

# Heart Ministries

Bill & Carole Cowell, Editors; Volume 41, Issue 1 – January, 2010 – Our 41st Year  
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## Walking into the Sunrise

Beginning a New Year along with growing older is an exciting chapter in life! While some dwell a lot on what is wrong in the world, we choose to focus on the good things God is doing, & envision the even greater things He has for us in the future. We are inspired by fellow pilgrims along the way, some of whom have already entered into the presence of the Lord. When I graduated from the Seminary at Wheaton College in 1965, Dr. Hudson Taylor Armerding was our President. Among the many cherished pieces of correspondence in our files is a hand written letter from him to us, dated October 2, 2007. Dr. Duane Litfin, Wheaton's current president, recently sent a letter to alumni, announcing that Dr. Armerding had been promoted to Heaven. He then told about one of Dr. Armerding's chapel messages in which he said the season of aging & dying should not be one of "walking into the sunset," but rather of "**walking into the sunrise.**" *"The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day."* (Proverbs 4:18)

God prepared Moses to lead Israel to the Promised Land by putting him out in the Sinai Wilderness for 40 years. It was after this experience that Moses did his greatest work for God. Our first 40 years of Heart Ministries hasn't been in a desert, but rather a wonderful learning experience. Still with wholeness of body & spirit, we are determined to make the future of Heart Ministries even better than the past. We choose to **walk into the sunrise**, allowing God's light to shine brighter until someday we also see the full light of day. There's no reason to worry, even though the world has problems. Amy Carmichael, who gave her life rescuing India's girls from temple prostitution, said it well in this poem, "Fret Not Thyself."

*Far in the future lieth a fear  
Like a long, low mist of grey,  
Gathering to fall in dreary rain,  
Thus doth thy heart within thee complain;  
And even now thou art afraid, for round thy dwelling  
The flying winds are ever telling  
Of the fear that lieth grey,  
Like a gloom of brooding mist upon the way.*

*Near by thy footfall springeth a joy,  
Like a new-blown little flower,  
Growing for thee, to make thee glad,  
Let thy countenance be no more sad,  
But wake the voice of joy and health within thy dwelling,*

(continued on page two)

"Another Year is dawning, Dear Father, let it be,  
In working or in waiting, another year for Thee.  
Another year of progress, another year of praise,  
Another year of proving, Thy presence all the days."

We have always loved this old hymn by Frances Havergal. A New Year is a blank slate; we never know what the next 365 days will bring. But we do know that God has us and this ministry in His mighty hands, and we are greatly blessed.



One way God blesses is through our supporting Churches. We took most of Victory Village to visit our friends at the Madura Congregational Church, in Bill's home town of Wakefield. We worshipped together, feasted together and talked together—the girls didn't want to leave! Here you see Pastor Todd Britt, & his wife Trudy, on the far left (Todd is on our Board of Directors). Our daughter Mary Beth Murawski (far right), from Strong City, KS, drove to Wakefield to join us.



We strongly believe that God blesses us so that we can bless others. Our students and staff packed 48 shoeboxes with small gifts for children, for Operation Christmas Child. These gifts are for children around the world who are in need. We are so proud of our people, (continued on page two)

"Walking into the Sunrise" (continued from page one)

*And let thy tongue be ever telling,  
Not of fear that lieth grey,  
But of little laughing flowers beside the way.*

*For the Lord is always kind,  
Be not blind, be not blind.  
To the shining of His face,  
To the comforts of His grace.  
He has never failed thee yet.  
Never will His love forget.  
O fret not thyself,  
Nor let thy heart be troubled,  
Neither let it be afraid.*

"48 Shoeboxes" (continued from page one)

who are a very small group, & yet with much enthusiasm were able to put this many boxes together! We know there will be 48 little children who will be happy to receive them.



Last Monday night we had our annual Christmas party for our students & the staff at our house. It was very close quarters! We all had fun with the gift exchange, the food, the games & the merriment.



The next night we had another party; this time at the dorm. A group of people from the Father's House, a local Hutchinson church, brought food and presents & love. Our students go every Wednesday night to a youth meeting at the Church, called "Launch." They love to go because they feel loved and accepted; not looked down on or condemned. They serve a tasty meal and then have a Bible study together.



One morning, Jaymie Stieben's friend, Eldora Penner, came from McPherson to bring everyone a little Teddy Bear of hope. She has a much needed ministry of encouraging people who are hurting. We need more people in our world who will do that!



We had a beautiful three inch snowfall in December. Some of the girls from the south had never seen snow, so they were very excited. Bill got the tractor and sled out to give rides; also a new experience for some! The snow lasted about 3 days.



We enjoyed a visit from Rev. Tim Soule, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Hutchinson. He joined us for lunch & then spoke to the students in school. Tim has been very kind, even offering us space in their church, if we needed it, following our roof collapse in March. We recently attended the ordination service for their son, Nathan, who with his wife is pastoring the Family of Christ Presbyterian Church in Greeley, CO. Tim's father, Rev. Bill Soule was pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Hutchinson for 10 years, so there are now three generations of ministers in the family—what a blessing!



Our grandson, Nate Goering, graduated from Washburn University with a degree in music, magna cum laude. Pictured here with his parents, Rod & Becky Goering, Nate left on a two week mission trip to China two days after graduation! He plans to work for Christian Challenge and teach music in Topeka schools, as well as give guitar lessons. He will be a busy guy!

### Alumni News

At Christmas we receive many greetings from former staff and students, and want to share some of them with you.

Some of you will remember Bennie Kelly, a much-loved staff member in 1995-96. She is married to Evan Finch, & they live at Cape Cod, MA, with their two children, Emily & Owen.



Can you guess whose son this is? Bryson looks just like his mother, Pam Reeves Rogers, who came to VVCA in 1995, from WaKeeney, KS. Pam married Steve Rogers & we conducted their wedding in 2002 at WaKeeney. Pam, Steve & Bryson now live in Wichita.



This is Tim & Kim Heiliger and their family from York, SC. Kim Lewis Heiliger came here from Rutherfordton, NC in 1982, & God has blessed her with a wonderful husband & family.

This is Genny Uecker McDaniel and her family from Wichita. Genny came here in 2002 from Kansas City, KS.



This is Cody Jeter & her family, who live in Ft. Worth, TX. Cody came here from Denver, CO in 1989.



Lisa Andreski Broadnax came from Colorado Springs in 1998. Here she is with her husband Luke, & their daughter Rylee. Rylee has been through a lot in her short life; surgeries, therapies, pain & suffering, but she is a brave little girl & is improving every day. Will you pray for little Rylie?



Harold Dryden & Charles & Martha Hill brought a special donation for the school—a saddle. Our teacher, Mr. Hurley, brings riding horses, and we have our own faithful pony, Abbie. Our saddle was broken so a new one was very welcome.

# Heart Ministries Victory Village Christian Academy



Forty One Years of changing Lives  
For Jesus Christ and His Kingdom  
Jesus said, "I have come that they may have  
life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)



We were so pleased to have our Alaska kids here for the holidays! This is Paul & Val Stapley with their three sons Sam, Nathan & Micah. If you remember, Paul was the contractor for our new school building, and he did such a fine job. They were excited to see the school after we had moved in, since they left in late June for the birth of little Nathan. We were glad to meet him for the very first time!



Who likes to play! Our Secretary Barb, and Eva, JoJo & Katie had a great time popping bubble wrap. It came with some stainless steel pots and pans, given by an exhibitor at the Kansas State Fair, whose booth has been next to ours for the last several years. We were very grateful for the cookware.

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Do you worry about the generation coming up behind us; If you don't like what they wear to church...music they use in worship...fashions they sport...the way they wear their hair, it's time we had a talk. I live with nearly 1,500 of these kids, and love the experience. Under the layers of all that stuff we have a hard time relating to, more often beats a heart that would put most of our superficial Christianity to shame. Their idealism, passion for Jesus, and zest for life invigorate me. My recommendation to all of us old-timers is to relax. Young people have often found church disappointing. Too often they have experienced it not as a community of Christ-centered love and compassion, but a stage on which clergy and influential members strut their own stuff. Their hearts are hungry for something to hope in, a community to feel safe in. Sadly, they don't often sense that in their church. But they have found what they are looking for in Jesus, who developed a community of trust with His friends. If we let them, they will lead us back to Christianity the way it was meant to be: a community of belief that tells the truth, engenders trust, and freely gives love and compassion to all in need. —Joseph Stowell, former President of the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago.

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**Victory Village Christian Academy** serves students without charge to them or their parents, by providing a clean & safe place to live, a good education, nutritious meals, training in life skills, outdoor activities, opportunities to be involved in ministry, & most important of all, an introduction to **Jesus Christ**, who will love them for a lifetime & forever. **Victory Village** is located at 201 South Victory Road, Burrton, KS 67020. Mailing address is P O Box 2068, Hutchinson, KS 67504. **Heart Ministries, Inc.**, a 501(c)(3) organization, cooperates with local & state regulatory agencies. **Victory Village Christian Academy** is registered with the Kansas State Department of Education, has a state certified teacher, & is a member of the Association of Christian Schools, International. Credits are transferable; high school diplomas are earned & recognized for entrance into colleges & universities. **Board of Directors:** Rev. Bill & Carole Cowell, Directors & Pastors of **The Village Chapel**, Rev. Todd Britt, Larry Chapman, Becky Goering, Gordon Goering, Lyndal Penner, Roger Stauter, Rev. John Williams; **Secretary-Treasurer:** Barbara Hedges; **Maintenance:** Ray Yingling; **School Staff:** Allen Hurley (teacher), Diane Sanders & LaJane Anderson (specialized classes), Joanna Murawski, Bill & Carole Cowell; **Dorm Staff:** Charlotte Ratzlaff (dorm mother), Katie Hougham, Fannie Yoder, Barbara Hoskinson, Michelle Green, Nicki Thompson, Kim Yingling, Autumn Cranmer; **Victory Village Team:** Everyone who supports Heart Ministries with prayers & gifts. Thanks & may God bless you.