

Rockville

# Reflections

As we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."  
2 Corinthians 3:18

August 2009 Volume 6 Issue 12


Photo Credit: Barbara Ranck, Virginia Coast of Atlantic Ocean at Sunrise

*Just Thinking*

Correspondent: Janae Lapp

Let no man look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity, *show yourself an example to those who believe*

I Timothy 4: 12 NASB



***"What will you do with the time that's left; will you live it all with no regret?..."***

These words from the song "Time That Is Left," by Mark Schultz, have echoed through my mind ever since I first learned of the death of Abie Schneck. They remind me of the life that he lived and challenge me to not waste a moment of the time that I have been given.

Memories of Abie abound as I spent much time with his younger sister, Katrina, during our growing up years. He would often join us for ping pong tournaments, rounds of four square and other such games. The

three of us enjoyed lots of laughter and lively conversations. It was during these years especially that he seemed to always have a spring in his step, a smile on his face, a twinkle in his eye, and a cheery word for everyone.

As we got older, Abie could not join us as often, but always went out of his way to say "hi." I still remember the day that Derek and I went into Shady Maple Farm Market to get something for Mom. He was working there at the time, and, seeing us from a distance, ran across the store just to say "hi." It is a special memory, but not unique for Abie. He was that kind of guy.

At the time of Abie's death, it had been at least five years since I had last seen him. Yet, from what I have heard, he was the same young man that I knew as a little girl... bounding up the stairs to say goodnight to his mother, gladly sharing insights with college classmates, spending time with his grandmother, volunteering to work for no pay.

***"...Will they say that you loved till your final breath? What will you do with the time that's left?"***

Abie's death brought things into perspective for me. Though we all remember the wealth of knowledge he had and the honors he achieved, what stands out the most is the love that he had for the people God placed in his life. I am reminded of 1 Corinthians 13:13, "And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."

***Of the things we do in this life,  
the only thing that will remain  
is the tried and true gold of those things done  
which were inspired by faith, hope, and love.***

submitted by Heidi Burns

# Congratulations to Clint and Abii



Clint and I became acquainted a few years ago through numerous occasions like bible quizzing, Stoltzfus/Martin picnics, etc.

We began dating in April of 2008, and after 11 months of wonderful friendship, Clint asked me to marry him on March 18th, 2009. I said YES! :)

We are looking very forward to our upcoming wedding on August 21, 2009. We believe that God has ordained our marriage, and are excited to be following His will for our lives.

After our wedding, we will be living near Oxford, PA.

Your thoughts and prayers would be greatly coveted as we prepare for life together. To God be the glory!

Honestly, the story of our relationship is very special (and lengthy) so, if anyone wants to know the whole story, they can ask Clint or I :) submitted by Abii



## Mission Ideas for Kids and adults too! - Part 2

*Correspondent: Rhoda Snader*

The website for Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM) has a great collection of ideas and activities to help us expand our horizons and experience a taste of life in other cultures.

Find the complete list under Resources at [www.emm.org](http://www.emm.org).

Try a couple for fun! Prepare to receive a blessing!

**Check out Kidspace at The International Public Library**  
<http://ipl.org/youth/cquest>.

**Volunteer with your family at a local rescue mission.**

**Visit Chinatown or Little Italy in a major city.**  
**Philadelphia and New York are much more affordable than traveling to the other side of the earth!**

**Learn how to say 'hello' in many languages at [www.mcc.org/hello](http://www.mcc.org/hello).**

**Host an International student during the Thanksgiving holiday.**

**Read missionary letters out loud to the whole family.**

**Pray for different countries.**

**See Operation World for country information.**

# Do you Know... Ray Beiler?

*Correspondent: Christina Kurtz*

Ray was born October 26, 1928 in Morgantown, PA to John and Katie Beiler. He was the youngest of 4 children. He also grew-up on a dairy farm, and attended Central School through the 10th grade. On memory he likes to tell, is when he rode bareback on the runaway pony. Ray's first job, off the farm, was working with his father on the road crew for Honey Brook Township.



Eva was born July 17, 1927 in Myerstown, PA to Levi and Leah Brubaker. She was one of eight children. She grew-up on a dairy farm and went to a one-room school house through the 8th grade. One memory from her childhood that she liked to tell

was when the whole neighborhood was looking for her. She was not lost; she was sleeping in the washing machine. As a young woman she worked at a sewing factory and was also a waitress. She and her friends would spend the winters in Pinecraft, FL. One night, a handsome fella caught her eye, and she couldn't help but whistle to get his attention. Ray and Eva were married January 2, 1954 and started their family in an apartment house outside of Honey Brook. In 1959 they built a house in Suplee, on land which belonged to Ray's family. They have four children, Ron, Al, Faye and Brenda. Eva died in late 2006.

Early family memories include the snowstorm of March 1958 when they had to shovel a path to the barn. On any given evening, there would be anywhere from 7 to 15 children in the Bailer's backyard, as this was the meeting place for the neighborhood children. Some of the fun games were hunting for snipe, baseball, charlie over, and red rover. Eva's garden and basement windows took a beating. During the winter months, board games and jigsaw puzzles were always available. The nightly devotions and prayer provided a Christian foundation for all. In addition to their own children, they provided a loving home to many foster children and Fresh Air children. Their door was always open, providing a warm meal and a kind word for all, including the hobos that rode the train through Suplee.

As the children grew older, Eva returned to waitressing. Ray worked for Weavers Chicken for 33 years. He was also an active member of the Honey Brook Volunteer Fire Company as an EMT and Fire Police for 25 years. After retiring, he worked for Med-Trans Ambulance for 5 years.

In 2003, Ray and Eva moved to North Carolina to their daughter, Faye's, due to Eva's declining health. During the last 6 months of her life, the family had several opportunities to all be together. It seemed like every time all the children gathered, Eva would rally. Many fond memories were born. Eva passed away November 26, 2006. She will always be remembered for her smile and ability to never meet a stranger.



The four children are married, and living in four states. There are three grandchildren, Michael, Krissy, and Noah. The house in Suplee is still in the family, as Krissy and her husband Rob purchased the home in 2007.

After Eva's death, Ray returned to the Honey Brook area to be with friends and family. He has continued to bless the community by hauling Amish. He drives up to 200 miles a day. During a recent family vacation in the Poconos, his cell phone rang looking for rides. We are sure his phone rang more than the entire family combined! Ray now lives on Red Hill Road in Narvon PA with his four-legged sidekick doggie Fonzy. collectively submitted by Ray and his children

*Pedro and Donie Hernandez are ministers of mercy to the children of Guatemala.  
The following letter was written, July 2009, to inform friends and family of Pedro's Hernandez' health status.*

Dearest friends and family,  
Things are finally slowing down a bit for us and I want to take this opportunity to write and say THANK YOU to each and every one who has stood with us in prayer over the past several months, and who continue to do so for Pedro, for our family, and for Casa Bernabe,. It has meant so much to all of us, and I believe with all my heart that Pedro is still here with us today because of those prayers.

We are truly blessed beyond words by the love and concern so many have shown to us these last few months that Pedro's health has been so unstable, I can't remember at this point just who I have told what, and just what the situation was when I said it. So please bear with me as I give a quick run-down of where we have been since January of this year. It has been quite a roller-coaster ride for all of us, but God 's peace has held us steady.

First of all, most of you know that Pedro has been battling cirrhosis of the liver since 2001, and diabetes also during the last 4-5 years. He has had a number of crises over the last 8 years and we have almost lost him several times. Most recently, he ended up back in the hospital the last week of 2008 and was diagnosed with typhoid fever, of all things! He was back in the hospital for a week after Christmas and quarantined for his own protection. His white blood cells were very low and his platelets were virtually nonexistent, which left him with little to no natural protection and not enough platelets in his blood to keep him from bleeding to death if he got injured. Finally, after a number (I can't remember now how many) of blood transfusions and platelet transfusions, he was released from the hospital.

Jan. though March kept us busy with school starting, FOCE International Board meeting, groups coming, etc, Pedro had good days and not so good days. He was tiring easily but doing what he could. Semana Santa, the week before Easter, Pedro took some of our boys and went to spend a few days at a finca at the invitation of some friends (cattle ranch) near Esquintla. When they returned home he wasn't feeling well and spent the next couple of weeks in and out of bed. Then around the 26th of April he went to bed and hardly moved for the next two weeks. He had extreme muscle spasms in his back and neck and his right elbow began to hurt and swell as well as his right knee.

Finally, we took him into Emergency where he was admitted and treated for the next three days for what the doctor told us it was uric acid. He was then sent home with a whole bag of medicines and a special diet to continue treatment of the 'uric acid'. He was told to come into the clinic in a week, That 4 was late Monday afternoon, May 11.

He didn't make the week. Friday morning, May 15, we were heading back to the Emergency Room, He was much, much worse, unable to walk and in tremendous pain. After trying to contact the first doctor, to no avail, (THANK GOD) we asked to see the resident doctor on duty. After examining Pedro, he jumped right into action, ordering IV's,, tests, calling in specialists in contagious diseases, and starting Pedro right away on antibiotics.

The next week and half to two weeks were a blur, with several different doctors working with Pedro, nurses checking his vitals every hour, and every two hours, wheeling his bed in and out for different tests, and poor Pedro with bouts of diarrhea at least a couple of times each hour!!!. His right arm and leg continued to swell and then a bump about half the size of a golf ball began to form on his collarbone. They began draining his elbow every other day with a huge syringe. His elbow continued to well as did his leg and the bump on the right side of his lower neck. Finally they took him to 'surgery' to put draining tubes in his right calf, his right elbow, and his collarbone to make continued draining easier.



The ball on top of his collarbone and started growing on the other side of the bone also, reaching down behind his sternum. That morning they took a little more than half a cup of puss from his neck, more than two cups from his elbow, and about 1 1/2 liters of puss from the calf of his right leg which was turning blue and purple and was about 3 times it's normal size. It was hard as a rock (I'm not kidding) and was very hot to the touch. The next day they drained his neck and arm and another half liter from his leg.

This draining continued even after he was released from the hospital.

During this time the doctors would only say that we were moving slowly in the right direction, but that his condition was still critical and could take a turn at any moment. About a week before he was released, one of the doctors was talking to me and told me that they had not been sure they were going to be able to save the leg, and had not even been very confident at the first that they would be able to save his life. He said that if we had come to the hospital 2 days, or maybe even one day later, he is certain that they would not have been able to do anything. Pedro had a severe streptococcus infection that was in his blood stream and running all through his body. Through tests they were able to determine that it was not in his bone, nor in the marrow, but they had found a point of the infection in one of the valves of his heart, plus they found a blood clot in one of the veins of his liver.

Although the doctors had told me in the beginning that even if things progressed as they were hoping, it would be necessary for him to be in the hospital for six weeks to two months and maybe more, but after 25 days they released him to come home and let me finish giving the antibiotic and various treatments that he needed at home. The IV was kind of tricky for the first couple of days but I got the hang of it! Of course, we had to make trips to the city to see the doctors every 2-4 days to continue draining his leg and to do periodic blood tests, etc.

The last test we had on Pedro's heart showed that the infection that had previously been in that valve was completely healed. The doctor doing the exam was talking to us as we watched on the screen. He told us the infection was gone and that Pedro's heart was in perfect condition! He went on to tell us that with that type of infection, it usually destroys the valve, requiring open heart surgery to repair it! That would obviously not be necessary for Pedro! Hallelujah!!!

For the two weeks before Pedro went into the hospital and probably the first two weeks that he was in, he was not receiving any visitors and very few phone calls. Pedro was too sick and too weak to talk. But as I asked people to pray and word began to spread we could feel the power of those prayers going up on our behalf. I know the staff and children of Casa Bernabe have been praying, dear friends and family as well as folks that don't even know us, some fasting, some placing us on prayer chains in their churches and around the world. We have truly been awed and blessed by the outpouring of love and encouragement that has come our way. We have been astounded at the power of God to give us peace in the midst of all of this. Yes, we have had moments of sadness and fear, but I can honestly say that He has lifted us up and encouraged our hearts each time, as only He can do.

The plan at this point is to get Pedro built up over the next several weeks to prepare him for surgery to remove his spleen. We also know that God could just touch that spleen, the liver, and anything else that needs fixing, even without surgery if He wants to. Pedro is at an ok weight, but his muscles have atrophied to the point that he looks like a P.O.W.! He is very weak and tires easily, but he is encouraged and hopeful that, although he really is anxious to be with the Lord, if God still has work for him here, he'd just as soon stick around and finish...

Words can't even begin to convey our deep gratitude to each of you and to our wonderful God. As you can imagine, this experience has drawn us closer to Him, closer to you, and closer to each other. We are not only praying for physical healing and strength, but also that God will have His will, and that He will work in each of our lives and the lives of our children through all of this.

Please do continue to pray with us for Pedro. From the bottom of our hearts we thank you! God Bless!

Love in Him, Donie and Pedro

*The letter sent home with Marla to those who sent her...*

*Donie writes....*

Dear Ones,  
Now it's my turn! How I wish that I could pack myself up in one of Marla's bags and come for a visit! Pedro would love to come, too! All of us would! Maybe God will work it out someday!

What a tremendous blessing it has been to have Marla here with us this last month! How can we ever express the gratitude we have in our hearts to her and to all of you for sending her down here to us doing this time. Especially during the first 2-3 weeks of her visit Pedro was still requiring quite a bit of attention.

Besides all of the practical help that Marla gave, I know you understand when I say that her sweet spirit and servant heart have been so stabilizing for the whole family. (I must admit, watching Marla and Barbara leave for the first time, it sure seemed like God could have planned things a little better!!! It was one of those times when I had to just swallow and say, "Lord, You know!" They had both been such tremendous treasures surrounding the birth of Sarah's baby and when Pedro began to get sick again) I could hardly believe my ears when Marla called me at the hospital and asked if it would be a help for her to return for a month... I can't tell you how much we, (especially I) appreciate her coming, and each one of you who helped to make that possible.

Marla and Barbara being here when they were, as well as Marla's return, have been just another sweet example of His intimate care for us during this time. We are so grateful to God and to each of you who helped make it possible for Marla to return. Her presence and sweet testimony has ministered to all of us while she baked, and cleaned, and killed rats...prayed and sang and just let Jesus touch our lives through her once again in so many ways.

Thank you all so very, very much for your love and your prayers. We are so blessed to have you in our lives.

*"Father,  
we pray that you keep us  
from being ineffective, ordinary Christians.  
Challenge us to be among those  
ready to fling our lives away  
for your Son, Jesus Christ;  
to be utterly careless of what happens  
to us in order that He may be glorified.  
Amen."*

R.C. Stedman in Jesus Teaches on Prayer

We love you and trust God to bless each of you many times over!  
Donie, Pedro, and all the kiddos



# SR YOUTH GROUP



Spent a week in  
West Virginia  
doing projects in  
conjunction  
with  
Heart and Hand  
Ministries.

Dale Horning conferring with Mike,  
representative from Heart and Hand Ministries



**Rockville Reflections** is a publication of  
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Submissions should be received by the 20<sup>th</sup>  
of the month preceding publication

A variety of tasks were  
tackled  
and  
accomplished.



They worked with a will,  
played with passion...



and ate  
Dairy King  
ice cream cones !



# Church Camp Day

at Tel Hai Camp Honey Brook, PA  
August 23, 2009

Enjoy a Continental Breakfast at 9:30 am

The Worship Service will include  
A time of praise and worship led by Metui  
Special Singing by Laura Howe  
A Message from Mike King

Mike King, a Pennsylvania farm boy with athletic promise, became a paraplegic as the result of a motorcycle accident when he was twenty years old. His story about making peace with that fact is moving.

Lunch, with Lapp Valley Ice cream for dessert, begins the afternoon of fellowship and fun.

- Games for the children
- Swimming
- Mini Golf
- Volleyball
- Quoits

Watch for more details in the bulletin.

## See you there!

The Fellowship Committee  
Don and Joyce Horning  
Lavern and Patsy Horning  
Rich and Carol Ann Burns



Snapshots  
from  
fun  
times  
in  
the  
past.

