separate floors in this residence hall.

Taylor Goes Off Campus

Next fall, Blackhawk Christian High School junior and senior honor students will be able to take courses in Biblical Literature I (Old Testament) and Biblical Literature II (New Testament) and receive credit toward their high school and college diplomas.

Stephen Webster, faculty member at Blackhawk Christian School, is slated to teach the courses on Blackhawk’s campus during the 2004-05 academic year. He will follow the same syllabi Taylor students follow in their OT and NT courses. Webster has earned a master’s degree in Bible from Wheaton College and meets Taylor University adjunct faculty qualifications.

Credits earned through off-campus college course offerings and credits-in-escrow programs at Taylor apply to their Taylor degree or may be transferred to any college.
International Business

Taylor Fort Wayne launched its MBA program last fall with an emphasis on global business practices. The program’s first cohort group, comprised of 16 graduate students, began their studies with an overseas study tour in England and Ireland.

The MBA program focuses not on the mid-management skills of traditional programs, but on the key enterprise-level decisions and implementation strategies required in today’s dynamic business and economic climate.

The 16-month program offers an innovative format incorporating international travel/study, intensive seminars, internet delivery, supervised research, and applied learning experiences. Cohorts are comprised of 15-25 students and begin annually, each August. The program begins with a 10-12 day overseas study tour: Students convene twice each term for residency sessions conducted in a business seminar format where face-to-face instruction takes place. Additional coursework is completed via internet-delivered classroom (supported via Blackboard) and is submitted to the instructor via email. Taylor’s MBA students find this program innovative, meeting personal need and convenience. Residency seminars and online discussions provide additional opportunities to meet with professors, classmates and MBA administrators, unlike many other online programs.

Having compared MBA programs at other institutions, Tod Lemons g72TUU, Mainz, Germany, noted cost, instructional formats and the accelerated program as factors in selecting Taylor’s MBA program. He begins, “[The] distance learning versus online learning program (is) a big positive difference. The enrollment is small and I receive individual instruction/attention.” Tod adds, “The instructors are qualified, varied and experienced. The program is not rigid and living on another continent in another time zone has not posed a problem.” That the accelerated program allows students an opportunity to complete their degree faster than students in counterpart programs was also a factor.

Dr. Larry Rottmeyer, director of the MBA program, shares, “Business leaders are looking for business programs to be more responsive to the needs of their management and key staff. Taylor’s MBA program has been designed to effectively meet this market need.” He continues, “Today’s graduate business programs are leading change in business education for the next generation. Quality programming, convenience, and response to consumer need are integral factors for program survival. Taylor’s MBA incorporates these elements.”

The second MBA cohort, already half full, begins August 1, with travel to Germany and Switzerland.

For more information on the MBA program, call 1-866-471-6062, email mba@tayloru.edu, or visit www.tayloru.edu/mba.
Great Expectations

As the milestone of graduation quickly approaches, it thrills me to think of Carl Nuffer, in his cap and gown, tassel waving proudly, accepting his accomplishments from Taylor Fort Wayne.

Having worked with Carl over the past few years as his case coordinator with Anthony Wayne Services, I have seen how the Taylor experience has helped him achieve increased independence. Like fertile soil, Taylor Fort Wayne has provided an opportunity for growth and development in Carl’s sprouting life. Not only has TUFW offered growth and education, but the University experience has also provided a positive support. This network has revealed Carl in both a “student” role as well as “teaching” role as he has been woven into the fabric of the student body.

This experience has helped Carl build friendships, understand commitment, gain a sense of responsibility and foster greater independence through many wonderful opportunities he would have otherwise not have experienced.

He has learned what it means to be a philanthropist. Pam Dykehouse, bookstore supervisor, gets frequent help from Carl, as he uses his creativity to set up displays. He has learned the “in’s and out’s” of the dining commons, serving in the dish room.

As a case manager, I only wish others could have an experience as Carl has had. I have watched him acquire many new skills, skills that will assist him throughout the remainder of his life. Much appreciation goes to the students and staff of Taylor Fort Wayne, especially to Creative Dining Services and Dr. Randall Dodge, dean of students, all of whom acted as catalysts in Carl’s success as “student” and “teacher.” - Holly Ekyholt.

Above: Carl Nuffer, with Ardonna Jackson, catering supervisor, Creative Dining, Taylor University’s dining service.

A New Look for Taylor Fort Wayne

Taylor University, for the last 18 months, has worked extensively with the consulting firm of Crane MetaMarketing out of Atlanta, GA, to identify independent branding concepts for the two campuses.

Dr. Gyertson shared with faculty and staff, “There is confidence among stakeholders in the methodology, findings and general conclusions of the Crane MetaMarketing study. We have a clearer understanding of the essential elements of the Taylor University Fort Wayne experience and valuable research that can be used, in conjunction with existing and routinely collected data, to advance the goal of doing better, and communicating more effectively, what we do best.”

The new tag line is “where your calling takes shape” and the essentials for communicating the Taylor University Fort Wayne experience will include emphases on:

a. academic quality in the context of applied learning grounded in the Liberal Arts,
b. commitment to intentional Christ-centered learning, living and serving through a greater focus on spiritual formation and

c. visible connectedness to the overall Taylor University mission and core values.

According to Sherri Harter, associate vice president for advancement, “The new concepts better describe who Taylor University Fort Wayne is. I believe the new image provides great potential and possibilities for the campus.”

With approval of the new marketing concepts, admission materials will take on the new look and the Fort Wayne website will be redesigned.
Student, Faculty and Staff Honors and Accomplishments

Jane Hunygh, senior, social work major, is the student coordinator for the International Arts Festival (IAH) to be held at Fort Wayne’s Grand Wayne Center. As part of their Process and Practice III (social work) class last fall, Heather Auer, Danielle Creech, Jennifer Curtis, Tracy Jurgens and Jane were in a grant writing group. Their group applied for the Community Campus Compact’s Mini-Grant for student service learning. They created a grant called “Friends of the Third World Educational Outreach” with the intent that Friends of the Third World, the agency where Jane is completing her internship, Foundations for Arts and Music in Elementary Education (FAME) and Taylor University would collaborate with and benefit from one another.

"Friends" helps create fair trade with other third world countries.

Taylor Fort Wayne’s Survey of Physical Science for Elementary Teachers students were chosen to serve as judges for local schools and homeschool science fairs. Two hundred fifteen projects were judged at Weisser Park Elementary and Harris Elementary between February 18 and 19. TUFW Physical Science students with the top eight scores judged the Fort Wayne Area Home Schools Science Fair, February 24.

Professional writing students continue to dominate the reviews published in The Secret Place. Many also have stories and devotionals in various publications as well.

Public Relations seniors attended a 2-day mini conference hosted by Willow Creek Community Church. Topics covered included: direction of the church today, individuals potential impact on the kingdom and spiritual gifts. Each student also created a public relations campaign for the Anchor Room, Christian bookstore as part of their Senior Capstone experience. The Anchor Room plans on implementing several of the students’ concepts.

Mike Cook, assistant professor of psychology, attended a spiritual warfare seminar in Sioux City, IA, March 4-6.

Dennis Hensley, associate professor of English, was a featured columnist for a five-part series in the online newspaper, The Aboite Independent. He wrote the words and music of “Jesus Is The Same,” on the Chapel Quartet’s latest CD, “He Said, ‘Live’.”

Prince of Denmark” at the 7th annual C.S. Lewis and the Inklings Conference at LeTourneau University April 1-3. Her paper, “The Enigmatic Veil: A Study of C.S. Lewis’ Till We Have Faces and Nathaniel Hawthorne’s The Minister’s Black Veil” will be released in The Lamp-Post: Journal of the Southern California C.S. Lewis Society this summer.

Rachel Kellogg, visiting professor of English, judged Allen and Whitley county high school senior students’ newspaper or yearbook work, in the News-Sentinel’s Sterling Sentinel program. The program recognizes achievements in 14 disciplines and awards scholarships for each category.

Bruce Pratt, associate professor of physical education and human performance, recently attended the state’s Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (IAPERD). Research he conducted for his doctorate, regarding work site health promotion, may be used to benefit Indiana public schools.

Sonja Strahm, assistant professor/director of the academic center for enrichment (ACE), was installed as vice-president of the National Association for Developmental Education (NADE) while attending the association’s conference in St. Louis in March. She has served with the organization for 12 years, served as president of the Indiana chapter, chair of national SPIN (Special Interest Groups) for private liberal arts colleges, and chair of national elections committee and presenter at both organizations. She directed all for One’s presentation of The Diary of Anne Frank, May 7-9. Sonja is deaconess for worship and expression at First Missionary Church.

Quinn White attended the Ohio State Literature conference in January, where he hosted Walter Wick, the creator of the “I Spy” books. He was also nominated for “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers.” He wrote an article for the Bookbird Journal, which will be published in the fall.

Pam Jordan, professor of English, presented “Reflections on Hamlet: MacDonald, Lewis, Chesterton, Barfield and Williams Criticism of Hamlet.”
Women’s Basketball

After a successful ’02-’03 season (26-4), the women’s basketball team was forced to rebuild due to a number of circumstances including: losing three starters from last season, competing against one of the toughest schedules in school history and adjusting to a new head coach.

Senior Katie Broecker shares, “I knew it was going to be a tough season from day one. As a senior, I had been through a lot with the program and thought that last year was the start of a new, winning era for TUFW’s women’s basketball. Then, this summer, I found out we were losing some of our key players and the coach that had worked so hard to build up the program. I knew that people were going to look to me for leadership and that meant I had to be optimistic about the situation.”

The team was lead by senior captains Katie Broecker, Milford, OH, and Amy Edmonds, Wawaka, IN. Sophomore Cyndi Lee, Defiance, OH, and Liz Garassi, Schenectady, NY, stepped up to contribute significant minutes at the guard spots during the season and sophomore Becca Eleiott, Naples, NY, and freshman Sarah Hodgin, Fort Wayne, IN, strengthened the team’s inside game.

Hodgin and Broecker both received USCAA Player of the Week honors during the season. Broecker also set several school records, including: most career points, most career rebounds, most career steals, most career assists and most games played.

Despite finishing with a losing record of 11-12, the Lady Falcons had a season of learning and growing.

“I decided that the only way I was going to be content was by leading this team as far as I could on the court, but also by stepping back and trying to teach my teammates what I had learned from my experience as a student-athlete. I learned that there is a lot more to basketball than the wins and losses. If the team is rooted in faith and fellowship and we can learn from each other and our experiences as a team, then no matter what our record ends up being, it will still have been worth our time,” Katie reflects.

Men’s Basketball

“This season was one of change and challenge,” said Bud Hamilton, men’s basketball coach.

The Falcons had high expectations at the start of the season, but a combination of circumstances began to weaken their successful start. The team continued to work hard and finished their season with an 11-13 record despite an ever-changing roster and a challenging schedule.

Some season highlights for Coach Hamilton include “beating teams such as Wright State and OSU-Lima, the second time around.”

Another highlight for Coach Hamilton was his surprise 60th birthday celebration which took place at halftime of the Moody Bible Institute game on January 24, 2004.

The celebration included Coach Hamilton’s family, former coach and former players, and also current colleagues and students. He was presented with 36 padded chairs with an inscription dedicated to him on each one, which will be used for varsity games at the Gerig Activities Center.

Sophomore Kevin Woods, Houston, TX, and junior Patrick Jessup, Fort Wayne, IN, both received USCAA Player of the Week honors during the season. Jessup also set the school record for most career three-pointers made.

In honor of his 60th birthday and in appreciation of his coaching and ministry careers, former players and former youth group members presented Bud Hamilton, athletic director and campus chaplain, with customized, padded chairs with the TUFW Falcon logo during halftime of the TUFW men’s basketball game, January 24. His former basketball players and youth group members contributed to the purchase of the chairs.

During the halftime presentation, some of his former players shared testimonies of how God used Bud to influence their lives.
Redemption on Calhoun cont from pg 15

All charges were later dismissed, and the theater continued to operate, showing the films until about 1988 when it closed for good.

Since then, its terra cotta facade and ornate interior have been allowed to decay.

But the Rialto's original and distinguishing dome ceiling remains intact. And while the building has suffered significant water damage, it remains structurally sound, according to 1996 engineering studies that estimated the cost of restoration at $1.2 million, Jacobson said.

Jacobson said the production team started hearing from people who had memories of seeing their favorite movies there.

And they began to see that the theater might, in fact, be a diamond in the rough, worthy of salvation beyond just a setting for their play.

Joining forces with others who had an interest in the Rialto or local theater in general, they formed a nonprofit organization and elected a six-member board of directors.

Christine Feay, for example, is a theater arts major at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. She was supposed to direct the original production of "Auditioning Jesus."

Bill Blevins, supervisor of driver operations at Fort Wayne Community Schools, lives in a historic home behind the theater and is restoring another in the neighborhood.

Incidentally, he and wife, Rose, were trying to acquire the Rialto themselves when they learned about The Reclamation Project.

With Jacobson serving as board president and his wife, Kristie, appointed executive director, they negotiated the purchase of the theater, an adjacent storefront and three vacant lots on Woodland Avenue that can be used for parking. The deal was completed with owner John Woznick on Oct. 29 for $160,000.

Kristie Jacobson has spent eight years as a grant writer with Project Mercy, an international refugee relief organization based in Fort Wayne.

Now, she'll focus on raising money for the Rialto through private donations, government grants and foundations. A documentary is being produced by former Fellowship Missionary technical director Jon Dunlap that could aid in the fundraising efforts.

The board has started interviewing eight architectural firms that have experience in restoration and historical preservation. By early next year, they hope to begin working with a chosen firm on schematic designs for the building. After that, the board should have a better idea of what can be accomplished.

Jacobson said the group's early vision is to turn it into a venue for lively theater, both sacred and secular, as well as a community center for cultural events.

Given the available classroom space upstairs, they foresee the possibility of opening it for English as a Second Language classes, GED programs, AIDS awareness groups or AA meetings.

There's even talk of converting the former Tobacco Road store next to the theater into a coffeehouse and eatery.

Steve Shine, an attorney and the local Republican Party chairman, applauds these efforts.

"It's a very positive step for south Fort Wayne and for the entire community," he said.

Shine speaks from experience. He and two partners, artist Joel Fremion and insurance executive Phil Terrell, formed Broadway Corridor LLC in 1997 to restore the old Indiana Theater - which had become the X-rated Cinema Blue - using $750,000 in private money.

It's now home to the upscale Catchblu restaurant.

Shine and Fremion also formed another company, F&S Development Corp., to make improvements to the southern stretch of Broadway.

Shine said the investments have enhanced the Broadway corridor, both aesthetically and economically.

And he believes a restored Rialto could have the same "domino effect" on the Calhoun Street area.

"Not only does the Rialto have a historical significance," he said, "but to enhance and renovate a building that has such stature on Calhoun Street will only add positive impact on the neighborhood itself."

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Photography courtesy of Nila Augustinyak.
Following the call

“When I plunged into a culture totally different from my own, I nearly drowned,” writes Mary Ellen Gudeman g64, about life as a missionary in Japan in her book Survival of the Unfit.

Prior to becoming a missionary, Mary Ellen’s career path seemed conventional enough. She attended a business college, taught Sunday school and forged a successful 17-year career as a secretary for a variety of well-known companies. But after attending a Christian leadership conference, she felt a calling to attend a Christian college. At 35 years of age and having recently battled cancer, Mary Ellen gave up her job and medical benefits to attend Fort Wayne Bible College.

Mary Ellen became challenged to consider foreign missions during a sophomore-year class, but she was concerned that no overseas board would accept someone who was older and a cancer survivor. She was wrong. She served in Japan for the next 26 years with The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM).

After a precarious overseas trip on the U.S.S. President Wilson, Mary Ellen arrived in Yokohama. She writes in her book: “It was to this land and to these people God had sent me—to a people so emotionally chilled and so in need of the message I had come to share.”

Today, in addition to being an author, Mary Ellen has a ministry among international students, and she volunteers in a local refugee outreach.
Alumni Bus Trip to Lancaster, PA

Join your Fort Wayne alumni and friends October 19-21, 2004, for a three-day motor coach tour to Lancaster, PA – the “Heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country.”

You will attend Sight & Sound Theatre’s presentation of “Noah the Musical” (pictured at left). Seen by over two million people, this is a story of a man who believed the unthinkable, and the world got a second chance.

Visit an actual size Hebrew Tabernacle, with its furnishings carefully designed from biblical descriptions as given to Moses and the Israelites.

“Bringing Love To Life – Mennonites On A Journey Of Peace” is an exhibit to experience at the Mennonite Information Center.

The film “Postcards From A Heritage Of Faith” is sure to give insight and answers to questions surrounding differences between the Mennonites and Amish.

For more information and pricing, please contact the alumni office at (260) 744-8790 or e-mail alumnifw@tayloru.edu.

1944

On February 10, Glendora (Holdeman) Miller g44 celebrated her 82nd birthday. She is thankful that she is in pretty good health. She continues to work as a part-time cook at Brenneman Day Care where she has served over 12 years.

Florence (Habegger) Tucker g44, celebrated her 85th birthday in January. She is an International Harvester retiree and attends Living Faith Missionary Church. She resides at River Terrace Estates, 100 Caylor Blvd, Apt. 106, Bluffton, IN 46714.

1949

On August 1, 2003, Mary (Jardine) Ipe g49 had triple bypass surgery and spent her 82nd birthday in Intensive Care. Her husband passed away March 15, 2002. She lives with her daughter at 9410 Atlas Dr, Saint Cloud, FL 34773.

Rev. Howard Dunlap g50 has retired from the pastorate. He continues to preach in various churches and do home missions presentations for the Missionary Alliance Southeast District. He and his wife, Ruth, reside at 4674 Merle Pl, Lake Worth, FL 33463.

Sarah (Brown) Mellott g50 continues to help at Woodland Bible Fellowship, a camp ministry in Alexandria, IN. Her prayer is for young people to be strong in the Lord and stand true to the Word.

1951

Don g51 and Rose (Dix) Nabinger fs50 arrived in Alaska 50 years ago this June. They began in village ministry on the Yukon River where transportation was by small plane or outboard motor and there was no electricity or running water. They direct a discipleship training center in Palmer, AK. Contact them at HC04, Box 9314B, Palmer, AK 99645.

Dolores (Bumb) Sousley fs51 suffered a mini-stroke in October but is praising the Lord for her good recovery. She and her husband, Rev. Wendell Sousley g51 thank all who have prayed for and encouraged them. Contact them at 4203 Big Cynthia Rd, Evansville, IN 47720.

1956

Chuck and Lois (Held) Forster g56 are retired missionaries with SIM who served in several African countries. They keep active with weekly nursing home and hospital visitation. They also minister to US Muslims via literature. They reside at SIM’s retirement village, 912 Andes Dr, Sebring, FL 33875.

1960

Rev. James Roussos g60, missionary to Cyprus, will be in the US on home ministry assignment, July through September. He asks for prayer for revival and assistance for the nationals while they are in the USA. James’ email is roussos@20-6.com.

1961

In June, Pat Hartung g61 will be home for a short furlough. She will return to the Philippines in the fall, where she will focus on the revision of the Ata Manobo dictionary, which contains about 3,500 entries. Her email is pat_hartung@sil.org.

1966

Barbara (Benedict) Hibschman fs66 is a contributing author to two recently released books: For Better; For Worse, Christian Publications, Inc. and Intimate Encounter With God, Honor
Books/Cook Communications. She spoke in the Philippines, April 28- May 2 at the 25th Anniversary Conference of the Alliance Women of the Philippines.

1967

John Habegger fs67 is an artist working in an abstract idiom and has worked in a variety of caregiving roles. He received his MA in counseling from Adams State College in Alamosa, CO. He and wife Sharon reside at 3025 S Webster St #2A, Denver, CO 80227; habeggerj@aol.com.

Phil g67 and Jan (Schumacher) Logan g68 completed work for the final revision of the Bible in the Kuranko language. Email them at phill46807@juno.com.

1968

Helen Inman g68 serves in the US headquarters of SIM. Email her at Helen.Inman@sim.org.

1969

Rev. Harold Gerig fs69 and his wife, Gloria, recently celebrated their 50th Anniversary. Harold is the founder and pastor of Love and Grace Fellowship.

Sherry (Myers Moser) Graber fs69 has served as administrative assistant to the president of Iowa Wesleyan College, Mt. Pleasant, IA, since June 1, 2003. Email her at sgraber@iwc.edu.

1970

Mabel Bahler g70 serves with International Friendships, Inc. She is recovering from a severe heart valve infection, stroke and open-heart surgery which developed last July. She is in therapy and praises God for His healing and asks for prayer for continued healing. Email her at mbahler@juno.com.

1972

Martha Buss g72 is in the USA. Please pray for God's direction regarding ministry changes in the near future. Contact her at mebuss@tusco.net.

Rick Haberkamp g72 and his wife, Monica, live in Chad, Africa. They ask for prayer that God would provide foreign and Chadian missionaries in reaching the Kanembou people. View their webpage www.redeemer-church.org/kamp.htm; contact them at haberk5@yahoo.com.

Cheri (Bruner) Armstrong g73 recently assumed responsibilities as World Outreach Operations Manager at Youth for Christ. She and her husband, Richard g70, reside at 4311 S. Evanston Ct., Aurora, CO 80015; dickcheri@aol.com.

Ron Eade g74 is senior pastor of the Church of Genesis and a volunteer police chaplain in New Castle, PA. His wife, Pam (Lantz) fs73, is a case manager for an insurance brokerage firm. Their email is eade4@zoominternet.net.

Janet Nickel g74 closed the work of the World Partners Refugee Team in Guinea in December; she will be home for nine months. Pray for God's direction for her future ministry. Contact her at 445 W Sherwood Terr., Fort Wayne, IN 46807.

Wayne Allen g75 serves as regional director for Asia with World Partners. He serves as liaison between field personnel and administrative staff. From November 2003 through February 2004, he visited every Asian field and met with each member of the various teams to connect, communicate and encourage. He is thankful for all who pray and provide financial support. His new email address is waynewallen2@aol.com.

1978

Mark Krueger g78 and his wife, Dee, will return to the US in June for a year of home assignment. Mark officially completed his requirements for the final level of the Pular language. Pray for their preparation to work in Guinea. Email them at timbifolks@speedymail.org.

Carole (Guhas) Harrigan g79 works as a surgical RN at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne, IN. She has three children, Ben (21), Mike (20) and Jessica (18). Contact her at Country Court Estates, 10744 US 27 S., Lot 227, Fort Wayne, IN 46816.

Craig Nayrocker g79 has been employed at Teachers Credit Union since 1981. His wife, Deborah (Ross) fs79, owns Sensational Strategies for Reading, a tutoring clinic. Email him at cnayrocker@maplenet.net; email her at dhnayrocker@maplenet.net.

Randy g80 and Carolyn (Kauffman) Fudge fs80 are missionaries with World Partners in Dublin, Ireland. They previously served in West Africa for eight years. Email them at fudgerc@eircom.net.

Phonathon 2004 Our Cup Overflows!

Thank you Alumni! Because of you, Phonathon again exceeded this year's goal (which was $61,000). Gifts and pledges total over $68,000!

Phonathon 2004 pledges are encouraged to be paid by May 31, 2004.
1981

Email correction for Stephen Davis g81: smikedavis@hotmail.com.

Don g81 and Rachel (Weber) Kramer g79 returned to Taiwan where they assist with church planting in Tu Cheng. Don serves as short-term ministries coordinator. Rachel continues as language supervisor for missionary language learners. Email them at donrachtaisn@yahoo.com.

1984

Jeff g84 and Jean (Ayabe) Gerig g84 started the process of adopting a little girl from China in May 2002. The process concluded in December 2003. Their new daughter, Jenna, experienced her first Christmas and first birthday (January 3) with Jeff and Jean. Contact Jeff at jeffg@who.rr.com; Jean at jeang@who.rr.com

1985

Don g85 and Marla (Murray) Bettinger g84 are OMS International missionaries to Taiwan. They returned to the country in June in time for involvement in children's summer camps, Sunday Night Alive program and preparation for the fall semester of classes. Don continues his study of Taiwanese and Marla is learning a third language. Email them at bettinger@omsinternational.org. Dr. Michael Cadrette g85 graduated in December with a doctor of ministry degree from the Reformed Theological Seminary (Orlando campus). He pastors Crossroads Community Church in St. Clair, MI. Contact him at starplant@crossroadscomm.com. Email his wife, Sharon (Wilson) g85, at thewife25@comcast.net.

Jim Hughes g85 is office operations director/camp ministry director for Missionary Athletes International, a non-profit, inter-denominational mission agency, ministering Jesus to all cultures through soccer. Please pray with them regarding new international possibilities while all present ministries continue. Email him at j Hughes@charlotteagles.com. This past fall, Cindy (Sauder) Kimm g85 was elected to the Leo-Cedarville Town Council for a four-year term (2004-2007). Email her at bckimm@netzero.net.

After 19 years of student ministry and staff leadership with the Northeast Indiana Youth for Christ, Bob Krafft g85, accepted a position as executive director of the Kruse Foundation and its museums: the WWII Victory Museum and the Classic Car Museum.

1986

Brad Ball g86 and his wife, Dee, serve with Cadence International. They will direct the center in Fort Drum, NY, for a few months; they may return to Asia in the future. Pray for Brad's health. Email them at braddee279@yahoo.com.

Joseph Butora g86 works for East Allen County Schools as an interpreter. His wife, Lori (Wyatt) g87, teaches at Wee Care Day Care. Email them at jbutora@peoplepc.com.

Marilyn Millar g86 works at UPMC Passavant Hospital in the food service department. She lives in Pittsburgh, PA, and attends Cornerstone Christian Community Church.

1987

Michael Needham g87 requests prayer regarding many physical trials he is experiencing, especially a tumor behind one of his eyes. Contact him at 408 W Main Apt 8, Wabash, IN 46992.

Rev. John Richardson g87 is senior pastor of Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church, St. Louis, MO. He received a 2003 National Clergy Renewal Grant for his sabbatical in 2004. The highlight for this three-month period will be a 28-day trip, with his family, to England and Scotland where he will research and write. He, his wife, Sarah (Badgerow) g86, and family reside at 1028 Couch Ave, Kirkwood, MO 63122; johnr@screenoor.net.

1988

Graham West g88, director of international tours, global department, Missionary Athletes International, will travel to India and Thailand to coordinate ministry partnerships. Email him at gwest@charlotteagles.com.

GIFT initiative

The Get Involved For Taylor (GIFT) initiative has been extremely successful thanks to a generous matching grant from The Lilly Endowment, Inc. Taylor met and exceeded the $3.5 million match within the 18 month goal and alumni participation jumped to 40%.
1991

Grace Blodgett fs91 works as Sidewalk Sunday school pastor for Metro Ministries in Brooklyn, NY.

Mark and Lisa (Johnson) Howe g91 wed March 20. The Howes live at 116 E Diamond St, Kendallville, IN 46755.

Nick g91 and Alane (Heindel) Johnson g89 served 700 Christian international students from over 90 countries at Urbana in December. In February, Nick worked with staff at InterVarsity's annual Summit Conferences. Their weekly Global Christian Fellowship meetings continue to attract sizeable numbers of international students. The IPFW undergrad chapter will have special evangelistic outreaches in April. Email them at nickalane@aol.com.

1993

Tim Fisher g93, his wife, Albina, and their son, Sasha (8), welcomed Lydia into their family. She was born November 23. Tim works as a security supervisor for Anglo-American School in Moscow. His email is growingcloser@hotmail.com.

Cheri Patton g93 teaches second grade at Lakewood Park Christian School and leads the youth at her church. Contact her at 720 E. 7th St, Auburn, IN 46706.

Todd and Tammy (Kelsey) Wilson g93 returned to the US in January. They travel with a Ukrainian friend and speak in several churches. They will return to the Ukraine in June. Email them at theretodd@yahoo.com.

1994

David "DJ" Bidle fs94 works for the Centennial Wireless Call Center in Fort Wayne. Contact him at dbiddle96@mchsi.com. Contact his wife, Laura (Meinert) g96, at lamb96@mchsi.com.

Scott and Janet (Wilson) Roth g94 and son, Alex, welcomed Timothy Steven to their family. He was born on December 17, 2003. They live at 2919 Happy Valley Cir, Newman, GA 30263; rosebud572@yahoo.com.

1995

Tim Claassen g95 is pursuing a doctorate of ministries. Contact him at 19136 Wyant-Walnut Rd, Princeton, IL 61356; pastortclaassen@viafamily.com.

Steven and Sarah (Mathew) Curry g95 and daughter, Olivia (1½), announce the birth of Simeon Paul, born March 22. The family lives at 32012 Cheboygan Ct, Westland, MI 48186; thesscurry@provide.net.

Ralph Klinker g95 will retire from the pastorate. Reach him at 12830 Lago Vista Ct., Monroeville, IN 46773.

1997

Terry Courtright g97 is the senior pastor of a multi-racial/multi-cultural inner city church, the East Denver Church of God. His daughter, Terra, is a freshman at Taylor's Upland campus. Terry and his wife, Phyllis, former admissions receptionist, reside at 6810 W 84th Cir #50, Arvada, CO 80003; tec53@aol.com.

Randy and Lorena (Brothers) Forbes g97 and son, Ethan, welcomed Elise Eileen to their family. She was born December 23. Email Lorena at lebordes@insightbb.com.

John and Jacy (Gallalee) Hildreth g97 were married on February 15. TUFW graduates, Sarah (Burke) DiGangi g98, Sarah (Burke) Hughey g98, and Bonnie Spallinger g98 were participants in their wedding. John and Jacy live in Silver Spring, MD. Jacy is program director for Threshold Services and John is a legislative assistant in the House of Representatives. Email Jacy at jgallalee@hotmail.com.

Chris and Katie (Somaini) Noser fs97 announce the birth of Ethan, born January 2. Sisters Kirstin (6) and Riley (1) also welcomed him into their home. Katie teaches at West...
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fw.taylor.edu/alumni

Noble Middle School. Email them at cknoser@yahoo.com.

Renaé (Arnett) Schaller g97 is case manager for Northeastern Center in Kendallville. Contact her at 7217 Lismore Ln, Fort Wayne, IN 46835; raeschaller@aol.com.

1998

Melissa Ayers g98 is assistant branch manager at Main Source Bank, Cambridge City, IN. Email her at mayers@mainsourcebank.com.

Adam g98 and Amanda (Balk) Carrigan were married on July 5, 2003. Adam is associate pastor of evangelism and discipleship at Community Church of Columbus. Their address is 3144 Wedgewood, Columbus, IN 47203; adam@cccolumbus.org.

John Perkey g98 is pastor of Champion Baptist Church. He and his wife, Brenda, and family reside at 566 Center St W, Warren, OH 44481; pjsyt@yahoo.com.

Jason and Melissa (Smead) Hudson g98 and daughter, Chloe (2), welcomed Claire Elizabeth, born August 1, 2003. Email them at hudsonjtmk@mchsi.com.

1999

Email correction for David g99 and Natalie (Baughman) Whan g02: dnowhan@kennett.net and dave@chitv.org.

2000

Jason Burnett g00 will begin his masters degree program in August at Ball State. Contact him at 4030 Arlington Ave, Fort Wayne, IN 46807; aminstrel@hotmail.com.

Eric Dunaway fs00 is youth pastor at New Community Church. He and his wife, Amanda (Chapman) g99, and daughters, Breanna and Sophia, are settling into their new home at 306 N Spruce, St. Marys, OH 45885; thedunaways@hotmail.com.

Duane and Christina (Beckwith) Falk g00 and son, Samuel have begun a
three year assignment in Brazil. They are studying the language in Recife for three months, then will move to Jatauba, in the country’s interior. Email them at falkfam@hotmail.com.

Rick g00 and Niki Henderson were married on July 4, 2003. Email them at rickbf@hotmail.com.

Keith and Taryn (Roynon) Myers g00 are happy parents of Gideon James, born November 17. Contact them at 608 W Barre, Archbold, OH 43502; keithtaryn@adelphia.net.

Mason Shewman fs00 is a freelance web designer and attends IPUI school of news media. His wife, Teresa (Pancake) g00 is project coordinator with Borshoff, Johnson, Matthews, a company that provides public relations and marketing communications services. She is also earning her masters degree in public relations at Ball State University. Email them at receppancake@hotmail.com.

Allen cs and Erin (Yazel) Wagler g00 were married March 6. Erin is a consultant for Mission Enablers and adjunct faculty in communications and theatre arts at TUFW. Allen is interim pastor at Riverhaven Church of the Nazarene. Contact them at 4276 Fenwick Dr, New Haven, IN 46774; allenanderin2004@aol.com.

2001

Rod and Darcy (Eastlund) Clawson g01, son, Jordan, and daughter, Anna, welcomed Abigail Lynn, born May 19, 2003. Contact them at 1093 Willoughby Ln, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466; rwclawson@att.net.

Natalie Grillo g01 led a team of seven to Thailand with Kingdom Building Ministries’ Laborers Institute last summer. They partnered with Youth with a Mission (YWAM) and worked with Compassion International children, teaching English and sharing the gospel. Contact her at PO Box 441021, Aurora, CO 80044; njg2979@hotmail.com.

Matthew and Abi (Raedeke) Lynch g01 are in Vancouver, BC, Canada, for three years, while Matt pursues his master’s degree in Christian studies and theology in OT Studies. They are apartment managers but hope to serve internationally after graduation. Email them at mabilynch@hotmail.com.

Sharon Ridenour g01 continues to gain fluency in Russian as she converses and helps people in the bookstore. She will be in the US, June through September. Email her at ridenour@galacticomm.org.

Kelley Sewell g01 was ordained as a Southern Baptist Minister in February. He is youth pastor for Calvary Baptist Church and is campus life director at Northrop High School. Email him at pastorkd24sewell@hotmail.com.

2002

Terrance Bridges g02 recorded a CD entitled “The Worshippers Heart.” He wrote eight of the 10 songs and co-wrote a ninth. Terrance is a member of the ministerial staff at Union Missionary Baptist Church in Muncie and founder/chief executive officer of Kingdom Force Ministries, a missions outreach. He is preparing for a second crusade to Jamaica this summer. Contact him at professortab@msn.com.

On December 19, 2003, Mark fs02 and Greta (Anspach) Ehlers g03 adopted twin girls, Yabera Salome and Hasya Mehret, born May 31, 2003, from Ethiopia through Project Mercy. Contact them at 1236 W Branning Ave, Fort Wayne, IN 46807; mark_n_greta@hotmail.com.

2003

Amy Boyer fs03 works at Summit Plastic Surgery. She is a nursing major at IPFW. Contact her at 5922 Allendale Dr, Fort Wayne, IN 46809.

Dawn Chapin g03 works for Big Brothers/Big Sisters as a customer relations specialist. Email her at dawnjchapin@yahoo.com.

Erica (Williams) Hanson g03 is a reporter/layout editor for The Newsleader/Von Meyer Publishing, Inc. in Minnesota. Email her at butterflygrrl 2336@aol.com.

Nick g03 and Natasha (Fast) Hayden cs wed January 10. TUFW participants were David Miller fs03, Thomas Walcott g03, Anna Lia Angell cs, Aaron Brosman cs and Laureen (Mutzer) Wulp cs. The Fasts reside at 616 Garden St, Kendallville, IN 46755.

Tauna Herrell fs03 is grant-writer/program manager at J. Ashburn, Jr. Youth Center in Columbus, OH. Email her at taunaboo@hotmail.com.

Lend a Hand

The Good Samaritan cared for the wounded traveler who was beaten up along the road side by robbers (Luke 10). Observing the Good Samaritan’s attitude and kindness toward a stranger in need, Jesus instructed the onlookers to “go and do likewise.” Together we have the opportunity “do likewise” in caring for precious babies in the WBCL listening area. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus to the mothers of these babies. WBCL collected new items: infant clothing, sizes newborn to 2 toddler, receiving blankets, diapers sizes 3-6, onesies and socks.

In May, WBCL collected items for three pregnancy care centers throughout the local listening area: A Hope Center at Prime Time in Fort Wayne, Community Pregnancy Centers of Northwest Ohio in Bryan, OH and Heartbeat of Lima in Lima, OH.

This is a small way to make a big difference in the lives of many women and their babies.

For more information, please call 260.745.0576 or visit WBCL’s website at www.wbcl.org
Brant Mendenhall g03 married Angela Kneifel December 19, 2003. Brant is a caseworker at Madison Center. Contact them at 1809 Chicago St Apt 96, Valparaiso, IN 46383; brant_mendenhall@yahoo.com.

**IN MEMORY**

Mildred (Eicher) Gergic28, wife of former Fort Wayne Bible College president and chancellor, Dr. Jared Gergic g29, passed away December 16, following a week-long battle with pneumonia. She was the daughter of missionary parents, Peter (“Uncle Pete”) and Mary Eicher. She married Jared Gergic on her 21st birthday. They were blessed with three children (Dr. Wes g51, Bill and Gwen) and enjoyed nearly 74 years of marriage and service together before her husband preceded her in death, July 26, 2002. She was a devoted wife and mother with a special gift of gracious hospitality for all who entered her home. Whatever she was called upon to do, she did it with grace and excellence, whether as pastor’s wife or as “first lady” of the Missionary Church denomination and of FWBC, when her husband served as president.


September 1, 2002, the Wakarusa Missionary Church honored Rev. Willis Woods for his 65 years of ministry as a pastor.

Juanita (McCaulay) Vanderwall fs38 passed away in Lynden, Washington on October 5, 2003. She is survived by two sons and a daughter.

Elsie (Uberschwar) Roe g41 passed away in Traverse City, Michigan on October 17, 2003. She is survived by two sons and a daughter.

Ila (Crow) Nantz g45 went to be with the Lord on February 23. While a student at FWBC, she and her sister, Coyla g45, joined sisters, Daisy and Eula Wise, to form the Wise Crow Quartet. They had an effective ministry singing in churches, revivals, camp meetings and Youth for Christ rallies. After graduation, they took part in the radio ministry, Your Worship Hour. Ila married Rev. Wayne Judd g42. They served as missionaries in the Dominican Republic until his death in a plane crash in 1954. Ila then served with Child Evangelism in Fort Wayne. She married Rev. George Nantz g55 in 1961. They served in several districts of the Missionary Church. She survives, along with three daughters: Mrs. Suzanne Flemming, Mrs. Cindy (Nantz) Isnoe g84 and Mrs. Lisa (Nantz) Crawford fs83, as well as 12 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

David Craig fs50 entered heaven on January 12, 2004. David was involved with the music ministry and teaching at church. He was also Sunday school superintendent. He was retired from Whirlpool Corp. after 35 years of service. His wife, Eloise (Dawson) Craig g50; two sons and six daughters survive him. Eloise’s address is 247 Arana Dr, Martinez, CA 94553.

Rev. Harland Friend g51 was received into heaven on January 12, 2004. He pastored churches in Prattville, MI, Macungie, PA, Koloa, HI and Cleveland, OH. He was also administrator of nursing homes in New Carlisle, Pandora and Holgate, OH. His wife of 64 years, Bertha; son and two daughters, five grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; brother and sister-in-law, survive him.

Rev. Gordon Schwab g51 entered his heavenly home on January 7. He ministered in various Missionary Churches in KS, IL, MI and OH. He was a Navy veteran serving from May 1944 to May 1946. He served his family, church, country and Savior with joy and humility. His wife, Thelma (Schmidt) g47; three daughters, a brother, a sister, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren survive him. Thelma’s address is 3476 Providence Cir, Lima, OH 45801.

Rev. John Warren g54 entered heaven on April 12, 2003. He was a retired pastor. His wife, Hazel, and two sons survive him.

Gaye (Anderson) McMichael g78 went to her heavenly home on December 13, 2003. After graduating with a degree in music education, she wrote music and led worship and drama in the churches where she and her husband served at Wheaton, Santa Barbara (CA), and the Atlanta area. She taught for the Master’s Academy of Fine Arts in Atlanta and served as a certified professional midwife for several years. She is survived by her husband, Kelly g76, and four children. Kelly continues to serve as associate dean at Beulah Heights Bible College in Atlanta. His email is

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**Recognition Gifts**

Taylor University is grateful for the gifts which are given and specifically designated “in honor of” or “in memory of” loved ones, family members, friends, faculty members, classmates or those who in some way, have left an indelible impression on the donors.

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