

# C.P.A. Beacon

Issue 10

**Church Planters to America**

Spring 2003

## David & Melissa Madsen Accepted into C.P.A.

God has once again answered prayer for the need of missionary pastors. In Mid-April David and Melissa Madsen came to C.P.A. headquarters for a final interview and acceptance in C.P.A. After several months of going through the application process, securing references, and a visit from Tom & Carol Buckley in their home, the Madsens have been accepted for missionary service. David and Melissa have one child, Hannah, with another child expected in July.

David attended Moody Bible Institute and is a graduate of Faith Christian Bible College. Melissa attended Moody Bible Institute. The Madsens live in Rock Hill, SC where David teaches Spanish in a Christian School. He also teaches Sunday School and helps with a Spanish ministry.



**The Madsen's**

As God was speaking to David and Melissa about future ministry they met Mrs. Winifred Callister, the mother of missionary pastor George Callister. It was through Mrs. Callister that they heard about the ministry of C.P.A. A call was made to C.P.A. headquarters for information, the application process followed and now the Madsens are part of the C.P.A. family.

The next step is to secure their financial support so they will be able to go and help a struggling church that is unable to fully support a pastor. This process can be long and tedious, but we are praying that God will excite individuals and churches to become part of the Madsen's support team. They are available and would welcome the opportunity to present themselves and the ministry of Church Planters To America. They can be contacted by calling C.P.A. Headquarters. Pray for God to supply their financial support, the right field of service and the safe arrival of their 2nd child in July.

## C.P.A. Missionary Pastors' Retreat, July 21-25

Each July the entire C.P.A. missionary family comes to mission headquarters in Almond, NY for the annual retreat. Some come with campers. We then secure lodging for everyone else. The men prepare breakfast and several local churches provide the noon meals. The ladies combine their skills to provide a delicious evening meal. Each day is filled with prayer time, devotions, seminars and good sound Bible preaching. The afternoons are open for fellowship and relaxation. Each night after the evening meeting we enjoy a special refreshment followed by a delightful campfire under the stars.

The purpose of the retreat is to revitalize, encourage and equip our missionary families in their service for the Lord. Pray that this year's retreat will be a blessing and benefit for all.



## FROM THE DIRECTOR



**TOM  
BUCKLEY**

Carol and I have the privilege of traveling thousands of miles each year preaching God's Word and telling of the ministry of Church Planters to America. No matter who we talk to or where we visit the thought of "faithfulness" always seems to be part of the conversation. Faithfulness to the Lord, the church, our marriage, each other. "Faithfulness" should be an integral part of each of our lives.

In October of this past year we lost a dear friend and the Dennison Corners Community Church lost a faithful man who was faithful to the ministry, his family and the Lord. He also served as church treasurer for over 40 years. As I think of my friend, John Neff, I can only think of one word, faithful, to describe him as a friend and believer.

John was loved and respected by many people. When things needed to be done, John was there. When the trusses were installed here at C.P.A. headquarters building, John operated the crane which was donated for the job. He operated cranes his whole life. John was in his glory doing one more job. He did it because he was faithful.

Friends, we need many more people with the faithfulness of John Neff. People who love the Lord, are faithful to Him and are willing to serve. John is with the Lord now, but you and I must remain faithful until Jesus comes. I trust that as I reminisce about my many years of knowing John Neff you will be motivated to be faithful.

## MISSION FAMILY NEWS

The purpose of C.P.A. is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to build up the local church. It takes dedicated people to do just that and we are thankful for our C.P.A. family. Here in our family news column we share with you what God is doing in our lives and ministries. Thank you for your support and prayers . . . **TOM & CAROL BUCKLEY**, mission director, Almond, NY, have just returned from several trips that have allowed them to present the ministry of C.P.A. in many churches. Pray that God will use these contacts to bring more families into C.P.A. Pray for continued good health and wisdom to lead C.P.A. . . . **ROB & SUE ANDREAS**, missionary pastor, Dennison Corners, NY, praise the Lord for growth in the church as they move toward self-supporting status. Praise for souls saved and that the loan for the parsonage is paid off. Pray for growth in the lives of the people and the leadership of the church . . . **GEORGE & NANCY CALLISTER**, missionary pastor, Gouverneur, NY, are happy to report that even in spite of a long, cold winter new families have begun attending Faith Bible Church. Pray for a blitz of the town in the spring with literature and church information. Pray for Bill as he serves with the Army overseas . . . **STEVE & DEBBIE COCKERHAM**, missionary pastor, Groveland Station, NY, are anxious to get moved into their new home in Groveland Station and trust that being in town will open up new opportunities for the ministry. As the church grows, expansion of the facilities will be needed. Pray for wisdom to plan properly and for souls to be saved . . . **CHARLES & LINDA EMERSON**, missionary pastor, Boyds Corner, NY, are busy with spring activities and planning for the summer. The church needs to repair the floor of the fellowship hall. Wisdom is needed to correct a structural problem and help will be needed to do the work. Pray for outreaches for the summer . . . **RON & SHELLY FELIX**, missionary pastor, Sullivan, ME, are glad to see Spring arrive and are trusting God to bring new families to the church this year. During the winter they have been busy doing improvements to the church. New carpeting has been installed in the sanctuary and another section of the exterior was sided. Pray for growth in every aspect of the ministry . . . **DAVID & MELISSA MADSEN**, missionary candidates, Rock Hill, SC, are excited for what is before them. Pray for wisdom as they start deputation and for support to come in quickly. Pray for Melissa as she expects their second child in July . . . **MARK & SUE RUGGERIO**, missionary pastor, St. John, ME, should have a new daughter by May 1st. They rejoice in new children who are attending Sunday School and for a new lighted church sign. Pray for good results from this summer's special ministry, "Adventure In the Valley". Pray for the need of additional support for the Ruggierios . . . **LENNY & ROBIN ROBERTO**, missionary-at-large, Depew, NY, are pastoring a church in Depew. Pray that God will give wisdom as they seek to balance their time between work and the church. They have 3 sons in the military, pray for their safety . . . **BRIAN & CHRISTINE THOMPSON**, missionary pastor, Brooks, ME, are thankful for several who have come to Christ and for new teens attending youth group. It has been a long winter in Maine so they are anxious for warmer weather and greater opportunities for outreach in the community. Pray for new families and souls to be saved . . . **Thank you for praying for everyone in C.P.A.**



# Reaching Young People for Christ

There are many activities throughout the year that are geared to reach young people for Christ. We want to highlight several in this issue of the BEACON.



Young People gather in Groveland Station

Once each month a special youth night is held at the Berean Bible Church in Groveland Station, NY. Pastor Steve Cockerham and his wife, Debbie, along with other adults of the church provide an evening of fun, fellowship, refreshments and the opportunity to learn about Jesus Christ. They have had as many as 26 young people in attendance and have had several families attend church as a result. Follow-up visits are made to unchurched families with the goal of reaching them for Christ.



Pastor Mark shows them how!

Mark and Sue Ruggerio pastor the St. John Bible Church in St. John, ME. St. John is as far north in Maine as you can go without going into Canada. The winters are long and cold, but the warmth of the Ruggerios and the people of the St. John Bible Church is expressed in many ways, especially in reaching out to children and young people. One such occasion was when they had a special cake decorating contest. It was fun, tasted great and one of the cakes was used as an object lesson to present Christ to those in attendance. Pray for souls to be saved and more families reached in the St. John area.

## Bill Callister Serves His Country



Bill Callister

Many of us have known Bill Callister, the son of George and Nancy Callister, from the time he was a little boy. We have seen him grow into a fine young man. In the process he graduated from high school in Conshohocken, PA and from the two year course at Word of Life Bible Institute in Schroon Lake, NY. He also attended Appalachian Bible College in West Virginia. After graduating from Word of Life Bible Institute in 2002 he worked as the Resident Director of Transportation for Word of Life. He was also in the process of seeking a position as youth pastor in a church. In early 2001 Bill enlisted in the Army Reserves and received his Basic Training at Fort Jackson, SC and Quartermaster School at Fort Lee, VA. Bill was mobilized to active duty in early March and has been deployed overseas. Pray for Bill as he serves his country and for many opportunities to witness for the Lord during this time. Also pray for George, Nancy and his sister Carly as they await his safe return. The Callisters serve with C.P.A. in Gouverneur, NY.

## Parsonage Paid Off at Dennison Corners



Dennison Corners Parsonage

It was near the close of 1996, a few months after the Andreas family arrived, that the small congregation of Dennison Corners Community Church stepped out in faith and built a parsonage for the pastor and his family. The parsonage was built adjacent to the church on land already owned by the church. Much of the work was done with volunteer help.

The church had saved money over the years for this need and at the time of construction had to borrow \$45,000. The length of the mortgage was for 20 years, but under the leadership of Pastor Andreas and with many sacrificial gifts, the parsonage was paid for in March of this year. We praise the Lord for allowing this to happen.

During these almost 7 years the church has grown numerically, spiritually and in every other way. The goal of every C.P.A. ministry of being self-supporting is near at hand. Pray for God's hand of blessing to continue, not only under C.P.A. but for many years to come.





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## Cockerhams Buy House Near Church

For over two years Steve and Debbie Cockerham have been serving as pastor of the Berean Bible Church in Groveland Station, NY. During this time they have been renting a home in Dansville, about 8 miles away, with the hopes of moving closer to the church. They have now been able to buy a home which is only one-third of a mile from the church, right on the main road. They expect to move into their new home in early May. Pray that the opportunity to live right in town will have a positive affect upon the ministry.



Cockerham's New Home



## STORK REPORT

Mark and Sue Ruggerio, missionaries in St. John, ME are counting the days until their third child is expected to arrive. Pray for the Ruggerio family during these exciting days.

New missionary candidates, David and Melissa Madsen are expecting their second child in July. They already have a year old daughter, Hannah. Uphold the Madsens in prayer during this exciting time in their lives. See article on page one.

## Thanks for Sharing

In any mission organization there is a special fund known as the General Fund. These funds pay for all the behind scene things like postage, insurance, printing, heat, electric, repairs, equipment and other expenses. The General Fund doesn't have a personality but it has a purpose. It serves each missionary as it provides for these very important items that are a benefit to all.

God has been good in meeting the needs of the General Fund because of the special people who send a gift each month for the General Fund. To all of you faithful people the General says "Thank-you". Keep up the good work and God will continue to bless and provide for each of these special needs.

## Your Help is Needed!

Enclosed with this edition of the BEACON is a special letter with a response form regarding our missionary retreat. In order to provide for all of the expenses for the week we are asking the friends of C.P.A. to send a special gift for the retreat. In order to provide for the travel, food, lodging and other expenses we will need at least \$2500 to be provided by special gifts. This is the only financial appeal we make throughout the year. God has been so good and we trust that many people will respond to provide for the retreat for the C.P.A. mission family.



"For we are labourers together with God."  
1 Cor. 3:9

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## REMINDER

Please let us know if you have a change of address, it will save us postage. Thank you!