

► Marriage

Continued from Page 4

Randy's heartfelt goal was to become a full-time pastor.

He ended up teaching for a total of 10 years, before that full-time preaching opportunity materialized.

And it was because of the blending of theologies, at least in part.

Five years into their marriage, Randy was able to become pastor part-time, in a small country church in Palo, Michigan, not far from Saranac. "It had one paved road, not even a stoplight," Randy said.

Even though he was able to be ordained as their pastor, one of the older pastors on the approval committee abstained from voting, because he didn't believe a Baptist pastor should be married to a Catholic.

Two more opportunities came over the next five years for Randy to get full-time pastor positions.

The Powells were excited about moving from Michigan to upstate New York to take over a Baptist church there. But when he met the search committee, two former Catholics voted no on the interfaith couple.

Six months later, a group from Indiana came to Michi-

gan to hear him preach. When the search committee heard about the Catholic wife, the position was again lost.

Years of searching for a full-time pastorate was taking its toll on the couple.

"I was the angriest I've ever been at God in about year eight or nine of our marriage," Nicole said. "You keep saying you're going to work things out for our good. I need to be honest and you know I love you, but we need a break right now."

"Nicole was three for three in teaching job interviews," Randy said. "I probably had 40 interviews before I got this one that is now my full-time ministry."

That full-time ministry is First Baptist Church in Franklin.

During his video interview via Skype from Michigan, Randy made sure he pointed out the one item that caused the last two jobs to not work out.

The panel simply said it would not be a problem.

"This town has a history of working together," Randy said. "The ministerium, the Cross Walk on Good Friday — it took a town and a church like this to accept our situation."

Nicole was happy to finally find a church that her husband

(and she) could call home, to put it mildly.

"It's easy to be part of church here," Nicole said. "The people are vibrant and alive with a sincere faith."

"It's so good to know our child will be around people of faith," she continued. "They're kind and full of love. Anywhere you find that, it's easy to fit in."

Easter this year will be extra special for the Powells. They're expecting their first child the next day.

The baby is a gift to two parents who have walked together through some pretty tough times.

And their faith has been strengthened as a result.

"I'm biased because I'm married to a pastor," said Nicole. "Faith is a natural, integral part of our lives — not a stumbling block. Both of our faiths have become richer and broader. I read my Bible more and think about things more. I have a deeper relationship with God."

Pastor Randy sees that gift blossoming in his wife.

"Nicole is a living reminder that the Spirit is at work in all churches," Randy said.

"It's one thing to accept her theology. It's quite another thing to know her faith walk is real with great depth."

Venango College students participate in mission trip

Seven Venango College of Clarion University students from the Studying, Engaging, Exploring and Discipleship Club are headed to Moss Point, Mississippi, for spring break today, with the organization World Changers.

They will be assisting with building decks and ramps, roofing and basic home repairs. The following students will be participating in the mission trip and service: Amanda Cameron of Mercer; Nathan Hannah of Seneca; Elizabeth Haughey of Butler; Raymond Marino of Boyers; Casey McVay of Franklin who serves as the club advisor; Savannah Mona of Mead-

ville; Emily Quail of Emlenton who serves as the club president; and Rhonni Seth of New Castle.

Moss Point is in Jackson County, Mississippi, and part of what the local population calls the Invisible Coastline. The area was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina's record 14 foot storm surge which resulted in extensive flooding even though it is eighty miles from the center of where Katrina hit. The scope of wreckage this historical storm, raged is far beyond what the news or blogs can cover.

A mountain of debris, some 30-feet high, had to be cleared by the National Guard, using heavy machinery, just

to get into the area. Now, years after Katrina, all areas affected by the storm are still rebuilding.

The student club is collecting items for their trip including: paint buckets, paint pans, rollers and brushes, crowbar, coolers, 6-foot stepladder, extension ladder, chalk lines, drop cloths and general tools.

Those seeking more information or wishing to donate items for the trip can contact Casey McVay at (814) 393-1215 or by email at cmcay@clarion.edu.

SEED Club members will be available to present their mission work to any group, church or organization.

A
garde
have
envis
and v
the b
self-d
God
beaut

2 Chro
5:1-14

©201

The

John Tr
Auto S
Rt. 3
Clar

Hartle F
Hon
1328 Elk
Frank
A name y
count
-A name y
trus

Hepler R
& Sid
Quality At A
3340 State
Frank

Thomas
Part
Sales & S

Randy's heartfelt goal was to become a fulltime pastor. He ended up teaching for a total of 10 years, before that full-time preaching opportunity materialized. And it was because of the blending of theologies, at least part. - Five years into their marriage, Randy was able to become pastor parttime, in a small country church in Palo, Michigan, not far from Saranac. It had one paved road, not even a stoplight, Randy said. Even though he was able to be ordained as their pastor, one of the older pastors on the approval committee abstained

from voting, because he didn't

believe a Baptist pastor should be married to a Catholic. Two more opportunities came over the next five years for Randy to get full-time pastor positions. The Powells were excited about moving from Michigan to upstate New York to take over a Baptist church there. But when he met the search committee, two former Catholics voted no on the interfaith couple. Six months later, a group from Indiana came to Michi** ** -

gan to hear him preach. When the search committee heard about the Catholic wife, the position was again lost. Years of searching for a fulltime pastorate was taking its toll on the couple. I was the angriest I've ever been at God in about year eight or nine of our marriage, Nicole said, You keep saying you're going to work things out for our good. I need to be honest and you know I love you, but we need a break right now." Nicole was three for three in teaching job interviews." Randy said. I probably had 40 interviews before I got this one that is now my full-time ministry." - That fulltime ministry is First Baptist Church in Franklin. During his video interview via Skype from Michigan, Randy made sure he pointed out the one item that caused the last two jobs to not work - The panel simply said it would not be a problem. This town has a history of working together, Randy said. The ministerium, the Cross Walk on Good Friday — it took a town and a church like this to accept our situation." Nicole was happy to finally find a church that her husband

(and she) could call home, to put it mildly. Its easy to be part of church here, Nicole said. The people are vibrant and alive with a sincere faith." "Its so good to know our child will be around people of faith, she continued. They're kind and full of love. Anywhere you find that, its easy to fit in" Easter this year will be extra special for the Powells. They're expecting their first child the next day. The baby is a gift to two parents who have walked together through some pretty tough times. And their faith has been strengthened as a result. Im biased because Im married to a pastor, said Nicole. Faith is a natural, integral part of our lives — not a stumbling block. Both of our faiths have become richer and broader. I read my Bible more and think about things more. I have a deeper relationship with God." Pastor Randy sees that gift blossoming in his wife. Nicole is a living reminder that the Spirit is at work in all churches, Randy said. Its one thing to accept her theology. Its quite another thing to know her faith

walk is real with great depth. o -

Venango College students participate in mission trip

Seven Venango College of Clarion University students from the Studying, Engaging, Exploring

and Discipleship Club are headed to Moss Point, Mississippi, for spring break today, with the organization World Changers. They will be assisting with building decks and ramps, roofing and basic home repairs. The following students will be participating in the mission trip and service: Amanda Cameron of Mercer; Nathan Hannah of Seneca; Elizabeth Haughey of Butler; Raymond Marino of Boyers; Casey McVay of Franklin who serves as the club advisor; Savannah Mona of Mead

ville; Emily Quail of Emlenton who serves as the club president; and Rhonni Seth of New Castle. - Moss Point is in Jackson County, Mississippi, and part of what the local population calls the Invisible Coastline. The area was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina's record 14 foot storm surge which resulted in extensive flooding even though it is eighty miles from the center of where Katrina hit. The scope of wreckage this historical storm raged is far beyond what the news or blogs can cover. A mountain of debris, some 30-feet high, had to be cleared by the National Guard, using heavy machinery, just

to get into the area. Now, years after Katrina, all areas affected by the storm are still rebuilding. The student club is collecting items for their trip including: paint buckets, paint pans, rollers and brushes, crowbar, coolers, 6-foot stepladder, ex

tension ladder, chalk lines, .

drop cloths and general tools. Those seeking more information or wishing to donate items for the trip can contact Casey McVay at (814) 3931215 or by email at cmcvay@clarion.edu. SEED Club members will be available to present their mission work to any group, church or organization.

John

Hepler R & Sid Quality At A 3340 Stat.

Thomas Par