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Community comes through for local couple in need

Brittons receive their ramp

By **Leanne Moore**
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MONMOUTH — In early February the Review Atlas ran an article about Albert and Letta Britton, who were in need of a ramp due to Albert's disabilities. An outpouring of support from the community resulted in a new ramp for the Brittons, completed in June.

Monmouth resident Gary Judy became aware of the Brittons' need and happened to know John McIntyre, a 78-year-old Galesburg resident, who worked for 42 years at Maytag. He also has experience in building ramps for others.

"I've built several ramps for people, so (Judy) knew that I had the equipment to do it with," McIntyre said. "We really enjoyed doing it for them. They really appreciated it."

Letta Britton said McIntyre was dedicated to coming out, even if it was raining.

"It was a relief, really," Letta said. "It's saving a lot. My husband can go out and he goes across the street to visit. He comes down the ramp to bring back the groceries; puts it on his lap and brings it up. We sit out on the swing. In fact, John and his wife have been by here and talked to us when we've been out there."

McIntyre enlisted the help of four other men, all of whom were fellow congregates at Park View Seventh Day Adventist Church in Galesburg. Dennis Strong, Jerome Shupe, 80, Galesburg, Robert Wright, Monmouth, and Max McIntyre all assisted in the building of the ramp.

The money from community members sent to the account at Wells Fargo went to pay for medicines for the couple. The funds for buying the lumber came from the Burden Bearer's fund at the church, which goes toward helping those in need.

"We have this little program going at church. It's a kids' offering between services," McIntyre said.

It took the men about two and a half days to complete the ramp.

"I loved doing it," McIntyre said. "We've done it for quite a few years and I've built three ramps there in Monmouth. I just enjoy doing it to help people out that are in need."

This was Jerome Shupe's first opportunity to do this kind of volunteer work, though he has been doing carpentry work since 1956, including remodeling houses.

His favorite part of the experience was, "just being with the men and knowing what a good thing we were doing for people who really needed it. I came out of there with a lot of appreciation for the people I worked with and what the church is doing. It's the good feeling that you have when you've truly helped someone one-on-one."

The advantage to the personal aspect, Shupe said, is that with some large organizations it's hard to know where your money actually goes to help. In building the ramp, he knows exactly who and how he's helped.

"They've really done a good job," Letta said. "We sure appreciated it."

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It's heartwarming to know there are people who willingly help those in need. Wonderful work, everyone -- and I'm so glad it is easier for you to get around, Mr.

Britton! :-)

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