



THE COVENANT WORLD



SUPPORT FOR RETURNING TROOPS



Patricia Lamson (Army Community Services), CPers Bart & Pam Cowser, and Chaplain (COL) Mike Brown - Schweinfurt, Germany

Covenant Players is dedicated to going wherever there are people with needs. This mission dovetails with the job of the Chaplains who minister to the far-flung branches of the armed forces.

"A lot of people give lip service to the military – but Covenant Players really mean it. Because you do something to serve. Covenant Players has been faithfully serving the US military for over twenty years – that I know of!"

Actually, 1970 was the first time a unit of Covenant Players went to Europe to perform for the military. That partnership has continued right up to the present. In 2006, CP was invited to Baumholder, Germany, to take part in Reintegration/Reunion Training Days for US troops returning from Iraq and their families. The work is continuing into 2008 with more contracts planned in Europe and the US.

The Reintegration Program follows the *BATTLEMIND* Training program developed by Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. Covenant Players performs plays to cover key points of the *BATTLEMIND* program, including "Accountability vs. Control", "Targeted vs.

(Continued on page 3)

Inside this issue:

Honor Roster	2
Alumni Partnership	2
Support for Returning Troops, cont'd.	3
Summer Training	3
Workers for the Harvest cont'd.	4
Memorial Roster	4

WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

During Covenant Players' January Training, director Bobbi Johnson-Tanner spoke to the assembled body about something they already knew...the harvest was great but the workers were few – so few in fact that a decision had to be made on the size of the units. After weighing the option of reducing the number of areas CP covers, consensus was reached to continue with the current number of units in faith. Each unit would pray fervently, speak boldly, and find one additional Christian who, as Chuck Tanner used to say, wanted to help turn the world "upside right in our time" for Christ.

Every CP unit carries a tremendous work load: in addition to extensive rehearsal and preparation for each playdate, the units also handle all their own correspondence, PR work, reporting, driving, vehicle maintenance - just about anything that needs to be done in order for powerful ministry to take place. Having a 4 person unit divides the work up so that the primary focus is in performing the plays. With 4 people, a larger unit repertoire is possible, giving the units the ability to finely tune the program's themes given by the user organizations, and it allows them to split into 2 worship teams on Sunday mornings, thus enabling them



CPers working on scripts during Recruit Training.

(Continued on page 4)

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 Oct 16, 2007 – Apr 1, 2008)

All Covenant Players

Cherie Anton
Mission Hills, CA
Conrad and Joan Brown
Pipe Creek, TX

Cricket Beebe

Cleora and Robert Galt
Ventura, CA

Jody Mai Bader

Phil and Kristin Palmquist-Warriner
Sacramento, CA

Michael & Diane Black

Bruce and Jackie Davey
Medina, OH

Bob Blough

Melodie Grant-Chapman
Portsmouth, NH

Bill & Marian Coburn & Shirley Christie

Julee and Wes Whatley
Studio City, CA

Bart & Pam Cowser

Clark and Karen Driscoll
Kennesaw, GA

Gail Crabtree

R. Edwin Crabtree
Westlake, OH

Jeremy & Marie Dietz

Pastor John and Fran Dietz
Edinboro, PA

Dell Fantry

HJ and Doris Dell
Hampton, VA

Robin, Suzanne & Erin Goettl

Leo and Carolyn Rodecker
Cleveland, OH
Pastor Rex and Connie Rogers
Belvidere, IL

Scott & Kathy Hamilton

Walter and Pota Meier
Chatham, MA

Steven & Kristin Heineman

David and Debra Showalter
Lusby, MD

Rachel Hoskins

Sondra Petty White
Salt Lake, UT

Beverly Jordan

Cleora and Robert Galt
Ventura, CA

Steven & Elaine Leroy

Bill and Inez Leroy
Tuscon, AZ

Alicia Livingston

Doris Ward
Jacksonville, FL

Jan & Jim McGinnis

Charles and Ruth Nichols
Kent, OH

Donna McKibben

Marilyn Rothwell
Oxnard, CA

Christina Morris

DeDe Taylor
Ventura, CA
Stephanie and James Powell
Edmeston, NY

Kimberly Rigney

Jenney Smith
Orangeburg, SC

John & LoWaine Robison

The Reverend Al and Sandy
Gorsline
Oxnard, CA

Tom & Shari Smith

Ed and Amy Joy
Warren, ME
Linda and James Peace
Freehold, NJ
Mrs Evelyn Maynard
Woodland Hills, CA

Bob & Betty Stanton

Ted & Marge Stanton

Bill and Marian Coburn
North Hollywood, CA

Dorie Tanner

Jini Van Cleave
Pasadena, CA



*Returning CPer,
Andy Rice*

ALUMNI PARTNERSHIP!

While we continue to emphasize the need for new people to join us, we also thank God for the active participation of non-touring Covenant Players and the vast network of CP supporters. All over the country, alumni are making themselves available as their schedules allow, serving as "remote" performers. This makes it possible for units to expand their repertoire of plays, to speak more accurately to the needs of the churches and groups they serve. Some of the ways CP's supporters have become involved are as follows:

Andy Rice, after many years of supporting CP units in the Vancouver area, has returned to the road full time, leading the *Pacific Northwest Unit*. This April, **Andria Basey** has taken time off from her regular job to join two members of our World Headquarters for a four-week mission in her home state of Alaska. This is Andria's third mission serving in this way. **Jeremy & April Lee** are former CPers now living in Portland, Oregon. Jeremy works for a company that matches employees' contributions to programs that benefit the community. Through his work, and his company's matching sponsorship, Covenant Players have been able to perform for a local elementary school, nursing homes and retirement facilities.

We are deeply grateful for these and many other acts of service that strengthen our ministry. May the Lord bless in return these blessings a hundred-fold!

“Give, and it will be given to you. You will have more than enough. It can be pushed down and shaken together and it will still run over as it is given to you. The way you give to others is the way you will receive in return.”

(Luke 6:38 NLV)

**Would you consider making a donation to CP’s Training Fund?
Gifts both small and large are equally appreciated –
and your donation is tax-deductible!**

During the summer, when we are “off the road” for training, each campus does its best to cover costs with a variety of fundraisers, and local performances. **Here is our 2008 schedule:**



Backstage with the lighting crew.

- **June 22 – July 20:** Covenant Players’ Covenant College
- **July 6:** CP’s Swim–A–Thon relay team aims to swim 26.2 miles!
- **July 12:** Covenant Players Open House performance
- **July 21 - August 5:** Training for the Road
- **August 3:** The San Francisco Marathon. 5 CPer’s will participate in the Full Marathon and the Half Marathon events.

SUPPORT FOR RETURNING TROOPS

(Continued from Page 1)

Inappropriate Aggression”, “Individual Responsibility vs. Guilt”, “The Alcohol Transition” and “Discipline & Ordering vs. Conflict” among others.

The reviews from people in charge of the program have been powerful: *“Your plays are so good. They hit people on different levels and allow them to deal with issues ... a few days ago I counseled a woman who had... returned from combat... The play hit her hard. This is good. It opens up issues for people.”*

One play with particular resonance deals with a sergeant returning from an 18-month deployment to find that he no longer knows what his role is in his family. The CP unit follows up the play by calling for volunteers to come onstage and role-play the parts of the father, mother and son, with input from the rest of the audience.

The families of deployed soldiers experience similar impacts from the plays. *“I am the school counselor and I wanted to tell you that what you did is excellent. I have been doing reintegration with the kids and have talked about their feelings and how they’ve changed in the time their parents have been gone – and this fits in just perfect.”*

These programs give returning soldiers and their families the opportunity to see each other’s situation more clearly, opening up avenues of communication. They also give the Chaplains new tools in their ministry to the unique needs of military personnel and families.

The following comes from a director of Army Community Services: *“I have to tell you, I’m not easily converted. But after seeing you and the plays, I see that it’s value added. I was watching the crowd while you were giving your program and it was very impactful. I’m always looking for that – does it have an impact? And this, as I said, was value added.”*

To be able to add value to the priceless service that military personnel and their families render to their country – that’s a special blessing. And as the Lord makes it possible, Covenant Players will continue to support the armed forces wherever they are.



CPers, Penni Jo Blatterman & Pam Cowser working with soldiers from Headquarters Company and the Brigade Reconnaissance Troop of the Brigade Combat Team, USAG



Recruit Training Class

WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST (Continued from page 1)

to serve more churches during 'prime time'.

What is a Covenant Player? He or she is, first of all, someone who has a longing for God – a longing to serve God. It takes a great deal of courage to leave an established

life behind and embark on a lifestyle vastly different than what most people can even imagine. It is indeed a leap of faith. Yet the freeing from our fears and “what ifs” gives us true freedom. What an opportunity!

We now turn to you, our friends and supporters, to ask you to join with us in earnest prayer. Perhaps you know of someone in your life or church or community who God might be inviting to join the harvesters. We ask you to join the Covenant Players as they pray fervently and ask boldly ... talk to your friends or relatives, your pastor or priest, and help find the new persons needed on CP units today.

Pray with us to bring this invitation to someone you know!

"That play about the phone call really challenged me. I mean, how many times does God place a call on my life and I don't answer Him because I am feeling lazy, or have other things to do? A call doesn't always have to be something big either. Sometimes all He wants is for me to talk to someone in the checkout line, or help someone in the street when they need it. It's not asking much, but we - I - make such a fuss about it. I'm glad you did that play. It was a reminder that I needed."

**Harvest International Church
Glendale, AZ**

Covenant Players' 2007 Cash Flow Report

A copy is available on request.

Please email:

development@covenantplayers.org,

or write to us at the below address.

**Covenant Players • P.O. Box 2900 • Oxnard,
CA 93034-2900 •**

Tel. 1-800-79-DRAMA •

Development@covenantplayers.org

Founder: Charles M. Tanner •

International Director: Bobbi M. Johnson-Tanner

Editor: S. Blough • Graphics/Layout: L. Linn •

Printing: M. Melahouris, J. Robison

Visit our website - www.covenantplayers.org

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

Memorial Gifts

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 Oct 16, 2007 – Apr 1, 2008)

Isabel "Betty" Anderson

William Norey and Carol Natera-Norey
Camarillo, CA

Mae Hannah Baker

Barbara Murray Young
Corning, NY

John Bisset

John and Marge Bisset
Joliet, IL

Gwen Edgecomb

Wayne Edgecomb
Atlanta, GA

Thelma E. Green

Steve and Nanely Schroeder
Copperas Cove, TX

Tyge Irskens

Lucille Irskens
Tucson, AZ

Jeanette Jordan

Cleora and Robert Galt
Ventura, CA

Bob Pearce

Barbara Pearce
West Hills, CA

Gene Purnell

Pauline Purnell
Longmont, CO

George Takeyama

Ralph and Lynnda Kroy
Granada Hills, CA

Jaselito Santos

Joseph and Annie Bautista
Ewa Beach, HI

Jane Smith

David and Mary Alice Donaldson
Anchorage, AK

Loy Smith

Pamela Trickett
North Hills, CA

Charles M. Tanner

Jini Van Cleave
Pasadena, CA

Kathryn Climie
Schoolcraft, MI

Dawn Spotten

Parker, CO

Jeanne and Lanin Thomasma

Temperance, MI

Helen R. Zylstra

Eugene and June Butler
Chehalis, WA