

the Lighthouse

A Publication of

The Gospel Mission, Inc. *Established 1912*

64 Burns Ave., P.O. Box 1141 Dayton, Ohio 45401 • Phone: (937) 223-4513, Fax: (937) 223-4246
E-mail: Director@GospelMissionDayton.org • Web: www.GospelMissionDayton.org

Greetings in His precious Name! What a Name! How beautiful it is to reflect upon all that He is and all that He means to us. Surely, it is in times like these that we need to draw closer to Him. Truly Hallowed be that Name. It is a Name that refreshes those who know Him.

The challenges of the first half of the year have been many, but by His grace we have had victory in many areas to honor and glorify God. Our most important goal is to proclaim the Word of God and to provide means for people to get back on their feet...with a new heart that will guide them in the right direction. The daily tasks make a heavy load, but our wonderful staff and volunteers make it all happen. We pray that God will continue to bless us with dedicated laborers. There is much ground to be plowed yet with expectation of a great harvest. Heaven will reveal the fruits of this ministry.

In this day of *political correctness*, some people have suggested that we change our name. They feel that *gospel* and *mission* may carry negative connotations that might hinder some people from contributing or getting involved. Apparently some companies who donate computers and other materials hesitate to give to an organization with a name like ours. I wonder what that name really says to people? What is it that they don't understand or don't like about the name *gospel*? To Christians, it means the existence of God and His plan of salvation in Christ. Perhaps they feel the word is associated with backward or less informed people. As for the word *mission*, I am sure many stereotypes pop into one's mind...of down-and-outers they would choose not to associate with. I wonder--who are the truly *uninformed*?

No, we don't plan to change our name. God will always have enough resources to meet our needs. *We are not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation.* Yes, we have a gospel mission that we are assigned to do and the Gospel Mission is on that mission. Our name could not be more descriptive of what we do...and we are not ashamed of that.

Only our Lord knows what the rest of the year holds for us, but we know this: people need to know the Lord. The neighborhoods and streets are filled with so much violence, vice, drugs, meanness, filthy language, and hostility. We would love to see street after street cleaned up through Christ. The cleaning we are looking for is that of the heart. Please pray for us as we are on the streets every day dealing with all these issues...the battle belongs to the Lord.

By His grace,



Kenneth P. Clarkston
Chaplain, Director

93rd Birthday Celebration

Well, another year has rolled by and the Lord's work continues on as it has through the ages. The Gospel Mission has completed 93 years of service with our 100th closing in fast. We have been privileged to spread the Gospel all these years with the hand of God upon us. May He continue to richly bless this work until He comes!

Our celebration was held on July 9, and was attended by 415 people. We spread the festivities out over several hours so that no one had to wait too long for the great meal and other things that were part of our birthday party. It was a wonderful and pleasant occasion, with live Christian music, ice cream, popcorn, gifts, and a fantastic picnic lunch. The menu consisted of half slabs of barbecued ribs, grilled chicken breasts, and hot dogs, along with baked beans, tossed salad, pasta salad, dinner rolls, cookies, and assorted soda pop. Everyone was well fed. It is our desire that they will also partake of the *living* Bread of Life to feed their spiritually impoverished souls. Thanks for making these times possible.

Happy Trails

Once again this year ten of our youth were able to spend a week at Camp Jabez. It was a wonderful time of Bible study, fellowship, enjoyment of the great outdoors, and learning how to ride a horse. We know the positive impact that such Christian nurturing can have on the lives of our youth. We must reach them at the earliest possible age with the message of Jesus Christ.



We are grateful to the staff of Camp Jabez and their supporters for making this program available to the mission. We pray that our continued investment in these children will lead to many *happy trails*. Thanks for keeping us on the mission field.

Nehemiah University Chapel

The mission chapel has a service every day followed by a full buffet. What a blessing it is to see the Lord's house packed every day of the week for preaching. *For faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God* (Romans 10:9). On Sunday morning at 10:30AM, we now have the Nehemiah University Chapel service. This service does not have a buffet afterward; it is a time of expository preaching. This type of ministry attracts people other than our normal congregation. Please feel free to visit us at anytime. We are thankful for the very broad range of opportunities that has been made available to us by God.

There cannot be too much teaching of the Word of God.

Who Says Summer School Can't Be Fun?

The Nehemiah University held a summer school session that went very well. It was for a select group of youth to prepare them for the school year ahead starting in August. Shown here is Eric and one of our youth being tutored. Eric graduated from Cedarville University in 2004 and he will be directing our tutoring sessions this fall. These sessions will be called the Nehemiah Xtreme Tutoring. Pray for this special ministry...it can change the lives of generations to come.



Let God Arise

We have recently been studying the 68th Psalm in a weekly study. It is a beautiful Psalm in the line of Messianic Psalms. It has its challenges but it is well worth the investment of study time. The opening verse says in part, "Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered." It is a song that was sung with great joy and it is a most soul-stirring hymn. Historically, it was probably sung when David was moving the Ark of the Covenant to Mt. Zion.

There are many contemporary applications to feed our souls as well. One important lesson is that we must learn to let God lead. He will clear the way readily. The foe will flee at the presence of God. No better Captain could we have than the Almighty.

In recent months there have been many foes on the street. We would love to see the foes converted. That would be the ultimate victory. If not, we must ask God to arise to this particular battle, for the battle belongs to the Lord. We know that God has been in the many battles here and that He is winning. For now, the streets are very quiet, and we give the glory to God. One local policeman said it is so quiet that it is scary.

The mission's goal is to tell of God's great salvation plan which He has committed to us. As we carry the Word of God forward we certainly need Him to arise for our guidance, protection, and His glory. As we venture into each new day, we acknowledge our Leader and say, "Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered."

One other note of importance is that the enemies are *His*. The Apostle Paul gave us the full armour of God in Ephesians 6. He knew the warfare that would be waged against God's people. The Psalm goes on to pronounce the defeat of the enemy and the victory obtained by Christ. May we never lose spiritual sight despite how difficult the battle may become. The battle for the soul is fierce.

White Water Bible Camp

It was one incredible week for ten very special youth from the mission. It was a trip where there were lakes and woods and fishing and animals and lots of space. On top of all that, many new friends were made. Of course, the Bible studies and activities were fantastic. We pray that these special times will have an eternal effect on the souls of these youth. Thanks to all of those who made this event possible.

WFCJ Bike-a-thon



It is hard to believe that it has been nine years since the first WFCJ Bike-a-thon. We are greatly appreciative of the very *real work* that Bill and Melody accomplish every year to raise funds for the Gospel Mission. The staff of WFCJ is very special to us. They mean so much more than just the funds they raise; we truly appreciate all their personal effort on our behalf. We praise the Lord for such co-laborers in Christ...Amen and Amen!

As most of you know, the Gospel Mission does not have any fund raising campaigns of its own. We have learned that if we are busy about the work God has called us to do, He will provide. Throughout our entire 93 years of operation, we have trusted God's people to be moved as He directs to meet the needs. We are thankful that WFCJ has responded in giving a portion of themselves to the work of the Gospel Mission. Such response also adds to our spiritual strength and growth.

Thanks again, Bill, Melody, and WFCJ staff for your fellowship and generosity.



The Century Garden

As part of our commitment to the community, the mission's volunteers work very hard to see that our property is always kept in very good condition. Shown here in the Century Garden are volunteers Bill and his mother Lucy, looking over their work.

In the middle of the garden is the HOPE rock. We get many comments about the HOPE rock. Some have said that they wish it were more visible because the flowers do get rather tall and it can be difficult to be seen from the street. We are a mission of HOPE, and that HOPE is Christ Jesus. When all else in the world seems to be going wrong we can always look to Him. At some time in the future we would like to have verses concerning HOPE engraved on the rocks throughout the garden. We are trying to determine the most lasting and affordable method.

Please take a moment to look at the HOPE rock if you pass by Nehemiah University on South Main Street, between Burns Avenue and Vine Street. We pray that the *real* beauty will be the Lord and His great work upon the souls of mankind.



Vacation Bible School

It was another "win-win" week as the youth group from Calvary Baptist Church from Parkertown, NJ came to conduct our annual VBS. These are great learning times for all concerned. We so very much appreciate all the work that goes into such an operation. VBS can have eternal effects on these youngsters and we take every opportunity to plant seeds daily and let God give the increase. At the same time, many of the visiting youth learn lessons concerning the mission field. Perhaps God will call them to dedicate their lifelong careers to Him.

God's Blessings Upon the Mission

We count it a blessing to have been able to preach the Gospel of Christ for 93 years.

We count it a blessing to be able to feed the body and soul every day of the week.

We count it a blessing to be able to supply needs to the poor at home and abroad.

We count it a blessing to teach the Bible prior to all educational classes.

We count it a blessing to provide a gym...a place where people meet Christ.

We count it a blessing to welcome many children to our ministries.

We count it a blessing to be able to have beautiful flower gardens to His glory.

We count it a blessing to be able to give away Bibles.

We count it a blessing to be able to assist many other ministries.

We count it a blessing to train young people in missionary service.

We count it a blessing to be His servants.

Shoes

The Gospel Mission occasionally receives items which we are unable to use. A while back we received a large quantity of leather shoes. Many were very odd sizes and certainly not stylish. It was not easy to find feet to match them. In the Lord's time, it was discovered that there is a ministry in Cincinnati which collects shoes to ship to Africa. Connections were made and the ministry gladly accepted the three pallets of shoes (a pallet is 4'w x 4'h x 4'l) to be destined for Africa.

It is our privilege to use all our resources as He so leads. Only the Lord could make the connections between Dayton and Africa. May these shoes finally find feet, and may the glory be given to God for His faithful provision.



United Way

Once again we would like to explain how United Way now works when it comes to organizations that are not United Way members. Please try to follow the mathematics of it all:

Until last year people could give their United Way donations to the Gospel Mission by requesting a donor option card. One hundred percent of their donation (minus an average of 17% handling fee and 7% for non-collection) would go to the mission even though the mission is not part of the United Way Family of Partner Agencies. We knew changes were coming; they came, and we are very unhappy with the current arrangements. You may still give to the Gospel Mission by **writing us in as we do not have a United Way number. However, only 50% of your donation will go to the mission** (minus an average of 17% handling fee and 7% for non-collection). The other 50% **must** go to a Partner Agency. I am sure that there are other Partner Agencies with which Christians can agree, but personal choice has been limited. Many other agencies will also lose out as well. This is just another one of the many challenges to the Christian faith as we move on to a post-Christian America. *Wherefore, take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand* (Ephesians 6:13).