

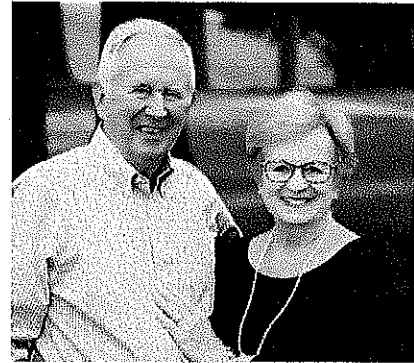
# THE BRENNECKE JOURNAL

## Summer 2021

Dear Friends:

Greetings from Steve & Kim in Ohio! We are enjoying the first week of cooler temperatures of this late stage of summer and reflecting on the events that have transpired since April. We see the good hand of God in the affairs of our lives.

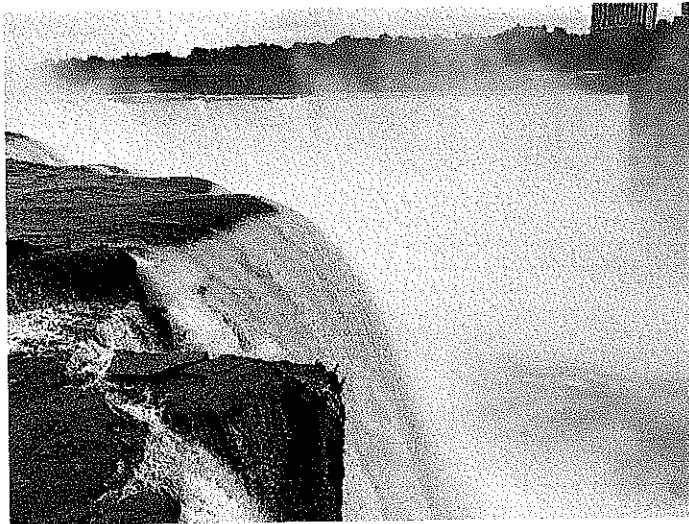
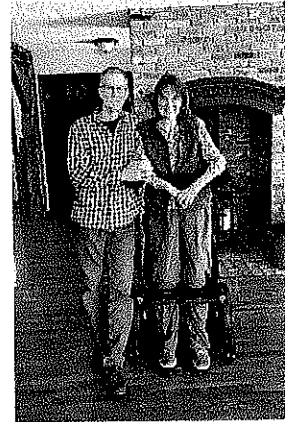
**Allen Brennecke.** My dad passed away April 28, 2021. He had suffered from Alzheimer's for several years. We watched with growing admiration as dad and mom walked through a challenging path of life together. Their example will be an inspiring memory. The funeral service was God-honoring, and a fit observance of dad's life. Without rehearsing his accomplishments and sterling character here, I will simply say I was blessed to grow up under the care of such a gentle and good man. Mom is doing well, for which we are so very thankful.



**Stewardship Ministries.** I am privileged to become acquainted with those who are donors to Baptist Mid-Missions. They come from all walks of life: businessmen, farmers, factory workers, professionals, retirees, widows & widowers. They have a great variety of life experiences, from construction to the practice of medicine; they have viewed the world from a surgical suite and from a bulldozer seat. They are an inspiring group because of their common connecting point: the cross of Jesus Christ. A spiritually minded group, they bring to mind Galatians 6:14, "*But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*" Please pray as I minister to these saints.

**Personal outreach.** Many of you inquire about our friends Walter and Elaine. Thank you for praying for them! Both are relationally close to our family; both need salvation. Please continue to pray. As bold as the Apostle Paul was, I am beginning to understand his prayer request: "*...pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, ...that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.*" Colossians 4:3-4. When I am frustrated with my inability to communicate clearly, I rest on the sovereignty of our loving God.

**Summer in the rear-view mirror.** Well, you've noticed the days getting shorter, I'm sure. We look back on the summer, and it was busy in a good way. In May, I was the "victim" of a Surprise Birthday Party! Kim, the kids (& my brother) conspired to create a great memory for a birthday milestone that "ends in a zero". The summer has also provided Kim opportunities to stretch with her new standing wheelchair! We are grateful for the good care she receives from a team of doctors from the Cleveland Clinic. This June, Kim and I marked 35 years of God's blessing in our marriage. July held for us another milestone: we completed 21 years of service with BMM! The BMM Family Conference was well-attended and inspiring. The balance of the summer included a family wedding for my niece, a drive to Maine and back through old ancestral territory in the Adirondack mountains of upstate New York, a visit to Niagara falls, and time at home in the "shop".



We enjoyed having Natalie back home for the summer. She has returned to the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she enters her second year of studies – attending class in person this year! Gunnar is in his senior year of High School, and is filling out college applications and looking forward to stepping out into the rest of life! We are not eager to become "empty-nesters", but that day is coming soon!

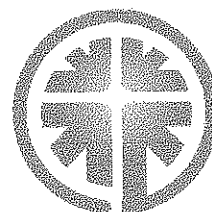
**Thank you for your fellowship in the work!** The task of helping churches send missionaries to the field of God's calling is a worthy endeavor, and your role in giving of yourselves in prayers and in financial support of this ministry is something we truly appreciate.

**May the Lord Bless you as you serve Him!**

Steve & Kim Brennecke

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Steve serves as CEO of BMM Foundation and Administrator of BMM Stewardship Ministries



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