

Grace Notes



August 3, 2016 Volume 16-16

Church Phone: (816) 452-0212

www.grace4u.net

e-mail: beth@grace4u.net

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:15 a.m.

Karen Worship 2:00 p.m.

**“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”
Ephesians 2:8 NRSV**

Since 2009, millions of children around the world have received shoeboxes from **Operation Christmas Child** and felt the love of God through that gift. Each shoebox is an opportunity to share God’s love and his gospel so these are really ‘opportunity boxes’. Lives are being changed for eternity and new churches are springing up around the world but many more children need to be reached with the truth of God’s word. Here is a brief glimpse into what the boxes we pack can mean in the life of the children that receive them.

Livia received her shoebox in a Romanian orphanage when she was 12.

All my life I really wanted hairclips, but growing up in an orphanage where we had very little, I could never get them. But I really, really wanted hairclips. Then Operation Christmas Child came and there it was—a big packet of hairclips sitting at the very top of my shoebox! I couldn’t believe my eyes. I thought, ‘How can someone give me something that I’ve wanted for so many years?’ Someone far away decided to pack it up, never knowing that it would be somebody’s dream come true. I took the packet out. I tore it open and tried to put every single one of them in my hair. And I did! When I got the hairclips I just couldn’t believe how God could make something like that possible. It made me realize that there is a God who loves me.

Timur received a shoebox at an orphanage in Central Asia at age 13.

When the local Christians came into the orphanage with the shoeboxes, I thought, ‘What is that?’ I’d never received a gift. They started passing out shoeboxes and we were so excited! I started ripping open my box and then my eyes grew wide. The first thing I saw was toothpaste. I saw the word Crest and thought it said Christ so I thought, Oh! Christian toothpaste! I was so excited I ran around the orphanage saying, “Christian toothpaste! Christian toothpaste!”

In Central Asia they had this boring white toothpaste made by the Soviets. It didn’t taste very good so I wanted to check out the white, blue, and red American toothpaste. I found a toothbrush in my box, put the toothpaste on it, and started brushing. I thought, Oh, I have a birthday party in my mouth! You guys make awesome toothpaste! So I celebrated by eating it and got sick the next day. My other favorite was white socks, because in the orphanage you got bad quality socks that would always stink and have holes in them. When I received good quality socks I thought, Wow! They’ll last me so long and they smell good. I really, really liked those socks. Through the shoebox I felt loved. Someone took the time to put in those items that became my favorites. I wondered a lot how Christians who didn’t know me were willing to give me a gift.

Alina received a shoebox at age 5 in a Central Asian country.

It seemed impossible for someone overseas, for someone I didn’t know, to send me a gift for Christmas. I carefully undid the tape and unwrapped it. What caught my eye were a pair of plastic princess shoes. Those shoes were like nothing I had ever seen. They were pink, and I loved the color pink. I got so excited when I put on those shoes. They were too big, but I still wore them. I tried to wear them as much as I could. I showed them to everyone. As I looked closer through my shoebox, I found a photograph of a little girl the same age as me. She was wearing a tiara that matched the shoes I received. Her gift to me became so personal—I felt like I connected with her.

(Continued on Page 4)

	Current	Missions	Cap. Imp	Total
Budget	2,309.68	269.24	288.46	2,867.38
07/24/16	1,560.60	183.60	91.80	1,836.00
07/31/16	3,020.90	355.40	177.70	3,554.00

ATTENDANCE				
	S.S.	SUNDAY SERVANTS	WORSHIP	
07/24/16	26	4	44	English
07/24/16	-	-	-	Karen
Total	26	4	44	
07/24/16	31	0	57	English
07/31/16	-	-	-	Karen
Total	31	0	57	

Openers/ Closers	August 7 Ed & Barb Lusk	August 14 Nancy Ashworth
Greeters	August 7 Ed & Barb Lusk	August 14 Kathy Hodge & Anita Parkins
Visitors	August 7 Dave & Roxie Jones	August 14 John & Nancy Ashworth
Cleaners	August 7 Karen	August 14 John & Nancy Ashworth



PRAYER CONCERNS

HEALTH

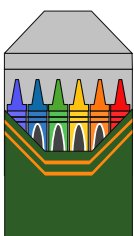
- Nancy A.
- Mildred B.
- Cindy
- Randi C. (Amber S. Friend)
- Bev D. (Barb L. Friend)
- Mike D. (Michelle H. B-in-Law)
- Debbie
- Troy D.
- Peggy D. Brother-in-Law
- Charlotte H.
- Howard (John A. Friend)
- Vic H. (Vangie W. Brother)
- Sam & Margie H.

- Roxie J. Mother
- Landon
- Eloise Mills
- Darlene M. Family (Ed L. Sister)
- Terry O.
- Rita
- Linda S.
- Sam & Ruth S.
- Ron S.
- Carol Ann S.
- Ruth S.
- Sylvia
- Wanda

OTHER

- ABW
- American Voters
- Bethel Building Renovations
- Children's Sunday School
- Christian University in NE India
- 2 Day Care Families (Bereavement)
- Donna (Personal)
- Katilyn D. (Personal)
- Family Promise & Families
- Mike & Carl G. (Personal)
- National Conflicts
- National Leaders

- Nominating Committee
- New Church Members
- Olympics
- Our School Systems
- Search Committee
- Troy (Personal/Jean T. Brother)
- World Conflicts
- Youth Fast (July 20)
- Our Missionaries-Baits-Buttry-Longkumer-Ngwemi



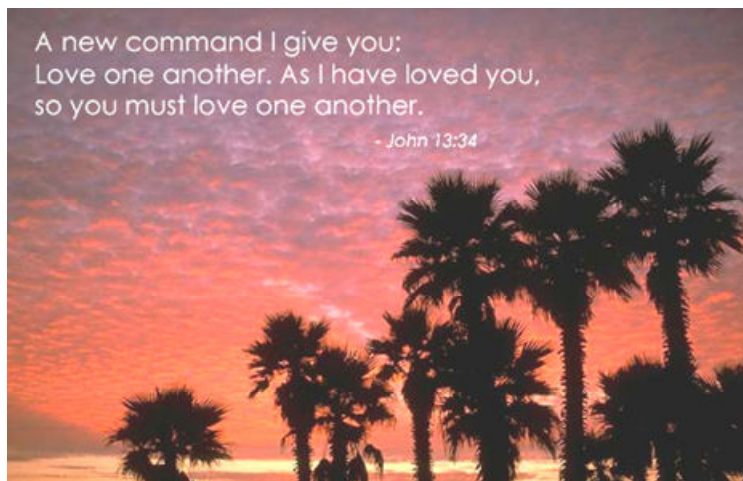
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD ITEMS FOR AUGUST: School supplies like pencils, pens, crayons, pencil sharpeners, erasers, pads of paper (remember the size of the shoe boxes, please).



We have been receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering during July (you still have time to give!). Like Ruth and

Naomi, refugees today are confronted with dire situations in their homes, and are forced by the necessity of survival to leave behind their communities in order to seek safety and security. Currently, the United Nations estimates over 60 million of our brothers and sisters across the world are refugees or displaced persons. The number is higher than it has been since World War II, and is expected to increase as violence continues in the Middle East and parts of Africa. Through OGHS we embrace refugees around the world as our own. Prayerfully consider YOUR gift to this offering.

Our Goal: \$1,000.00
Received to Date: \$828.00





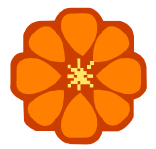
One Year Remains Until 2017 Biennial Mission Summit!

Join us at the Biennial Mission Summit, June 30 - July 2, 2017, in Portland, Oregon! Experience a gathering of American Baptists like no other as our diverse family joins together for faith-stretching worship, Mission Summit Conversations, preaching and fellowship. Learn how American Baptists have been transformed by the Spirit as we listen to the Spirit's direction in our lives and communities, and learn more about our seven denominational priorities and how you and your church can get involved!

Visit the Biennial Mission Summit website at
www.americanbaptists2017.com.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AUGUST			3 9:00a Prayer Circle 12:45p Day Care Staff Meeting	4 7p Diaconate	5 6p Carpet Cleaning	6 3:00-5:00p Karen Youth
7 Communion 9:00a S.S. 10:15a Worship/ Dave Davis 2:00p Karen Worship	8	9 Secretary Off 6:30p Search Committee 7p Priscilla Circle	10 9:00a Prayer Circle	11	12	13 Youth Fast 3:00-5:00p Karen Youth
14 9:00a S.S. 10:15a Worship 2:00p Karen Worship	15 Noon Grace Notes Deadline	16 Secretary Off 8:30a Clothes Closet 6:30p Search Committee	17 9:00a Prayer Circle	18	19	20 3:00-5:00p Karen Youth
21 9:00a S.S. 10:15a Worship 2:00p Karen Worship	22 Secretary Vacation	23 Secretary Off 9:30a DorSew 6:30p Search Committee	24 9:00a Prayer Circle	25	26	27 3:00-5:00p Karen Youth
28 9:00a S.S. 10:15a Worship ABW Board Meeting 2:00p Karen Worship	29 Noon Grace Notes Deadline	30 Secretary Off 6:30p Search Committee	31 9:00a Prayer Circle 5:30p Dinner 6:15p Bible Study	ABW BIBLE BOOK Deuteronomy	FOOD PANTRY: Canned Tuna or Chicken	

Thank
You!



Dear Church Family:
I want to thank everyone for all their support this past year. A special thanks to Mike and Marylou!
Thanks to everyone for their greetings in recognition of my 96th birthday! I appreciate it all so much.

- Ethlyn

(Christmas Child Continued from Page 1)

Before I received the shoebox, I was really discouraged because of the way I was treated for my faith in Jesus. I remember that so vividly. At that moment I couldn't help but wonder, "Where is He? Why is He allowing this to happen?" It felt like God was very distant, very far away from me. The shoebox was a representation of His love to a five-year-old girl. I no longer felt like Jesus had abandoned me. The box was an act of kindness that represented hope, comfort, and the fact that God is watching over me. My perception of God changed. He became a personal Father to me.

To this day, 13 years later, I still remember what it was like to receive a shoebox. In that moment it felt like God was there giving that gift to me. These boxes change lives. I'm just one of many whom God has drawn closer to Himself through a shoebox gift.

Please check out the Operation Christmas Child website to read more of the stories and remember to bring your monthly donations for the packing party this Fall!

- Sandi McKee

*Forget the
former things,
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing **a new thing!**
Now it springs up,
do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the desert
and streams in the wasteland.
Isaiah 43:18-19*

**The American Baptist Churches of the
GREAT RIVERS REGION
49th Annual Assembly
Effingham, IL
September 23-24, 2016
Thelma Keller Convention Center
at the Holiday Inn
1202 N. Keller Drive, Effingham, IL 62401**

**God's
New
Thing**

Lodging Reservations

Make sure you use the following Block Code ABC to receive the discounted rate \$99.00

Hotel reservation deadline is August 31, 2016 (To make reservations you may call the hotel direct 217.540.7777 or IHG Reservations 888.338.1019)

SCHEDULE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2016

Registration 11:00 a.m.
Ministers & Spouses Luncheon 12:00 p.m. with Bill Shiell
Opening Session...God's New Thing 2:00 pm. with Paul Gibson and Danny Mullins
Missions Banquet 5:00 p.m. with Sharon Koh and Joyce Reed
Worship 7:15 p.m. with Danny Mullins and Sharon Koh
Special Reception for Sharon Koh 9:00 p.m.

SCHEDULE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

Breakfast 7:30 a.m.
AB MEN – AB WOMEN – AME
with David Reed – Joyce Reed – Paul Maitland
Workshops 9:15 a.m. will be announced at the Annual Assembly
Closing Worship 10:30 a.m. with Danny Mullins and Sharon Koh

Registration Forms available in the Church Office