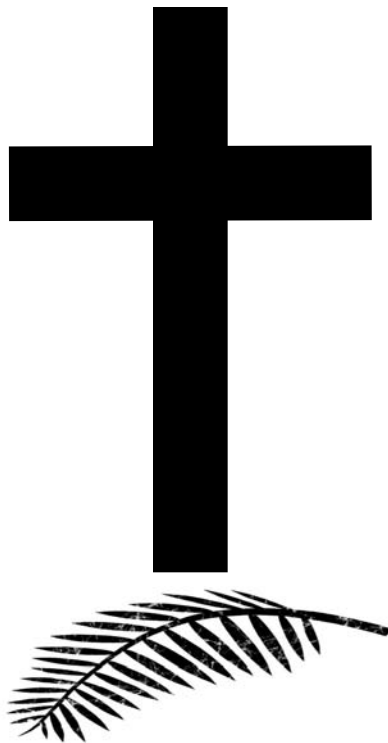


The Covenant Renewal Service

**Providence Reformed
Presbyterian Church**

9124 Sappington Road, St. Louis, MO 63126
314-843-7994 www.providencestlouis.com



Palm Sunday
April 17, 2011

Welcome

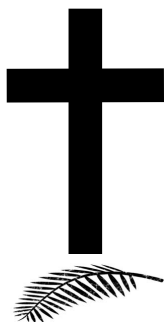
If you are **visiting** our church today, we welcome you to our worship service and Christian community. Please find the registration book in the foyer of the church and help us serve you better by leaving your name and contact information. We promise to keep this information confidential and only use it for personal contact with you and your family. Join us downstairs for coffee after this morning's service.

We have **Christian education** classes for all ages meeting after the service at 11:00 AM. Children's Sunday school classes meet in the educational wing. The adult class meets in the fellowship hall at 11:00 AM to study Christian Marriage. Join us at 10:50 in the sanctuary as the children process with palms and singing. There will be no evening service tonight.

If you are unfamiliar with **our form of worship**, please feel free to speak with one of the Pastors or Elders. We have resources that will help you understand the biblical rationale for why we worship the way we do. Visit our website for articles, essays, and other helpful information on our worship and life at Providence: www.providencestl.com.

The **Lord's Supper** is observed every Sunday as the climax of covenant renewal worship. We invite to the Lord's Table all those who are baptized disciples of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and his body, the Church. By eating the bread and wine with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to the elders of this local church that you are in covenant with God as an active member of a congregation in which the Gospel is faithfully confessed, taught, and believed. If you have any doubt about your participation, please speak to one of the elders or the pastor before or after the service. **Note:** The middle circle of cups in each tray contains grape juice, the larger outer ring contains wine. (The grape juice has a darker color than the wine.)

The Simple Cross (*Front Cover*)



During Lent this year we will display a simple, unadorned cross on the front cover of our bulletins. This will remind us of God the Son's climactic act of service for humanity. He allowed his arms to be stretched out on the cross bar, and with his feet they were nailed to the tree. Thus he voluntarily gave himself up to death for the sins of his people. Paul tells us that the Gospel is "the message of the cross. . . to us who are being saved is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1:18)

The Morning Service

The Lord's Day — April 17, 2011
Palm Sunday

Preparation For Worship: *Psalm 118*

Organ - Mr. Bill Hoover

Welcome & Announcements - Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

The Entrance

[Kneeling] Silent Preparation for Worship

[Kneeling] Call to Worship: *Psalm 118:1-4*

Pastor Jeff Meyers

†Hymn #173 "All glory, laud, and honor"

Trinity Hymnal

†Salutation & Responsive Scripture

In the Name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Amen!

Matthew 28:19

The Lord be with you!

Ruth 2:4

And also with you!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of Yahweh!

Psalm 118:26-7

We bless you from the house of Yahweh!

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

Hebrews 12:2

The author and perfecter of our faith,

Who for the joy set before him endured the cross,

**Despising its shame, and sat down at the right hand
of the throne of God.**

†Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord:

**Almighty and everlasting God, in whom we live and move and
have our being, you have made us for yourself, so that our hearts
are restless till they find their rest in you: Grant us purity of
heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder
us from receiving your good gifts, and no weakness keep us
from experiencing the perfect freedom that only comes from
serving you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!**

Purification

†Pastor: Dearly beloved brethren, let us draw near to God our Father

with a honest heart and confess our sins, asking him to forgive us for Christ's sake: [Congregation Kneels]

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

Psalm 139:23-24

Test me and know my thoughts!

See if there is any wicked way in me,

And lead me in the way everlasting.

O Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you. I justly deserve your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for my sins, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious to me, a poor sinful being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of your Holy Spirit that I may genuinely amend my sinful life and earnestly persevere in doing your will. Lord, be gracious to me, for Jesus sake I pray. *Silent Prayer.*

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right

spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from Thy pres-ence, and

take not Thy Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of

Thy sal-va-tion; and up-hold me with Thy free spir-it. A-men.

†Pastor: Now stand up and hear the good news!

Ascension

†Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

†Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is proper and right to do so.

†Truly it is proper, right, and salutary, that we should at all times, and in all places, give praise to you O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting King. As we gather at your house of prayer and prepare for Easter, turn out hearts again to Jerusalem, to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, that united with Christ and all the faithful we may one day enter in triumph the city not made with human hands, the new Jerusalem. And there, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, and with the church victorious, continue to praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you and singing . . .

†The Sanctus



with vigor
fff Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Lord, God of Hosts! Hea-ven and earth are
full of Your glo-ry! Ho - san-na in the High - est! Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the High - est.

†Hymn #172 "Ride on, Ride on in majesty"

Trinity Hymnal

The Appointed Readings for the Palm Sunday

The Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 50:4-9a*

Pastor Tim LeCroy

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

A Lenten Prayer

(Tune of *Trinity Hymnal* #7)

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days
For us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins,
And close by you to stay.
2. As you with Satan did contend
And did the vict'ry win,
O give us strength in you to fight,
In you to conquer sin.

3. As you did hunger and did thirst,
So teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self and so to live
By your most Holy Word.

4. Abide with us, that through this life
Of suffering and of pain
An Easter of unending joy
We may at last attain.

The New Testament Reading: *Isaiah 50:4-9a*

Pastor Tim LeCroy

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

†The Gospel Reading: *John 12:1-19*

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Praise be to you, O Christ!

†We Confess our Faith: *The Nicene Creed*

**I believe in one God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds: God of God,
Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made;
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made:**

**Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man; and was crucified also for us
under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,**

and sits on the right hand of the Father.

**And he shall come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and
glorified; who spoke by the prophets.**

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**And I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen!**

†The *Gloria Patri*

Sermon Text: *Acts 16:1-10*

Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

Sermon: **DECISIONS, DECISIONS, DECISIONS**

XXXVI. EXPOSITION OF THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

†We Recite God's Holy Standard for Living

Romans 12:1-21

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice,

Holy and acceptable to God, which is our fitting service.

Do not be conformed to this age,

But be transformed by the renewal of your mind.

That by testing you may discern what is the will of God,

What is good and acceptable and mature.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought,

But to think with sober judgment, each according to the measuring rod of faith God has provided.

For as in one body we have many members,

And the members do not all have the same function,

So we, though many, are one body in Christ,

And individually members of one another.

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given us,

Let us use them.

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil;

Hold fast to what is good.

Love one another with brotherly affection;

Outdo one another in showing honor.

Do not be slothful in zeal,

Be fervent in the Spirit, serve the Lord.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation,

Be constant in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the saints,

And seek to show hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you;

Bless and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice,

Weep with those who weep.

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty

But associate with the lowly and never be conceited.

Repay no one evil for evil,

But give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

Beloved, never avenge yourselves,
But give place to the wrath of God.

For it stands written:

“Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord”

To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him;
If he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

For by doing so you will heap burning coals on his head.”

Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.

The Tribute Offering

We Offer Ourselves Through Tithes and Offerings

Choir Anthem “Thee, O God”

(from *Psalm 75*)

Thee, O God, yes, Thee we praise,
And we give Thee thanks, O LORD,
For the proud get their reward
And the wicked Thou shalt raze,
But we laud Thy mercy’s fount,
And Thy wonders we recount.

Psalms I sing and praise I shout;
I will pay my vows to God.
I shall ever heed His rod;
Jacob’s God, my joy rings out:
All the wicked feel Thy scorn,
But Thou shalt exalt our horn!

“To the proud and bold I say,
‘Let Me no more hear your boast.’
I tell them and all their host
To forsake their wicked way:
‘Do not lift your horn on high,
Nor with outstretched neck draw nigh.”

Text: from Psalm 75, versified by Walter van der Kamp, 1972; and others. Reprinted by permission of the Standing Committee for the Book of Praise. Tune: Genevan Psalter, 1562; harm. Claude Goudimel.
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† [Hands Raised] The Doxology

Trinity Hymnal, p. xvi

† [Hands Raised] The Lord’s Prayer

The Sacrifice of Peace

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Memorial

Communion Hymn #63 “God is known”

Trinity Hymnal

Communion in the Body & Blood of Our Lord

† The Song of Simeon (*Nunc Dimittis*): Luke 2:30-32

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy Word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou has prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

†Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Congregation: **And his mercy endures forever!**

Pastoral Prayer: Almighty and everlasting Father, your Son fasted forty days and forty nights in the wilderness and was tempted as we are, but vanquished the devil and did not sin. Grant that we may not receive your grace in vain, but lead us to direct our lives in obedience to your Spirit so that no desire of pleasure, glory, or worldly advantage, may lead us astray from your perfect will and purpose; In our weakness, may we know your power to save; through your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Congregation: **Amen!**

Benediction

†Hymn #174 "Praise the Savior Now and ever"

Trinity Hymnal

†Commission: *Matthew 28:18-20*

†Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

†Three-fold Amen & Postlude

Welcome to Providence Presbyterian Church, especially those who are visiting with us for the first time today. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with one of the pastors or elders. There will be no evening service tonight, but join us this Friday evening at 7 PM for our Good Friday Vespers service.

Come, let us worship and bow down Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker

Psalm 95:6

This morning, thanks to generous donations of some members of the church, we are privileged to be able to use kneelers in the worship service for the first time. Reformation churches sought to reform the people's posture for prayer, so as to bring people's practice in line with biblical commands and examples.

That great irreverence which is found in some persons, who at public and private prayers do neither uncover their heads nor bow their knees shall be reformed; which is a matter repugnant unto piety, and gives suspicion of pride, and scandalizes them that fear God. Wherefore all pastors shall be advised, as also elders and heads of families, carefully to oversee, that in time of prayer all persons, without exception do evidence by these exterior signs the inward humility of their hearts and homage which they yield to God; unless anyone be hindered from doing so by sickness or otherwise (from the *Book of Discipline of the French Reformed Church*, 1559 [Chapt. 10, Art. 1]).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Woman of the Week:

Erin VanHorn

Nursery Volunteers for Today:

Morning Service – Wood

Sunday School – Pitts

Nursery Volunteers for Next Sunday:

Morning Service – Wolf

Sunday School – Denise Gerstung, Melanie Carter

Adult Sunday School “Christian Marriage” — Please join us this morning in the fellowship hall as we continue our Sunday school class on marriage. We are working our way through Peter Leithart's book [A Great Mystery](#). Each Sunday we deal with a topic, the relevant Scripture passages, and discuss related practical issues.

Schedule for Today — We will enjoy a Providence Palm Sunday tradition as our Preschool children distribute palms to the congregation in the sanctuary at the beginning of the Sunday School hour, accompanied by singing from the Elementary Choir, in remembrance of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem before his Passion. Preschool and Elementary students should report to class at 10:45 to line up. After the distribution of palms, there will be a brief announcement from the session about the proposed 2011-12 budget. Afterwards, classes will dismiss to their normal locations, except that the Elementary Choir, Adult Choir, and interested High Schoolers will remain in the sanctuary (from approx. 11:15-12:00) to rehearse their Easter Sunday anthem.

Easter Sunday — The Elementary and Adult Choirs will combine to sing a special anthem during morning worship. Interested High School students are invited to join with the Adult Choir for this anthem if they can rehearse with Bill Hoover in the choir loft today from 11:15-12:00. They will be excused from Sunday School class to do so.

Deacons Fund — This month we do not have any more evening services. If you would like to contribute to the deacons' fund, please pick up an envelope from the back table.

2011-12 Proposed Budget — Please remain in your seats after the children finish distributing the Palms. The session will be making a very brief presentation on the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning in May. The proposed budget will be available on the foyer table after the announcement, and members should feel free to ask their elders any questions about the proposed budget. The budget will be adopted (with any changes that need to be made) in two weeks at the congregational meeting on May 8th.

Congregational Meeting — We will be holding our annual congregational meeting on May 8th during the Sunday School hour.

Church Family Work Day — Please join us on Saturday, April 30, for a church work day. Shifts run from 8-10 and 10-12. Everyone is welcome to come! Wear work clothes and bring shovels, wheelbarrows (if possible) and other yard tools. See Steve Shaffer if you have any questions.

VBS Volunteers Needed — The sign up sheet for VBS is in the narthex. Anna Hoegemann is directing this year. If you have any questions, please see her.

The 60th Annual Day of Prayer — will be held on Thursday, May 5. People throughout our country are encouraged to meet at their local city hall from 12-1 PM to pray for our government leaders, our soldiers and for our country. Those who live in the Crestwood area are invited to attend the meeting at the Crestwood Government Center on Sappington Road just north of Watson. For more information go to the website: www.slcmdp.org or call 314-253-4075.

Directory Update — Please update your directory with LaVerne McDonnold's new phone number: 314-651-7002.

Church Calendar

April 22	7 PM Good Friday Service
April 24	Easter Sunday, No Evening Service
May 1	5 PM Service and Cookout
May 5	National Day of Prayer
May 6-7	Men and Boys' Campout
May 8	Congregational Meeting, No Evening Service
July 11-15	VBS

Bible Study for High School Guys — On Saturdays, at 3 PM, high school guys are invited to come to Bread Co. in Sunset Hills for a 4-6 week Bible study on Work, Rest, and Life Plans. Contact Phillip Bozarth to ask questions or express interest.

Church Budget	Giving	\$408,042
(Fiscal Year ends 4/30)	Spending	\$451,902
	Deficit	\$ -43,860

Nursery Coordinators Needed — Two nursery coordinators are needed to oversee the sign up schedule and maintain the nurseries. If you are interested, please talk to Denise Gerstung.

Today's Choir Anthem is based on Psalm 75. The text is from the Anglo-Genevan Psalter found in your pews (selected stanzas). The tune is from the Genevan Psalter of 1562, and the musical arrangement is by Claude Goudimel (c.1514-1572), the leading French Reformed composer of his day. The first and third stanzas of the anthem are contrapuntal, with each harmony part having its own rhythm, creating an overlapping texture. The second stanza is homophonic; the harmony parts are more rhythmically synchronized. Goudimel composed many Genevan Psalm harmonizations in both contrapuntal and homophonic styles, producing at least two complete settings of the Genevan Psalter (150 Psalms each). When we sing from the Anglo-Genevan Psalter, a Goudimel harmonization is typically used at the piano. We therefore use Goudimel's music in worship nearly every Sunday. Claude Goudimel was killed in the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre of 1572.

Church Rules

The diaconate requests the congregation's assistance in instructing children to follow these rules while at church:

1. The choir loft, sound room, pulpit, and elevator are off limits to children unless accompanied by an adult.
2. No running in the church building (with the exception of the fellowship hall after evening service).
3. No standing or climbing on furniture.
4. **Food and drink are not allowed outside the fellowship hall.** Sunday school teachers and nursery workers may at times make exceptions in their rooms.

Sermon Notes and Prayer Requests

Sermon Notes and Prayer Requests

The Lord's Service Explained

Lenten Season

What does Lent mean? The word "Lent" comes from the Middle English *lente* ("spring") and from the Old English *lengten* ("to lengthen"), referring to the time of *lengthening* daylight from Christmas (around the Winter solstice) to Easter (Spring equinox). The Lenten season lasts 40 days, beginning with Ash Wednesday (February 17). In anticipation of the great Paschal mystery (the resurrection of Jesus celebrated on Easter Sunday) we are encouraged to examine ourselves anew in the person and work of Jesus Christ. We follow his example and seek for forty days to wage a more earnest struggle against the world, the flesh, and the devil. Our desire in this is increased sanctification and growth in Christian maturity and obedience.

At the heart of any worthy Lenten observance is a cultivated attitude of repentance. A true repentance means a genuine change in heart and mind, a change of disposition where ever in our lives we need to return to God. That is why true repentance and a true Lent can never be satisfied with silly little "fasts" from trivial things like chocolate or TV. On the other hand, repentance is not morbid introspection or a "guilt trip" in which we become bound up in ourselves, turned inward to the point of unhealthy despair. Rather, it has to do with God, who is both holy and compassionate. Therefore, Christian repentance always means faith in God, trusting him, responding to his grace. That is why whatever guilt or sorrow we may feel does not crush us. For we know and trust his goodness toward us.

The color for Lent is purple or violet—a rich color made with the costliest dyes in the ancient world. It appropriately symbolizes deep, heartfelt, and therefore costly repentance. Lent is not merely a time to remember and think about the history of our Lord's suffering and death, but is intended primarily as an opportunity for intense self-examination and repentance, even fasting (Luke 5:34-35). The high point of Lent is reached on Good Friday, when we remember that our sins crucified Christ. In the words of Johann Heermann's great hymn, "Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee? Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee. 'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee: I crucified thee" (*Trinity Hymnal* #179). Lenten hymns can be found in the *Trinity Hymnal* #171-196.

Simplified Lent Readings - This Week

	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	<u>Hymns & Psalms</u>
Mon., Apr 18 –	Psalm 41	Mark 14:26-42	<i>Trinity Hymnal</i> #409
Tues., Apr 19 –	Psalm 42	Mark 14:43-65	<i>Trinity Hymnal</i> #413
Wed., Apr 20 –	Psalm 43	Mark 14:66–15:20	Psalm 1 (<i>Anglo-Gen</i>)
Thurs., Apr 21 –	Psalm 44	Mark 14:10-25	<i>Trinity Hymnal</i> #359
Friday, Apr 22 –	Psalm 45	Mark 15:21-41	<i>Trinity Hymnal</i> #362
Sat., Apr 23 –	Psalm 6	John 19:38-42	<i>Trinity Hymnal</i> #415

Officers and Resource People

The Session (Pastors & Elders)

Rev. Jeffrey J. Meyers	314-842-9329 (O)	John Moore	314-984-9869
Senior Pastor	314-842-9309 (H)	Ken Pratt	314-416-1176
Rev. Josh Anderson (Assoc.)	314-814-5213	Monte Shields	314-849-0597
Jason Carter	636-257-2441	Brad Wood (Clerk)	636-587-9211
Joel Montgomery	314-984-8074		

The Deacons

Jack Boeve (Chairman)	636-461-1398	Steve Shaffer	314-843-1964
Bill Coller	314-726-6799	Paul Svezia	314-406-9101
Rick Gibbs	636-451-3463	Rodney Weedman	314-846-0210
Dan Hayes	314-984-9814	Bob Wooldridge	314-963-9671
Daryl Hoegemann	314-962-4874		

Women in the Church Officers

President: Denise Gerstung	314-821-9324	Nursery: Kathy Pratt	314-416-1176
Vice President: Judy Linton	636-349-9028	Anne Hiers	314-543-3010
Secretary/Treasurer:		Bethel: Rachel LeCroy	314-604-2089
Lori Shaffer	314-843-1964	Kitchen: Rosamma Weston	314-205-2018
Committee Coordinator:		Tracy Boeve	636-461-1398
Rhonda Hoard	636-938-3575	Hospitality: Barb Hoover	314-966-3523
WIC advisor: Joanie Harris	636-394-6896	Joanie Harris	636-394-6896
Prayer Chain: Doris Daily	314-961-8799	Amanda Cone	314-497-7950
Carolyn Van Heest	314-966-5732	Wedding Coordinator:	
Brenda Svezia	svezia@sbcglobal.net	Barb Hoover	314-966-3523
Missions: Debbie Keane	636-938-3108		

Church Staff

Rev. Jeffrey J. Meyers	314-842-9329 (O)	Rev. Tim Weston	314-205-2018 (Home)
Senior Pastor	314-842-9309 (H)	Pastor to International Students	814-2019 (Cell)
Rev. Joshua Anderson	314-814-5213	Rev. Timothy LeCroy	314-604-2088
Associate Pastor		Bill Hoover (Music Dir.)	314-966-3523
Paul Jaeggi, Sr.	314-843-7994 (Church)	Melanie Carter (Secretary)	636-271-7288
Asst. to the Pastor	314-631-4394 (Home)		

Pastoral Interns

Phillip Bozarth	270-313-6245	Scott Pitts	314-974-1364
Ryan Van Horn	314-620-3744	Steve Schleppehorst	217-257-2592

Home and Foreign Ministries

Ross Dixon	RUF Ministry (Mizzou)	Blake & Cathy Purcell	Russia
Garrett & Michelle Craw	Santa Clarita, CA	John & Cathy Rug	Chile
Jamison & Laura Galt	New York City	Brian & Jessie Steadman	New York City
Shane & Kim Gibson	New Orleans, LA	Lian & Clara Tombing	India
Bryan Walker	US Army Chaplain	Marcus Toole	Canada
Daniel & Stephanie McKinney	Salt Lake City	Tim & Rosamma Weston	ISI (St. Louis)
Emad & Michelle Mikhail	Middle East	Dan & Becky Young	Mexico