

## Births

### ➔2005

**ALLISON**, Lauren Kristiana, born December 31, 2005 to Todd and Nancy Allison and siblings Gaby and Syndey of Antrim (Chambersburg, Pa.) BIC Church.

**ANTHONY**, Elizabeth Jane, born May 2, 2005 to Duane and Susan (Mott) Anthony of Dillsburg (Pa.) BIC Church.

**BERT**, Addison Rose, born May 5, 2005 to Jeffrey and Amy Beth (Wingert) Bert of New Guilford (Chambersburg, Pa.) BIC Church.

**BRANDT**, Sophia Lorraine, adopted July 10, 2005 to Preston and Sharon (Klick) Brandt of Dillsburg (Pa.) BIC Church.

**CRANE**, Mara, born April 23, 2005 to Mark and Cara Crane of Zion (Abilene, Kan.) BIC Church.

**DU**, Ava Marie, born August 10, 2005 to Mon and Deena (Heise) Du of Dillsburg (Pa.) BIC Church.

**ENGLE**, Sterling, born September 12, 2005 to Matt and Amber Engle of Zion (Abilene, Kan.) BIC Church.

**FISHER**, Chadwin James, born November 11, 2005 to Elvin and Kathy Fisher of Cedar Grove (Mifflintown, Pa.) BIC Church.

**FRITZ**, Leigha Catherine, born March 23, 2005 to Terry and Jessica (Lotz) Fritz of Dillsburg (Pa.) BIC Church.

**HEISEY**, Logan Reese, born July 29, 2005 adopted by Neil and Elizabeth Heisey of Air Hill (Chambersburg, Pa.) BIC Church.

**HELM**, Marshall Ray, born April 2, 2005 to Michael and Michele Helm of Five

Forks (Waynesboro, Pa.) BIC Church.

**MASON**, Derek Joel, born August 18, 2005 to Michael and Lois (Jensen) Mason of Grantham (Pa.) BIC Church.

**MONN**, Mackenzie, born September 26, 2005 to Mark and Heather Monn of Fairview Avenue (Waynesboro, Pa.) BIC Church.

**JACOBS**, Stephen Lance, born November 9, 2005 to Lawton and Mary Jacobs of New Guilford BIC Church (Chambersburg, Pa.).

**PORTER**, Jacob William, born October 8, 2005 to Bill and Sabrina (Pokomy) Porter of Carland-Zion (Elsie, Mich.) BIC Church.

**RHODES**, Samantha Lauren, born March 21, 2006 to Stephen and Beulah Rhodes of Martinsburg (Pa.) BIC Church.

**ROSENBERGER**, Matthew Jordan, born May 26, 2005 to Brett and Shauna Rosenberger of Five Forks (Waynesboro, Pa.) BIC Church.

**SMITH**, Garrett Jesse, born May 20, 2005 to Michael and Jody (Stoner) Smith of South Mountain Chapel (Shippensburg, Pa.).

**SULLIVAN**, John David, born July 20, 2005 to David and Lutitia (Lewis) Sullivan of Living Word Fellowship (Crossville, Tenn.).

### ➔2006

**BLUBAUGH**, Garrett Matthew, born January 25, 2006 to Travis and Holly

Blubaugh and brother Dalton of Antrim (Chambersburg, Pa.) BIC Church.

**BROERSMA**, Kenan Dale, born February 10, 2006 to Pete and Stephanie (Yoder) Broersma and siblings Caleb and Lydia of West Side (Chambersburg, Pa.) BIC Church.

**CRAIG**, Kolby Lane, born April 18, 2006 to Rex and Lori (Coup) Craig of Zion (Abilene, Kan.) BIC Church.

**DIEHL**, Bradley Isaac, born April 1, 2006 to Brian and Wendy Diehl of Air Hill (Chambersburg, Pa.) BIC Church.



**ENGLE**, Conner Philip Nigh, born April 21, 2006 to Phil and Ruth Anne Engle of Dillsburg (Pa.) BIC Church.

**FARROW**, Ryan William, born January 26, 2006 to John and Tina Farrow and brother Seth of Antrim (Chambersburg, Pa.) BIC Church.

**GEIB**, Brennan Alexander, born April 23, 2006 to John and Jenn Geib of Silverdale (Pa.) BIC Church.

**KEEFER**, Conner Rahn, born April 14, 2006 to Curtis and Pamela Keefer of Free Grace (Millersburg, Pa.) BIC Church.

**LLOYD**, Lydia Catherine, born February 6, 2006 to Jonathan and Erica (Brobaker) Lloyd and sister Anna, of Wesley (Mt. Holly Springs, Pa.) BIC Church. They are currently serving as missionaries in Malawi.

**MARTIN**, Tirza Adeline, born January 4, 2006 to Jason and Amber Martin of Mount Pleasant (Mount Joy, Pa.) BIC Church.

**MILES**, Brady Alexander, born March 16, 2006 to Dwayne and Sherry Miles of Antrim (Chambersburg, Pa.) BIC Church.

**MYERS**, Joshua Gerald, born March 25, 2006 to Wayne and Wendy Myers and siblings Luke and Leah of Five Forks (Waynesboro, Pa.) BIC Church.

**RENARD**, Katherine Sommer, born February 28, 2006 to Mark and Sarah (Strayer) Renard of Dillsburg (Pa.) BIC Church.

**RHODES**, Samantha Lauren, born on March 21, 2006 to Stephen and Beulah Rhodes of Martinsburg (Pa.) BIC Church.

**SCOTT**, Justin Theodore, born March 1, 2006 to Ted and Julie Scott and siblings Joshua and Faith, of West-heights Community (Kitchener, Ontario) BIC Church.

**WALSH**, Thomas Jay, born April 14, 2006 to Matt and Julie Walsh of Dillsburg (Pa.) BIC Church.

## Weddings

### →2005

**EMRICK-SNYDER**: Kristili D. Emrick, daughter of Michael & Patricia Emrick of Phillipsburg, N.J., married David L. Snyder, son of John and Susan

Snyder of Lancaster (Pa.) BIC Church on July 24, 2005 with Pastor Byron Widger officiating. The ceremony and reception were held at The Meadows in Bethlehem, Pa.

**HANLIN-CAMP**: Anna Hanlin, daughter of Joanne Forsyth and the late James Hanlin of Hagerstown, Md. and Zachary Camp, son of John and Kimberly Camp of Waynesboro, Pa., were married on May 28 at Five Forks (Waynesboro, Pa.) BIC Church with Pastor Wilbur Besecker officiating.

**HARPER-WILLS**: Alison Harper, daughter of Tom and Connie Harper of Dunville, Ontario and Christopher Wills, son of Ken and Sue Wills of Welland, Ontario, were married on June 18 at Wainfleet (Ontario) BIC Church with Pastor Charlie Mashinter officiating.

**HEISEY-COOK**: Regina Heisey, daughter of Jean Heisey of Chambersburg, Pa. and Garnet Cook III, son of Garnet and Bonnie Cook of Waynesboro, Pa., were married on July 16 at Five Forks (Waynesboro, Pa.) BIC Church with Pastor Wilbur Besecker and Pastor William Shank officiating.

**NEWCOMER-ELLIS**: Joy Newcomer and Jeremy Ellis were married on May 21 at Five Forks (Waynesboro, Pa.) BIC Church, with Pastor Wilbur Besecker officiating.

**SIMPSON-KIPE**: Kara Ann Simpson, daughter of Dave and Jill Simpson and Hylton Kipe, son of H. Ray and Darlyss Kipe of Five Forks (Waynesboro, Pa.) BIC Church, were married on June 25, 2005 in Teeter Park, Waynesboro, Pa., with Pastor Wilbur Besecker officiating. Kara and Hylton currently reside in Cookville, Tenn.

**SPURRIER-SMITH**: Naomi Ruth Spurrier, daughter of Jim and Faithe Spurrier of Dillsburg (Pa.) BIC Church married

Jason Daniel Smith, son of Greg and Helen Smith of Pittsburgh, Pa., on June 11, 2005. The service was performed by Pastor Jim Spurrier. The couple currently resides in Houghton, NY.

### →2006

**DICK-LANGDON**: Crystal Ann Dick, daughter of William and Valorie Dick of Fairview Avenue BIC Church (Waynesboro, Pa.) married James Bryan Langdon, son of Howard and Rachel Langdon of Moreland Baptist Church (Muncy, Pa.) on January 7, 2006 at Trinity Church in Waynesboro, Pa. with Pastor Rod White of Circle of Hope BIC Church (Philadelphia, Pa.) officiating.



**KEIR-LAYTON**: Pastor A. Serounian Keir and Sherri L. Layton, both of Walnut Valley (Walnut, Calif.) BIC Church were married on January 28, 2006 at Upland (Calif.) BIC Church with Pastor Paul Lehman-Schletewitz officiating.

**MYERS-WIBLE**: Tonya Myers, daughter of Charles and Joan Myers of Air Hill (Chambersburg, Pa.) BIC Church married Steven Wible, son of Rodney and Martha Wible of McConnellsburg, Pa. on February 25, 2006 at Air Hill (Chambersburg, Pa.) BIC Church with Rev. Harold Yeager officiating.

**TAYLOR-COSTELLA**: Brenda Taylor, daughter of Lowell and Sue Taylor

of Antrim (Chambersburg, Pa.) BIC Church married Neil Costella Jr. on February 18, 2006. The couple now reside in Waynesboro, Pa.

## Lives Remembered

**BERT, P. PAUL**, a member of the Air Hill congregation in Chambersburg, Pa., died on February 15, 2006. He was born on April 26, 1923 in Franklin County, Pa. to the late Samuel Z. and Clara (Winger) Bert. The owner and operator of Bert's Berry Farm, Paul also taught Sunday school for many years and was involved with outreach ministries. He is survived by his sons Carl Bert and Stephen Bert; as well as daughters Cheryl Coover and Sue Beam. The funeral, held at Air Hill BIC, was led by Revs. LeRoy Eberly and Roger Witter. Interment was at the Air Hill Cemetery.

**\*BRANDT, VERNON** passed away on September 4, 2005 at the Abilene Memorial Hospital in Abilene, Kans. Born on October 20, 1920 in Detroit, Kans., he was one of three sons and two daughters born to Jesse R. and Myrtle (Neher) Brandt.

After his high school graduation, Vernon attended Messiah College for two years. On November 18, 1944 he married Anna Dorcas Lauver, and in time, the couple had three sons and one daughter. Vernon was employed by KP&L in Abilene, Kans. for 35 years until his retirement in 1980.

After his retirement, Vernon and Dorcas spent two years in Upland, Calif., where they served as the administrative couple for Upland Manor, a BIC retirement home. The Brandts then spent three years in Pennsylvania pastoring the Collier BIC Church in

Pennsylvania. In 1985, they returned to Abilene to spend the remainder of their lives.

Vernon was active in his service all of his adult life, using his gift in music as the song leader in the Abilene BIC Church for many years. He was a member of the Zion BIC Church in Abilene.

**\*BUNDY, JOHN** went to be with the Lord on November 10, 2005. John was 71 years old. Born in Pontiac, Mich., John attended Leonard BIC Church with his family from the age of six.

While working at God's Love Mission in Detroit, Mich., John felt God's call to ministry. He and his wife Mary then moved to Pennsylvania, where he pursued his first pastoral assignment at Fox Hollow BIC (now Montoursville BIC), a congregation he served for 12 years as a bi-vocational pastor. John later plunged into full-time pastoral roles at Manheim BIC, Cedar Heights BIC, and finally Air Hill BIC, after which he retired. In his final years, John was fully engaged in the Manor BIC congregation.

John had a deep love for Christ and the Church, and this was reflected in the way he sacrificially served in church life. In addition to his faithful pastoral ministry, John served for over 11 years as a regional conference treasurer in the Allegheny and Susquehanna conferences, worked for 13 years as a trustee on the BIC ministers' pension fund, served for six years on the Allegheny Conference Extension Loan Fund as a trustee of the Christian Retreat Center, and provided 18 years of faithful service in the information center at Roxbury Holiness Camp.

**\*CHARLES, PAUL DEAN** of Altadena, Calif. died peacefully on June 8, 2005 with his wife at his side. Paul was born December 14, 1924 in Hamlin, Kans.

The son of the Late Rev. Jacob and Ella Charles, he is survived by his wife, Beulah (Bea) of 55 years, a daughter and two sons, and their families.

Paul and Beulah were married June 24, 1949. In 1950, he graduated from Upland College, Upland, Calif., and later studied at Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

Fresh out of college, the couple moved to the San Joaquin Valley of Central California to pastor the Community Church in Waukena, Calif. In 1955, Paul and his family moved home to Kansas to serve the same congregation that his father had pastored for 35 years—Pleasant Hill BIC. Paul and his family then moved to Pasadena, Calif., where he pastored the Pasadena BIC Church for seven years.

Paul's life was characterized by his love for the Lord and his willingness to serve Him. Equally evident was his deep love and tender, caring spirit for his wife, children and grandchildren. This is the legacy he has left to his family and the church.

**\*CLIMENHAGA, ARTHUR MERLIN** went home to be with the Lord on April 29, 2005. To use the title of Harvey Sider's recent biography, Arthur Climenhaga "cast a long shadow" in the BIC Church and in the wider Evangelical and Holiness Movements.

While studying at Beulah (which later became Upland) College, Arthur became deeply involved with the church. Later, as the president of Upland College, Arthur led the institution to new levels of growth and recognition. During these years, he refined his understanding of church doctrine, and especially the peace position of the BIC.

From his childhood in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) as the son of missionary parents, Arthur's heart continued to throb for world missions.

In 1945 he returned to Zimbabwe, where he spent the next 15 years providing leadership to a rapidly expanding ministry. Due to his leadership abilities and communication skills, he was highly respected by government officials. This in turn caused the BIC Church to be favorably regarded as well. With his skill in the local language, he was greatly appreciated by both national and missionary personnel. He spoke boldly of the need for indigenization and encouraged early steps in the direction of national church leadership. During this time, Arthur served as a key figure in Billy Graham's Bulawayo Crusade resulting in a friendship with Graham that spanned the subsequent years.

With the need for Messiah College to secure state status for granting degrees, Arthur accepted the invitation to serve as president of the college. Through his leadership, the College received its regional accreditation in 1963.

Having accomplished that goal, he accepted a three-year term as executive director of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE). In this capacity, he encouraged the NAE to move from an inward focus to an outward thrust in cooperation and missions.

Arthur served for five years as bishop of the Pacific/Midwest conferences. One new initiative during this time was the determination to establish Upland Manor, a BIC retirement home. With his heart in education, Arthur accepted an assignment with Western Evangelical Seminary in Portland, Ore. Again he played a pivotal role in gaining accreditation for the seminary. While there, he became instrumental in attracting BIC students, many of whom are now serving in our congregations. Later, Arthur accepted the call to Ashland Theological seminary,

where he continued to pour his heart and life into the preparation of young people preparing to serve the Church.

As general secretary of the denomination from 1973 to 1984, Arthur was admired and respected for his parliamentary and administrative skills, and at times had listeners reaching for dictionaries to understand the words he used—or, more characteristically stated, to comprehend the vagaries of his erudite articulation.

As a gifted and articulate orator with a commanding bass voice, Arthur was always in demand both within and beyond the BIC Church. He loved to preach the Word. Over the decades he was a passionate proponent of the holy life, challenging people to respond to God's invitation to holiness.

Though possessing great skills and intellect, Arthur loved to be with people, building relationships wherever he went. He carried the Church close to his heart. He loved the world widely, sharing himself wherever he could as time and energy allowed. He will be greatly missed. Arthur is survived by his wife, Lona, who willingly shared her husband with the Church, and contributed greatly to his effective leadership and service.

**CLOKE, CORA** died on March 4, 2006. The daughter of Peter and Sarah (Heise) Steckley, Cora was born in Whitchurch Township, Ontario on May 25, 1902. She accepted Christ, was baptized by her preacher father, and became a member of the Heise Hill congregation at the age of 13. In 1928 Cora married Walter Cloke, foster son of Herb and Pearl Sider, members of Wainfleet BIC Church. Cora enjoyed a long life of service to the Lord in her church, as a teacher of Sunday school for preschoolers,

a seamstress and quilter in the sewing circle, and a partner in Missions Prayer Fellowship. She is survived by her daughters Rhoda Marr and Gladys Shoalts. The funeral was held at Wainfleet BIC Church, officiated by Revs. John R. Sider and Charles E. Mashinter, and interment was at Maple Lawn Cemetery in Wainfleet, Ontario.

**CORBIN, MARY E. BOOK** passed away at the age of 83 on January 23, 2006. She was born in Mifflintown, Pa. on June 15, 1922 to the late William and Melissa (Hackenberger) Book. She worked as a bookkeeper at the Patriot-News for 26 years, and also served as a Sunday school teacher at Cedar Grove BIC. She is survived by her sisters Viola Lauver and Jane Benner, as well as nine stepchildren and 20 nieces and nephews. The funeral was held at Cedar Grove, officiated by Rev. M. Eugene Heidler, and interment was at Union Cemetery.

**GINGELL, ROBERT T.** passed away on March 14, 2006. Born on March 14, 2006 to Thomas and Jane (Bollinger) Gingell, Bob served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War, working aboard the U.S.S. Albany. After the Navy, he was a staff supervisor at Victor Cullen Center, Sabillasville, Md., and later did security work at Western Maryland Hospital in Hagerstown, Md. Bob enjoyed hunting, fishing, home remodeling, and making knives. A member of Five Forks BIC, he was predeceased by his father, Thomas, and his wife, Susan. In addition to his mother, he is survived by two daughters, Amy Bond of Waynesboro, Pa. and Jennifer Flores of Cascade, Md., and a son, Jason Gingell of Cascade, Md. The funeral was held at Grove-Bowersox Funeral Home, officiated by Pastor Brian Black, and interment was at Bethel Church Cemetery.

**GINGELL, SUSAN M.** passed away on March 10, 2006. A member of the Five Forks congregation, she was born on May 27, 1950 to Beulah (Fox) Kell and the late John Kell of Hagerstown, Md. Susan worked for the State of Maryland as a secretary at Victor Cullen Center in Sabillasville, Md. Susan is survived by two daughters, Amy Bond of Waynesboro, Pa., Jennifer Flores of Cascade, Md.; a son, Jason Gingell of Cascade, Md.; two sisters, Doris Addlesberger and Faye Stouffer of Greencastle, Pa.; two brothers, John Kell and Tim Kell, both of Waynesboro, Pa. The funeral was held at Grove-Bowersox Funeral Home, officiated by pastor Brian Black of Five Forks BIC Church, and interment was at Bethel Church Cemetery, Cascade, Md.

**GRAYBILL, LUCILLE**, born on March 24, 1928, died on October 3, 2005. She was the wife of Rev. John W. Graybill. Born in Annville, Pa. on March 24, 1928, Lucille was the daughter of the late Paul and Annie Herr Hoffsmith.

The Graybills served as missionaries for over 40 years, first in rural western Japan (Yamaguchi Prefecture), and later in Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya. While in Japan, she taught English conversation and Western cooking. The Graybills ministered to all congregations within the Japan BIC Conference.

John and Lucille returned to Osaka in 1992 as self-supporting missionaries. After many years of planting the seed of God's word in Japanese hearts, John and Lucille returned to the U.S. in 2002.

Surviving in addition to her husband are two sons, Michael W. of Woodruff, S.C., and Edward P. of Lusaka, Zambia; three daughters, Brenda J. Custer of Annville, Pa., Debra A. Miller of Lancaster, Pa., and Barbara G. Togashi of Yokohama, Japan; three brothers,

Harold Hoffsmith of Palmyra, Pa., James Hoffsmith of Annville, Pa., and Earl Hoffsmith of Upper Lawn, Pa.; a sister, Pauline Snavely of Lititz, Pa.; 14 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Interment was at the United Christian Cemetery, Campbelltown, Pa.

**\*HEMPY, ROBERT WALKER "Bob"** Hempy passed away on August 16, 2005, at the age of 71. Bob was born and raised in Southern California, and pastored in this area for almost the entirety of his 50-year ministry.

He met Barbara Brown at Azusa Pacific University and they were married in 1956, eventually welcoming four children. During the course of their 49-year marriage, the Hempys served as the pastoral couple at Arrow Highway Wesleyan Church in Covina, Calif., Upland BIC, Alta Loma BIC, Manor BIC, and Solid Ground BIC. As part of their ministry, Bob and Barbara conducted marriage and family seminars known as Lasting Love throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Bob Hempy will be remembered as the consummate pastor. In stature and voice, he was larger than life. In spirit and personality he was humble, humorous, and self-effacing. Bob liked to refer to himself as a "Good News preacher," always focusing his teaching on God's grace and mercy.

Never taking himself too seriously, Bob brought a smile or laugh on many occasions. It was his willingness to let people know what was really going on in his life that made him such an encouragement to so many.

**\*HILL, PAUL** lived a life of enormous influence, including more than a half-century of ministry. Paul, and his wife of 56 years, Evelyn, will be remembered as pioneers in urban ministry within the BIC Church. After his first pastorate at Hillman BIC Church in

Michigan, Paul was appointed by the Home Mission Board to be the superintendent of the Detroit mission, where there was a young church and a downtown skid row mission. He and Evelyn were there for four years.

Then, in 1959, they became church planters in New York City, living at



what is now the site of the Urban Discipleship Center. They planted Fellowship Chapel and oversaw the Volunteer Service Workers Unit.

In 1969, they were off to the Life Line Mission and Guerrero Street Chapel in San Francisco. During the Hills' years there, a family center for needy mothers and children was purchased and filled to capacity. This later became the Lifeline Women's Shelter, which has since relocated to Upland, Calif. They also started the Life Line Mission Thrift Stores.

Finally, from 1984 through 1992, Paul was the administrator at Upland Manor, the West Coast counterpart of Messiah Village in Pennsylvania. He and his second wife, Ruth, lived together in the Upland area until his passing.

**HILL, THELMA**, born on December 17, 1916, passed away on October 21, 2005. She was preceded in death by her husband, Walter, and is survived by her brother Bruce Evans; daughters

Nancy and Lorene; sons Louis and Terry; seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. The funeral was held at Heise Hill BIC Church in Gormley, Ontario and was officiated by Reverend Janet Evans McQuaid. Interment was at Heise Hill Cemetery, also in Gormley, Ontario.

**LINTON, CARRIE DIANE** died at the Essa Flory Hospice Center in Lancaster, Pa. on March 19, 2006. Born on March 31, 1966 in Austin, Texas, Carrie was adopted by John K. and Janet Stoner and graduated from Messiah College with a major in early childhood education. Carrie's love for children led her to serve as an assistant education supervisor in Lancaster County's Head Start program. An active member of Lancaster BIC, she sang in the church choir, served on the board of the preschool program, and led children's programs at Christmas and other special times. She expressed her love for life, for God, and for others by her hard work, joyful play, and compassionate relationships.

Carrie is survived by her husband Steven R. Linton; sons Jeremy, age 10, and Spencer, age 7; her parents, Janet and John K. Stoner of Akron, Pa.; her birth mother, Katherine Tulloch of Austin, Texas; and her siblings, Bobby Cordell, Jr., Keith Cordell, Jane Johnson, Kay Stoner, Cathy Stoner, Billie Jo Lechner, and Robert Peachy Stoner. She was predeceased in death by a sister, Donna Cordell. The funeral was conducted by Rev. James D. Ernst at Lancaster BIC Church; interment was at Riverview Burial Park.

**LUTTRELL, DONALD R.** passed away on February 12, 2006. He was born on July 18, 1925 in Derry Township, Pa., served in the Navy during World War II, and was later employed by the Navy Depot in Mechanicsburg, Pa. A mem-

ber of Palmyra BIC, Donald was previously involved with the Shenks and Bright Hope Fellowship congregations. Donald enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening, and playing the harmonica. He is survived by his wife Kathryn and daughter Donna K. Gordon, both of Palmyra, Pa. The funeral was held at Hershey Evangelical Free Church, and interment at Shenks Cemetery.

**OLDHAM, DAVID** passed away. Born in 1970 in Martinsburg, Pa. to Charles and Linda Oldham, David is survived by his brothers, Stanley, Dean, Rodney, and Gary Oldham. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Shannon and Blanche Oldham and Paul and Naomi Slagenweit. The funeral was held at Martinsburg BIC Church and was officiated by Earl Herr.

**\*PALMER, MARK K.** of The Landing Place Community, Columbus, Ohio, passed away at the age of 31 on March 27, 2006, following an intense battle against cancer.

Born May 5, 1974 into a Christian home, Mark was involved in his family's local church from infancy. Following his graduation from Mansfield High School, Pa., he enrolled in Baptist Bible College, Clarks Summit, Pa., graduating in 1996. It was there that he sensed God's calling to church planting. His dream became a reality in 2001 with the BIC's launch of The Landing Place in the Short North District of Columbus, Ohio. Mark initiated an expanding network of churches meeting in homes, which has grown to three locations with the vision of expanding throughout the city.

Mark's passion for God's Kingdom was demonstrated by his life and teaching of radical commitment to Christ. He shared his vision of New Testament community living through speaking engagements across the

country and in other nations.

In 2003, his wife Jennifer died from cancer, leaving Mark to parent their toddler son, Micah, alone. Despite this tragedy, Mark continued serving faithfully. He married Amy in November of 2004 and she became a caring, adoptive mother to Micah and a support to Mark as he pursued his graduate degree at Ashland Theological Seminary even as the cancer advanced. Mark courageously fought the disease through modern medicine while holding tenaciously to his rock solid faith in Jesus, his Lord and Great Physician.

His faith lives on in his family, The Landing Place Community, and in those he has influenced to "...press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14).

**PYKE, MYRLE B.**, died peacefully Monday, November 28, 2005 after a short illness. She was born March 1, 1914 to Reverend Harvey and Minnie Light in Lebanon County, Pa. Myrle was married for 67 years to Harold L. Pyke, who resides at Messiah Village in Mechanicsburg, Pa. Myrle was a graduate of Messiah Bible College and Harrisburg Hospital School of Nursing. She enjoyed her profession as a registered nurse prior to raising her family. She was a member of Messiah Village BIC Church and, before that, of Grantham BIC Church. Myrle was an enthusiastic volunteer in numerous capacities at Messiah Village and at 91 was continuing to volunteer by folding napkins until her recent illness. She was keenly interested in supporting world missions through prayer and letter writing.

She is survived by her husband, Harold; sisters Faithe Light of Messiah Village; Grace Ensminger of Lebanon, Pa.; Elizabeth Stoessel of Messiah Village;

Miriam Dengler of Shaefferstown, Pa.; and sister-in-law Alverta Light, also of Lebanon, Pa. Her sister Naomi Light and brother Harvey K. Light, Jr. predeceased her. Myrle was much loved by her children, daughter Carolyn and husband Robert Mann of Mechanicsburg; and sons Lyle Pyke and wife Jeanne of Charlotte, N.C.; Neal Pyke and wife Carol of Anacortes, Wash.; Lynn Pyke and wife Terri Santa Coloma of New Orleans, La.; Larry Pyke and wife Stella of Anacortes, Wash. Myrle had eleven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held at Messiah Village Chapel.

**\*SMEAL, WESLEY**, a faithful servant of God and the BIC Church, entered eternity on Monday, December 12, 2005. A pastor, registered practical nurse, and school teacher, Wesley readily served many congregations, patients, and schools. He pastored various churches in New York, Pennsylvania, and Florida from 1939 until 1989, usually while attending school or working at another full-time job. He worked to obtain a bachelor's degree, a nursing degree, and a master's degree over his lifetime. Smeal was always ready to take the next opportunity that came his way and serve wherever he was needed. He pastored the Colyer BIC Church in Centre Hall, Pa. from 1973 to 1989 and was a member there until his death.

Wesley was a hardworking, dedicated man in all aspects of his life. He hitchhiked through eight states to reach his wife, Helen, on their wedding day in 1940. Helen remains in Bedford, Pa., as does their son, William. Their daughter Anita lives in Alabama and another son resides in Williamsport, Pa.

Regarding those who dedicate their lives to the ministry of leadership in the Church, the Apostle Paul wrote, "Hold them in the highest regard in

love because of their work" (1 Thess. 5: 13). We therefore hold Wesley Smeal in the highest regard in love, and we thank God for Wesley's contribution to the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**SNYDER, DONALD W.** passed away on December 6, 2005. Born on June 17, 1923 to the late Charles and Gertrude (Heffner) Snyder of Juniata County, Pa., Donald worked as a diesel mechanic for the Pennsylvania Railroad in Enola, Pa. before retiring in 1984. He also served as a deacon at Cedar Grove BIC Church in Mifflintown, Pa. for many years, where he was a member. Donald is survived by his children, Lois Erney, Lonnie, Leslie, and Stephen Snyder, Eunice Amey, Joan Asper, Brenda Hill, and Bonnie Sheaffer; his brother Robert Snyder; and his 16 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brothers Earl, Clyde, Charles, and Paul Snyder, and by his sisters Evelyn Hartzell and Doris Snyder. Funeral services were held at Richfield Evangelical Methodist Church in Richfield, Pa. and were officiated by Rev. Aaron McCarty and Rev. M. Eugene Heidler. Interment was at Maze Cemetery in Thompsettown, Pa.

**STECKLEY, J. BRUCE** passed away on February 7, 2006. Born in Gormley, Ontario to Levi and Mabel Steckley in 1927, Bruce was known for his love of gospel music. He toured and produced several albums with a quartet entitled The Masters Touch, a group that was always in demand and performed at churches throughout Ontario. Bruce had a quiet dignity and a sense of humor that shone through in everything he did at work, at home, and at his church, where he always served on various committees and boards. He is survived by his wife, Mary Jean Sider,

his son John, two grandchildren, seven step-children, and fourteen step-grandchildren, as well as his step-mother, Melba Steckley, sisters Alma, Margaret, Retha, Carol, and Mary. The funeral was held at Heise Hill BIC Church. Pastors Paul Penelton and Harvey Sider officiated, and interment was at Heise Hill Cemetery.

**WIDEMAN, MARTHA** of Heise Hill BIC Church, Gormley, Ontario, passed away August 17, 2005. Born on August 17, 1909 to parents George & Annie Reesor Cober, she served the Lord through the church from the age of 16 up until she was 89 years old. She taught Sunday school for 60 years. During the last few years of her life, Martha's focus had been prayer. Martha is survived by daughter Mary Sider, sons Elvin & Lawrence, sisters Mary Cober and Ada Winger, as well as nine grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. Martha was predeceased by her husband, Joseph, and her daughter-in-law, Barbara. Interment was at Heise Hill Cemetery.

**WINGER, CLIFFORD LEROY** passed away on January 16, 2006. Born on June 21, 1910 to Alvin and Louisa Winger of Ridgeway, Ontario, Clifford served as a deacon at Heise Hill BIC Church for 23 years and became one of four honorary deacons in the BIC Church. He served as a Sunday school teacher, trustee, church board member, and treasurer. Clifford also served with the Gideons from 1972 until the time of his death. He is survived by his wife, Ada; daughters Luella and Ardys; and son Ivan; as well as seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. The funeral was held at Heise Hill BIC

\*denotes licensed or ordained pastor

# FAMILY NEWS

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