

# THE COVENANT WORLD

Fall 2008



Janet and Lois Afflerbach

We'd like to introduce you to Janet and Lois Afflerbach, hospitality angels, and capital 'F' Friends to all Covenant Players!

It is not always easy to find housing in the New York City area. Eight million people live in the five boroughs of New York City (Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, and Staten Island) and even more commute into the city on a daily basis. The majority live in small apartments without extra space. Yet Covenant Players, who are on the road nine months out of every year without any permanent base or station, has been able to serve this city and its environs for most of CP's 45 years. That is due to the special people who open their homes to us and provide CP a place to stay.

In 1987 METROPOLIS Unit Leaders Tom and Shari Smith were contacting churches looking for places to serve. They met the pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church in Flushing (Queens), who suggested they contact the 'movers and shakers' in the church, **Janet and Lois Afflerbach**. When Janet and Lois met Tom and

*World*. CP's growth over the past 14 years, particularly in the art of developing good and regular communication with our non-touring CP friends, has been a priceless contribution to the mission and ministry of Covenant Players!

Welcome, Bart! We pray the Lord's anointing on your ministry within CP! We pray you will come to know all of our wonderful CP friends and family—and we pray that your gifts and skills will be readily used in the support of CP's overall operations, and the livelihood of the individual CPers.

**Bobbi M. Johnson-Tanner**  
*International Director*

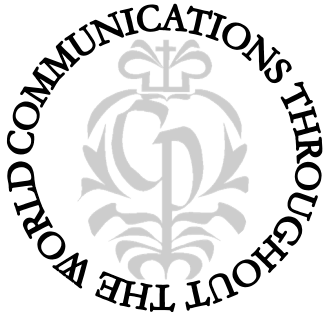
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Pam and Bart Cowser

In this issue of *Covenant World*, we present to you CP's new Director of Development, Bart Cowser. Bart, and his wife, CP veteran Pam Cowser, returned stateside this June after serving five and a half years in Germany as Supervisors of CP's European Continental Office.

We send up huzzahs and words of deep appreciation to Sue Blough, who has led the Development Department of CP since 1994! Sue will now focus her service in the specialized arena of grants. Thank you, Sue, for your anointed years as Director of Development, and writer of the *Covenant*



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September 29, 2008

45 Years of  
CP  
Ministry!



**Spotlight on Support:  
Janet and Lois Afflerbach**

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**New 'Developments'**

Heartfelt thanks to all of you who responded to our appeal in the Spring 2008 *Covenant World*. As we mentioned then, summer is a time of extended training for Covenant Players—with very little income. It is an opportunity for us to stretch and grow in our ability as actors and directors, as well as a time for spiritual equipping and refreshing. We appreciate those of you who support our training and renewal time with your gifts and resources. This is a tremendous support.

You rallied to help us during that time in a number of ways:

- Gifts given specifically to our Training Fund: ..... \$4,212.00
- Sponsorship for the 2008 Marathon / Swim-a-thon fundraiser:... \$8,865.00
- *Open House* Summer Performance Offering: ..... \$1,502.00

You'll be happy to know that your gifts, in addition to the funds set aside during the Spring Mission for training costs, enabled us to subsidize the fuel costs of each Covenant Player traveling to and from the training site. This was a tremendous blessing as we all faced the staggering increase in fuel prices this summer.

Throughout the year, we have also received gifts for the *Unit Equipment Fund*. So far, \$3,981.00 has come in toward our need to purchase laptops and computer hardware. At the same time, we are in the process of upgrading the sound systems for each of the Catalysts Units, which has been a long time in coming!

Again, thank you to everyone for your support! To those of you who housed a Covenant Player; sponsored a runner, swimmer or 'fast'er; to those whose gifts helped us with the costs of training; and especially to Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Simi Valley, California, who allowed us use of their facilities, we say a heartfelt thank you! May the Lord richly bless all of you as you certainly have us!

#### **All Covenant Players**

*Bill and Marilyn Miller*  
Akron, OH  
*Lois Weatherhead*  
Oxnard, CA

#### **April & Jeremy Lee**

*Lee and Connie Lomax*  
Tryon, NC

#### **Bethany (Rathbun) & Jeremy Stefano**

*Arnold and Caroline Rathbun*  
Cranston, RI

#### **Beverly Jordan**

*Cleora and Robert Galt*  
Ventura, CA

#### **Bobbi & Mark Johnson-Tanner**

*Don and Nancy Johnson*  
Tempe, AZ  
*Dawn Spotten*  
Parker, CO

#### **Bobbi Johnson-Tanner, Christina Morris, Suzanne Goettl**

*Anne Pierson*  
Walnut Creek, CA

#### **Diane & Michael Black - 21st Wedding Anniversary**

*William and Sandra Shumate*  
Eden Prairie, MN

#### **Dorie Tanner**

*Barbara Lemke*  
Woodland Hills, CA  
*Evelyn Maynard*  
Woodland Hills, CA

#### **Gail Crabtree**

*Edwin Crabtree*  
Westlake, OH

#### **Jesus, the Christ**

*Rocky and Karola Wilson*  
Spokane, WA

#### **Oscar & Arlene Emly**

*Virginia Emly*  
Chadron, NE

#### **Pam Trickett**

*Dona Raddatz*  
North Hills, CA

#### **The Reverend Peter Hawker**

*Joe and Martha Mosakowski*  
Florence, AL

#### **Ruth Hausmann & Ruth Forcey**

*Deborah and Brian Forcey*  
Moorpark, CA

#### **Steven & Elaine Leroy**

*Bill and Inez Leroy*  
Tuscon, AZ

# A Summer Blessing

*“This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.” (2 Corinthians 9:11 NIV)*



## Honor Gifts

*Honor Gifts are a way to remember special occasions, or just to recognize someone who is important to you. CP's International Director, Bobbi Johnson-Tanner, and CP acknowledge the following honorees. (Gifts received as of April 2—September 30, 2008)*

Through our 45 years of ministry, technology has changed—a lot. However, reactions to our performances remain consistent. Sometimes thoughtful reflection fills a sanctuary with profound silence, sometimes the sound of children’s laughter echoes through the hallway of a school. Sometimes people come up and vigorously shake our hands; others walk past without making eye contact—they are still processing the personal impact of the play. Sometimes an audience member sees a play, experiences its power and, like many of you, immediately wants to be a part of the ministry God is doing through the Covenant Players.

So what can they—and you—do?

While audience reactions remain the same, technology marches on—even for Covenant Players. Every CP unit performs *and* manages its own “mobile office.” Good record-keeping and contact management help us maximize every single ministry opportunity. Here is where you can help.

For several years now, Covenant Players has been using *ACT!* as our contact management software. It has served us well, but it is an older version, and as operating systems continue to evolve (from Windows 98, to XP, to Vista), it has become critical that we upgrade.

We have already started saving money for the project, but providing software for every unit and office worldwide will cost several thousand dollars. With your help, we can make the upgrade a reality. We are very grateful to all of you who partner with us to make ever-changing technology work for us and for the Lord’s service! We deeply appreciate your gifts of used laptops, equipment, and printers—as well as you who are making financial contributions to help us purchase them. Bless you!

***If you wish to donate software, equipment, or make a cash contribution toward our next software purchase, you may note this on the enclosed response card.***

Again, thank you for your help. You are a blessing to us.



**PACIFIC GATE Unit Leader Kurt Purucker sets up office at a bus stop in Fukuoka, Japan**

The new Covenant Players' website is online!

After much preparation—and several delays—Covenant Players launched its new and redesigned website in August. The address is the same, **[www.covenantplayers.org](http://www.covenantplayers.org)**, but the look is completely different. Designed by Mario Hernandez of DesignsDrive.com, the site is powerful enough to meet our needs and yet simple enough that we can maintain it ourselves. Some features that you will immediately see are sections in the right column called “From Covenant Players”, “Latest News”, and “Upcoming Events”. “From Covenant Players” is an open letter from CP to the

viewing public; “Latest News” is just that, articles about what CP is doing and experiencing around the world; “Upcoming Events” allows you to make note of future events that could benefit by your prayer, support, or even participation. Our hope is that it will keep you informed of the exciting ministry that Covenant Players is accomplishing worldwide and bring a glimpse of that experience right to your computer screen.

On virtually every page, there are photos to give the site visual impact. There are flash animations and videos on the site and we hope to add more in the coming months. RSS Feeds (a button on many web pages that allows you to receive notification when a page has been updated—like news web sites)

deliver update notices to your web browser or email program as they become available. A “Donate Now” button gives you an opportunity to make contributions to CP safely, securely and conveniently over the Internet.

In the future we will also have photo galleries and an alumni section for former Covenant Players. Behind the scenes, the website provides touring Covenant Players with resources like downloadable brochures, forms, even sound effects and music for the plays.

Many of you have already visited the website and told us how much you like it. Thank you! It is our hope that it will adequately communicate the excitement that comes from the combined power of drama, the music of the Catalysts, and the testimony of a completely committed mission lifestyle.

So point your browser to **[www.covenantplayers.org](http://www.covenantplayers.org)** and see what's going on—line, that is.

# **A Time to Upgrade**

**Launch of the New Web Site**



Shari and found out about Covenant Players' drama ministry, they were so enthusiastic that they promptly scheduled a program and offered the unit hospitality in their home. That was the beginning of a wonderful 21-year relationship that Covenant Players has had with Janet and Lois Afflerbach.

Janet and Lois are twin sisters who moved to Queens with their family in 1936 while still sophomores in high school. Their house is a short walk from the Long Island Railroad, and an even shorter walk to the bus stop. They have never owned a car since they take public transportation or ride their bicycles wherever they go. They are both retired now, yet they remain active in their church and in the community, including their volunteer work at the Queens College library. And since 1987 they have hosted units of Covenant Players several times each year. They not only give of their hospitality and resources, but they truly give of themselves to each one who is blessed enough to cross their threshold. When Covenant Players visit Janet and Lois, they are no longer guests; they are family. And when you are on the road 36-38 weeks every year, that is perhaps one of the greatest blessings of all.

We are so grateful for long-term hosts such as Janet and Lois, whose faithfulness enables our units to perform regularly in schools and other venues that are not able to provide housing so easily. Their love for the ministry of Covenant Players and the individuals themselves enriches all of our lives. "We really are blessed to see all these young people doing more than their part," Janet and Lois have said. "We are surely glad to do this."

And we are surely blessed that you do. Thank you, Janet and Lois. You are one in a million—or rather, two in eight million. We love you!

Just point your web browser to:  
<https://secure.covenantplayers.org> or simply  
 click on the red "Donate Now" button on our  
 home page ([www.covenantplayers.org](http://www.covenantplayers.org)).

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*Covenant Players does not sell its mailing lists, or any information pertaining to its contributors.*

## Memorial Gifts

**Beverly (Barrett) Sloggett**  
*Bonnie and Bernie Kruszenga*  
 Walworth, WI

**Charles M. Tanner**  
*Janet and Dave Bowman*  
 Flagstaff, AZ  
*Lucille and John Murphy*  
 Tarzana, CA

**Doris Heulton**  
*Donald Heulton*  
 Dana Point, CA

**James Raddatz**  
*Dona Raddatz*  
 North Hills, CA

**Jeannette Jordan**  
*Cleora and Robert Galt*  
 Ventura, CA

**Joanna Barton**  
*Florence Watson*  
 Marion, SD

**Mary De Vecchis**  
*David De Vecchis*  
 Providence, RI

**Rick Van Duyn**  
*Gary and Mary Van Duyn*  
 Idaho Springs, CO

**The Reverend Peter Hawker's Mother**  
*Joe and Martha Mosakowski*  
 Florence, AL

**Tom Woehr**  
*Donna Woehr*  
 Poughkeepsie, NY

**Valerie Roberts**  
*Erwin and Luanne Marine*  
 Westlake Village, CA

**W.F. Ponder**  
*Raymond Horn*  
 Bossier City, LA

*(Spotlight on Support—Cont'd from page 1)*

*Memorial Gifts offer tribute to the memory of a loved one, while helping meet the specific needs of Covenant Players. The families whose memories are honored receive acknowledgement from CP's International Director, Bobbi Johnson-Tanner, and Covenant Players. (Gifts received as of April 2—September 30, 2008)*

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**You Can Make Donations Online**



**COVENANT PLAYERS**

**Visit our website! [www.covenantplayers.org](http://www.covenantplayers.org)**