

New England Mission Center  
Congregational Support Ministry  
*Mission Flash*

*Mission Flash* will be sent when a Mission related event happens around our Mission Center. This is to keep you up to date on the many exciting things that are happening in our congregations. Please make sure that a copy of this *FLASH* is posted on you congregational bulletin board.

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*Mission Flash #3-08*

*Feb 28, 2008*

The Mission Center conference held at Onset, MA last fall was an extraordinary experience. I went expecting the normal wonderful experience of fellowship, classes and basking in the blessings of the Holy Spirit. Shortly after arriving I met a young lady that would make a big difference in my life by teaching me something about responding to God's call TODAY. We are used to responding when we get around to it, when we have time or when we remember that we should. I learned that there is no time like the present to say, "Here I am Lord".

The young lady is Laura Riley, now Laura King, from Attleboro, MA. Laura was attending her first conference, a non member and fiancé of Steve a life long member of the Community of Christ. I am always worried these conferences will be boring (you know, business meetings and other administrative stuff) for non members that are not familiar with our church. It was not so with Laura; she soon fit in like she had been there all along. She smiled, shared her thoughts, listened and experienced that same Holy Spirit that we all seek. During the closing service Apostle Young shared his words of challenge and following the leadings of the Holy Spirit, shared a testimony about his work in Russia where people are responding, on the spot, to God's call. As the service and conference ended I was aware of the uniqueness of this conference and the special experience with the Holy Spirit we had shared.

It was time to begin my 7 hour journey home. As I went from table to table visiting and saying my good byes, I came to Steve and Laura. As I talked to Laura I felt that there was a question she on her heart. I asked her to explain, she said, "I want to be baptized, now, today, here at Onset". I was taken a little off guard as I am used to a little more discussion and preparation but I soon discovered that it would get better. I was asked to participate in this special impromptu service. We gathered at the beach and I baptized Laura into the body of Christ. After changing from wet clothes we gathered at the Onset Chapel and Steve and I confirmed Laura as a member of the Community of Christ.

My drive home that night seemed very short. As I reviewed the events of the day I was reminded of the times that I had not responded as Laura did. Times that I was asked to make a decision now, to follow the Lord. I will not think twice again when I feel that nudge on my shoulder challenging me to go forward into the unknown. God awaits.

Thank you for your help and support. If you would like more information or are wishing to support specific Mission Ministry mentioned in the Mission Flash contact Arthur Emerson at [aemerson@CofChrist.org](mailto:aemerson@CofChrist.org), 251 Masons Bay Rd, Addison, Maine 04606 or call (207) 497-2618