

Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



September 2006

Arise
A United
Methodist
Church

Ministers
Every member
of the Church

Pastor
Donald Weatherup

Director of Music
Kevin Griffin

**Administrative
Assistant**
Dave Russell

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September 4

The Weatherup Family; Settling in...



(Front) Ellen, Kado, & Daphnehy
(Back) Shelley, Makita (Macaw), Pastor Don, Luke & Tucker

The extended Weatherup family, including a Beagle puppy (Kado), Chocolate Lab and Beagle mix dog (Luke) and Macaw bird (Makita), seem to be settling in just fine. Makita rules the roost...literally. "He is the king," Don explains, and likes extensive time out of the cage and lots of attention!

Of course, transitions can be difficult, and they have had their share. As many know, Shelley is recovering from hip surgery and will be back to work shortly. This obviously made the complications of moving even more difficult. Says Shelley, "It's been lots of change. More so lately. When Don got appointed there was the job change, Tucker is potentially going to Australia; Ellen went to Paris, my medical leave, the move, and then two days before the move our 9 year old Beagle dog died. Lots of change. Almost no aspect of our life has been stable other than our faith." But faith they have, and the family was in good spirits and counting their blessings. Living in the country has been Shelley's "dream come true! I've always wanted to live in the country but close to

suburbia. I had given up on it." Don chimes in, "When I was appointed to Flushing she would always have me drive out in the country. I told her nobody has a parsonage in the country. She said, 'I can have my dream.' When we pulled up for the first time, she was thrilled." Ellen also likes having a big yard, so she can play sports.

The warmth and caring of the Arise family have helped them to adjust. Ellen and Daphnehy recall seeing Jason, Eric and fifteen of their friends playing Ultimate Frisbee on the lawn shortly after they arrived. "It's difficult getting to know people, and they made us feel welcome!" Shelley adds, "It feels good now to be here and settled. We have more of a routine, although a few things are still pending. All I can say is how do people do it without God? And the faith and support of two church families, with welcome, warmth and prayer. That's how I've made it."

Shelley was originally a special education teacher and has now found her calling as a nurse. She has worked in an Alzheimer's

(Editor's note: Pastor Don Weatherup and his family moved to Arise Acres on July 1st. An introductory "Meet The Weatherups" letter was mailed to the congregation at that time, giving some background on the family. Since then, Connections caught up with the family to see how they are settling in.)

continued on pg.3

Pastor's Column



Pastor Don Weatherup

As I sit and write this pastor's page in the quiet of a Monday morning I am contemplating how things have gone so far. I have been at Arise 885 hours. Since I am an extrovert and have a tendency to think out loud, I thought I would share some of my observations so far. Let's see...

Having been a city guy most of my life, daily I am stunned by the spectacular beauty of this property.

Every day I look out the back window of my office and see a gorgeous tree line and a grassy meadow. The view from the front window of the parsonage could easily be a painting. I smile every time I look out the front of the property and see that cross on the hill. There is something very majestic and powerful about it. Having come from a church on a city lot that was land locked, I am so appreciative for the spaciousness of the property. Plenty of room to grow!

Some things about moving to Pinckney have remained the same. McDonald's is, well, McDonald's. The new movie releases at the video store are still along the outside wall. Just like in Flushing, I get my gas at a BP station on the corner. Jet's Pizza is still awesome!

Some things have changed: I never thought I would miss the taste of chlorinated water. I drive to get the mail and to take out the trash. Seems odd. I compete with the cackle of sand hill cranes and geese in the middle of a sermon. I am worshiping in a barn, and I am liking it.

I am most impressed with the people of Arise Church. You are very dedicated, warm, compassionate, and caring. You are a congregation of go-getters! My impression so far

is that this church has nothing to be ashamed of. Hold your heads high! You'll have an opportunity to celebrate the ministries of Arise Church on Sunday September 24th at our 10th Anniversary Celebration. (See the separate article in this newsletter). Be proud of the ministries you are doing today for the Kingdom of God. Arise UMC has taken to heart the words of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism who said, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, for as long as you can." In other words, there is always room for improvement, but I would caution us to not get discouraged. Ministry is supposed to be fun and full of joy!

I am extremely impressed with having college age men attending regularly. It is the most difficult demographic for any church to attract and we have them! Praise God! What a huge blessing! It's a ministry I hope we can continue to grow.

I have been here long enough now to begin to get a feel for what is going well and what ministry areas need attention. I am still in a process of active listening. It is critical that we always keep an honest and open dialogue going. Please remember that whenever a group of sinners work together (which is what the church is) there will always be challenges. Always. The challenges and problems will only go away when we're all together in heaven. Until then, remain focused on our goal of making disciples of Jesus Christ and helping people turn their lives around so they can live in joy and peace! Together we really are growing in God's love and passing it on!

With you on the journey,

Arise 10th Anniversary Celebration

Please join us as we celebrate the the 10th Anniversary of Arise United Methodist Church on September 24th.

We will worship with one service at 10:00 am. It will be at Country Elementary. A special worship service is planned with many past/current/future friends attending.

At the conclusion of worship we invite you to stay for a Soup, Salad and Bread Pot Luck and will finish with a yummy cake for dessert.

What a great time to share God's love by inviting your friends & neighbors to break bread with us, as we continue breaking ground for God's Plan.

There will be invitations in the Friendship Notebook and Information Table to pass out. Set a goal and bring a friend as we celebrate and move forward in our journey with Christ.

Joyce Barnard

Consecration Sunday Slated for October 22

As we worship God this summer we see visible signs of Arise taking another step in our growth as a young congregation. Transforming an old horse barn into a place of worship, Christian education and fellowship is an outward sign of our growth. But it is not buildings that make up God's church, it is people. We are the church and it is our Christian growth and bringing others to Christ that is central to our faith.

Jesus calls us to serve with our time, talents and gifts. The opportunities are many and we all serve in our own ways. This fall, during Consecration Sunday, we will again be called to serve through our gifts to God, to take step of faith, to grow another step.

"The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:6-8, NRSV.)

When we give back a portion of what God has given us, Jesus challenges us to be a cheerful giver. This is not always easy. As Consecration Sunday approaches give careful thought and prayer to giving back to God with cheer.

It's not the bricks and mortar that are important, it is the building and growing that is occurring within us; how we use our time, talents and gifts to grow in God's love and further His kingdom.

Gift of \$2,000 received for "Creative Worship"

Earlier this year, a monetary gift of \$2,000 was received by Arise Church for use with "Creative Worship" needs. Some of the funds have been approved for use to provide for repair and replacement of hardware used for our worship experience. One such recent acquisition is the new DVD/VCR combo player which has seen use in recent weeks at the 10:30 service showing video clips that help to illustrate themes in Pastor Don's sermons. Some other upcoming changes that will use these funds will be the repair or replacement of the VGA cable that sends the video signal from the video tech laptop to the LCD projector (This will give us back our lovely red colors and hues that have been lost in recent months!) as well as a second keyboard stand so that the "old" keyboard can be used in worship.

The Weatherup family... *continued from pg. 1*

home and is now in oncology at Genesys Hospital. "I guess God put me in places where people don't like to be. It's the same with cancer. What I love most about being an oncology nurse is that I've always wondered how I'm ever going to bring people to Christ, and with oncology it is so easy. It's a great platform for me to be more of an extrovert, and when people are facing death they're ready for those conversations." Shelley works the night shift at Genesys.

Shelley's children are Tucker and Ellen, whose father is living in Australia where Tucker is thinking of going to school, possibly to become a nurse anesthetist. As this goes to press, the family is waiting to see if this relocation will happen. Of course, if you ask what would REALLY make Tucker happy, he'll say "a motorcycle." Ellen is a gifted writer, hoping to be an editor some day by studying journalism. She also loves horses, and once had one.

Don's children are Danielle and Daphnehy. Danielle has been spending the summer in California and will be in Pinckney for a week this month. She is attending the University of California at Hayward. Daphnehy is hoping to attend Pinckney HS as a Sophomore, if she does not return to California.

As far as church involvement, Tucker has been a volunteer on the ASP Appalachian Service Project, working with an elderly couple who had 30 dogs! Most of his time, however, was spent under the house repairing the floor!

Ellen was in a group called "wild life"...a religious junior high young people's group. "I hope we can do a lot of cool things at Arise. In our old church we had "Ninjas for Jesus." We went around after dark and were very quiet and put plants with a Bible verse by people's front doors. It was really fun!" They also had treasure hunts and other activities. Ellen recently returned from a trip to Paris, which was "really cool and pretty!" She was there with her French teacher for six days.

Don comments that one family thing we do every week is go out to eat, mostly on Fridays. "We always do that as a family. The one time a week we spend time together." Asked what help they needed in getting settled, Don notes, "The one big unmet need that I had was just solved. I was beside myself looking for a Chinese buffet. Then I found out about the one in Ann Arbor." In addition, the family enjoys camping at their campground in Davison, MI. Membership was given to them by a member of their previous church who had never used it. "The kids love to camp. It's fun!"

Teen Mexico Mission



Five Arise Youth recently returned from Tijuana, Mexico after a week long mission trip. Jessica Concannon led the Arise contingent, joined by Matt Concannon, Matthew Romans, Marcia McMunn and Tony Whalen. Their trip was sponsored by Teen Mania and involved building a home for a family, providing Vacation Bible School (VBS) for area children and sharing the love of Christ with local residents.

The first two days on-site involved orientation and training, with most other days spent with the children at VBS and door-to-door witnessing. Mission participants numbered about 350, being divided into smaller groups of 30. Each small group had Spanish speaking members or an interpreter to aid them in communicating with the local residents and children.

An area ranch served as living quarters for the week. According to the teens, accommodations were pretty rustic in some respects. This didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the Arise team, however, and only provided more stories to tell.

In addition to group fundraising, Arise generously donated about \$1,700 to this youth mission, which was very much appreciated by the Arise team members. They all look forward to future opportunities for sharing God's love with others, both locally and abroad. Some comments from our team include:

"It was an awesome experience! We worshipped three times a day. The kids were adorable and many people gave their hearts to Christ. I have been really changed by it." ~ Marcia McMunn

"It was amazing! People welcomed us into their homes and welcomed our message. You wouldn't have seen that here in the U.S. It is hard to describe the experience—so much happened." ~ Matthew Romans

"I think we all agree that the openness and friendliness of the people there was amazing. They were really nice and really listened to you. They were in such a desperate situation living there. The kids at VBS were really fun and happy to have someone play with them." ~ Tony Whalen

New Arise Lending Library

Arise has a new library of Christian books, video tapes and DVD's, generously donated by Jean Oxender, Fran Smith, Diane Gould and Pastor Doug McMunn. For now, the library is being kept at the home of Gene and Fran Smith. Gene recently compiled a list of the library's contents which will be available soon at www.arisechurch.org. Thank you to the donors for making this lending library available to Arise and to Dave Russell for posting it on the Arise website. About once a month, beginning in September, Gene will bring some materials to worship to be reviewed and checked out by anyone interested. Watch the welcome table for these. Gene can be contacted at (734) 954-0859 to borrow or donate library materials.

Arise CROP Walk Sunday, Sept. 24th at 2 p.m.

Walking Together to
end hunger locally
and globally
Contact: Rob Wagner,
Phone 734 878 5260



Organized locally, the Arise Church CROP Walk is raising money to help stop hunger here in our community and around the world, through self-help development initiatives. A portion of the funds raised here in Pinckney will go to Gleaners Food Bank of Livingston County. This year Pinckney and some 2,000 cities and towns nationwide are joining together in interfaith community CROP Walks around the theme "Walking Together." Many of the CROP Walkers will be wearing "Walking Together" T-shirts, proclaiming their solidarity with the millions of neighbors around the world who have to walk to live - as well as with the millions served by local food pantries, food banks, and meal sites here in the U.S. These local ministries share in the funds raised by CROP Walks.

Africa is one part of the world where CROP Walks are making a big difference—in helping people grow food for their families, in providing clean water to villages, in working to assure that schools are zones of safety and learning, in the struggle against the AIDS pandemic, and in countless other ways. And this year Africa presents special challenges, with millions in the Darfur region of Sudan still uprooted by government-sanctioned violence, and the severe drought that imperils food supplies in Kenya and other parts of East Africa.

CROP Walks are also making a big difference along the U.S. Gulf Coast, as communities continue their recovery from Hurricane Katrina, in northern Pakistan, where recovery efforts continue in quake-affected areas, and in our response to the developing humanitarian crisis in Lebanon.

Join with your congregation to make a difference in people's lives. Come walk together with us on September 24th.

Dave Russell: Man Behind the Scenes



Dave Russell is the Administrative Assistant for Arise...at least in one of his roles. He's a bit on the quiet side, with a friendly smile and willingness to help! In fact, all three of the Russell's— Dave, Laurie and Jacob—attend church regularly and are frequently visible exuding terrific Christian energy in Arise activities such as skits and singing

(Laurie and Dave) and Children's Church (Jacob). The Russell's live between Howell and Brighton, near Lake Chemung.

Dave's duties at Arise include putting together the written materials for Sunday worship, including tech sheets and bulletins, as well as other mailings and projects. He is also currently maintaining the website. Dave has one administrative request for the congregation, since his normal work week is Wednesday (8-4) and Thursday (9-5). Please have any news for the Sunday bulletin to him by Wednesday morning.

In his other "life," he is a Sergeant for the Unadilla Police Department, which includes both administrative and road officer duties, and a part time road officer in Pinckney. At least if you get stopped speeding, you can count on that friendly smile as he writes out the ticket!

Of course, the most important part of his life is family. Laurie works for the First National Bank in Howell, was born in Canada and is now a U.S. citizen. Jacob (8) is in 3rd grade. Dave speaks of Jacob with fatherly pride: "He's very talented in an arts kind of way...likes acting and singing and being in front of people. He's been awarded the highest rank in state speech competitions through the Livingston Christian schools. We offer him opportunities and he picks what he wants to do. He picked ice skating and fencing." In their leisure time, they enjoy traveling together. In addition, Dave sings with the Livingston County Chorale as first tenor, in several concerts per year including Christmas.

Asked what he finds most satisfying about his multiple roles, Dave replies, "I enjoy being able to be there when people really need help; I also enjoy helping the community at large...detering the "bad guys" from harming the rest of us."

As the keeper of the office, Dave has seen the pastoral transition first-hand. "I was a little nervous about the transition like everyone was...getting a new boss, and I hadn't met him. I was very sorry to see Doug go; he wasn't just my pastor or boss, but my friend. We spent so much time together. Since Don has arrived, however, it's been great! We're quickly becoming good friends, and overall everything is working really well. I'm very excited about the future. Some good things are in store for Arise. Don is a very wise man; he has a vision for Arise and how it will grow; I can tell. He brings a fresh perspective. When he looks at the same things we've been looking at for so long, he sees something different, and he shares what he sees in a positive way. He brings some unique skills!"

"I'm really excited and enjoy my job here, working for Arise. I feel like I have a ministry and am doing work for God, and yet I get paid for it at the same time! It's exciting for me to be able to be in that position. I believe there will come a time when Arise will outgrow me, because I only have so much time available to do this work, but until that day I'm really glad to be here and to be doing what I'm doing." We're excited that you're in that position too, Dave. Thanks!

New Video Tech Laptop



L to R: Video Team Members Jason Janovits, Greg Stafford and Allen Hillaker

Through an anonymous gift given to Arise Church, a new video tech laptop was recently purchased for use at the 10:30 worship services. This new laptop will provide far more capacity to store, edit and show digital images. The old laptop had served well during its years of ministry but was showing its age with taking upwards of 10 minutes to boot up and load the PowerPoint presentations that we use. Thanks to Kevin Germain and Greg Stafford for their work and collaboration in acquiring this new ministry tool!

Arise Church is also looking for new people to join the video tech team and work with this important worship ministry. If you are interested, contact Kevin Griffin at the Arise phone number or email address.

Vacation Bible School 2006



Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to prepare for VBS this year. Despite lower than normal attendance, the enthusiasm of the participating children and adults was evident as the week's activities progressed. Story telling, crafts, singing, signing, games and snacks were all part of the fun, as

this year's Gospel Express theme unfolded. The children were rail riders, their teachers were the engineers and "Miss Judy" Miller, the program's coordinator, was the conductor. As part of the VBS mission effort, a total of \$149.00 was raised to feed hungry street children in Africa. As a reward for their generous sharing, Miss Judy took several pies in the face, as well as being a good enough sport to let the kids wash off the pies with squirt guns!

Many people helped make VBS special for the kids, as well as the adults this year. See what some of our adult helpers had to say about the experience:

"I always enjoy it. The kids were great. The kids who were there were very enthusiastic and made the stories come alive." ~ Barb Stafford, Storyteller

"The people who put it on did a fantastic job. What impressed me was that, in spite the low turn out, there was no lack of enthusiasm on the part of the kids or helpers. It's too bad more kids couldn't have experienced it." ~ Mary Read Gannon, Games Leader

Despite the obstacles VBS had to hurdle this summer, a small group of children shared a week of fun, education and closeness. I feel enriched having gotten to know some of the great kids from Arise. ~ Laura Bowen, Mission Coordinator

"The thing that really touched my heart was Judy's enthusiasm. She kept her high energy, even when the numbers were down and some of the kids were concerned about being able to learn sign language. She is such an asset to Arise—we're lucky to have her." ~ Micki Baumgart, Signing Instructor

"Six adults attended throughout the adult class throughout the week. It was very educational and even Pastor Don learned some things from the materials. We studied some lesser known people in the Bible. I noticed that the kids were excited about what they'd learned, also, and enjoyed the stories and crafts." ~ Vicki Dawson, Adult Bible Study Leader

"I really enjoyed working with Laura Bowen and even though the number of kids was down, the ones who were there really wanted to be there and it was a good experience being with them." ~ Anita Pagano, VBS Teacher

The Littlest LifeTeam: Arise Kids are Jammin'!

We are 11 little people strong!! We are movin' & shaken" to the groove of God! We are prayin' and blessin' each other as God wants us to do. We are learnin' the "Golden Rule" to "do unto others as you would have done to you". Ask any of them about it. They will love to share what they are learning!

The Arise Jammin' Kids wants you to know who they are and they want to know you. Be on the lookout for them and say hello! As a reminder, here's who they are:

Austin Bollinger, son of Steve & Cheryl

Kimberly Boyne, daughter Of Patti & Chuck

Sean Graham, son of Sherry

Ross & Wes Richards, sons of Tim & Jan

Jacob Russell, son of David & Laurie

Seth, Zeke & Elly Sherry, children of Kim & EJ

Wilson & Myles Wagner, sons of Jen & Rob

Arise Jammin' Kids is a musically based Life Team that will teach and grow "kids" in God. We are learning how to worship, praise and fellowship with Him and other "kids" all within a musical context.

Arise Jammin Kids is for all kids age 4-4th grade. We meet on the 1st. & 3rd. Sunday mornings from 9-10:00am wherever Arise is worshipin' at (you know what I mean!).

Our team of "big people" is Norine Bibicoff, Laurie Russell and Vicki Dawson. We are all committed to growing little people in God. We are proud to be a part of God's plan in their lives.

If you would like to join us any Sunday, feel free to find us. We may be singin' around the pond, dancin' in the driveway or rollin' in the beautiful hilly grass at Arise Acres. Look for us on Sundays, we will be around!!

See you August 20 at 9:00am for the next Jammin' time!
Vicki Dawson, Proud Ringleader (810-231-9226)



Announcing!!!!!!!

Chelsea Sherry and the Pinckney Piranhas Junior Varsity Basketball team from Pinckney, Michigan took first place today at the American Youth Basketball Tour's National Championship games in Ft. Wayne, Indiana!!! We had a wonderful time and as you can see so did the girls!! We are very proud of them. This is the second time Chelsea has been on a team that won the Nationals. Her Lady Fireballs team in 2003 won too!!! That was the same year her older sister Leah's team from Pinckney, also won first place in the Varsity division.

EJ and Kim

SEPTEMBER 2006 CALENDAR

Stewardship is everything I do after I say I believe!

—Unknown

(a favorite definition of Pastor Don's)

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday _____

9:00 am
Spirited Traditional
Worship

9:45 am
Friendship Coffee
10:30 am
Praise Celebration

Wednesday _____

7:00 pm
Adult Bible Study
7:30 pm
Walking Team

Thursday _____

10:00 am
Worship Design

Saturday _____

8:30 pm
Young Adult LIFE Team

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
August 27 Youth Back-to-School Bash/Picnic 6 pm	28	29	30 Children's Ministry Summit 7 pm	31	September 1	2
3 Holy Communion	4 	5 Church Council 7 pm	6	7	8 TGIF Sisters 10 am	9 Visioning/Leadership 9 am – noon
10 McMunn Memory Book submissions due	11 Threads of Faith, 7 pm	12 Finance Committee at Plachta's 7 pm	13 Children's Church/Sunday School Teachers Meeting 7 pm	14	15	16
17 Last 2006 worship at Arise Acres	18	19	20 Trustee Meeting 7 pm	21	22 TGIF Sisters 10 am	23
24 Arise 10th Anniversary Celebration! 10:00 am—worship 11:15 am—Lncheon at Country El	25 Stewardship Committee at the Ministry Center 7 pm	26 Collate Newsletter 10 am	27	28	29	30

Free Hypertension Screening

Free blood pressure screenings are offered monthly on the second Sunday after each worship service. This service is provided by the Arise Health Ministry Team and has helped some Arise attendees to identify high blood pressure they never knew they had.

Consider stopping by and getting yours checked to help maintain your good health. Contact Diane Gould, (734) 665-8997, for more details or to help with screenings.

McMunn Memory Book

If you have been wanting to decorate a page or submit something for the McMunn's Memory Book, now is your last chance to participate. This is a unique opportunity for our congregation to give the McMunns a personal gift from our hearts for their ten years among us. E-mail a favorite memory of Arise or the McMunn family to April Flanagan or see Vicki Dawson during worship service for a page of the memory book. Families can involve their kids in sharing their memories or thinking of ways to decorate a page for the book. Submissions are due by September 10th. Contact Vicki Dawson, (810) 231-9226 or April Flanagan, aprilflanagan.cs.com for details.

September 3rd Communion offering for Livingston County Food Bank.

Food, funds and friendship from churches like yours help Gleaners continue nourishing your neighbors physically so that you are able to nourish them emotionally and spiritually. 100% of donated food is provided free of charge to our partner agencies and distributed at no cost to hungry people in our county. Gleaners is able to purchase 16 lbs. of food for each dollar we receive. Sixteen pounds or \$1 can feed one person for about a week.

Please take home the Gleaners Food bags being distributed on August 27th. You can return the filled bags to the Arise Ministry Center or drop off during services anytime before Sept. 17th.

Thanks, everyone! Laura Bowen, Arise Missions

Arise

A United Methodist Church

Arise Ministry Center
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August & September Anniversaries

Rob & Jennifer Wagner..... 8/7	Matt & Beth Plachta 9/13
Ken & Cindy Skrent 8/12	Paul & Anita Pagano..... 9/15
Rich & pat Sliter..... 8/18	Steve & Cheryl Bollinger..... 9/26
Joe & Blanche Roth 9/3	Dave & Susan Sepesi..... 9/29
Tom & Donna Terhune 9/8	Happy 50th! Gene & Fran Smith..... 9/29
Dean & Nancy Swartzwelter 9/10	Jim & Cindy Morphew 9/30
Don & Kathy Coudriet..... 9/12	

August & September Birthdays

Anita Pagano..... 8/4	Cindy Skrent..... 9/2
Barbara Wood..... 8/4	Marge Smith 9/6
Robert Barnard 8/7	Olivia Dawson 9/12
Karen Badyna 8/10	Sherry Graham 9/12
Bob Whalen 8/10	Don Weatherup 9/14
Laura Bowen..... 8/16	Joyce Barnard..... 9/16
Fran Smith 8/21	Dean Swartzwelter 9/22
Tony Fahmie 8/22	Andrea Majewski 9/25
Jane Fuller 8/23	Sara Duke..... 9/26
Tucker Russell..... 8/27	Barry Boyes 9/30
Kevin Atkerson..... 8/29	
Don Coudriet 8/31	

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*Thanks to all who contribute;
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