

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

June-July 2008/2:3



NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC VISITS NORTH KOREA

Editors note: An opportunity for cultural exchange between two historic enemies is always a time for hope and optimism. Thus the invitation by North Korea to the New York Philharmonic Orchestra to visit North Korea and play for its citizens was a major news story. Arlen Fast, contrabassoonist for the philharmonic, and his wife, Anne Ediger, have strong ties to BCMC. In addition to the parental connections described below, Arlen has occasionally joined BCMC musicians in providing holiday music. It is always a pleasure to catch a glimpse of Arlen when we watch the New York Philharmonic Orchestra play on "Live from Lincoln Center" and we are pleased that he and Anne are sharing their experiences of this momentous occasion. W. Dale Horst

New York Philharmonic visits North Korea By Arlen Fast and Anne Ediger

At the end of a 3-week tour of Taiwan and China, the

New York Philharmonic made a historic visit to Pyongyang, North Korea on Feb. 26 and 27, 2008. The concert was the first ever by an American orchestra in North Korea, and it was the largest delegation from the USA to visit that country since the Korean War. The visit was initiated by an invitation from officials in Pyongyang, and the trip was organized in close association with the US State Department. I, Arlen Fast (son of Orlando and Maxine Fast). Contrabassoonist in the Philharmonic, and my wife, Anne Ediger (daughter of Viola Ediger) were on this trip.

Relations between Washington and N. Korea have been so strained in the past few years that the invitation came somewhat as a surprise to the Philharmonic. But when the Philharmonic board and management consulted with the State Department, and considered the prospect of the trip and what it could do in terms of a positive cultural event, the

Philharmonic felt it was an opportunity not to be missed. A lot of planning went into organizing the trip, and because there was no history of other orchestras playing there, nearly everything had to be organized from scratch.

There was an unprecedented amount of media coverage of our visit. A caravan of trucks drove across the DMZ from South Korea to Pyongyang loaded with the electronics for the satellite broadcast of the concert, as well as all of the communications equipment necessary for filing Inside this issue: news reports. Needless to say, special permission had to be obtained for such a trip from South to North Korea. Approximately 280 people (including orchestra, staff, patrons, and media personnel) flew with the orchestra in a speciallyprovided 747 plane, courtesy of Asiana Airlines (a South Korean airline), from Beijing to Pyongyang. The plane



Arlen Fast, in front of the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre

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BCMC Kaleidoscope 1 June-July 2008



Arlen and Anne just off the plane in Pyongyang

New York Philharmonic visits North Korea continued also carried all of our instruments, wardrobe trunks and equipment necessary for the concert.

We spent less than 48 hours in North Korea, and our time there was very scripted. Various events were planned for almost every minute we were there, so there was not much time for wandering around and interacting with local people. The first evening after we arrived, we were taken to a performance of traditional music and dance at one of the theatres in Pyongyang. Afterwards, there was a lavish dinner which went quite late into the evening. The next day we had a rehearsal in the morning and a concert in the evening. Nothing was routine about this concert event. It was our first time to work with EuroArts, the company which did the broadcast, and it was the first time a live broadcast had been engineered from Pyongyang. Since we wouldn't have a second chance, there was pressure to "get it right" the first time. At the morning rehearsal, every seat in the hall was

filled with concertgoers in full concert dress. It was as if no one had told them that it was a rehearsal instead of a concert.

Many political commentators had something to say about our concert in North Korea, both before we went and while we were there. There were some articles criticizing our visit, and others supporting it. Many editorial writers and commentators gave advice publicly about what we should do or not do, and how we might unwittingly be political pawns by doing one thing or another. Everyone seemed to have an opinion. All of this public commentary underscored how unusual this event was. Our purpose was to go and simply share our music with people who rarely got to hear it.

The concert was a highly-charged event. While we are used to playing concerts in different halls around the world, this one held special meaning and felt different. Feeling the specialness of this event, we played our hearts out, and at the end of it we were surprised by the prolonged applause during which some members of the audience began waving to the orchestra. In a natural response, some orchestra members waved back, and very quickly more and more audience and orchestra players were waving to each other instead of leaving the stage and concert hall. It was a very touching scene, and when the orchestra members did come off stage many had tears in their eyes. This was a moment we were not prepared for and no one could have predicted, and it left a lasting impression on the orchestra. To me it felt like two cultures had just said "hello" to each other, but didn't quite know the words for doing so.

Some members of the orchestra gave master classes while we were there, and Maestro Lorin Maazel led a rehearsal of the North Korean Youth Orchestra. What we found was that the North Korean instrumental players were extremely accomplished. There are obviously very strong music programs there, and this was underscored by the fact that there are a number of concert halls around Pyongyang, including a Children's theater, where performances by young people ages 8 to 16 are held. On our last morning in Pyongyang, a group of us were taken to the Children's Theater (as part of our itinerary) to see a performance, and were amazed at the dazzling spectacle we saw. A few of my pictures from this performance can be seen online at the following webpage: http://homepage.mac.com/arlenfast/ PhotoAlbum5.html

Our hosts for this visit went all out to make us comfortable and welcome. Along with that came some ironies that struck almost everyone. While we were aware that many people there were going without adequate heat, our hotel rooms were very hot, to the point that we were unable to get the heat turned down far enough to be comfortable. Some orchestra members resorted to breaking the seals on their hotel room windows and opening them, in spite of the fact that it was winter and there was snow on the ground. We also know that many people there lack adequate food (to put it simply), and yet we were served the most lavish banquets that many of us had ever seen. We felt very self-conscious that we were being served so much exquisitely prepared food by people who normally saw too little of it.

Despite the ironies, we felt fortunate to be part of a history-making event involving the U.S. and North Korea in a way that did not involve the usual sabre-rattling and inflammatory political rhetoric. We have no illusions that our trip will actually change the world, but a cultural exchange such as we had might begin to open the door to seeing each other as fellow human beings with many common feelings and needs. I came away with a stronger sense that the arts can play an especially useful role in bringing people together with a universal language, regardless of the political system they live under.

BCMC'S NEW SOUND SYSTEM IS INSTALLED!



Taking down the old sanctuary speaker, not a job for the faint of heart. Installation of the new sound system was completed in April.



cognoscenti working with this state of the art system,

Grant
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to the
new controls. If
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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

Congratulations to Kevin Leary and Willie Lewis who graduated from Newton High School May 17, 2008.





Kevin

Willie

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY OMAR VORAN!



Omar was born to Willard and Frieda Voran in Kingman County, Kansas on July 19, 1928. He has one brother, Delmar. He attended Belmont Grade School and Kingman High School, and then Bethel College, graduating in 1950. After graduation he took a job in the Bethel College Business Office as bookkeeper.

In 1952 he was assigned to do I-W work at Bethel Deaconess Hospital as accountant, office manager and Assistant Administrator. He enrolled at Wichita University taking accounting courses. Following the I-W experience, he decided to pursue Hospital Administration. He married Carolyn Bachman, (from Moundridge) the love of his life, and they have three children, Doug, Brad and Lori. The family moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1963 where Omar entered the graduate program in Hospital Administration at the University of Minnesota, graduating in 1965. Omar was attracted to several different careers but in the final analysis he settled on hospital administration because it had the satisfaction, fulfillment and social and humanitarian significance

that he was searching for. He accepted a position in Des Moines, Iowa as Assistant Administrator of the Iowa Methodist Hospital; later he was CEO at Marshalltown Medical and Surgical Center, then Hawarden Community Hospital, and finally Interim Administrator in Pringhar, Iowa (a part-time retirement position).

Returning to North Newton has offered Omar and Carolyn an opportunity to reacquaint with their past, including membership and participation at Bethel College Mennonite Church, benefitting from the cultural activities on this campus, singing in the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus, playing golf and enjoying family and friends. Omar's professional contributions include membership in American College of Healthcare Executives, Iowa Hospital Association, Iowa/ South Dakota Blue Cross Two State Advisory Committee, and Rotary Club.

Their family has enjoyed traveling and biking has been a favorite activity. Omar and Carolyn (and sometimes one or all of the kids) have done 12 across state bike rides either in Iowa or Wisconsin.

Significant influences in Omar's life are: 1) Being born in a Christian home; 2) Attending Bethel College; 3) Marrying the love of his life; 4) Sharing in raising three great kids; 5) Attending graduate school and pursuing a career in hospital administration; 6) Being affiliated with and participating actively in a church, wherever they lived (they were Methodists during the 33 years in Iowa); 7) Retiring to North Newton.

Happy 80th Birthday Omar! ~ Evelyn Lehman

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY MAXINE FAST!



Maxine Ellen was born June 15, 1928 in the Bethel Deaconess Hospital, Newton, Kansas to Homer G. and Lydia (Krehbiel) Ruth. When she was born her sister Elinor (Ewy) was 14 and her brother Emry was 12 years of age.

The family lived on a one-half section of land southwest of Moundridge that was purchased from the Santa Fe Railroad in 1874 for \$782.75. That land remains in the family to this day. They attended the Garden Township Mennonite Church and at the age of 15, she was baptized by Rev. A.J. Dirks (Marvin Dirks' grandfather) on August 29, 1943.

Her early years were spent at the Liberty Grade School and she graduated from Mound-ridge High School in 1946. She attended Bethel College for two years then worked in the Dean's Office until her marriage.

She met her future husband, Orlando Fast on a blind date arranged by a good friend of hers who was dating Orlando's brother. On the way to Hutchinson to see a circus a wheel came off of

Orlando's car and the disabled car had to be towed to a farmer's yard. Dad Fast was called from Goessel to come to the rescue. The foursome was escorted home together with Orlando's sister who had come along for the ride. For more information, see Maxine about the rest of the story!

Maxine and Orlando were married on March 20, 1949 at the Goessel Mennonite Church. They lived in Goessel for one year and then moved to her home place, southwest of Moundridge. In 1954, they joined the West Zion Mennonite Church in Moundridge.

Their family has been blessed with four children: Barbara lives in Oklahoma, Arlen in New Jersey, Russell in North Dakota and Galen lives in Wichita. All of the children graduated with a music degree. There are five grandchildren ranging in ages from 12 - 15.

Early years on the farm were spent helping her father farm with horses and in later years she graduated to driving a combine in harvest time. Throughout the years, Maxine had different job opportunities. She worked at the Bethel Deaconess Hospital for 10 years in the medical records department and had some other part time jobs while she was a homemaker raising their children. Maxine also worked with Orlando in a painting/refinishing business for a number of years. She began working at Bethel College in the Alumni Office in 1984 and retired in 1996.

In 1992, Maxine and Orlando made the decision to leave the farm and move to North Newton where they purchased their present home. They joined the Bethel College Mennonite Church on April 24, 1994 where they belong to the Chapel Sunday school class. Maxine's favorite Bible passage is Psalm 121 which was used at their wedding and again at their 50th wedding anniversary.

Maxine has played the flute throughout the years, even playing in a quartette and performing in community musical events. Learning to play the harp (which Orlando built for her) is a new challenge for her. Her love of music is evident in her home.

As a couple, Maxine and Orlando have had various voluntary service opportunities in their lifetime. They have traveled in Europe, India, Nepal, Israel, England and South America and extensively in the United States. They have served in several SOOP programs (Service Opportunities for Older Persons) in Arizona, Texas and Pennsylvania. Maxine continues to volunteer today at TTV and Sunset school reading program, along with many other projects of quilting, reading and gardening. Seeing her yard tells a person that she loves the outdoors.

Maxine enjoys people and being involved with them throughout her life makes her a real "people person". That was evident in my visit with Maxine. Her words of wisdom were: "treat others as you would like to be treated". She considers friends her special treasures and is grateful to God for the beauty of each new day.

Maxine, as you celebrate this new decade, may God continue to bless you and your many gifts that you share with us. You have been a blessing to us at BCMC. ~ *Joyce Holck*

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY HAROLD THIESZEN!

Harold Thieszen was born June 21, 1928 at Aurora, Nebraska, the son of Daniel and Marie J. Epp Thieszen. He had three brothers and two sisters. The family attended the Bethesda Mennonite Church, Henderson, Nebraska, where he was baptized on May 25, 1945. Harold attended Elementary School 73 East in rural Henderson and graduated from Henderson High School in 1947. Further education took place at Freeman Junior College in South Dakota, followed by undergraduate studies at Bethel College graduating in 1951. He went on to Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Chicago and

was ordained by Arnold Nickel as a Minister of the Gospel in his home church in 1954, with Uncle Aaron Epp preaching the ordination sermon. A Bachelor of Divinity degree was completed in 1959 at Oberlin Graduate School of Theology.

Esther M. Klassen and Harold were married in 1953. They have three children and three grandchildren

For twenty-seven and a half years, beginning in 1953, he served in pastoral ministry with congregations in Marion, South Dakota; Sugarcreek, Ohio; Buhler, Kansas; Mountain Lake, Minnesota; and Moundridge, Kansas. In 1981, Harold assumed a new role as a Mennonite Mutual Aid representative in the Central States. From 1987 to 1994 he was coordinator of Church and Seminary Relations for Mennonite Biblical Seminary of Elkhart. Harold reports that, in a six-year period, he visited 152 congregations, averaging 144 days on the road and 126 nights away from home each year.



At an age when many retire, he has had roles with retirement homes, health care organizations, and interim pastorates for several congregations. Through the years he has served on a number of church and community committees. Currently he is interim pastor at the Inman Mennonite Church until August 1, 2008. He loves horses and they provide therapy. Horses, bees, and genealogies provide him connections with people and their stories. He reports that the spelling of his family name changed from Tieszen to Thieszen when his great-grandfather, Abraham Tieszen, received the "h" from immigration officials. We thank Harold for his life of service to the church and its various institutions. ~ *J. Harold Mover*

HAROLD L. JACKSON OBITUARY



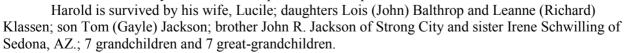
August 11, 1920 - April 2, 2008

Harold L. Jackson was born August 11, 1920 the oldest of three children of Roy L. and Alice (Steadman) Jackson in Cottonwood Falls, Kansas. He graduated from Strong City Rural High School and the Brown Mackie School of Business in Salina. After school, he moved to Newton where he began working for the ATSF Railway as a timekeeper for a section gang. He also began eating lunch at Young's Diner in Newton where he met a waitress named Lucile Krehbiel. Harold and Lucile were married on September 5, 1942. They celebrated 65 years together last September with a family dinner in Burns, Kansas.

Harold was a long-time member of Bethel College Mennonite Church and served the church in many capacities. He and Lucile were senior high youth sponsors for many years and Harold also spent time as a trustee, Cub Scout scout-master and assistant treasurer for 18 years. He was a member of the Newton Lions Club for 40 years and also served as treasurer for that organization. He and Lucile were avid square dancers and members of the Easy Steppers, a club that still meets for lunch. They also were members of the Newton Nomad Camping Club. That club isn't opposed to meeting for lunch or dinner either.

He retired after 39 years of service in June of 1980 as Assistant to the Superintendent at Newton. Upon retirement, Harold began woodworking as a hobby. He crafted a variety of pieces but especially enjoyed creating nativity scenes and Christmas ornaments and searched for new ideas every year. He also began a long association with Camp Mennoscah that was beneficial for both parties.

Above all else in Harold's life was family. He enjoyed nothing more than a gathering of the family for a holiday celebration or an evening on the patio with cake and ice cream. One of his most favorite times was the annual family retreat in late September at Camp Mennoscah's retreat center.





HISTORICAL FACT—THE PASTOR AS MORAL LEADER

The pastor of the College Church takes the lead in all kinds of moral causes. This was especially the case with J. W. Kliewer, who served the church 1912-20, 1922-25, and 1932-35. Previously he pastored Mennonite churches at Wadsworth, Ohio and Berne, Indiana. In his *Memoirs* he wrote about his work on behalf of peace, Sabbath observance, and temperance. At Berne, he did not stay on the sidelines. As a "dry" he supported the "anti-saloon fight." Another time, he wrote an editorial letter to the *Berne Witness* protesting a Sunday baseball game. Promoters of such games, he wrote, had sunk to the "moral depths of the saloon-keeper, the gambler, the debauchee, the pimp and the scarlet woman."

65th Wedding Anniversaries



Fernan and Elaine Loganbill July 11, 1943

50th Wedding Anniversary

J.O. and Esther Schrag June 12, 1943



60th Wedding Anniversary



Roland and Sophie Brown June 25, 1948

Marvin and Ruthann Dirks June 21, 1958

BCMC AND REBATES

One of the dangers of affluency is that it can take God out of the picture. A second "problem" is one of priorities. Consider both of these as concerns with the federal rebate program. I confess that when I learned how much we would receive I began thinking about what we would do with the windfall, beginning with the idea that we would use it for some "luxury" we couldn't normally afford. Maybe a new, larger TV or even a worthwhile project like the church's speaker system, repair of a damaged lock on a door to prevent another attempt to break into the church office, or a down payment on a more fuel efficient car to get to church. How do I tie God into this? What's wrong with paying off a debt; wouldn't God approve of that as good stewardship? Fortunately, my wife suggested that the decision of how best to use the "extra" money is a matter of correct priorities. How often when we have "extra" money do we set priorities for its use that allow God to take over? Actually, the question of priorities applies to decisions for use of any assets we may have-forget rebates. Sacrificial giving may be frightening unless that becomes a life style which allows God to take over when we've set the right priorities

What if we give a significant portion of our budget or the rebate to God? That would be a choice of priorities that would force us to rely on Him to see us through. One writer observed that we do everything in our power to make sure our lives are on a secure, self-guaranteed basis that there is no room for God to take action.

The pamphlet entitled *IMAGINE*, which most of us found in our church mail box, suggested ways that a congregation might set, collectively, priorities for the use of rebates we have or will receive. Enter my wife, Helen, again with a challenge: "maybe the Deacons should suggest a project or two for BCMC". Perhaps our church could decide on a tax rebate project with the Church Board or Deacons giving it leadership. I wonder what the response would be? ~ *Orville Voth. Deacon chair*

PASTOR'S CORNER — HEIDI REGIER KREIDER

Pastor's Corner – by Heidi Regier Kreider

Several members of Church Board and Restructuring Committee joined Ruth R. Harder and me May 1 for a workshop on congregational vision and strategic planning. Lee Lever, WDC associate conference minister, gave a presentation on "Life Cycles of Congregations." Congregations – like human bodies – are living organisms with seasons of growth and decline. A congregation's *birth* is a time of great potential and careful nurture. The *growth* phase is filled with progress and excitement. Then comes *stability*, characterized by a sense of accomplishment and predictability. The natural pattern eventually results in *decline*, reflected in dropping attendance, aging membership, difficulty filling committee slots, budget struggles, many funerals and few baptisms. If no intervention occurs, the end result is the *death* of a congregation. On the other hand, congregations begin a new growth cycle and are revitalized if they engage in one of the following (depending on how far they have declined): *Redefinition* (clarifying original vision and adapting to change), *redevelopment* (establishing new direction) or even *rebirth* (radical change).

Where is BCMC in its life-cycle? We are on the down-side of decline: In the past 30 years attendance has decreased by over 100 people, and members' average age has increased. We will need to experience *redefinition*, maybe even *redevelopment*, in order for BCMC to be a vital, missional congregation in the future. Our restructuring process is a step in that direction: We are asking questions about the purpose of leaders, boards, commissions and committees; we are considering our changing context; and we are exploring new ways to discern gifts, talents and passions that God has placed among us for ministry. But even as we pursue these important priorities, let us remember that this is about more than the survival of the church. Rather, it is about joining God's work in our congregation, community and world. In the words of the prophet Isaiah, God is about to do a new thing; now it springs forth. Can we perceive it?!

THANK YOU!

I would like to thank the congregation for the wonderful support given to me through my career at Bethel. It was a long traveled road and finally has come to an end. I do not have plans as far as a job right now because I want to put all my efforts into being a full-time mother for the next couple of months. We are due for our next baby in July. My husband, Montrell, just graduated from Friends University with his Master's Degree and has received a job in Dallas, Texas teaching, coaching football and being the assistant athletic director. So, he will be very busy. We have not found a house yet, but will keep you updated on our new location! As soon as I pass my nursing boards, I would like to pursue a position somewhere with labor and delivery. I have a long term goal of being a community health nurse working with postpartum mothers. Thank you again for your support! ~ Elyse Butcher

I want to extend a heartfelt thanks for the scholarship money that has been provided by the Church congregation. The support I've received has certainly made my Bethel experience richer! Next year I will be finishing my teacher licensure at Bethel in order to become an English teacher. Although essentially this means that I will be in college a 6th year, I'm very excited about teaching and know that it will be worth the extra time that I'm spending at Bethel. Thanks again for all of the financial assistance, caring and support! ~ Julie Fromm

We wanted to thank the congregation for all of the kindness and support that we have received from all of you. Our lives would certainly not be the same without your love and your generosity. We are very excited about moving to Kansas City for graduate school, but we are sad to be leaving such a warm and caring church community. Our plans are to attend KU Medical School (Caitlin) and UMKC Conservatory of Music (Aaron) and, of course, to continue to visit during the holidays. Our new address, starting July 1st, will be 4018 Adams St., Kansas City, KS 66103-2910. Thank you again for everything! ~ Caitlin and Aaron Linscheid

Community Playschool, Inc. has recently completed another very good preschool year! Forty children of the Newton community have participated in the program this year at a minimal cost to their families, thanks to some area churches and United Way. We again want to thank Bethel College Mennonite Church for being one of those supporting churches. This church offers a large portion of the support for playschool by its significant financial contribution and also by giving its building, along with utilities, custodial and phone service. We've especially appreciated the many hours of volunteering by church members (Don Isaac, Lela Schmidt, Kristin Kreider, Mary Ann Jost, Mildred Voran, Margaret Friesen), the continued interest and support of the Women's Group and the conscientious work of our representative to the governing board, Ted Mueller. We offer a special thanks to Grace Regier and Monica Lichti for their "behind the scene" work for us. We solicit your prayers and continued support as we look towards another year in Fall. Thanks for being a partner with us in this important mission!--Bonnie Krehbiel and Jeanette Leary, co-directors

BCMC Kaleidoscope 7 June-July 2008

JUNE-JULY 2008

Worship and events schedule

(Check weekly bulletins and church web site, bcmc.ks.us.mennonite.net, for updates.)

Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship time 10:30 a.m. Christian education 10:50 a.m.

June

- 1 Bring Food for Salvation Army
 - 10:00 a.m.—Vacation Bible School Sunday (no Sunday school)
 - 11:15 a.m.—Hamburger Fry After Church sponsored by youth—church playground
- 8 First Sunday of Mission Festival—9:30 a.m. worship with Joe and Anna Liechty Sawatzky 10:50 a.m.—Adult/Youth Sunday school with panel discussion on the Mennonite church and mission in Congo
- 15 Mission Festival continued—9:30 a.m. worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider 10:50 a.m.—Adult Sunday school elective: Discussion of restructuring proposal 5-7:30 p.m.—Informal program with Joe and Anna Liechty Sawatzky followed by a light supper
- 22 9:30 a.m. worship with guest speaker, Jessie Kaye, CEO of Prairie View
- 27-28 Western District Conference/South Central Conference, Hesston Mennonite Church/Hesston College
- 9:30 a.m. worship with sermon by Ruth R. Harder4:00 p.m. Piano Benefit Concert in sanctuary with faspa following in Fellowship Hall

July

- 9:30 a.m. worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider
 - Bring Food for Salvation Army
 - Adult Sunday school forum: Presentation of revised restructuring proposal
- 9:30 a.m. worship with guest speaker, Keith Harder, Denominational Minister for Mennonite Church USA—"A Question of a Fair Balance" Mutual Aid within the congregation and between congregations Adult Sunday school forum: to be announced
- 20 9:30 a.m. worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider Golden Agers Potluck at Noon
 - Adult Sunday school forum: "Ending Poverty" by Cookie Wiebe
- **9:30 a.m.—Youth Sunday: Evansville Report**—Senior High Youth report on their Service trip to Evansville, Indiana

Adult Sunday school forum: Presentation by Gifts Discernment Committee

Bethel College Mennonite Church PO Box 364 North Newton, KS 67117

Return service requested

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