



The Covenant World

A newsletter from the Development Department of Covenant Players

Charles M. Tanner, Founder

Bobbi M. Johnson-Tanner, International Director



Debbie Allen

Where did you first come into contact with Covenant Players?

By Debbie Allen, European Development Director

Where *did* you first come into contact with Covenant Players? At a performance? Through your church - or a friend? Did a van pull up in your driveway, as you graciously offered hospitality to this group of unknown missionaries? Perhaps you have family members who have served within the ministry or have even packed your bags, jumped in that van and served yourself?

My first contact was in 1983, when CP was but a youthful 20 years old. I could not possibly have known then how my life would be changed and shaped by that encounter.

Nearly 30 years in, I want to just take a moment to declare the expansive joy that I feel in being a Covenant Player! It is a priceless gift and privilege to be here in the mission field. I am thrilled to have been a part of so much that has gone before as well as that which we are doing right now. I embrace with great excitement, enthusiasm, zest and joy those things that exist only as a vision - *and those we cannot yet even begin to imagine!* I cannot thank the Lord enough for the extraordinary calling he has placed upon a very ordinary life, for Chuck's first vision and for his life-giving plays!

Through the years some of the faces have changed but, with the Lord, one thing that has remained a constant joy is the plays of Charles M. Tanner. *Chuck's plays open doors!* Because of the high regard that is held for the plays of Charles M. Tanner, Covenant Players have performed around the (Continued on page 4)

"It was great how you live the reality of the plays and transport us all in it. We were with you – the break room, the library. And we experienced the struggles. And the enjoyment."

"You could see the characters' internal struggles trying to figure out how to respond to the external situations."

**Youth Program
St. Paul's Catholic Church
(German-speaking)
Brussels, Belgium**

SHARE THE MIGHT—SPREAD THE LIGHT

We don't need to tell you that the economy has made it hard to make ends meet. You've each been living that tale for more than three years. And yet, here we are, coming to you for help to meet the financial needs of our ministry. If it weren't for the precedent set in scripture, we couldn't ask this of you.

Because of Christ, it is never embarrassing to ask fellow believers for help in spreading the Gospel. Jesus lifted up the heart of the giver as an example to all.

"Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large

amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on." (Mark 12:41-44 NIV)



Whether it be a one-time gift or monthly pledge, we understand that gifts challenge us all to re-prioritize

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Honor Gifts

Covenant Players recognizes the following gifts given in honor of special people or occasions. Gifts given as of October 22, 2010 - February 28, 2011.

Robin Goettl

*Walter & Jeanette Cyr
Ocala, FL*

Jay & Lyn LaRue

*Mike & Asta Edlin
Santa Rosa, CA*

Charlie & Ruth Nichols

*Chuck & Chris Nichols
Windham, OH*

John & LoWaine Robison

*Eugene E. Cooper
Oxnard, CA*

Joanna Saunders

*Jean T. Kellogg
Scotch Plains, NJ*

Joe Spirko

*Dorothy Jean Schlosser
Simi Valley, CA*

Memorial Gifts

The following gift was given in tribute to the memory of a loved one. Our heartfelt prayers go out to the families of Alvin Hofmeister.

Alvin Hofmeister

*Shirley Hofmeister
Las Vegas, NV*



RUNNING (OR SWIMMING) THE RACE!



San Francisco Marathoners 2011:
(L to R) Robin Goettl, Kate Bosch
& Greg Campbell

Summer 2011 was filled with special events and fund raising efforts. From Marathons to Swim-a-thons, Host Night events—CPers did double and triple duty in addition to their participation in Covenant Players Covenant College—CP's summer in-house training program.

Following a few months after CPer Robin Goettl's run in the Virgin London Marathon, Robin again took to the streets—with fellow CPers Greg Campbell and Kate Bosch—for the **San Francisco Marathon** in July.

The Marathon itself was exciting and a good challenge. Robin again ran a full Marathon (26.2 miles), while Kate and Greg each ran 5K. All runners were blessed by the experience, and honored to participate.

This year's **Swim-a-thon** included 15 swimmers, both in California and Rhode Island—where the swimmers completed 11.8 miles. The non-swimmers had a job to do as well. There were lap counters, cheering encouragers and stats people. The day ended with a meal served to all at the adjoining Camarillo Boys & Girls Club picnic area.

CP's Host Night Event celebrated the theme of *Christmas in July* as we invited our beloved hosts for a special evening of thanks and good fellowship. Christmas plays were performed, Christmas decorations abounded and no one let the 90 degree weather outside stop them from celebrating the wonder of Christ's birth. It was a great time to say *thank you* to our generous hosts.

CP's annual 4-5 day Retreat is a corporate spiritual retreat, always a spiritual high point of the year. This is a time to refresh, renew and deepen our walk with Christ. As you'd expect, it is actually pretty expensive—and there is no budget for this. Individual CPers pay just half, because of the costs, and CP covers the rest. Amazingly, for the second summer in a row, we were able to lower the price of retreat—including the petrol to get up to Tahquitz Pines in Idlywild, CA. Through participation in the fundraising efforts of individual CPers, through the Marathons, the Swim-a-Thon, so many supporters joined with us making this possible. We are grateful to you for your participation. And we continue to be grateful for your faithful prayer support. It means more to us than we can say. *Thank you!*



Sue Rice swimming her laps in CP's Swim-a-thon 2011.

Camarillo was once again the site of this year's Swim-a-thon. All CPers participated, whether by swimming, counting laps, providing cheer support or food.



*Be a part of
If you'd like Covenant Players to be YOUR ministry.*

"I like that what you share is so important, about how to live. Some people talk about it but don't make it apply. But you make it alive, in a way that people can relate and understand. So thank you!"

Student
Christian After-School Club
Waianae, HI

"I'm the kind of fellow who, if I saw a sign that said, 'Don't bang your head on the table', it's exactly what I'd want to do! But I've come to discover that Christianity isn't about rules. If it was, I wouldn't be here."

Pastor, St Paul's Anglican Church
Katherine, Northern Territory, Australia

SHARE THE MIGHT—SPREAD THE LIGHT (Continued from page 1)

the spending of our money, at personal cost. That deep gift of the heart lifts us up and strengthens us, even as the gift of money enables this ministry to go out and minister to people everywhere.

We are deeply thankful that, through these difficult economic times, so many of you have chosen to continue your support by helping keep us on the front lines of ministry. And prayer is always a need! Your prayers lift us up and keep us going. Thank you!

We did want you to know that a mailing has just gone out to many churches inviting them to Partner in Ministry with CP through their Outreach budget. Please ask your church leadership to consider this additional opportunity for front-line ministry support.

Matthew 25 calls us to care for widows and visit those in prison (among other things). As a 'front lines' ministry, our experience encourages us to faithfully believe that the kingdom of God will increase through the CP ministry—daily. Read what these people shared with us:

Ministry in a Skilled Nursing Home:

"I am really glad that I saw – that I listened to your program today. It was really good for me. You know, they brought me here kicking and screaming from Albuquerque, NM – and I

have been angry with my kids for a long time... I was so angry with them. But this has helped me. Thank you."

Beaverdale Estates
Des Moines, IA

In a Prison:

"I know every time the Covenant Players ministers here I find that I encounter Jesus in worship in a newer, deeper way, and I am so thankful that I've had the blessing of seeing them again tonight."

New Hampshire State Prison for Women
Bedford, NH

Please use the enclosed card to join with us planting seeds that will turn the world upside right for Jesus Christ.

Referring to the play, *THE ASSAY*, by Charles M. Tanner, and a performance by the Pacific Gate Unit:

"Those words [in the play]... I wanted to write [them] down... So many things, I kept wanting to make a note of them... It was hard and breathtaking and touching."

Calvary Chapel South Maui,
Kihei, HI

Together, hand in hand, we serve the Risen Lord. Can there be anything greater than that?

by Mark Johnson-Tanner



2012 Dates

- Thursday, January 12 **Pre-Banquet**
- Saturday, January 14 **Banquet**
- January 17-31, **Jan. Training**
- Feb. 5-Jun 3 **Genesis Mission**
- June 25-July 21 **CPCC**
- Mon., July 23 – Thu., July 26 **Retreat**
- Aug. 12-Dec. 16 **Exodus Mission**

"I love what you do because you assume that I am teaching them the principals of being a Christian – you don't come in like you're dealing with people who are not getting any input – but rather as people from all stages of their walk with God – you have something of value to everyone. Many times people come in who just have the same message – repent and believe – but they don't show them what it looks like to repent – they don't talk about how to believe – how to walk out their faith. You all DO and so it is a very strong, powerful and timely word that is relevant. You are a blessing."

Chaplain, Franklin Pre-Release Center
Columbus, OH

of the drama; come be a Covenant Player!
y, contact us at 1-800-79-DRAMA or email us at missioner@covenantplayers.org



In our website, read about:

- **CP's celebration of 40 years of ministry in Europe.**
- **The Pacific Gate unit's work with disaster relief organizations in the tsunami ravaged areas of Japan.**
- **Get to know individual Covenant Players via our Profiles In Ministry feature.**
- **CP's upcoming 50th Anniversary celebration.**

WHERE DID YOU FIRST... (Continued from page 1)

world; in churches, in schools, in prisons – even on ‘death-row’ – on the street, on board ships and sub-marines, in aircraft hangers, in villages, in ‘the bush’, in East Germany before the falling of the Berlin Wall... the list goes on!

And it isn't just physical doors that are opened by the plays. Through the Lord's inspiration, and the participation of the Holy Spirit, Chuck wrote plays that have a unique ability to open the doors of the heart, the soul and the mind.

Recently, in a prison chapel, the Chaplain expressed how our last visit had left the men discussing the plays for weeks. For many of the men, this had been their first experience of live theatre. Despite all the new technologies available today, nothing can capture our imagination and involvement in the same way as dynamic, live theatre.

Chuck's plays have been performed for the rich and the powerful as well as the disadvantaged, disenfranchised and most vulnerable. Chuck wrote about real people in real situations and yet his plays always affirm the presence of the divine. He writes humankind with relevance, reverence, dignity and nobility.

This year we celebrate 40 years of CP's ministry in Europe and in 2013 we will celebrate our 50th Anniversary. Many of you have been our *companions in mission* for many years. Your prayers, your hospitality, your logistical support and financial gifts have quite literally enabled our mission to continue.

As we begin preparing to celebrate 50 years of ministry, we invite your participation in continuing to build for the future.

- At this time we solicit your prayers for our European Headquarters staff. They have



recently had to move from the house which has been office and home since 1981. The office is in boxes and they are working from a make-shift office space whilst awaiting the Lord's revelation and provision of a new office and home.

- We also solicit your prayers and active participation in seeking new missionaries to serve in the ministry of Covenant Players and for God's continued provision for those for whom this is a life-long vocation.
- Would you also consider making either a one-time gift or committing a regular pledged amount to support the work of Covenant Players? In these challenging financial times, your gifts will not only support us in maintaining the ministry of Covenant Players but your committed giving will help us continue to build for the future.

For further details, please see the enclosed form or feel free to contact us at the office or through the website.

Thank you for your *companionship* in the ministry of Covenant Players.

Debbie Allen

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”
(Hebrews 4:12 NIV)

“You use a mirror to see your face; you use works of art to see your soul.”
George Bernard Shaw

Save the Dates!

Covenant Players’ 50th Anniversary, 2013

Join us in celebrating a half-century of turning the world upside-right for Christ!

International Gathering Tuesday, July 11 – 23, 2013

50th Anniversary Retreat Wednesday, July 17 – Sunday, July 21, 2013

Details on times, costs, and locations will be posted on our web page and Facebook.

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Covenant Players

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