10 A Vision for the City
Many Cedarville graduates have chosen urban-based missions as their life’s work. Meet five alumni who call Chicago’s inner city home.

14 Finding a Forever Family
Becky Combs ’95 seeks to change the lives of children in foster care, and she finds her own life transformed in the process.

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Amy Allen ’87 gives a voice to victims of human trafficking and child exploitation in her own community and around the world.

22 The Badge of Integrity
Law enforcement officers respond to a high calling — and it’s even greater for followers of Christ.
“When we seek for connection, we restore the world to wholeness. Our seemingly separate lives become meaningful as we discover how truly necessary we are to each other.”

—Margaret Wheatley
Running for Freedom

Twenty-seven million: the number of people enslaved in the world today. One particularly sobering group represented in that number are those held in the bondage of sex trafficking. On March 27, Cedarville students gave these victims a voice.

Members of Cedarville’s collegiate chapter of International Justice Mission (IJM) organized the Possible Impossibilities 10K to raise funding and awareness. IJM is a human rights organization that secures justice for victims of slavery, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and other forms of violent oppression.

On race morning, nearly 600 participants arrived, ready to run for freedom. Runners from the local community, area colleges, and even other states joined hundreds of Cedarville students. Dr. Bill Brown, University president, and Bob Rohm ’68, vice president for Christian ministries, participated in the race, along with many faculty and staff members.

The event raised more than $22,000 for Gracehaven, a safe house in Columbus, Ohio, that provides rehabilitation and shelter for girls under the age of 18 who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation. The only faith-based organization of its kind in Ohio, Gracehaven provides its residents with education, mentoring, counseling, job training, and the opportunity to hear about the hope found in Christ. The money raised through the 10K will be used to install a sprinkler system at Gracehaven as part of its home-renovation project.

Choosing a 10K as the format for this fundraiser was a strategic choice on the part of Cedarville’s IJM chapter. Reaching a goal — whether training for a race or overcoming oppression — requires perseverance, hard work, discipline, and community support. On a very basic level, the race allowed participants, in a sense, to walk in the shoes of trafficked girls. Jen Mukes ’10, event organizer, hoped the 10K would help participants develop greater sympathy toward those desperate to overcome their frightening circumstances.

Following the event, Cedarville’s IJM chapter received a letter from the Ohio Senate commending them for organizing the race. “It was encouraging to see that Cedarville students were so supportive of a student-led project,” shared Jen, “and were willing to raise awareness on issues that are so close to the heart of God.”

“The race allowed participants, in a sense, to walk in the shoes of trafficked girls.”
Stream of Influence

When you add 3,000 people and more than 30 buildings to a campus, you’re bound to notice some changes, not the least of which is the effect on the environment. Having more facilities increases the volume of water runoff from sidewalks, buildings, and parking lots, and a larger campus population increases the demand for clean water.

Students and faculty are beginning to reduce Cedarville’s environmental “footprint” by stewarding God’s creation. Since 2000, Dr. John Silvius, senior professor of biology, and his students have been restoring a former agricultural field on campus to a prairie. The tall prairie grasses trap carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and allow storm water runoff to soak into the soil, recharging the campus’ groundwater supply.

Like prairies, wetlands trap water and protect streams from being polluted by excess nutrients. Thus in 2006, Dr. Silvius began restoring the Cedar Creek Wetland on campus. Working as a sponge, it reduces the flow of storm water while trapping lawn fertilizer runoff. Otherwise, this water will disrupt ecosystems downstream on its way to the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and the Gulf of Mexico. The wetland supports a flourishing local plant and animal community that includes songbirds, wildflowers, and the Great Blue Heron.

Anton Kilburn ’09, one of Dr. Silvius’ former students, decided to take the project a step further by educating the local community. He developed a brochure that leads visitors on a walking tour along stations that highlight aspects of the wetland. “We wanted to explain why we were involved with this project,” Anton said. “Educating others about God’s creation will, I hope, motivate them to be better stewards of it.”

The hikers learn how the wetland improves water quality and how caring for creation promotes healthy habitats. The wetland and the walking tour exemplify Cedarville’s commitment to environmental responsibility and God-honoring stewardship.

chapel report


Some things never change. Meet a few of the guests who spoke in chapel during the past few months. Listen to archived chapel broadcasts at www.ThePath.fm/chapel.

Scott Lehr ’00 (March 9–10)
Lead Pastor of Southbridge Fellowship, Raleigh, North Carolina
www.southbridgefellowship.com

Jerry Bridges (March 11)
Author, Speaker, and Staff Member with The Navigators
www.navigators.org

Marilyn Laszlo (March 16–17)
Founder of Laszlo Mission League
www.laszlomissionleague.com

Deforia Lane (March 30)
University Trustee and Director of Music Therapy at University Hospitals Ireland Cancer Center, Cleveland, Ohio
www.uhhospitals.org

Jason Nightingale (March 31–April 1)
President of Wordsower International
www.wordsower.org

John Tolson (April 7)
Founder and Chairman of the Tolson Group and Chaplain for the Dallas Cowboys
www.tolsongroup.com

John Hays (April 14)
University Trustee and Senior Pastor of Jersey Baptist Church, Pataskala, Ohio
www.jerseychurch.org
Honoring Our Athletes of the Year

At the annual Honors and Appreciation Banquet for Cedarville athletes, distance runner Lydia Wong ’10 and basketball player Ricardo Alliman ’10 were honored as the 2009–10 Yellow Jacket Athletes of the Year.

Lydia Wong, a senior from Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, was a four-year member of the women’s cross country and track and field squads. She is a three-time National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) All-American in cross country and finished 18th at this year’s meet with a time of 18:37. She finished as runner-up at the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) National Cross Country Championship as the Lady Jackets captured the banner for the fourth consecutive year. At the 2009 American Mideast Conference (AMC) Championship, Wong helped the Lady Jackets win a second-place finish; she was also the runner-up at 18:12 and earned All-AMC honors for the fourth time in her career. At the NAIA Indoor Track and Field Championship, Wong was the national champion in the mile run, making her the fifth NAIA indoor champion in Cedarville history. She turned in a winning time of 4:55.08 to win by 3.34 seconds. It was the fourth time Wong earned All-American honors in the event.

Ricardo Alliman, a senior from Kingston, Jamaica, was selected to the NAIA Division II All-America Second Team — the sixth player in Cedarville’s long basketball history to be chosen for the honor. Alliman ended his career with 1,443 points and finished sixth on Cedarville’s all-time rebounding list with 1,091. He is the eighth player in school history to surpass 1,000 career rebounds. During the 2009–10 season, the 6-foot-7 center averaged team highs of 17 points and 10.2 rebounds per game. He also earned a spot on the All-AMC First Team this past season. Alliman led the men’s basketball team as they completed the 2009–10 campaign with a 26-9 record, including 14-2 in the AMC. Cedarville won the 2010 AMC Tournament to earn an automatic berth in the NAIA Division II National Tournament, the team’s fourth consecutive appearance.
The Grande Scheme

Students can jump-start a busy day or unwind with friends at Rinnova — the University’s coffee shop. Rinnova partners with Stoney Creek Roasters in downtown Cedarville and Alliance World Coffees to provide locally roasted and fair trade coffees of the highest quality. Both suppliers support Christian ministry and promote positive labor practices around the world. At Cedarville, even the coffee is intentional ... with extra foam.
What encouragement and advice would you give to students today? How is God using you in your neighborhood, church, or profession? How did Cedarville prepare you to make an impact for Christ?

Send us a creative 30-second video answering one of the above questions, and your video may be shown in chapel! Throughout the 2010–2011 school year, Dr. Bill Brown will be speaking to students about the “Real-World Impact” they can have for Christ. Each week, he will open his message with a video testimony from a Cedarville graduate.

Visit www.cedarville.edu/impactvideos to learn more, upload your video, and view submissions. Your example will inspire Cedarville students preparing to answer God’s call on their lives.
A Life of Purity

When a Bible study invitation is sent around campus, it’s difficult to anticipate how many students will come. But when 80 young women arrive the first night — followed by an additional 40 the next week — you can be sure it’s more than food and fellowship attracting them. In this case, a discussion on purity drove the attendance.

In the spring of 2004, Sanctify Ministries grew out of this overwhelming interest. The ministry grew to include eight women who formed the Purity Conference Team. Passionate about purity, they began sharing their hearts at weekend conferences for teen girls from Ohio and surrounding states.

Sanctify’s structure provides a mentoring atmosphere to teach young women why purity matters. Students benefit from peer accountability and solidify what they learn by leading conferences and becoming role models for teen girls.

Sanctify became an official student organization at Cedarville during the 2009–10 school year. Its 12 members organized a modesty panel, weekend conferences, and a semester-long Bible study. They also led their first co-ed conference and their first pre-teen event. The organization will kick off fall semester 2010 with more than 20 members and an advisory board.

This year’s Sanctify vice president, Grace Stearns ’12, enjoys teaching teens about purity and believes the message is especially pertinent in today’s context. “When purity is lived out in this imperfect, impure world,” she said, “it becomes a radical purity that people notice because it’s so unique.”

Former team member Rachel (Marley) Vruggink ’05 continues the Sanctify influence at her church in Dayton, Ohio, where her husband is a youth pastor. “Sanctify Ministries boldly addresses physical purity and its root issues of emotional and mental purity,” she said. “I have used many of the Sanctify resources to challenge our teens to live a life of purity.”

Without a doubt, Sanctify has given hundreds of teens the motivation to pursue Christ-centered purity.

Sanctify influence at her church in Dayton, Ohio, where her husband is a youth pastor. “Sanctify Ministries boldly addresses physical purity and its root issues of emotional and mental purity,” she said. “I have used many of the Sanctify resources to challenge our teens to live a life of purity.”

Without a doubt, Sanctify has given hundreds of teens the motivation to pursue Christ-centered purity. But its influence has also been felt closer to home. Grace explained, “I joined Sanctify to change lives, but my life was definitely changed more. Through Sanctify, I’ve absolutely fallen in love with God.”

For more events and information, visit www.cedarville.edu/events. (All dates are subject to change.)
From the mundane to the wacky, summer jobs provided great memories, good friends, hands-on experience ... and more than a few laughs.

One summer I played the clarinet in a German band at Kings Island Amusement Park. I wore a German costume, and the guys in the band wore lederhosen while we played a lot of German polkas, including the Chicken Dance. And whenever we wanted, we could go on all the rides for free!

LORI KATE LOWENHAR ’94, KIRYAT TIVON, ISRAEL

I sold Bibles and children’s Bible story books door to door, working 90 hours a week. This profitable adventure paid my way through college, taking me to Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Texas. Oh, the stories I could tell!

BOB ROHM ’68, CEDARVILLE, OHIO

While serving at a Christian camp, God showed me how much I enjoyed ministering to children. I changed my major to prepare for full-time ministry, and 11 years later, I’m still working for that same camp.

JASON SMITH ’02, BOSWELL, PENNSYLVANIA
At my summer internship at the Folger Shakespeare Library on Capitol Hill, my desk was mere feet away from a copy of Shakespeare’s *First Folio*. **There’s nothing like working near the world’s largest Shakespeare collection** inside a beautiful Tudor-style museum — with lunch breaks at the Library of Congress and required afternoon tea.

STACY (SAVILLE) SLANKER ’98, MONROE, OHIO

**I was hired as a secretary in a local hospital,** and I often didn’t have enough work to fill the time. I read a lot and wrote a ton of letters. The funny part was that I would go home at night exhausted … from doing nothing!

ELAINE (DIXON) BAKER ’71, POST FALLS, IDAHO

**The first day of my summer job, my boss trained me on a machine used in leach fields** that aren’t draining properly. It drills a probe into the ground and releases about 100 pounds of air pressure to break up the soil. My boss failed to mention that when you release that much pressure into saturated ground, everything shoots straight up into the air — or into the face of the unsuspecting operator!

MIKE CROWDER ’03, PITTSBORO, INDIANA

I traveled with Richie Reeder ’07 to work in Texas with Athletes in Action. **We spent the summer working for a baseball team, eating tacos, and studying God’s Word** with 30 other guys. It’s incredible how one summer can make friends for a lifetime.

BOBBY CHILDS ’08, MILLERSBURG, OHIO

Every summer during college I **worked on our public library’s bookmobile.** Daily we made several stops to parks, neighborhoods, and apartment complexes where I would read stories and do crafts with the kids. The experience helped me prepare to be an elementary teacher.

JENNIFER (LAHMAN) EDSELL ’93, GALVESTON, INDIANA

While fighting fires one summer in Colorado and Montana, I volunteered to ignite a back-burn on a 100-acre mountaintop. I found myself with a drip torch next to 40-foot flames as I lit a mountain on fire. I was sweating so much that they made me drink 1.5 gallons of water.

RYAN FLUNKER ’03, VENICE, FLORIDA

**Question for the next issue:**

What unique way did you relieve stress at college?

Send your answer to Alumni Relations, 251 N. Main St., Cedarville, OH 45314, or e-mail alumni@cedarville.edu. Selected responses will be printed in the fall/winter issue of Inspire. The alumnus who submits our favorite answer will receive a Cedarville sweatshirt! Deadline for entries is September 15, 2010.
A Vision for the City
Urban ministry is hard work. Crime and poverty make headlines alongside stories about under-resourced schools and families desperate for a better life. Progress is tedious and requires a long-term perspective. Yet five Cedarville alumni invite us to take a closer look to see hope rising up in the face of despair. The challenges are great, but with God’s help and the support of their Cedarville family, these graduates are living their vision for Chicago’s inner city.

Brian ’99 and Heidi Dye
Vision Nehemiah

Raised in the inner-city neighborhood of Chicago’s Humboldt Park, Brian’s passion is training leaders for urban ministry. His life and ministry are woven together through the house church he pastors in Garfield Park, the bus he drives, and the organization he founded in 2003, Vision Nehemiah. The ministry provides urban teens with biblical training and leadership skills. This year’s Legacy Conference, a signature event, will draw more than 1,200 young adults.

Brian is a quiet, intense man who specializes in diamonds in the rough. He and his wife, Heidi, have opened their home to eight young men, ages 19 to 24. “It’s not an official program,” Brian said, “and we play it by ear as far as when they move out, but they usually stay about two years. Each has a job and pays minimum rent and utilities.” The Dyes’ influence in their lives is clear: one will begin college this fall, one is headed to Tunisia for a two-year mission project, and three work for Christian youth organizations in their community.
Bill ’96 and Marcie (Duez) Curry ’97
Breakthrough Urban Ministries

Bill’s move from small-town Indiana to inner-city Chicago was intentional. “I wanted to learn more about race and class in America,” he said. “I wanted to step outside my comfort zone and learn more.” As chief operating officer at Breakthrough, Bill is involved in administering and resourcing programs that serve more than 1,000 families and provide solutions for education, youth development, unemployment, hunger, and homelessness in the ministry’s target zone.

All four of their local elementary schools tested in the lowest 5% of Illinois schools, and their neighborhood is among the three most violent communities in Chicago. As director of youth and family services, Marcie provides academic, athletic, spiritual, and art services.

Despite living in a high-crime area, the Currys feel safe, although they are aware of the danger. They take appropriate precautions while trusting God to watch over them. “We made a choice to live here,” Bill said. “We could undo that and move — we have that privilege. But the people we work with don’t.”

Bill and Marcie have served more than a decade with Breakthrough. They are working toward transformation at the individual and community level, and are being transformed themselves in the process. “Being here has opened our eyes to new cultures,” Marcie said, “and a better way of living.”
Kevin ’96 and Lisa (Mariano) Gwin ’99
Vision Nehemiah and Breakthrough Urban Ministries

A trip to Chicago with Inner City Impact changed Kevin Gwin’s life. “God showed me this was where He wanted me to be,” he said. “I could see my place in ministry.”

The PURSUE program he coordinates, a ministry of Vision Nehemiah, prepares urban teens for a successful college experience and has awarded more than $66,000 in scholarships since 2007. In 2002, Kevin started Lighthouse Christian Fellowship in Chicago’s East Garfield Park community where he serves as pastor. “I hope to bring diverse communities together to talk about issues, foster discipleship, and develop leaders,” he said. “The church is the best place for that.”

Early childhood education is a key interest for Kevin’s wife, Lisa. She studied elementary education at Cedarville, and now she coordinates Breakthrough Beginners, a preschool program equipping young children for kindergarten.

From top: Kevin visiting with one of the young men living with the Dyes • Bill and Marcie Curry and Lisa and Kevin Gwin at Breakthrough • Kevin, Brian, and Bill enjoying a time of fellowship

The collaboration between Breakthrough and Vision Nehemiah, and these graduates’ Cedarville connection, strengthens them all professionally and provides spiritual and emotional encouragement. “It’s too much for one family to carry,” Marcie said, “but God has worked that out.”

You may contact Brian Dye ’99 at brian@visionnehemiah.org; Heidi Dye at heidi@visionnehemiah.org; Kevin Gwin ’96 at kevin@visionnehemiah.org; Lisa Gwin ’99 at lgwin@breakthrough.org; Bill Curry ’96 at bcurry@breakthrough.org; and Marcie Curry ’97 at mcurry@breakthrough.org. Learn more about Vision Nehemiah at www.visionnehemiah.org and Breakthrough Urban Ministries at www.breakthrough.org.

Photos provided by Scott Huck, University photographer at Cedarville. You may contact him at scotthuck@cedarville.edu.

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Finding a Forever Family

by Cheryl (Warren) Brugel ’90

After nine years of pain and neglect, her dream finally came true.

ON ANY GIVEN DAY, approximately 125 children live in foster care in Greene County, Ohio. Of these, 30 to 40 are available for adoption and waiting for their forever family. As the foster-adoptive resource supervisor at Greene County Children Services (GCCS), Becky Combs ’95 hears the stories of abused, neglected, and struggling children as she identifies their needs and selects their foster homes.

Not surprisingly, seeing a child’s longing for a family pulled at her own heartstrings. Five years ago, Becky sensed God leading her to make a life-altering decision that would forever change how she viewed her 9-to-5 job.

The Pain of the Past

Since childhood, Becky wanted to help others, and she decided in high school to invest her life as a social worker. She had graduated from
Cedarville with a degree in social work, and by 1998 her dream job was beginning to take shape.

At that same time, a little girl’s dream of a family was beginning to shatter. By the age of two, LeaAnn had already lived in two homes. After giving up custody of her newborn, LeaAnn’s birthmother changed her mind and won the right to remove her daughter from foster care. Just as LeaAnn was beginning to recognize a mommy and daddy, she was ripped from everything familiar.

The transition did not go well. Becoming the target for her mother’s frustration, LeaAnn experienced abuse and neglect and was once locked in a closet. Eventually removed from her home when her mother lost custody, LeaAnn was again sent to live with a foster family.

Although foster homes often provide a loving family and nurturing environment, some foster experiences lead to further abuse and trauma. Unfortunately, this was LeaAnn’s story. Just before her fifth birthday, she had to be removed from this home and was placed with a third foster family.

A New Family

Around this same time, God began working in Becky’s heart about the possibility of adoption. She decided to step out in faith and test the waters. In 2004, she purchased a home and began taking the classes required for potential foster parents. She would wait on God to see where He would lead.

By this time, LeaAnn had also experienced the rejection of a failed adoption. More than seven years of neglect, abuse, and abandonment had taken their toll. She no longer dreamed of a forever family and struggled with bouts of anxiety and paralyzing fear.

Due to LeaAnn’s background, her social worker had been unable to find a home for her and, in passing, mentioned to Becky, “Why don’t you adopt LeaAnn? After all, you’re going through the classes.” The question struck home. Could this be the child God had been leading her to? She decided to take another step of faith, and in July of 2005, she brought LeaAnn into her home. After nine years of waiting, LeaAnn had finally found her forever family.

Although Becky clearly sensed God leading her to adopt LeaAnn, the path was not easy. Becky jumped right into parenting a nine-year-old, and LeaAnn arrived convinced this adoption would end in failure.

Unable to verbalize her internal turmoil, LeaAnn had temper tantrums — every day, for more than an hour. Her behavior brought Becky to her knees. “I knew I didn’t have the strength to deal with LeaAnn one more day,” she said. “I learned to completely trust God for the next day, for the next moment.”

For the first two years, Becky felt like an outsider in LeaAnn’s life. When LeaAnn had something special to share, she would tell someone else — a teacher, a friend, but never Becky. One of Becky’s best memories is the night LeaAnn ran to her and yelled, “Mom, look what I got!” For the first time, Becky felt like LeaAnn’s mom.

A Healing Touch

Four years later, LeaAnn is a different child. After working with a counselor trained in trauma-based therapy, LeaAnn better understands her past. While she still struggles with anxiety at times, she now knows she doesn’t have to face it alone. At the age of 10, LeaAnn accepted Christ as her personal Savior and was baptized. Aware of God’s grace in placing her in her new home, LeaAnn told Becky, “God knew what He was doing when He brought us together.”

Not only has LeaAnn been transformed through the adoption experience, but Becky has also changed. As a social worker, she is more empathetic toward parents and what they go through with their children. She has also seen firsthand the lasting influence of abusive and neglectful parenting. When children come into the system, she more fully understands their needs and can better guide their caseworkers.

Now a seventh-grader, LeaAnn has become an advocate for adoption. She shared her thoughts in an interview posted on the GCCS website. “It’s important that every child gets a family,” she said. “They need to know that someone’s going to protect them.”

God continues to bring healing while rewriting LeaAnn’s story, filling the pages with the love of a devoted mom and healing from a dark past. Yet many more children like LeaAnn continue to wait in foster care. Becky’s deepest longing is for godly families to rise to the challenge of loving these hurting children so that, like LeaAnn, their final chapters could be written with the love of a forever family.

Becky Combs ’95, MSW, LISW, is a Foster-Adoptive Resource Supervisor at Greene County Children Services in Xenia, Ohio. An advocate for adoption and foster care, Becky would enjoy answering your adoption questions. You may contact her at scarryfan2005@aol.com.

Cheryl (Warren) Brugel ’90 is a freelance writer living in Grand Rapids, Michigan, with her husband, Steve, and their four children. In addition to writing, she enjoys editing publications, such as The Journal of Biblical Integration in Business. You may contact her at scbrugel@yahoo.com.
Loving Those on the Prodigal Road

by Cedarville student Jonathan Demers ’11

Flower vendors. We often pass on their overpriced bundles as they stand near the intersection. We wait impatiently for the light to change, eager to avoid eye contact. Or perhaps we concede and purchase a bundle of pink roses. Rarely, though, when we see the disheveled old man on the corner, do we look past his bouquet to glimpse the *imago dei* beneath the guise.

Mack* is a flower vendor. Mack is my friend.

He chose his occupation. He lives from home to home. He earns less than $100 a week. He is a veteran, father, political pundit, sports commentator, former husband, pizza connoisseur, and sarcastic cynic with a taste for a good burger. Mack is unabashedly authentic, with a sandpaper personality chafing at every socially unacceptable edge.

More importantly, Mack is a valued creation of the Lord, a lost child whose reconciliation our Messiah eagerly anticipates as He gazes down the prodigal road.

Worshipping Together

Cedarville sponsors nearly 70 community ministries each year. These teams serve in a variety of ways: providing childcare, assisting the elderly, training the young, encouraging the poor, and strengthening the local church. I have had the pleasure of serving as a leader for a team dedicated to serving alongside a small church in downtown Dayton, about 25 miles from campus.

All Nations Bible Fellowship (ANBF) is a collection of fewer than 100 believers from many backgrounds. Most come from challenging contexts with limited financial resources, yet the authentic joy of a typical Sunday morning has caused more than a few visitors to
claim our community as their church home. ANBF is committed to serving the community through youth ministry, ex-convict rehabilitation, adult mentoring, neighborhood outreach, and the proclamation of God’s Word. Our team of more than 20 student volunteers comes alongside the church’s mission by helping with everything from music ministry to Sunday school classes.

During my two and a half years at ANBF, I have seen God work tangibly and powerfully in the lives of hopeless youth. I’ve seen elementary children learn to use the alphabet more effectively at church than through their hurried public education system. I’ve seen older students transform their consistently disruptive behavior into compassionate, considerate conduct. I’ve cheered as young women emerge from the clutches of prostitution. I’ve witnessed young children overcome the violent shooting of their now-incarcerated mother. I’ve seen my fellow students transcend their predominately suburban backgrounds and display compassion to the broken of downtown Dayton. These triumphs are sourced entirely in the love of Jesus Christ, expressed through the benevolent church community at ANBF.

Sharing Conversation

One particular Sunday, I made my way over to Mack’s corner. I anticipated the gripes of a slow sales week. His left glove, marked by years of cigarette burns, held a thin bouquet of red roses instead of his typical smoke. Further observation confirmed today’s slow sales: 13 of 16 flowers remained in the plastic bucket. My friend would need to sell five more today to make a profit.

Sure enough, I was met with the familiar grumble of gruff complaints. The weather did little to lift either of our moods, with rain falling at a steady rate. I stood on the muddy corner, head bobbing in response to each of Mack’s spoken grievances. Soon, though, the conversation turned to the week’s football predictions, the latest political gaffe, and good food.

Then there was Tom Brady.

Brady, my favorite NFL team’s All-Pro quarterback, was the subject of Mack’s latest diatribe. “He’s got it all!” Mack said with rigor. “That guy’s won more Super Bowls than most players in the NFL can count.” At the time, Brady was not only a successful athlete but also dating a world-famous supermodel, which Mack was quick to point out.

In one of those moments where you’re graced with just the right words, I reminded Mack that Brady was still unsatisfied. He had once stated in an interview that he expected more substantial fulfillment — “something else.” For the briefest of moments, Mack’s grizzled demeanor softened with puzzlement. Our following conversation was a deep revelation of God’s redeeming work, not only in regard to eternal security but in the life we live here and now.

Praying Them Home

To this day, my friend Mack still walks the prodigal road. Our Lord still eagerly anticipates his arrival. I pray for Mack regularly — that his heart would be renewed, that he would know unconditional love, and that my interactions with him would enhance rather than obstruct his path to redemption.

Mother Theresa was once asked how she maintained the motivation to care for the poor, sick, and downtrodden. She replied, “The dying, the crippled, the unwanted, and the unloved — these are all Jesus in disguise.” What a profound statement of faith! Whatever we have done to the least of these, we have done unto Christ Himself.

As the apostle John explained, Christian love reflects Christ’s sacrifice; we lay down our life in response to His atoning death. In fact, authentic love requires sacrifice. I am compelled to love others by the same love Christ extended to me. I have learned that to love Christ is to love Mack.

“How often we miss our Lord’s desire for Mack, and others like him, amid the due diligence of our labor in the fields.”

*Name has been changed to maintain confidentiality.

Jonathan Demers ’11 is a history and political science major from Niceville, Florida. You may contact him at jdemers@cedarville.edu.
From the red-light districts of Bangkok to the laughs of impoverished children in Chiang Rai, the Collettos saw the needs in Thailand and couldn’t resist the opportunities for ministry.

It’s unusual for a road trip to take you all the way to Thailand, but that’s exactly what Michael ’06 and Heather (Wenzel) Colletto ’08 did this summer. From April to June, they drove from Grand Rapids to San Francisco to Philadelphia raising awareness about child prostitution in Thailand and raising support for their work with The SOLD Project. SOLD is a young grassroots organization fighting to prevent child prostitution.

SOLD’s holistic, preventive approach is unique. “Many organizations are rescuing children and rehabilitating them, which is completely necessary,” Michael said. “But SOLD is working on the other end, trying to keep kids out of the sex trade in the first place. Otherwise, the supply of vulnerable children will simply never end.”

SOLD facilitates scholarships to keep at-risk children in school and off the streets. In Thailand, a child’s education costs $1 per day. This is a significant burden for parents who earn just $4 per day in the rice fields. SOLD also offers mentoring for children, trafficking awareness courses, and additional resources for the community. In July, the Collettos moved to Thailand where they’re living with the children and telling their stories for the whole world to see.

In the spring of 2009, Heather and Michael began praying and considering what they could do to confront human trafficking. They wondered how they could use their writing and marketing skills to address a problem calling mostly for social workers and lawyers. After Heather interned with The SOLD Project, the couple began sponsoring an at-risk girl named Meenong, whose older sister supports the family as a prostitute. This past January, Heather and Michael took a trip with SOLD to Thailand. They fell in love with Meenong and the other children in her village. Mid-trip, a SOLD representative explained one of their major needs as an organization was writers with experience in marketing.

“We practically choked on our rice noodles!” Heather laughed. They returned home, prayed for confirmation, and, following God’s leading, began making plans that will change their lives. “Why are we surprised when God answers our prayers to serve Him in a big way?” she said. “He’s waiting for people to pray those prayers. It’s a scary journey that will be more than worth it — in this life and the next.”

Follow the Collettos’ journey at www.drivebyfreedom.com.

Photo credit: Rachel Goble-Carey

Photo credit: Daniel Showalter

Photo credit: Daniel Showalter

Photo credit: Daniel Showalter

Photo credit: Rachel Goble-Carey

Photo credit: Daniel Showalter

Photo credit: Daniel Showalter
Hard to believe:

Each year 600,000–800,000 men, women, and children are trafficked across international borders.
— U.S. Department of State

The human trafficking industry has a global market value exceeding $32 billion.
— United Nations

The commercial sex trade includes 2 million children worldwide.
— UNICEF

Harder to believe:

In the United States, 15,000–18,000 girls and women are trafficked annually.
— U.S. Department of State

Toledo, Ohio, is the capital for child prostitution in America.
— www.osupriceoflife.org

Can we live with these numbers? Do we have the courage to stand against such oppressive darkness? Learn how Amy Allen ’87 joined the fight.

Fighting For Justice

by Carol Lee ’96
For most Americans, a news story about human trafficking conjures up images of Third-World countries, where impoverished people have limited options, where corrupt governments seem unwilling or unable to stop it. Even the term “human trafficking” sounds like an issue for activists, not average U.S. citizens. “It’s unfortunate,” we acknowledge — and then try to think about something less depressing.

But on any given day, more than 4,000 children are missing in the United States. This figure reflects children and teens under the age of 18 who have run away from home, left the foster care system, or been abducted. These children are the peak of the estimated 200,000 at high risk for sexual or commercial exploitation in the U.S.

Adding to the complexity is the issue of illegal immigration, with its varied nuances and increased opportunities for criminal activity. There is significant movement — both literal and virtual via the Internet — into and out from U.S. borders, and the consequences are appalling. Women desperate to escape poverty, corruption, and injustice in their home countries are smuggled into the United States with the promise of work. Once they arrive, their smugglers increase the fee for transport. The women rarely understand English, their passports are taken, and they are forced into prostitution to pay an unrecoverable debt.

In response, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) established the Office of Investigation within its Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). ICE is the largest investigative arm of the DHS, with the mission of “targeting the people, money, and materials” that drive the market for “illegal movement of people and goods into, within, and out of the United States.”
Building a Case

At the heart of the legislative battle against human trafficking and child exploitation in the U.S. is Amy Allen ’87. She is an ICE victim witness specialist — and the only one in this role serving Michigan and Ohio. Amy has the delicate responsibility of interviewing victims who have been physically, psychologically, and emotionally wounded. Law enforcement officials witness the interviews and review the testimonies to assess whether charges can be filed, the case taken to court, and justice served.

So much is at stake in the moments Amy spends with victims. Interviews are not interrogations. If victims feel defensive, they may withhold crucial information that could lead to a conviction. Amy frames her questions objectively, avoiding the word “you.” For example, asking, “What did you do next?” communicates that in the midst of the victim’s dire situation, there was something the victim could have done, an action within her power, to change her circumstance. Instead, the question “What happened next?” removes the implication that a victim shares implicit responsibility for the crime. Amy is trained to consider the developmental reasoning capabilities of a child as well as the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) on a victim’s recollection of specific details or events. “As a survival defense,” she said, “the mind will block out traumatic experiences. It’s common for a victim to have no memory of a given period of time. A trained interviewer can identify PTSD and understands that memory lapse does not indicate a victim is fabricating a story.”

Bringing Justice

Amy majored in psychology at Cedarville and went on for a master’s degree in criminal justice. As a child protection therapist, she worked with young victims of sexual assault and accompanied them to court. Her heart went out to the children who had survived unspeakable violence, and she knew she had found her calling as an advocate, a voice, for children. When she became the director of an advocacy center in Pontiac, Michigan, she began learning how to conduct forensic interviews and was soon recognized as one of the first forensic interview specialists in Michigan. She was invited to join a subcommittee of the Governor’s Task Force where she assisted in writing a protocol for interviewing children in her state.

Amy’s exceptional commitment to her calling opened doors of unexpected influence. In 2006, she was invited by the U.S. Department of Justice to speak at the Eurasian Regional Conference Against Child Exploitation, held in Moldova. The conference brought together legislators from six Eastern European countries that were, for the first time, developing laws against child pornography, child trafficking, and sex tourism. Amy spoke specifically about how to interview child victims so their statements could be entered as evidence in a court of law. She never dreamed that her calling to help children would extend to those in desperate need around the world.

Two years later, Amy landed her dream job with DHS. Although the rewards are great, so too is the challenge and the heartbreak. Every day, Amy is confronted with the reality of evil in the world, the shocking depravity of man, and the costly toll of sin on the most vulnerable among us. She learned early to separate her life from her work and not carry the heaviness home. “There will always be that child who crawls into your heart and lives there forever,” Amy said. “But I can leave the office each day knowing I did some good today. And I’m coming back to do some more good tomorrow.”

Amy Allen ’87 is a victim witness specialist with the Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s Office of Investigation. She and her son, Calvin, live near Detroit, Michigan, and are loyal Detroit Lions fans. You may contact her at Amy.Allen@dhs.gov. Learn more about human trafficking in your community and around the world at www.ice.gov/investigations or www.notforsalecampaign.org.

Carol Lee ’96 is the senior communication specialist in marketing at Cedarville University. You may contact her at carollee@cedarville.edu.
Every generation has its fascination with police stories. Many of us recognize the opening narration on *Dragnet*: “The story you are about to hear is true. Names have been changed to protect the innocent.” We’ve heard the *Hawaii 5-0* catchphrase, “Book ’em, Danno.” After more than 20 years, millions of viewers still tune in for Fox’s Saturday night lineup of *Cops* and *America’s Most Wanted*.

We’re drawn to the drama of good guys and bad guys, crime and punishment, *Law & Order*. Whether fact or fiction, many of our perceptions about police work are shaped by shows like these. We assume the first suspect they interview is hiding something and there’s going to be a car chase.

A truer story can be told by thousands of men and women who actually wear the uniform. Law enforcement is the most visible arm of the local government with officers responding to citizens every hour of every day.

Whether they are drawn by a sense of justice or a desire to help people, about 80 percent of Cedarville students enrolled in the criminal justice program choose to pursue a career in law enforcement. The program is intentionally designed to give students knowledge and practical skills for more than an exciting career: students are answering a call to serve.

Patrick Oliver, director of the criminal justice program, believes this with his whole heart. After 27 years in law enforcement, he answered God’s call to teach at Cedarville. “It was so clear,” he said, “that for me to choose any other path would have been an act of disobedience. I am at Cedarville because this is where God wants me.”

**FIT FOR SERVICE**

Patrick brings a depth of experience to Cedarville’s criminal justice program. His career includes 11 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol and 16 years as a chief of police. He stays active in the field as a consultant and trainer with several professional organizations, including the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, the International
“As an officer of the government, you are God’s minister of justice in this world. This field is a calling.”

Association of Chiefs of Police, and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. He was also a board member for the Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

Patrick specializes in the recruitment, selection, and retention of law enforcement officers. He has a keen understanding of the qualities and character traits that make an officer effective, which proves to be a tremendous advantage for his students. Knowing what will be expected of them and how they can stand out in the job market, he holds high expectations for their academic performance.

Written communication is a key part of law enforcement, so Patrick incorporates a writing assignment into every class in the major. “Whether you’re a probation, corrections, police, or security officer, you present your findings and recommendations in a written report that many people will review or critique,” he said. “Some employers will ask for a writing sample as part of the application process. This is a skill you must bring to the job.”

The criminal justice program is structured to give students as much practical experience as possible before they enter the field. One internship is required, and a second is ideal. In their freshman year, criminal justice students take a career-planning course that includes a career assessment and personality test. These tools help students understand their skill sets, personalities, interests, and values and how these qualities relate to choosing a career. Students also research a job they could reasonably apply for within 90 days of graduation, interview someone who holds the job, and formulate a plan to build their résumé over the next three years of college with a realistic goal in mind. “Every time I teach this class, somebody withdraws from the program,” Patrick said. “I think that’s good. Students should pursue the major that matches their personal profile. I tell them, ‘Your job should be compatible with how God made you and how He wants to use you.’”

**HELD TO A HIGHER LAW**

Beyond classroom knowledge and career preparation, Patrick emphasizes the high calling to which law enforcement officials are called. “An effective officer will demonstrate a service orientation, interpersonal skills, a team commitment, and a drive to succeed,” Patrick said. “But most essential is integrity.” These qualities make up the core values of Cedarville’s program, and they are taken seriously. Students undergo a criminal records check to ensure nothing in their history would disqualify them from entering the field. “The badge is a symbol of integrity,” Patrick said. “For example, if a traffic matter comes down to your word versus an officer’s word, the judge will side with the officer because the officer wears the badge. Without integrity, the badge is meaningless.”

Law enforcement officers are trained to uphold the law and deliver justice with the utmost courtesy and professionalism. In a profession already laden with policies and procedures, Patrick believes a Christian who wears the uniform is held to an even higher standard. “God ordained three institutions: marriage, the church, and government,” he said. “As an officer of the government, you are God’s minister of justice in this world. This field is a calling — and the caller is God.”

Students are taught Romans 13:1–7 to understand God’s purpose for government in criminal justice. The Gospel message begins with the reality of sin and its offense to a holy God. But there’s more to the story. Christians in this field understand — more than their peers — that beyond justice lies the hope of restoration. Criminal justice majors at Cedarville are learning from a faculty mentor who has done this job with Christ and without Christ, and Patrick affirms that a disciplined practice of a biblical worldview makes all the difference. “Your nearest mission field outside your home is your work,” he said. “If your faith doesn’t work at work, then it doesn’t work. If you don’t live it there, then you might as well have gone to another university. Our goal is to develop leaders who serve with integrity from a biblical worldview.”

In 2009–2010, Patrick led an audit by the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives to study the Bay Area Rapid Transit Police Department. The study was requested by the transit authority following the fatal shooting of an unarmed passenger by a transit officer. Patrick has directed the Cedarville University Criminal Justice program since 2005. You may contact him at poliver@cedarville.edu.

Carol Lee ’96 is the senior communication specialist in marketing at Cedarville University. She is especially partial to the police drama CHiPs. You may contact her at carollee@cedarville.edu.
Walking With God

Dr. Jerry Bridges spoke in chapel on March 11. The following is an excerpt from his message from Genesis 5:1–24. Listen to his full message at www.ThePath.fm/chapel.

For the first six generations of mankind recorded in Genesis, the Scripture follows a pattern: “They lived, they had children, and they died.” Their lives are summed up with this one phrase. This pattern continues until Enoch, who is described as a man who walked with God and did not die. The Bible does not mention any great exploits of Enoch, and yet Hebrews 11:5 states, “[Enoch] was commended as one who pleased God.” We know basically two things about Enoch: he walked with God and he pleased God.

“Walking with God” means having a close, personal relationship with God; a communion or fellowship or intimacy with God. In reading Genesis and Hebrews, we see that “walking with God” and “pleasing God” are two sides of the same coin; you can’t do one without the other. So the question arises: How do we walk with God and follow Enoch’s example?

Your hope of walking with God is built upon the righteousness of Christ. Every hope you have that is centered on God will be fulfilled because of the shed blood and righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Walking with God is an all-day affair. We should continually be reflecting upon His will and His provision in our lives, reminding ourselves that we are dependent on Him for every breath we draw, that we are accountable to Him for every action, thought, word, and deed. But a day-to-day, hour-by-hour walking with God is built upon a focused time alone with Him every day, a time when you can put aside your distractions and focus your mind, emotions, and will on developing a stronger relationship with God.

I begin my time with God by coming to Him as a saved but still-practicing sinner. Even though we are new creations in Christ, we still have indwelling sin that wars against our souls. I use the words of Luke 18:13: “God, be merciful to me, a sinner.” Every day I still need the forgiveness of my sin. I lay my sin on Christ and then embrace His righteousness. This is what I call preaching the Gospel to myself every day.

Then I go to Scripture. My goal is to read prayerfully and reflectively, asking God to teach me whatever He has to say to me that day.

And then I spend time in prayer. I think the most important prayer we can pray is found in Matthew 6: “Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done.”

When I meet with God each morning, I’m seeking time with Him. My soul thirsts for God; I crave the living reality of God. That’s the foundation stone of walking with God.

We began by looking at six generations of men who simply lived, had children, and died. How do you anticipate summing up your life?

“When I come to the end of life I want to say, “By His grace, I walked with God.”

Dr. Jerry Bridges is a Christian writer and conference speaker. He has authored several books, including The Discipline of Grace, The Gospel for Real Life, and The Pursuit of Holiness. He has been on the staff of The Navigators for more than 50 years. He and his wife, Jane, live in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and have two married children and six grandchildren.

How do you anticipate summing up your life?”
In 1958, before texts and tweets, Transcription and Typing was an essential course to prepare students for the modern office. Quite a contrast to the cell phones equipped with full keyboards that many students carry today.
Those who best understand the lingering pain of violence and abuse are those who have experienced it firsthand. Some of those individuals are right here on our campus, part our Cedarville family. The far-reaching consequences of sin can weigh heavily on their spirits, influencing how they make sense of the world and their place in it. But thanks to generous donors, Cedarville’s counseling services department can help students break through the pain of their pasts so they can focus on their futures.

Safe Haven
“We offer individual and group counseling for students, covering a broad range of mental health issues including problems with depression, sexual abuse, eating disorders, anxiety, relational conflict, and addictions,” said John Potter ’79, director of counseling services. “Students can come to us with any need, and we will help them.”

Cedarville is unique in that it provides Christ-centered counseling services for students at no additional cost. Long waiting lists at other universities limit the number of times students can see a counselor. At Cedarville, in most cases, students can see a counselor for as long as they need assistance. Because counseling is free, students can focus on healthy living without the added burden of wondering how to afford the help.

“The themes in this edition of Inspire underscore the desperate state of a world without Christ. God is using our alumni to channel hope, healing, and Christ’s love to unlovely places. Many aspects of the Cedarville experience work together to equip students to answer such an important call. Christian ministries, daily chapel, a world-class education grounded in God’s Word, faculty mentors, fellowship with believers — each of these areas is strengthened by gifts to the Cedarville Fund.”
“Before I could grow academically and spiritually in college, I had a lot of stuff I brought with me that I had to deal with first,” said Michelle*, an alumna who met with a counselor as a student. “It wasn’t going to get worked out by just talking with friends.”

Looking back, she’s impressed by the quality of care she received through counseling services. The counselors were highly trained, licensed professionals and, more importantly, were committed to loving her and all the other students who walked through their doors. Counseling services helps students seek answers that are directed by and consistent with God’s Word while encouraging a healthy dependence on other believers who can help them bear their burdens.

John’s enthusiasm is evident when he shares how much he enjoys working with college students. “This is a vital transition time in their lives,” he explained. “They may be sharing for the first time that they were abused or that they struggle with an eating disorder. They may be wrestling with their faith and who they are now that they are ‘on their own.’ This service provides students with a safe outlet to be honest and open about their struggles while having consistent accountability and assistance. It is very rewarding to see God use us to bring about lasting positive changes in students’ lives.”

Hope Reborn

Cedarville places great emphasis on caring for the whole student. In Michelle’s opinion, providing counseling for students demonstrates Cedarville’s commitment to giving students the practical resources they need. “At the time, I didn’t realize what a huge blessing it was to have free counseling for students available right on campus,” she said. “But looking back, had I not dealt with those issues then, I’d be paying for it now, in more ways than one.”

Every year, students report that they probably would not have finished the academic year, or even the semester, without the help that comes from their counseling relationship. “We have also seen students come to faith,” John said. “They come to us struggling with their circumstances but eventually see their greater need to truly know God.”

Restoration like this happens when donors invest in students’ lives. Gifts to the Cedarville Fund open doors to the full Cedarville experience without raising tuition costs. Students benefit academically, spiritually, and personally for a lifetime because of their experience at Cedarville.

Michelle found healing through her visits to counseling services and the support of her friends in the Cedarville family. Today, she works with a nonprofit organization committed to helping vulnerable children, bringing hope to those who need it most.

In a very real way, gifts to the Cedarville Fund are part of Michelle’s healing story and many more stories like hers. Few gifts are more beautiful than giving a broken individual the opportunity to live a whole and transformed life and, in turn, extend a lifeline to others. 

*Name has been changed to maintain confidentiality.

Michael Colletto ’06 is a freelance writer, editor, and the communications director for The SOLD Project (www.thesoldproject.com). He and his wife, Heather (Wenzel) ’08, live in Thailand. You may contact him at mccolletto@gmail.com.
Several years ago, I memorized the first chapter of James. The last verse rings in my mind frequently: “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” This statement is a call to action for believers.

During this past school year, one particular chapel message focused on this exhortation. Dr. Joy Fagan ’89, associate professor of Bible, challenged the University family to reach out to our community and help bring change. The song “God of This City” by Bluetree captures this idea well:

You’re the God of this city.
You’re the King of these people.
You’re the Lord of this nation.
You are.

You’re the light in this darkness.
You’re the hope to the hopeless.
You’re the peace to the restless.
You are.

There is no one like our God.
There is no one like our God.

[Chorus]
For greater things have yet to come,
And greater things are still to be done in this city.
Greater things have yet to come,
And greater things are still to be done here.

The village of Cedarville isn’t exactly a bustling city, but that’s never stopped our students from finding ways to serve.

“Many of our alumni invest time and energy in their local churches and communities, finding ways to serve in even the most mundane, unnoticed contexts.”

Whether raking leaves for an elderly neighbor or traveling to a nearby soup kitchen, they extend a helping hand to meet the physical and spiritual needs of those around them.

I am overwhelmed by the passion I see in this generation of Cedarville students. I am constantly impressed by their awareness of people’s needs and how they reach out to the orphans, the widows, and the marginalized in our society.

It’s no surprise, then, that I consistently hear stories of how our graduates are investing in the lives of the broken and outcast. Some, like Becky Combs ’95 and Amy Allen ’87, use their career callings to bring hope and healing to hurting children. Others pick up their homes, families, and belongings to begin a new life of ministry in a different city or country. And many of our alumni invest time and energy in their local churches and communities, finding ways to serve in even the most mundane, unnoticed contexts.

So what are you doing to reach out to those in need? It is exciting to be at a place like Cedarville, where there are so many opportunities to offer help to the helpless and hope to the hopeless. Let the challenge of pure and faultless religion affect how you live your life today. Remember: “Greater things have yet to come, and greater things are still to be done here.”

Jeff Beste ’87
Director of Alumni Relations
chapter focus — houston

For its second official event, the Houston Alumni Chapter gathered at an Astros baseball game on May 8 for a night of ballpark fun!

Although the Astros lost, everyone enjoyed the all-you-can-eat dinner of hot dogs, nachos, soda, and other stadium food, as well as the opportunity to reconnect with fellow alumni. Guests also shared their Cedarville memories with an incoming student who attended the event.

“I think it’s wonderful that Cedarville stays connected with its alumni!” shared Cheryl (Deinum) Riggle ’93. “It speaks volumes about the investment Cedarville wants to make in its students — not just when they’re on campus but for a lifetime.”

Thank you to Beth Prentice ’79, Katherine (Witmer) Williams ’02, and Ann Felix ’08 for helping to organize the event! To see all the photos, visit www.cedarville.edu/alumnievents and click on the link under “Previous Event Photos.”

To learn more about alumni chapters and to see if there is one in your area, visit www.cedarville.edu/alumni/chapters. If you would like to participate in organizing a chapter or planning an event, e-mail Mark McDaniel ’05, coordinator for regional events and services, at mmcdaniel@cedarville.edu.

1980s

Linda (Ingram) Ebrahim ’82 and her husband, Keith, serve the Lord in the Philippines. Linda teaches music at Faith Academy and recently took 12 students to Hong Kong to participate in a music festival. Keith teaches at Word of Life Bible Institute and preaches at a Chinese church in Manila. They have five sons: John (21), James (18), Daniel (17), David (15), and Eric (12).

Brett Waress ’88 serves as associate director, vice president/chief operating officer, for the South East Area Health Education Center (SEAHEC) in Wilmington, North Carolina. SEAHEC, an affiliate of UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine, is an academic medical practice and medical training institution.

Kimberly (Sweet) Powers ’89 announces the release of her book Escaping the Vampire. Addressing the Twilight series, the book offers young girls a real immortal hero through Christ. Kimberly is the executive director of Walk the Talk Ministries, a national nonprofit youth ministry, and lives in Chesapeake, Virginia, with her husband, Tim, and their two sons.
Curt ‘93 and Angie (Henry) Pearson ‘94 announce the birth of Joshua Michael on July 28, 2009. He was welcomed home by eight siblings: Ashley, Megan, Bryan, Krista, Tyler, Caleb, Sierra, and Alyssa. The Pearsons farm in Corning, Iowa.

Sherry (Gavitt) Price ‘94 and her husband, Chris, announce the birth of Kalleigh Elizabeth on February 20, 2009. Olivia (3) welcomed her home in Scott Depot, West Virginia. Chris teaches high school history as well as online courses for Phoenix University. Sherry stays home with the girls and teaches piano.

Danielle (Rossi) Finlayson ‘94 and her husband, Mark, announce the birth of Kylie Addison. She was born on August 2, 2009, and welcomed home by her siblings, Tristan (9) and Mackenzie (7). The family resides in Belleair Bluffs, Florida.

Colleen (Delp) Ferguson ‘95 and her husband, Mike, announce the birth of Jace Gregory on July 7, 2009. He was welcomed home by Luke (5), Amy (4), and Kade (2). They reside in Warren, Ohio, where Mike is a regional marketing director and Colleen stays home with the children.

Robb Fogg ‘94 teaches at Xenia Christian School (Ohio) and runs a student-based program called RUGBY, a ministry that begins with worship and then leads students into the community to bless others with service.


March 20 — Honolulu, Hawaii
Sandy beaches, crystal-blue water, and sunny weather made for a great event! Guests included Kezia (McNeal) Curry ‘92, a University trustee who lives in the area.

March 20 — Cincinnati, Ohio
More than 90 alumni and their guests enjoyed an evening of worship and fellowship at the HeartSong LIVE concert and pre-concert reception — complete with Chick-fil-A and conversations with prospective students.

May 22 — Atlanta Chapter Event
Hosted by Kim Cooley ’89 at her lakeside home, this event included swimming and a picnic dinner. Jeff Beste ’87 provided a campus update.

recent events
Stephanie Bolsem ’96 and James Ritchie were married on May 22, 2009, and live in Scotland, where James is a plumber. After 12 years in Australia, Stephanie is enjoying married life and a new culture.

Don Smith ’96 and his wife, Laura, reside in Hawthorne, New Jersey. Don is a comic book writer, and his latest comic book, Faith Series: Jesus Christ, was recently released by Bluewater Comics. By viewing different aspects of the life of Christ, this comic shows that Jesus is a providential force at work in the universe. When not writing comics, Don focuses on writing history books.

Gary ’96 and Lori (Kenny) Carter ’98 announce the birth of Kylie Allison on September 18, 2009. She was welcomed home by Braydon (3). They reside in Elkhart, Indiana, where Gary teaches at Jimtown Junior High School and Lori stays home with the children.

Brad ’96 and Beth (Walker) Fawcett ’99 announce the birth of Avery Elisabeth on September 23, 2009. She joins her brother, Jaden Van Allen (2).

Scott ’97 and Janine (Pinkley) Borling ’96 announce the birth of Madelyn Olivia on April 5, 2009. She was welcomed home by her brothers, Quinn (7) and Nate (5). They live in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where Scott is the city clerk and Janine stays home with the kids.

Paul ’98 and Krissy (Brown) DeKruyter ’97 announce the birth of Levi Timothy on August 18, 2008. He joins big brothers Tanner (5) and Brody (3).

Elizabeth (Barker) Philpott ’98 and her husband, Neil, announce the birth of Nathan Davis on November 2, 2009. He joins Mary (6) and John Clark (4).

Jason ’98 and Courtenay (Shoaff) Atwell ’98 announce the birth of Brecken Christopher. He was born on 09/09/09, weighed 9 pounds and 9 ounces, and was the 9th grandchild on one side of the family. He joins Kylie (6) and Carter (3), in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. Jason is the director of sales and marketing for Wind Crest, and Courtenay stays at home.

Mike ’99 and Kristen (Stewart) Lewis ’06 announce the birth of Kate Olivia on June 18, 2009. They live in Hilliard, Ohio, where Mike is a controller for Frank Gates Service Company. Kristen taught high school Spanish but is now a full-time mom.
June 15 — Orlando Chapter Event
Dr. and Mrs. Bill Brown joined this group of alumni for a picnic. HeartSong added to the fun by providing a worship concert.

Diana (Christensen) Rose ’99 and her husband, Brian, are pictured on Mount Pacaya in Guatemala. They were visiting a friend who is a full-time missionary in Guatemala City.

June 19 — South Central Pennsylvania Chapter Event
At the Lancaster Barnstormers baseball game, alumni enjoyed the fellowship, discounted concession items, and post-game fireworks.

Lindsey (Mitchell) Yordy ’99 and her husband, Dave, announce the birth of Jonathan Andrew on September 30, 2009. He joined Zach (10) in Wichita, Kansas. Lindsey teaches adapted physical education. Dave is a teacher, coach, and youth basketball league director. He also runs a landscaping business.

2000s

June 28 — Indianapolis Chapter Event
Alumni gathered for an Indianapolis Indians baseball game. They enjoyed watching the game, reminiscing about their Cedarville days, and talking with Jeff Beste ’87.

Matt Brown ’00 and Rachel Keilman ’05 were married on July 4, 2010. Matt is a second lieutenant in the Air Force and a medical student at the Uniformed Services University. Rachel taught a fifth/sixth grade split and recently earned a master’s in special education.

Tracy Commons ’00 and his wife, Jenna, announce the birth of William Harold Tracy on February 16, 2010.

Christine Compton ’00 and Christopher Bennett were married on August 15, 2009. They reside in Rochester, New York, where Christine is a seventh-grade English teacher and Chris is a union electrician.

Ann Marie (Swartz) Schrader ’00 and her husband, David, announce the birth of Jesse Lee. He was born on July 3, 2009, and welcomed home by Joel (5) and Micah (2).
Josh ‘00 and Danielle (Hatfield) Sherwood ‘01 announce the birth of Lilly May on July 3, 2009. She was welcomed home by Jackson Christopher (2). They reside in Atlanta, Georgia, where Josh is a pastor and a lighting company account manager. Danielle is a stay-at-home mom and part-time tutor.

Willa (Lowery) Armstrong ‘02 and her husband, Eric, announce the birth of Graham Lloyd on October 14, 2009. Eric is an assistant vice president with Fifth Third Bank, and Willa enjoys being a full-time mom. They reside in Mason, Ohio.

Nathan ‘00 and Mandy (Mullen) Wright ‘00 announce the birth of Gwendolyn Grace on February 28, 2009. She joins her sister, Katherine Naomi (Kate), who was born in 2006. Nathan runs his own business, and Mandy stays at home. They live near Dallas.

Doug Bitzer ‘02 and his wife, Courtney, announce the birth of Aerilyn Rochelle on July 16, 2009. Doug and Courtney work as physician assistants and reside in Eleanor, West Virginia.

Doug Buckingham ‘02 and his wife, Amber, announce the birth of their son Breck Reid on January 24, 2010. Brett is a senior admissions counselor at Cornerstone University, and Amber stays home with Breck.

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Brett Buckingham ‘02 and his wife, Amber, announce the birth of their son Breck Reid on January 24, 2010. Brett is a senior admissions counselor at Cornerstone University, and Amber stays home with Breck.

Ethan Hodge ‘02 and Katie Bonnell were married on July 11, 2009, and live in Carlisle, Ohio. Ethan serves on the tenured high school social studies faculty in Springboro, and Katie is a graduate student at Liberty University and a substitute teacher.

Kay Brewer ‘03 and J.T. Brown were married on June 6, 2009. They reside in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where Kay is a certified athletic trainer for Ortho Northeast and J.T. is a sourcing engineer for BAE Systems.

Matt ‘03 and Katy (Hult) Hazard ‘03 announce the birth of Sarah Belle on June 21, 2009. They reside in Indianapolis, Indiana, where Matt is a technical writer and Katy is a stay-at-home mom.

Mark ‘03 and Jessica (Sarver) Kirby ‘04 announce the birth of Kaeleigh Marie on November 16, 2008. They live in Mandeville, Louisiana. Mark is a mechanical engineer for Weeks Marine, Inc. Jessica is a pediatric nurse and enjoys being a stay-at-home mom.

David Moore ‘03 was promoted to assistant director of international student services at Liberty University in Virginia. He and his wife, YuYan, have three children, April (4), Melody (3), and Zachary (2).

Matt ‘03 and Megann (Harbaugh) Stephens ‘05 announce the birth of Kara Brielle on July 29, 2008. Matt is a pre-sales consultant for QlikTech in Raleigh, North Carolina. After teaching second grade for several years, Megann stays at home with Kara.

Andy ‘03 and Sandy (Costello) Vargo ‘95 announce the birth of Enzo Josiah on April 5, 2009. They live near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Benjamin ‘03 and Janet (Kishpaugh) Whipple ‘04 brought home their son, Isaac Degele, from Ethiopia on April 4, 2009. He was born on August 30, 2008.
Jennifer (Muka) Austin ’04 and her husband, Phil, announce the birth of Cole William Lee. He was born on December 24, 2009, and welcomed home by Caiden (3) and Ellyssa (2). Phil is the systems administrator for JR Automation, and Jennifer stays home in Wayland, Michigan.

Leah (Nielson) Long ’04 and her husband, Mark, are missionaries to Mali, West Africa. After language study in Albertville, France, they will move to Segou, Mali, where they will work in church planting and community and health development among Muslims. They have a daughter, Anastasia Jane (1).

Nate Johns ’04 and his wife, Amanda, announce the birth of Ivy Laine on September 30, 2009.

Brett Johnson ’04 has earned the prestigious CFA designation, a globally recognized credential for investment analysis and management. He is a junior portfolio manager at Rocket Capital Management in Wayzata, Minnesota. He is married to Sarah (Lorence) ’04.

Paul ’04 and Sharon (Hershey) Miller ’04 announce the birth of Eric Richard. He was born on June 11, 2009, and joined Jordan (2) in Hatboro, Pennsylvania. Paul is a third-grade teacher. He received his master’s degree in special education and is working on his certification in school administration. Sharon enjoys staying home with the boys.

Paul ’05 and Liz (Zeron) Compton ’03 announce the birth of Jocelyn Elise on May 23, 2009. Paul is the worship director for Buffalo Covenant Church, and Liz is earning a doctorate in philosophy at the University of Buffalo. They reside in Buffalo, New York.

Heather Eger ’05 and Joe Wolf were married November 22, 2009. They now reside in Grand Prairie, Texas.

Matt ’05 and Marcee (Hart) Reno ’05 announce the birth of Evelyn Hope. She was born on January 15, 2010, and joins her big brother, Titus.

Matt ’05 and Rachel (Osterman) Borich ’05 announce the birth of Greta Rae on November 24, 2009. Matt is a product consultant for Sauer-Danfoss, and Rachel is a school nurse. They reside in Ankeny, Iowa.
Kelly (Elshoff) Rogers ’05 graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine in May 2009 with her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. She now works at Franklin Veterinary Hospital. Kelly and her husband, Daniel ’07, reside in Franklin, North Carolina.

Rebecca Sainato ’05 graduated in May 2010 from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine. As a captain in the Army, she is completing a residency in pediatric medicine at the Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii.

Greg ’05 and Julie (Roth) Schwab ’04 announce the birth of Addison Marie on October 21, 2009. Julie is a stay-at-home mom, and Greg is the student minister at Ballardsville Baptist Church near Louisville, Kentucky.

Josh Reno ’06 and Kelli (Daugherty) Sutphen ’07 are pictured here as they were deployed to an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia. They have the distinct privilege of serving there together as Cedarville alumni.
Kate Varney ‘06 and Ryan Timms were married on November 14, 2009. In May 2009, Kate received her master’s degree in marriage and family therapy from Richmont Graduate University. Kate is an office administrator, and Ryan is a ground maintenance associate. They reside in Bethlehem, Georgia.

Megan Bell ‘07 and Jeff Kliwer were married on February 27, 2009. They live in Columbus, Ohio, while they begin the process of joining the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism’s internship program overseas.

Liz Gerard ‘07 and Josh Thomas were married on January 9, 2010. They reside near Boston, Massachusetts, where Josh is an inside sales representative for Salary.com and Liz is a nurse.

Chad ‘06 and Richelle (Clem) Viront ‘05 announce the birth of Ryleigh Sue on July 8, 2008. They live in Brewster, Ohio. Chad is a youth pastor at Canton Baptist Temple, and Richelle is the varsity volleyball coach at Kingsway Christian School.

Debbi Birch ‘07 and Dino Biaggi were married on July 25, 2009. They live in San Francisco, California, where Debbi is a counselor for former inmates in drug and alcohol rehab. Dino works at Trader Joe’s while pursuing his degree in psychology.

Anthony Rutrough ‘07 and his wife, Lindsey, announce the birth of Leah Renee on February 20, 2010.

The Adventuresaurus Collective

Three college-aged guys, numerous cups of coffee, and big dreams: when you add these together, you get a world of possibilities. For Kelly Nowels ‘09, Sammy Starr ‘10, and Michael Beight ‘10, their prayerful pondering of how God would use them this summer led to a unique adventure to save the life of a two-year-old Iraqi boy named Mohammad. They dubbed their intrepid three-some The Adventuresaurus Collective.

On June 9, the friends began a bicycle trip through Europe to raise $5,000 to help pay for a life-saving heart surgery for Mohammad, who suffers from rheumatic heart disease. Beginning in Dublin, Ireland, and cycling to Rome, Italy, they’ll cover 2,500 miles, camping as they go. “We joined together because we couldn’t stand the thought of living an ordinary life,” Kelly said. “We wanted to squeeze all the energy out of youth.”

They’re partnering with the Preemptive Love Coalition (PLC), a nonprofit organization founded by Cody Fisher ‘06. PLC seeks to eradicate the backlog of Arab and Kurdish children waiting in line for heart surgery and to promote peace between communities in conflict. Iraq has one of the highest percentages of heart disease among children, with many dying each week from causes that could easily be addressed by access to the proper medical care.

Cody and The Adventuresaurus Collective — and other Cedarville alumni, like Josh Gigliotti ‘09 who is serving as a PLC summer intern — are doing what they can to effect change in war-torn communities. To learn more about PLC and how you can help, visit www.preemptivelove.org. To follow The Adventuresaurus Collective on their summer trip, checkout their blog at www.adventuresauruscollective.com.
Drew '07 and Teresa (Schmidt) Steury '07 announce the birth of Annabelle Irene on June 24, 2009. They reside in Clarkston, Michigan, where Drew is the controller at Hotel Investment Services and Teresa is a full-time mom.

Wendy Austin '08 and Kenton Carter were married on July 11, 2009. They reside in Woodbridge, Virginia. Wendy is a first-grade teacher at Calvary Road Christian School, and Kenton is a caregiver for two autistic children.

Justin Marshburn '09 and Kaitlin McDaniel '07 were married on June 13, 2009. They reside in Modesto, California, where Kaitlin teaches eighth-grade language arts and Justin works in a physical therapy clinic.

Alumni Scholarships Support Students

Each spring Cedarville sets aside a chapel service to honor outstanding student achievement. During the 2010 Honors Day ceremony, the University recognized students for their leadership and academic excellence. Honorees received awards and scholarships based on their fields of study and future pursuits. Awards are provided by generous friends who are committed to Cedarville’s mission.

Alumni are among those who fund two of these annual scholarships: the John W. Bickett Heritage Scholarship and the Alumni Scholarship. Six students received the John W. Bickett Heritage Scholarship, established in 1982 by the Heritage Alumni of Cedarville College. This scholarship is given to upperclassmen preparing for pastoral or missionary service and planning to further their education in seminary or language studies. The Alumni Scholarship, established by the Alumni Council, was given to 14 students. For this scholarship, each academic department selects one student who is deemed most deserving of academic recognition.

John W. Bickett Heritage Scholarship
Left to right: Craig Hefner ’11, Andrew Gordon ’11, Jonathan Musser ’11, Nicholas Clason ’12
Not pictured: Jordan Bracy ’11, Mark Toole ’11

Alumni Scholarship
Left to right, front row: Daniel La Croix ’11 (engineering and computer science), Marissa Cushing ’12 (prepharmacy), Rebekah Goodwin ’11 (biblical and theological studies), Susanne Seybold ’12 (education)
Back row: Amanda Weber ’13 (social work, criminal justice, and sociology), Philip Young ’11 (science and mathematics), Emily Ahrens ’11 (history and government), Megan Grigsby ’11 (psychology), Jenny Howell ’11 (nursing), John Baden ’11 (communication arts)
Not pictured: Audrey Hebson ’11 (music, art, and worship), Sarah McEllhenney ’12 (language and literature), Rachel Miceli ’12 (exercise and sport science), Melissa Winkle ’11 (business administration)
In Memory

We extend our condolences to the families and friends of these dear loved ones.

Cletis (Jacobs) Waddell ’39 passed away on April 14, 2010, at the age of 92 at her home in Yellow Springs, Ohio. She received her associate’s degree in education from Cedarville and taught school until her retirement in the late 1970s.

Myra Haydock ’51 went to be with the Lord on March 25, 2010, at the age of 98. Because of financial struggles, Myra’s college education was interrupted during the Great Depression, but she eventually received her teaching certificate from Cedarville by taking one course at a time. She taught elementary school for many years and is survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Rev. Robert McGuckin ’81 went home to be with the Lord on October 22, 2009, after an eight-month battle with leukemia. After graduating from Cedarville, Bob taught in various Christian schools, lived at a children’s home, and served as a missionary in the inner city and with the Pocket Testament League for their Olympic Campaign. He was working on his master’s degree in biblical studies. For the last 14 years, he served as junior high teacher and youth pastor at his church in Philadelphia. He is survived by his wife, Karen, and his children, Willie (16) and Adrianna (12).

Myra Haydock ’51 went to be with the Lord on March 25, 2010, at the age of 98. Because of financial struggles, Myra’s college education was interrupted during the Great Depression, but she eventually received her teaching certificate from Cedarville by taking one course at a time. She taught elementary school for many years and is survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Shannon Wenger ’94 of Dalton, Ohio, went home to be with the Lord on August 11, 2009. While attending a chapel service as a Cedarville student, she felt God’s call to become a missionary to Russia. From 2003 to 2009, she served with SEND International and ministered among the unreached Buryat people group in Siberia. Shannon enjoyed ice hockey, backpacking, white-water rafting, and playing guitar.

Jonathan Cunningham ’00 passed away from cardiac arrest on March 17, 2010. He worked at General Electric as an IT Black Belt at the Louisville Appliance Park Facility. He was a member of Highview Baptist Church, president of the GE Volunteers, and an avid runner and basketball player. He is survived by his wife, Becky (Gleason) ’00; children, Abigail, Aidan, and Allison; parents, Jeff and Mary Ellen; and brothers, Jeremy ’02, Joshua, Joseph, and Jason ’09.

To send your updates, visit www.cedarville.edu/inspire or e-mail alumni@cedarville.edu. You may also send them to Alumni Relations, 251 N. Main St., Cedarville, OH 45314. Deadlines are December 15 for the spring issue, April 15 for the summer issue, and August 15 for the fall/winter issue. The editorial staff has full discretion regarding submissions.

A Helping Hand

For Sharon Acker ’65, retirement is an exciting opportunity to invest in people. The former librarian now serves as the employment coordinator for Rachel’s House, a transition home in Columbus, Ohio, serving eight women in their first 40 days out of prison. After living in the highly structured prison environment, residents are grateful for the Christian community, accountability, and life skills they find at Rachel’s House.

As a volunteer, Sharon provides employment coaching as well as transportation so the women can apply and interview for jobs. With a library background that includes hiring and training staff, she brings employment expertise and an extensive community network, making her an effective advocate for women who are re-establishing their lives.

As a teenager, Sharon sensed God calling her in this direction. During her college years at Cedarville, she majored in sociology and volunteered all four years with a prison ministry visiting juvenile offenders. Young people are still near to her heart — she volunteers her time as a chaplain’s assistant with Youth for Christ and visits incarcerated teens who are to be tried as adults.

Leading inmates to Christ and giving them a second chance at life is immensely rewarding work, “The Gospel message is about redemption,” she said, “When I hear the stories of where some of these women and teens have been and how by God’s grace they are trying to turn their lives around, how can I turn away? These are my sisters, my brothers in Christ.”

Rachel’s House is one of many community development programs of Lower Lights Ministries. Learn more about the ministry at www.lower-lights.org. You may contact Sharon at sharacker43@aol.com.
As the keynote speaker for Cedarville’s 114th Commencement Ceremony on May 1, Dan Cathy, president and chief operating officer of Chick-fil-A, passed the baton of leadership to nearly 650 graduates.

Cathy told the class of 2010 that running the race of life is about the hand-off. “You can be the best runner in the world, but if you drop the baton,” shared Cathy, “you will ultimately lose the race.” He challenged them to keep their lives focused on serving God so as not to “drop the baton.” To symbolize this responsibility, the graduates received relay rods with their diplomas.

Chick-fil-A’s commitment to customer service stems from Cathy’s unique approach to leadership and heartfelt hospitality. To honor his example, Dr. Bill Brown presented him with the University’s Medal of Honor, the 12th time in Cedarville history for this medal to be awarded.

“Dan’s life is marked by excellence, integrity, servant leadership, and a clear testimony for Jesus Christ,” said Dr. Brown.

This year two graduates were honored with the University’s most prestigious student award. The President’s Trophy, the highest honor for a graduating senior, recognizes leadership, ministry, community and campus involvement, athletic performance, and academic achievement. The 2010 recipients were Jonathan Walburg, an electronic media major from Shafer, Minnesota, and Clara Gebert, an international studies and social science major from New Cumberland, Pennsylvania.

The Faculty Scholarship Award was presented to six students who maintained 4.0 grade point averages throughout their college careers. The recipients were Leanna Baumer, a history and political science major from Hartville, Missouri; Bradley Colas, a criminal justice major from Vestal, New York; Angela Eldridge, a graphic design major from Bowling Green, Kentucky; Noah Van Zandt, an electrical engineering major from Bloomington, Illinois; John Weston, a molecular and cellular biology major from Morral, Ohio; and Rachel York, a communication studies major from Larkspur, Colorado.

During the ceremony, the class of 2010 presented their class gift — the Five Loaves Scholarship. Graduates and their families gave $15,000 to establish the scholarship, which will help students with financial needs.
In both the classroom and on Center Street, this professor is ...

Living on the Front Lines
by Dr. Joy Fagan ’89

When I look back at my college years, I wonder if my view of being in the “Cedarville bubble” was based on a critical misperception. Perhaps my sheltered experience was an individual choice. Cedarville provided many opportunities to reach out beyond my comfort zone, and sometimes I made that effort. However, a few weeks on an overseas mission trip didn’t exactly burst the bubble. Five years after graduation, when I returned as a full-time faculty member in the Bible department, I still hadn’t learned my lesson.

Stepping Outside the Bubble

I am an equipper, to the core. I love to see people succeed, and the opportunity to facilitate or encourage that process is what gets me out of bed every morning.

Over time, I developed a growing unrest with preparing my students to engage at the front lines of Kingdom work, while seldom doing so myself. I made some futile attempts to rationalize my lack of engagement, but fortunately it was a losing battle.

Through a variety of experiences, ministries, and friendships, God’s patient and faithful prodding came to a climax. As I worked with Women at Risk International — an organization that rescues and empowers wounded women around the world — I realized I had failed to see the women at risk in a city just 10 miles from the university where I teach courses on women’s ministry.

The irony was a wake-up call. And yet, God knew I needed even more motivation before I would jump into a major ministry endeavor. He led me to become a volunteer chaplain at the Clark County Jail, where I enjoyed connecting students with women interested in their friendship. These women told us stories of challenges they faced inside and outside the walls of the jail. As I soaked up life outside the bubble, I realized I had come to the place where I could no longer sit on the sideline.

Creating a Safe Harbor

It was time to step outside my comfort zone to allow the Holy Spirit, through me, to be a sanctifying influence in a local neighborhood. And so was birthed SiFi Ministry of Springfield, Ohio — Sanctifying Influence and Future Investment.

By September 2009, our ministry board was in place. We stepped out in faith to invest in women in our community by purchasing Safe Harbor House. Upon final zoning approval, the 5,000 square-foot house will become home to 10 women, three of whom are live-in mentors. Throughout the renovation, volunteers donated furniture and materials as well as hundreds of hours of labor. Last fall, we placed a “women at the well” fountain in the hallway outside the chapel and invited students to donate their “intentional change for intentional change.” In about three days, the coin drive raised enough money to install an alarm system and pay for the first month of service. There are so many more stories like this that demonstrate God’s hand in this endeavor.

Safe Harbor House is the first in a three-step process to help women coming out of the Clark County Jail or off the streets. The goal is to equip them to flourish as we live life together under the same roof. We will help them receive job training, pursue educational opportunities, and learn everyday life skills. We will also partner
with other organizations that offer Christian counseling and other aspects of holistic support. Our goal is to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed, watching His transforming power bring change in ways beyond our imagination.

In II Corinthians 10:5, Paul exhorts the believers to cast down everything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God and to take captive every thought to the obedience of Christ. That exhortation is particularly difficult for women who are victims of others’ sin and caught in their own cycle of addictive and sinful choices. For these women, life becomes a battleground of great proportions. The bottom line is this: If I truly believe in the innate value of every human being created in the image of God, then I need to do more to stand in the gap and fight for these women, facilitating a path to wholeness and healing that only His power can accomplish. All is done within the reality that the ground is level at the foot of the cross.

**Making a Difference**

I am no saint for taking on this endeavor. In fact, I wish I had made this decision a long time ago. Do I know what I am getting myself into? Probably not. But I am learning, and I know more than I did 11 months ago!

God calls each of us to different pathways as we seek to reach beyond our comfort zones and fulfill the Great Commission. For me, my path to being a doer of the Word has led me to Center Street. I hope and pray that God can use me to raise awareness and educate others regarding human trafficking, prostitution, and other issues that have horrific consequences in the lives of these valuable yet oppressed women. I also pray that I may be able to create avenues for others to participate actively in this process of mentoring and breathing life back into the lives of these women.

No more bubbles. The time for me to practice what I preach is now — to put compassion into action and see the “sheep without a shepherd” through His eyes. The more time I spend with these women, the more I realize that “apart from Him, [we] have no good thing.” If not for God’s amazing grace, where would any of us be?

Dr. Joy Fagan ’89 serves as associate professor of Bible. She earned a master’s degree from Grand Rapids Theological Seminary and a Ed.D. from Southern Seminary. You may contact her and learn more about her ministry at faganj@cedarville.edu.

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**A Partnership of Compassion**

Cynthia Sutter-Tkel (pictured second from right) was just 28 when she arrived at Cedarville to found the social work program in 1991. She invested 12 years at the University — teaching courses, building the program, and establishing on-campus service opportunities like Habitat for Humanity and Women of Vision.

She now resides in San Jose, California, and works as a social services consultant for the Golden State Division of the Salvation Army. She advises 34 Salvation Army churches that administer 180 programs assisting children, seniors, veterans, foster youth, and people who are homeless or in transition. “My work is social work at the macro level,” Cindy said. “I’m helping to promote change through staff and program development and administration.”

Cindy draws on her experience at Cedarville to provide staff support, workshops, and essential training for paraprofessional staff, which she sees as one of the most satisfying aspects of her ministry.

“I enjoy coming alongside those on the front lines who are assisting people with critical needs,” she said. “Their work has a high potential for burnout. I can provide new energy and encouragement and help cast a vision for how to work more compassionately and effectively.”

Under Cindy’s leadership, her region piloted the first review for the new internal accreditation of social service programs. She is also heavily involved in program evaluation and funding stewardship to ensure that the Salvation Army manages its operations with integrity and stays true to its mission: fighting poverty and bringing people to Christ.

You may contact Cindy at cynthia.suttertkel@usw.salvationarmy.org.
Why We Serve

by Dr. William E. Brown

“I am often, I believe, praying for others when I should be doing things for them.”

— C.S. Lewis

Brian Welch is an unlikely disciple — but then, aren’t we all? What makes Brian’s story so unique is that he was a founding member of the heavy-metal group Korn and spent 12 years living a drug-fueled life as an international rock star. He describes what happened in 2004 as a miracle: “I was walking one day, just doing my rock-and-roll thing, making millions of bucks — you know, success and everything — addicted to drugs. And then the next day, I had a revelation of Christ, and I was like, ‘Everything changes right now!’”

After coming to Christ, Brian (who goes by the moniker “Head”) was overwhelmed with unfamiliar desires. After a life of self-indulgence, his heart was moved to respond to God’s grace by selfless giving. Among other works, he went to poverty-stricken areas of India and built orphanages, called “Head Homes.” He continues to serve and help those in deep need.

Covered with tattoos, he has added several fresh ones as a testimony to his new focus in Christ. The most obvious tattoo is Matthew 6:19: “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal.” Brian Welch is investing in eternity by giving and serving others.

Giving is at the heart of God’s love for us: not casual giving but sacrificial, unconditional, and generous giving. Responding to God’s love for us with a life of giving seems natural for Christians, yet it’s also the antithesis of the American Dream, where the starting points are self-fulfillment and self-expression.

That’s why this issue of Inspire is so energizing. Many Cedarville students tell me they want their lives to count. It is no surprise, then, to see how many Cedarville graduates are led to vocations where they can give and serve others every day. They want to be God’s heart, hands, and voice. Seeing what Cedarville grads are doing really does inspire!

James challenges us to recognize that living faith cannot be expressed by mere talk (James 2:14–18). We might have beliefs, but we do not have convictions until they have been refined by testing and demonstrated by action.

It is my prayer that this generation’s heartfelt service will become the identifying characteristic of the word “Christian.” People may not understand our doctrine or our values, but they do understand our service and our love. And this is the distinguishing attribute of Cedarville graduates. They don’t just love what they do; they love those they serve.
Join Joni and Friends and the Center for Bioethics at Cedarville University on September 15–17 for the 2010 Health Care Ethics Conference. An impressive assembly of leading experts in the field of bioethics will provide biblical perspectives on the critical issues shaping the church, our health care system, and the medical profession.

The conference will include presentations by keynote speakers as well as small-group discussions. Topics include:

REPRODUCTIVE ETHICS, END-OF-LIFE ETHICS, GENETIC AND BIOTECHNOLOGY ETHICS, HEALTH CARE REFORM, AND MUCH MORE!

Continuing education credits will be available for health care and social work professionals.

SEPTEMBER 15–17, 2010

Additional pre-conference sessions are available on September 15 free of charge to conference participants and the general public:

10 a.m. Gianna Jessen
A pro-life advocate who survived an abortion attempt

7 p.m. Nigel Cameron
President of the Institute on Biotechnology and Human Future

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Kathy McReynolds, Ph.D.
Nigel Cameron, Ph.D.
Christopher Hook, M.D.

Register now for the conference by visiting www.cedarville.edu/bioethics2010

20% discount for CU alumni, faculty, staff, and students!