

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

A New Dawn

Greetings in the Name of our Lord from your missionaries in the City of Dayton. The opportunities to present the Good News are unending. Each day brings new challenges and the Lord always gives us the right answers and ability to deal with the issues at hand. It has been a very full summer in working through the challenges before us.

We are thankful for His marvelous provision to do the many things we do to bring honor and glory to Him and point others to Christ. It takes a tremendous amount of labor to be involved in the community in the way God has placed us. He has rallied a wonderful bunch of co-laborers from all walks of life to carry out His will here.

We are a little behind in our newsletter because of the necessity of putting the people we serve before everything else. Our daily chapel services have risen by at least 50% this year and that means increases in food and other items have gone up correspondingly. The scriptures tell us that *He is able to furnish a table in the wilderness* (Psalm 78:19) and He is doing just that. All of this brings more people under the hearing of the Gospel of Christ. How awesome is our responsibility to reach out to the people who often get left behind in many areas of our society. What is even greater is to see lives changed, families changed and eternal life gained. There is joy in serving Jesus.

We appreciate all who are able to provide for this ministry. It is truly a work of God to bring together all of the resources to continue the work here. As most of you know, we do not take any government support...God's work is supported by God's people. The Lord has people in all areas of life and He moves accordingly to meet our needs. We do not look at your contributions as donations but as Investments in the Bank of Heaven and they will have great returns. Thanks for investing.

We hope the following reports bring you encouragement and joy by hearing about the work of God in the city.

By His grace,



Kenneth P. Clarkston

Chaplain, Director

Restored Chapel!

How beautiful to see the house of the Lord full from wall to wall with hungry souls. We want to thank the many people for their donations and volunteer hours that made this possible. It certainly provides a more comfortable setting for our services that were becoming really packed.



One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple. (Psalm 27:4)



Camp Jabez Summer Camp 2007

Summer camp experiences are worth their weight in gold and we have had a lot of golden experiences this year. Our main objective is to see lives transformed by Christ through salvation and growth. We have posted many pictures of Camp 2007 on our web site at www.CampJabez.org. Please take a look if you have access.

This has been the second year of operation for our Camp Jabez ministry. It has been a very rewarding time for all who have been involved. Camp is a very dedicated, hands on ministry and we have the staff that can do just that. The Gospel Mission and Camp Jabez pool their resources every day to provide for a wonderful camp experience.

This year we had a number of different types of camps. We had the traditional summer camp, home school camps, mini camps for age 5 to 8 years old, beginners and intermediate horse camp. We were also able to provide some special activities on the weekends. The Lord provided a number of scholarships to cover the cost of all of our inner city youth.

Summer camp had a variety of activities. Such as archery, orienteering, nature studies, wall climbing, fishing, paddle boats, water games, horses and lunch! Underlying all of this was the study of the Word of God. What a summer it was! Lord willing we look forward to many new things in 2008.



Looking Ahead to Camp 2008

As the Lord will give us the vision to plan ahead for 2008, we want to start with prayer for the Lord's blessings to again use this ministry to His honor and glory. Now is the time to start planning for the youth of your church to attend Camp Jabez 2008. We know that many churches have their own affiliated camps but many do not....Camp Jabez is available. It is a win-win situation.

For every paying youth who attends, it greatly assists us in providing scholarships for those who can not afford to come otherwise. As of now the age range is 8 to 14 for the traditional summer camp.

We will start bookings in October with advance discounts and only a small deposit required. All of the information will be posted to the web site.

Lord willing we will also host the full variety of camps we did this year....and we are always adding to the agenda to keep the attention of the youth and keep them invigorated in the things of God. You can also get on the calendar for church or private picnics on Saturdays....check our web site for information on a great time at Camp Jabez.

In all of this we always say, Lord willing.

Camp Jabez Open House: Saturday, October 13th, 3:00-6:00 P.M.

All American Night Out



Take me out to the ball game. Many great times have been spent at the Dragon's games with our youth. Good, clean fun and learning how to get along with others is very important training and development for our youngsters. Thanks to the many individuals and the Dayton Christian Blue Pages for being involved.

It is an arduous process to mine gold ore out of the earth, the result is extremely valuable. Hour upon hour is spent working with our youth to develop and claim the best for their lives. Day by day we never let up in our endeavors to use every tool at our disposal to reach them for Christ.

We want to see our youth become servants of the King, responsible citizens and loyal to this great country. We want to instill the values that seem to be fleeting from America back into our community.

Keep my commandments, and live, and my law as the apple of thine eye. Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart. (Proverbs 7:2-3)

95th Anniversary!



Once again another year has rolled around and we have wonderfully celebrated 95 years of ministry. This year we surprisingly set a record of 650 people in attendance. There were many last minute preparations in order to get the job done. It took 50 volunteers to make it all happen.



We had a wonderful menu consisting of: half slab ribs, baked beans, corn on the cob, tossed salad, pasta salad, potato chips, fresh fruit, rolls, dessert and assorted soda pop.

It is our privilege to celebrate the Lord's work in the city. He has truly blessed. Our motto must always be "To God be the glory, great things He has done."

Vacation Bible School

For some youngsters, VBS has been an activity all of their lives and it will have a life long impact. Many great memories have been made during those special days in the summer. Planting and teaching the Word of God by precept and example will have sure rewards. God promises in Isaiah 55:11 that His Word shall not return unto him void.

Every summer the Gospel Mission conducts a traditional Vacation Bible School in order to plant and cultivate in God's vineyard looking for a great harvest one day. This year our VBS was developed and administrated by the First Baptist Church of New Castle, PA. What a wonderful group of youth and adults that dedicated 8 days here as well as all of the travel and preparation to bring a fantastic VBS to the youth of the Gospel Mission. We are so grateful for the work that they accomplished with our youth and we know that the Lord will bless for years to come. They were also a tremendous help for our 95th Anniversary picnic.

Paul said to the Philippians that he was thankful upon every remembrance of them and for their fellowship in the Gospel. We thank the many who are co-laborers with us in Christ.

The seed has been planted once again. We have seen great changes for the better this summer in many of our youth. We pray that the Lord would lead, guide and protect the youth of our mission field and that their lives would be given to Christ.



Scripture Stones Tell the Old Old Story



Thirty scripture stones are now planted around our community with the message of hope. Last year, **21 people or families** donated \$100 each to have the stones made and installed as a witness to the Word of God. They are being read!

A recent article in USA Today entitled, Death in the Inner City, told of the carnage in America's inner cities. The majority of this carnage is felt by African-Americans...they make up 13% of the population and 49% of homicide victims. Much of the problem can be blamed on social reasons such as dysfunctional families, crime-ridden streets, failing schools, major drug addictions and a culture that glorifies violence. The article said that tighter security in schools and more law enforcement will not solve the problem. The article concluded with the statement that the problem needs to be attacked at its roots.

The root of the problem can only be found in the Word of God. From the book of Genesis on we find the rebellious nature of man...and there can only be one hope...the Word of God. We have seen people stopping at the stones and meditating and even getting down on their knees. The Word is more powerful than a two edged sword. The Bread of Life sustains us through all of the circumstances of life. The root of the problem is sin and the only answer is a new life in Christ.

We pray that our scriptures of hope throughout the community will bring hope and guidance to all who read them. Thanks again to all who participated. We will probably undertake to add some more in the near future.

Contributions

United Way Details

We are not part of the United Way organization. We know that many companies want you to participate and you can still donate to us through United Way by requesting a donor option card. BUT, the percentage of funds which we will receive will be significantly reduced from what you desire to give. Please call United Way for a detailed explanation.

Combined Federal Campaign

The Combined Federal Campaign will kick off in October and it DOES NOT operate the way United Way does. You can give whatever percentage you want and that is basically what we will receive.

Needs for Our Operation

Many things are needed to keep our facilities in operation. Some major items on the agenda are vehicles. Our current 15 passenger van was new in 1987 and needs to be replaced. We keep our equipment in the best possible shape or it would not have lasted this long. We currently have raised \$4,000 toward the purchase of another vehicle. The 15 passenger van is necessary for our volunteers who do not have a Commercial Driver's License.

Our bus for seniors and large groups (28 youth) is a 1983 small school bus. Needless to say, it needs either to be replaced or body work, paint and some fix-ups. We know that these are rather large needs but they are very real needs and we believe God can provide through His many means. We pray to that end.

Our food needs are posted on the web site...food drives do assist us on our ever increasing food budget. Tools of all type are also needed.

Used Christian literature and books are very important for daily distribution and of course Bibles are needed.

Volunteers are always needed. As the Lord continues to give us daily assignments, we will continually need willing laborers to do the job. Orientations are the 2nd Saturday of every month from 11:00AM to 1:30PM.



WFCJ Bike-A-Thon

It has been nine years since the first WFCJ Bike-A-Thon. That is close to a thousand miles ridden to raise funds for the Lord's work here! A special word of appreciation goes to Bill and Melody for all the energy that they put into being co-laborers in Christ. Very special thanks as well to all of those who have responded with their support. It is wonderful to see God's people come together for the cause of Christ. (Shown in picture is Melody, Ken and Bill at the beginning of the ride.)