



IOWA DISTRICT WEST PASTOR'S SISTER AND FAMILY GO TO PANAMA AS OUR NEWEST LCMS MISSIONARIES!

What a joy to welcome the newest missionaries that are being sent to the field of Panama by our LCMS World Mission. Bruce and Sarah Wall and their children Benjamin and Stephanie will be leaving in a few months to be our new missionaries who will be living in Panama. Bruce will be our Latin American Area Facilitator, and will work with all of our missionaries and partner churches to open new countries, fields and opportunities for sharing the Gospel with new people and new areas of that part of the world. Bruce has been employed at the International Center in St. Louis in the short term mission department and has now accepted this new calling.

This young couple is just beginning their journey to seek prayer support from families and congregations and various church groups as they have to work with groups to raise 100% of their support. Their trip to Mission Central was one of the first stops on their journey as Mission Central will be helping this young couple in a very special way!

Sarah is the daughter of Pastor Arnold and Bonnie Jurchen of Goener, Nebraska, where Sarah grew up. Her brother is Pastor Peter Jurchen of our very own Hope Lutheran Church in Des Moines, Iowa. If you would be interested in learning more about this wonderful young couple, please contact Mission Central. We also have a six minute interview on DVD that was made with this family. What a blessing to welcome these new missionaries with an Iowa District West connection.



PEOPLE FROM FAR AND NEAR COME TO HEAR BLOKERS AT MISSION CENTRAL

On November 24, 2009, some very special people came to report at Mission Central. Rev. James and Mabelle Bloker, our first missionaries in Prauge in the Czech Republic, came to report in person at 7:00 PM. It was a bit of a rainy and cold evening, and we expected very few people to come.

The Lord had other plans in mind, and we were amazed to see a large crowd from all over the territory come to hear how God was using this miracle couple. People came from Ghana, West Africa; Idaho; South Dakota; Sioux City, Carroll, Harlan, Denison, Ute, Storm Lake, Schaller, and Des Moines, Iowa; and also from Hubbard, Seward, and Lincoln, Nebraska. All of the people that came were truly people who really "get it" and who are "not normal."

The Bloklers told of their work and presented such a wonderful power-point presentation. It was a blessing to hear how the Lord is working in this former Soviet Union country where they were not allowed to have a Bible in their homes for nearly 70 years under the Communist rule.

This group of people gathered in the fellowship hall for the presentation, and then gathered in the Barn for the official prayers and sending of the Bloker family back to the Czech Republic. Here you see the group gathered offering their prayers in the barn in front of the altar.



MISSIONARIES FROM ST. PAUL LUTHERAN IN FORT DODGE ARRIVE AT MISSION CENTRAL!

It is rare that folks want to drive nearly 2 hours to come to Mission Central, and yet they do! It is even more rare that folks would come in the evening for a special tour and program to arrive at 7:00 PM. This must mean that they are people who are truly NOT NORMAL!

Yes, that's exactly what happened on the 19th of November, when two carloads of dear missionaries who are "not normal" arrived at Mission Central from St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fort Dodge, Iowa at 7:00 PM in the evening! Why would they drive that far for just an evening presentation and tour? Because they wanted to see what God can do with just ordinary farm people with an old set of farm buildings!

"Not normal" Pastor Al Henderson and his entire leadership board came under the leadership of Chairman Brent Johnson. The elders and officers came for a special tour of the facilities and tour of the Mission Museum. Principal of St. Paul Lutheran School, The Honorable Gene Sommerfeld, was so impressed that he said, "Gary, we are going to bring our students to Mission Central." John Saxton, Treasurer of St. Paul Lutheran Church at Fort Dodge said, "I had NO IDEA what this was all about!"

What a joy to have this wonderful group of Missionaries come to visit! It is our hope that they will never, never forget their tour to Mission Central, and that it will change their lives and open up new ideas for ministry at St. Paul Lutheran in Fort Dodge, Iowa! Here is a photo of the amazing "not normal" group!



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