

It Couldn't Have Come at a Better Time

The phrase I've chosen for the title of this page has been going through my mind quite a bit recently. For quite a spell it has seemed that many of the things developing here at Redeemer have been discouraging to say the least. We've been confronted by the prospects of a huge deficit for the 2008 Budget. We've been told by numerous people, based upon the best data available at the time, that our best option was to close our Redeemer Child Care ministry. We've gone for months with pleas for Church Officers and additional Elders apparently unheeded. We've lost some very dedicated workers due to frustration or burnout (or both). Aargh!

But just recently some bright spots have pierced the clouds of doom. It couldn't have come at a better time!

Just before the end of 2007, thanks to the generosity of one of our members, we received a challenge gift of \$15,000.00. Then, thanks to the willing sacrifice of many more of our church family, \$15,000.00 additional contributions were made. It couldn't have come at a better time!

In Luke 13: 6-9 Jesus told a parable about a non-producing fig tree that was ordered to be cut down. The gardener pleaded with the owner to grant one more year for him to work on the tree to make it productive. "If not, cut it down..." It struck me that our Redeemer Child Care has been granted a similar reprieve.

Our December Voters' Assembly decided to postpone any decision regarding closure until the January Voters' Meeting. In the intervening period we were given an anonymous love gift of \$27,000.00 to help "buy some time" to make sure we have exhausted every option.

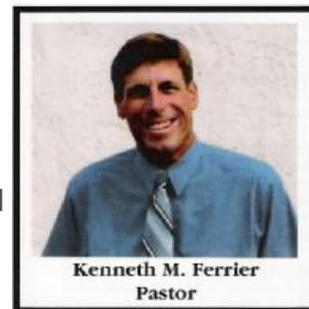
Thanks to that timely gift, and the efforts of a dedicated cluster of our leaders, we believe that a much more optimistic projection exists.

It will be presented at our January 27th Voters' Meeting. It couldn't have come at a better time!

In just the last few weeks about half a dozen individuals have stepped forward indicating their willingness to at least consider serving as Elders or other Church Officers. Praise the Lord!!! It couldn't have come at a better time!

I must confess quite frankly that this period of seeming despair has taken a personal toll on my energy...and my outlook...as your Pastor. In recent meetings with our Board of Elders I shared with them that I was sorely in need of a little "down time" just to clear my head and recharge my batteries. I was very relieved when they agreed. In fact, they told me that they had already been considering granting me a Sabbatical in recognition of my 25th Anniversary in the ministry this year. They suggested granting it now, instead of later in the summer. At the January Council meeting the Council unanimously agreed. It couldn't have come at a better time!

While I'm away, I hope you will join me in the fervent prayer that in the future it won't take such desperate circumstances for us to step forward in faith and pull together as the body of Christ in this place. I also hope that you will be praying for me and my family, and that I'll come back from Sabbatical renewed and refreshed, ready to say, "It couldn't have come at a better time!"



Kenneth M. Ferrier
Pastor

Pastor Ferrier

REDEEMER LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Kenneth
Ferrier
Winter Pastor Rev. Earl Schmidt
Ofc. Secretary Pat Wilcoxon
Organist Nancy Gunterman
Lanette Schmidt

OFFICERS

President
Vice Pres.
Treasurer Leta Stender, Acting
Secretary Dorothy Sinowetski

BOARDS

Assimilation Laura Brooks
Property Management Ray Janssen
Child Care Director Brandi Bilhardt
Christian Ed. Nancy Gunterman
Elders Tim Byrne
Human Care Marj Sterriker
Outreach Carol Haupt
School Board Charlie Vovcsko
Stewardship
Youth Jim Wright

CLUBS/GUILDS

Ladies Guild
Men's Group Bob Mortenson
Red Hat Society Sandra Distasio
Christian Support Group

Outreach

*"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the
Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
Matthew 28:19*



At the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28-36), Peter, James, and John saw Jesus in an unforgettable way. That event was permanently inscribed in their minds and gave them the boldness to speak about the glorious and victorious Jesus. We have not had the same kind of experience that those three had, but we have witnessed the power and presence of Jesus in our lives. That's the great news that we have to share with others.

Witness Workshop/Friendship Sunday

The Witness Workshop and Friendship Sunday scheduled for February 2nd and February 10th have been postponed due to Pastor Ferrier's sabbatical. They will be rescheduled, hopefully in March.

Magnetic Signs, LCMS Pins, T-Shirts

Magnetic signs, pins and T-shirts will continue to be sold in the Narthex. This is an excellent way to reach out and witness to people in our community. You are encouraged to buy them and "wear" them around town. Signs: \$5.00. Pins: \$2.00 Shirts: \$10.00.

Chamber of Commerce Expo

Redeemer will again be having a booth at the Chamber's Expo on March 7 and 8 at the Englewood Sports Complex.

Submitted by Carol Haupt

Human Care

We are in need of more people to take blood pressures on the last Sunday of each month. If you are able to do this, please let Marj Sterriker know. (941) 475-0553

Several of our shut-ins are having health problems. Herb Bohm, Shirley Youngberg, and Ruth Sutley are in special need of our prayers. Lessie Kirsch, our Caring Network coordinator is fighting an infection in her knee and will have surgery to replace it on February 1st. Please pray for these people, drop them a card or note and if possible, call or visit them. Caring Network leaders can call Marj Sterriker until Lessie gets back on her feet. Please turn in your emergency numbers (non spouses) to Pat Wilcoxon in the office as soon as possible.

We plan to have another door offering for the Horvath family fund in February. Check the bulletin for a date. We rejoice that Mark has finished his therapy and pray that he'll soon be able to return to school.

Stephen Ministry classes started this month. Any questions should be directed to Carol Haupt or Nancy Hall.

Senior Fellowship continues to meet on the new days which are the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. There will now be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex to give our "lunch makers" an idea of how many to plan for.

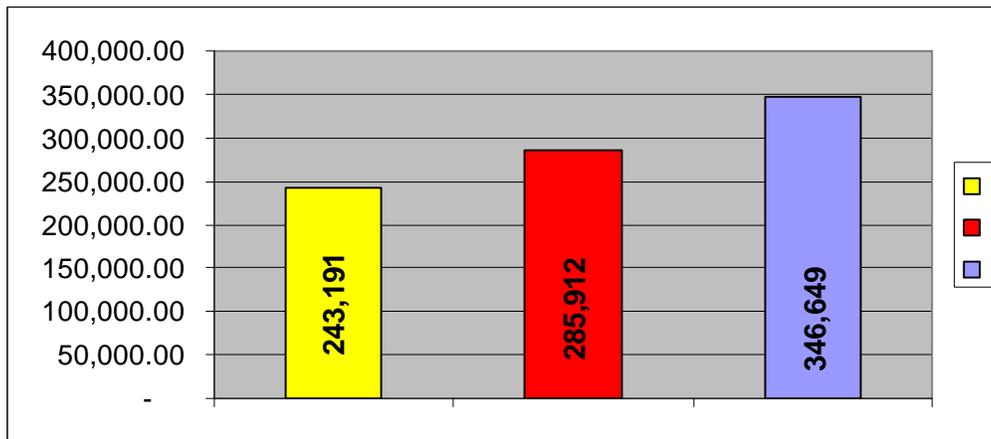
Our blood drive was a big success. Fifteen of the nineteen people who signed up were able to give blood. The next collection will be February 10th with the new hours of 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Information will be available as to who qualifies to donate blood. Please remember that a photo ID is needed as well.

Our Care Notes rack will be re-supplied and back in its regular place in the Narthex. Also, don't forget the heart pillows in the basket at the end of the long sign-up desk in the Narthex. Take one to a friend in need of some extra attention due to illness, loneliness, etc. There is no charge for these pillows.

Submitted by Marj Sterriker

Finance

	<u>2007 Giving</u>	<u>2007 Expense</u>	<u>2007 Expense Budget</u>
January	18,056	19,419	33,804
February	19,634	26,638	25,622
March	20,950	28,215	36,631
April	25,608	26,003	26,702
May	11,455	42,022	22,718
June	10,197	13,290	25,519
July	23,262	15,250	33,733
	(Includes \$10,000 Gift)		
August	11,413	21,549	27,859
September	14,627	21,104	24,729
October	14,968	25,764	32,391
November	15,105	25,585	29,998
December	57,916	21,073	26,943
	(Includes \$30,000 Defeat the Deficit)		
2007 Year End	243,191	285,912	346,649



Service Directory/Classified Ads

Services

Beautician/Manicurist Debbie Balogh Purple Palace 941-475-0731

Pressure Cleaning - Matt & Michelle Finley - Hoover Pressure Cleaning – 697-6886

Tell us you saw us in the Redeemer Newsletter & get a 10% discount.

Licensed & Insured – www.hooverpressure.com

Hoover Pressure Cleaning ~ “The Plant Friendly People”

For Sale

Fostoria American Dishes (large lot). The Youth are selling this online at eBay. However, if you are a collector or know someone who is and would like to buy it directly from them, please call Michelle Ferrer at 697-0502.

Newsletter Deadline



The deadline for submission of articles for March is **Sunday, February 17th by 12 noon.**

If you have an article you would like to submit for the newsletter, either e-mail it to letastender@ewol.com or place it in the newsletter box in the church office. Articles received after February 17th will be held for the **April** newsletter.

Please be sure to put your name on the article so I can contact you if there are any questions.

Leta Stender

USHERS

THIS MONTH

Feb. 3	8:00	Erv & Betty Maki Dave & Jane Schurr
	10:30	Vern Speer Henry Krueger Tommy & Karen Kirkland
Feb. 6	4:30	Erv & Betty Maki
<u>Lent</u>	7:00	Tommy & Karen Kirkland
Feb. 10	8:00	Erv & Betty Maki Dave & Jane Schurr
	10:30	Shirley Zatkalik Cecil Grahl Vern Speer Henry Krueger
Feb. 13	4:30	Laura Brooks & Ray Janssen
<u>Lent</u>	7:00	Ray & Leta Stender
Feb. 17	8:00	Erv & Betty Maki Dave & Jane Schurr
	10:30	Shirley Zatkalik Cecil Grahl Vern Speer Henry Krueger
Feb. 20	4:30	Laura Brooks & Charles Malecki
<u>Lent</u>	7:00	Tommy & Karen Kirkland
Feb. 24	8:00	Tom & Ann Elphick Tom & Peg Leverenz
	10:30	Shirley Zatkalik Vern Speer Henry Krueger Cecil Grahl
Feb. 27	4:30	Tom & Georgia Lang
<u>Lent</u>	7:00	Ray & Leta Stender

Submitted by Ray Stender

Assimilation

Feb. 3	Nancy Hall & Dorothy Sinowetski
Feb. 10	Pat Petersen & Linda Rogers
Feb. 17	Sharon Harris & Barbara Bishop
Feb. 24	Lois Webster, Vicky Davis, Loretta Grobe



Submitted by Pam DeGourse



Acolytes

Feb. 3	8:00	Courtney Thatcher
	10:30	Anthony Bruno
Feb. 10	8:00	Madeline Keller
	10:30	Hayley Smith
Feb. 17	8:00	Courtney Thatcher
	10:30	Nathan Gunterman
Feb. 24	8:00	Madeline Keller
	10:30	McKenna Heldenbrand

Submitted by Pat Wilcoxon

GREETERS SCHEDULE

8:00

Feb. 3	Leona Morrison & Wilbur Bruce
Feb. 10	Bob Mortenson & Mary Ellen Graf
Feb. 17	Bob & Dottie LaMere
Feb. 24	Tom & Georgia Lang

10:30

Feb. 3	Herb & Pat Petersen
Feb. 10	Don & Marian Carey
Feb. 17	Georgette Callahan & Shirley Petersen
Feb. 24	Jane Hoivik & Laura Brooks

Submitted by Pam DeGourse

Redeemer Lutheran Congregation

*Some people seem to specialize
In doing thoughtful deeds.
Before you ask, they understand
Your problems and your needs.
They help because they want to,
They find joy in being kind,
And making others happy
Is the first thing on their minds.
They make this world a better place
By practicing the art
Of reaching out to others
And by giving...from the heart.*

*It's so good to know
Warm, considerate people
Who try to help others
In all that they do,
People whose lives
Show the meaning of kindness.
It's so good to know
Special people like you.*

*Thank You,
The Horvath Family*

Ladies Guild Annual Fashion Show & Luncheon

Paris, A Touch of Class

Fashions by A'Tu of Sarasota

Friday, February 22, 2008 Noon

Tickets will go on sale Sunday, February 3. See Laura Brooks in the Narthex .
Cost is \$12.00

Invite your friends and neighbors

Great food and door prizes

Ellie Ratzlaff, Ruth Speer and Sybil Grahl
Co-chairmen

Submitted by Sybil Grahl

Dearly Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ

With joyful hearts we wish to express our sincere thanks to all of you, our church family, for your thoughts and prayers, cards and calls. A special thank you to President Joe Carlos for his hospital visit. For Pastor Ferrier and Pastor Schmidt we are truly grateful; their hospital visits, home visits with communion, and their regular uplifting calls and messages were welcome and encouraging.

It is very special and wonderful to see God's words come to life:

"Love one another" John 15:17

God bless you all.

Elma & George Cancellieri



Youth Spaghetti Supper



Friday, February 15, 2008

Redeemer Fellowship Hall

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Menu:

Spaghetti, Meatballs, Garlic Bread, Salad, Dessert, Beverages

Take-Out Available

Adults--\$6; Children Ages 4-12--\$3; Children 3 and Under--Free

\$500 in matching funds provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

HEALING:

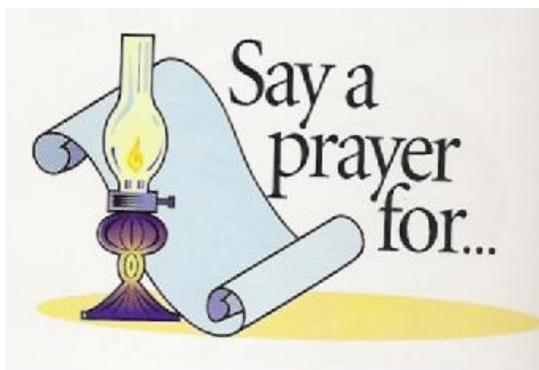
Members

Joe Carlos
 Mark Horvath
 Bob & Joan Johnson
 Lessie Kirsch
 Cliff Larsen
 Tom McGrath
 James Overmyer
 Ellie Ratzlaff
 Katie Rudolph
 David Schurr
 Ben Strefling
 Lee Vandercook

Friends & Relatives

Phil Alcantara
 Betty Best
 Ella Boegeman
 Jim Cleary
 Dorothy Doenges
 Julia Earl
 Bruce Ferrier
 Esther Gaskill
 Connie Gunterman
 Debbie & Red Harrison
 Sandy Hubbard
 Joyce Kimple
 Jenna Layson
 Gary Lehner
 Estella Lewis

Carol Lockett
 Rev. David Maier
 Patrick McCord
 Ian McDowel
 Natalie Notto
 Mary Elizabeth Raines
 Gwyn Ramsey
 Sherrie Rhoades
 Audrey Slusher
 Jill Taylor
 Denise Vincenti
 Pat Vovcsko
 Cameron Wasiluk
 Valerie Washburn
 Virgil Weldy



PRAYERS OF COMFORT for Sandy McGrath and family whose mother Bertha Sandhusen, was called to her eternal home January 8th.

PRAYERS OF COMFORT for Patti Sprague whose husband Warren was called to his eternal home January 10th.

PRAYERS OF COMFORT for Georgette Callahan and family whose son Robert Callahan was called to his eternal home January 13th.

MILITARY PERSONNEL & FAMILIES



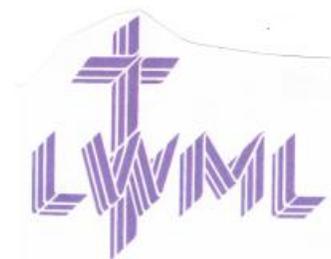
Herb Bohm
 Gloria Carlson
 Ruth Jansch
 Ruth Sutley
 Shirley Youngberg

Ladies Guild—Lutheran Women In Mission

LWML RECRUITMENT

By Gwendolyn Coleman

NFL drafts for the football league.
NBA drafts for the basketball league.
But LWML doesn't draft in its league.
All women are accepted, and we are in need



We offer no riches and fame,
Or even attention to "big names."
Our main goal is basically the same,
Lutheran women working in Jesus' name.

A will to serve is all you need;
Time, dedication and a few people to feed.
Lots of praying, working and indeed!
Your joining is all we need.

For the work is plenty, but the workers are few,
Which is why we're stressing our need for you!
Spreading the love of God is what we do
And since you are a Christian, that qualified YOU!

We meet in the Fellowship Hall, Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 12:30 for dessert, coffee and tea. Please wear your name tag, all Redeemer members and guests are welcome. The large mite box will be in the Narthex of the church the first Sunday of every month. Do you need a Mite Box? There are some on the table and also complimentary issues of the Lutheran Woman's Quarterly. Keep saving your pennies, nickels, dimes, or quarters for the Lord. He accepts paper money also! God bless!

Submitted by Vicky Davis

Dear Pastor Ferrier,

On behalf of my mother and her entire family, we wish to thank you for all the comfort we have received from you and your congregation at our time of this awful sadness we are and will be enduring.

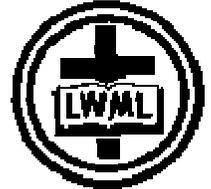
Again, thank you very much!

Love,

Tara Ceslow Sprague



Ladies Guild



SCRIP

Scrip orders will be taken Sunday, February 10 after both services. Order blanks and retailer list in the Narthex. See Sybil Grahl after both services. The orders will be returned February 17. Scrip are gift cards and make great gifts any time of the year. WalMart scrip is now available in \$25 and \$100 denominations. Ladies Guild receives a percentage and uses for their various mission endeavors.

Lenten Suppers

Lent is fast approaching. Please attend the Lenten suppers between services each Wednesday starting February 6 through March 12. Excellent food and great fellowship. Ash Wednesday, Thrivent will serve their chili supper. The Ladies Guild will be preparing ham and scalloped potatoes, lasagna, beef stew, bean soup and the final Lenten supper will be pork and sauerkraut prepared by Ed Seamen and Earl Stuck.

Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex each Sunday starting February 3. Watch the Sunday bulletin for details.

Submitted by Sybil Grahl

The Ladies Guild met on January 9th with 15 ladies present. Vicky Davis gave the devotion. Thanks to Georgette Callahan and Ione Comstock for being hostesses. Guests Wila Bockstahler and Carol Sheahan were welcomed. We are pleased to have Carol as a new member of the Guild.

Guest speaker was Elaine Davidson from the Florida Blood Center. She emphasized the need for blood donors.

A total of \$385 was received for the Adopt-A-Family and given to buy groceries for 3 families for Christmas. An additional \$25 was collected after the distribution was made and a motion was made by Dorothy Sinowetski and seconded by Margie Cypher to give the \$25 to Helping Hands for their 25th anniversary. Motion was carried. A celebration was held on Sunday, Jan. 13th at Christ Lutheran for the occasion.

The Spring Zone Rally has been cancelled. Redeemer is re-scheduled for Spring of 2010. A decision to host a District Mini Convocation was made at the Synodical Convention this summer. It will be held at Lakeside in Venice Sunday afternoon, April 13th from 2:15 to 5:30. It was decided having both events would be conflicting.

The Guild Style Show and Luncheon is February 22nd. A'Tu Outlet in Sarasota will provide the fashions.

Bakeless Bake Sale is coming in February. Laura Brooks will be passing out envelopes for contributions. Possible projects include a Vestment Stole for Pastor, disc., etc., and portable CD player for shut-in ministry.

The quilting sessions resumed on January 14th. Wila will take several quilts to the seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana on her way home in the spring.

Ladies Guild is still in need of a president and Vice-president. Please take time to pray and think about someone who has shown leadership qualities.

Submitted by Linda Rogers

A VERY BIG THANK YOU !



I would like to thank my Redeemer church family and Pastor Ferrier for the surprise afforded me on January 13, 2008. Thank you for the recognition of my 5 years as Church Secretary. The card, flowers and gift card were much appreciated.

*Sincerely,
Pat Wilcoxon*

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS

Do you have a song in your heart? Do you appreciate how God can use music to work in the hearts of His people? Do you play an instrument? You may not realize it but our new hymnal has many songs in it that are well suited for a variety of styles of accompaniment. Pastor Ferrier is looking for individuals who would be willing to use their love of music to help our congregation grow in its worship life. If you're interested please talk to Pastor as soon as possible. Thanks!!!

Pastor Ferrier



New Members



Glenn and Sharon Franze
262 White Marsh Lane
Rotonda West, FL 33947
(941) 830-8353

Glenn and Sharon transferred from St. Pauls in Chesterton, IN

Ray Stender has agreed to assume the responsibility of Head Usher. Ray would like your support in volunteering to usher at the various services. The usher sign-up chart is located on the wall by the kitchen in the Narthex. We encourage both men and women to usher. Ray will be pleased to answer any of your questions.

I personally thank Ray for accepting this post and to all who have ushered while I was Head Usher.

*Thank you,
Pat Wilcoxon*



Redeemer Lutheran Child Care & After-School

Recipe/ Snack Idea

Confetti Chocolate Pretzels

Ingredients:

6 squares semi-sweet bakers chocolate

26 pretzel rods

2 cups fruity pebbles cereal

PLACE chocolate in 1-cup glass measuring cup. Microwave as directed on package. Cool 5 min.

DIP pretzels halfway into chocolate, tilting cup to evenly coat each pretzel. Scrape off excess chocolate. Holding pretzels over plate, immediately sprinkle with cereal. Place in shallow waxed paper-lined pan.

REFRIGERATE 15 min. or until chocolate coating is firm.

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help with weekly laundry. Call Brandy if you would like to help. Thanks!

Supplies

Donations of any of the following supplies will be greatly appreciated:

Pump foam hand soap

Paper towels

Construction paper

Baby wipe refills

(non-scented)

Snacks (goldfish, pretzels, juice, cookies, fruit cups)

Trash Bags (large and regular)

Birthdays

Olivia W. 2/3

Logan 2/15

Nathan A. 2/23

Jackie 2/24



Thank You's

The childcare staff and families would all like to give a very special thank you to the anonymous donor of \$. Your special gift has given us hope and excitement for the new year.

Also we would like to thank the Vovcsko family for donating the extra supplies we needed for the month!

The Child Care committee wishes to thank the congregation for their recent vote on the proposed budget for the coming year. Every effort will be made to assist the childcare director and staff to accomplish the goals of this mission outreach to the children of our community.

As with many companies and organizations, there comes a time when a "re-organization" is needed. The Redeemer Child Care program is in this process. Please continue to pray for success in this effort.

The Epistle lesson from Sunday, Jan. 27th, I Corinthians 1:10 stated, "I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment."

Submitted by Barbara Bishop

Youth News

With \$200 remaining in the Care Abounds in Congregations fund, our local Thrivent group voted to give the money towards a hands-on service project for the youth on Sunday, November 11 – Veterans Day. The congregation was invited to participate by writing notes to soldiers and by donating needed items. The \$200 was used to purchase toiletries and snacks. On Sunday, November 11, Mrs. Ferrier had the youth who were present—Angie Ziegler, Chelsea Gunterman, Michelle Oliver, McKenna Heldenbrand, and Nathan Gunterman—write a thank-you note to the soldiers and then pack all the goodies into Flat Rate priority mail boxes. A contact name was chosen from a list at www.anysoldier.com, and, after filling out customs forms, twelve boxes were mailed to Spc Brenda Torres

for her to distribute to troops. The following is a reply we received. Thank you to all the members who wrote notes of appreciation and who donated items.



Thank you once again for your support. This is a picture at the American hospital here on the base with a little Afghani kid who was hit by a car. We attend the hospitals every Friday to take the kids toys and candies. I am the female kneeling down on the left. Take care and God Bless.

Spc Torres

Spc. Brenda Torres also sent the following note:

Hi,

My name is Spc. Torres and I am in Afghanistan right now. I just want to take time to tell you a little about me. I come from Los Angeles, CA. I am 21 years old and my favorite sport is volleyball. I love playing sports, but my number one hobby is dancing. When I get back to the States, God willing, I am going to enroll into Latin ballroom dance classes. My dream has always been to participate in a competition with other states. I've been in the military for a little more than 3 years and every day I am proud I made that decision. I am very thankful for your support. We are away from our families for a long time and we get lonely at times. It is always nice to open a letter or a card and see the support we are getting from back in the States. Once again, thank you very much and God bless you!

Thank you,
Spc. Torres

My address is: Spc Torres, Brenda
C co 223rd Mi Bn
TF Guardian
APO, AE 09354
Brenda.1.torres@us.army.mil