

# *the* Lighthouse

A Publication of *The Gospel Mission, Inc.* Established 1912

Greetings once again from the mission field of inner city Dayton, where thieves continually break through and steal and corruption never ceases. That is why we are here. We are busy about the Lord's work and He gives us strength and safety to continue each day. The Good News changes evil people. We have the only weapon that can come to the rescue of the soul – the person of Jesus Christ as revealed in God's Word! The year has certainly had its challenges, but not without reward – spiritual growth and peace that we are on track for the Lord. Diligent, hard work for the Lord has – and is – paying off. Your support in prayer, labor, material goods, talents, and finances is a tremendous encouragement, please keep it up!

There is and always will be controversy surrounding the poor. The feelings concerning the poor vary from country to country and region to region. In our twenty years of work at the mission, one general suggestion seems to be on the minds of those who are not poor: Find a job! Logically, that has some merit. The problem is usually generational when you look at root causes. So, a complex study in sociology reveals many things to consider concerning the poor. In short, the Lord has said to us that the poor would be with us always. How do we deal with that direct statement of Christ?

During the past twenty years, we have seen the poverty cycle broken and we have seen it continue. The most successful cases have been those who turned their lives over to Christ. The idea of someone becoming a new creation in Christ is the radical change that breaks one free from bondage.

The definition of poverty seems to change somewhat when a poor person comes to know the Lord. Although they may remain in physical poverty, they are no longer spiritually impoverished, as they are truly filled with the assurances and blessings of God. Then poverty becomes only a government definition because God has promised to meet each and every need.

So, as on any mission field, we work to bring freedom to body, soul, and spirit, and it is being done by the Good News of Christ. There are many unanticipated challenges every day. Some require us to stop and pray for a not-so-obvious solution. But what is obvious is that spiritual poverty is worse. The solution is Christ first. This gives a perspective on what real poverty is all about and how to bring it to an end.

All social issues find resolve in the Word of God.



Ken Clarkston  
Chaplain, Director

## *Fat Pac, You Will be Missed*

Another recent automobile accident took the life of James Grant, a.k.a. "Fat Pac." Fat Pac and his family were regulars at the mission for many years until they moved out of the area. At one time, they were all involved in our youth choir. Fat Pac (27) was returning home from a family visit in Alabama when the driver of his vehicle fell asleep and left the roadway. Fat Pac died the next day in a hospital in Kentucky.

Fat Pac knew what Christ was all about. He brought his children to Sunday School. The last time Pastor Clarkston saw him was about one month before the accident. Pastor Clarkston talked with him about his lifestyle and his commitment to the things of Christ. Shortly after that, Fat Pac was shot on the "job." (We will not discuss the job.) His sister informed Pastor Clarkston that after he was shot in the leg, he started thinking a little differently about life and what it was all about. He never seemed to go back to the lifestyle of the old Fat Pac after that. Perhaps that was the "shot fired across the bow" by God's grace.

In God's design, when Fat Pac was taken to the hospital for his gunshot wound, the nurse who tended him during the operation was one of the mission's youth workers who worked with Fat Pac when he just a child! Much prayer was offered. God is gracious.

We pray for his children and family. May this tragic event give us all a greater focus on the Almighty and His grace and mercy.

## *Urgent!! In a Quandary Concerning United Way*

This really gets somewhat confusing but please try to follow the logic. Until this year people could give their United Way donations to the Gospel Mission by requesting a donor option card. One hundred percent of their donation (-17% handling fee) 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, and we are very unhappy with the current arrangements. You may still give to the Gospel Mission by **writing us in. We do not have a number.** But worst of all, only 50% of your donation can go to the mission. 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 loose out as well.

It would appear from the August issue of the United Way of the Greater Dayton Area Report to Stakeholders, that the new system has to do with making the agency larger and stronger. The report says that the Partner Agencies have increased over 30%. That doesn't mean that any more dollars are flowing through the community. It means that the Dayton Area branch of United Way is getting more credit for dollars on the books. The United Way of Dayton is a local operation that certainly wants to look good on the list of all of the United Way operations. It's sort of like a local franchise business wanting to look good to the main cooperate office.

Our supporters have been very generous over the years and the funds are very important to our operation, especially since the opening of the Nehemiah University. It has been our policy to be independent from United Way because of differences in opinion in what is the best way to support a safety network of health and human services. So at least for now, the best you can do for us is 50% of your donation. Our Board of Directors will need to thoroughly examine all of the ramifications if joining the United Way. On the other hand, we always give God the glory and He is able to bring in the funds from many other Christian resources. Please keep us in prayer on this issue. Note: *This does not have any bearing on the Combined Federal Campaign.*

## *Camp Jabez*

For the third year in a row, selected students from Nehemiah University were given the opportunity to learn how to groom and ride a horse. This was a week long camp, located north of Caesar's Creek, which provided the students a tremendous opportunity to get out of the city and experience some country life. The kids, of course, heard the "Good News" of the Gospel, as many Bible stories and applications were made.

Camps provide some of the greatest times and memories of childhood; this is especially true for the children of the Gospel Mission and Nehemiah University, with whom we work each day. They have few opportunities to go beyond the "walls" of the inner city. We pray that opportunities like these will lead them to a saving relationship with the Savior.

Only a limited number of students can take this program, so they are chosen by overall performance and behavior throughout the year. It is a great reward for godly behavior. We are very grateful to Camp Jabez and the generosity of their supporters who made it all possible.



## *A Standing Ovation*

First of all, we would like to give a standing ovation to the Family Service Association for donating 32 tickets for each of the seven children's performances at the Victoria Theatre – even one at the Schuster Center! This was a tremendous gift (224 tickets) and was very much appreciated. We were glad to be able to expose our kids to a little different "culture," other than what they have experienced in the inner city. Part of the overall program of Nehemiah University is to expose our kids to many new places, new ways of thinking, and events that are not part of their normal routine of life. The Victoria Theatre presentations were excellent, performed by world-renowned actors, and certainly gave the children memories to cherish for years to come. It is our hope that events such as these will help them develop a desire to learn, go beyond the walls of the inner city, and to excel in life as adults.

## *Summer Reading Program*

Reading and mathematics are the two fundamental aspects of learning, which are essential to a quality life. We have inaugurated a ten-week reading program, which began on July 7. The classes meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:15-11:

30 a.m. The course is designed to work with youth who are not up to proper reading levels for their ages. The most needy children are given first consideration. The good news is that this course is being provided free of charge by the American Bible Society. Our volunteers are dedicating their time and effort in a serious effort to make a major impact upon the lives of these young people.

All the tasks and opportunities that the Lord puts before us are done with eternity's values in view.

## *Good News Chronicle*

A new publication of the Gospel Mission is the Good News Chronicle, a little monthly paper designed to inform our neighborhood and friends of all that is going on at the mission. It is called Good News because all the articles have something good to say. This is to counter all the bad news and attitudes that seem to pervade our society and the world. God is good and He is doing some wonderfully good things through His people right here in this city. Each issue also tells the Gospel message in a simple and straightforward manner. We are already getting good reports back from readers, and we hope to expand the distribution area soon. People need to know that amid neighborhoods of thieves, drugs, and drunkenness; there is a light that shines in the darkness. To see what the Chronicle is all about, please visit our web site at [www.GospelMissionDayton.org](http://www.GospelMissionDayton.org), under Neighborhood.



## 92<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Picnic

The Lord blessed our celebration again this year with many people in attendance, good weather, wonderful food, and a great time of fellowship. We have endeavored over our 92 years to focus on the presentation of Christ in all we do. We trust that the Lord has been pleased. The existence of the mission is evidence of the hand of God. He supplies everything we need. Many staff members and volunteers are privileged to serve in the Lord's ministry here. These few pictures show the excitement and good time everyone had celebrating God's generosity to the mission.



## Good News Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School has been a tradition of churches for many years. It is an opportunity to call the youth of the neighborhood together to spend time learning lessons from the Bible. It is a special time of arts and crafts, and teachings that will last for a lifetime. We want to reach the heart of these youngsters with the goodness of God. This year we had an unusual turn of events. The first day went very well and we were anticipating the second day to have an expanded attendance, which is usually the case. A phone call came in early the morning of the second day. There was sad news. One of the workers, Brother Robert Snyder, was taken home to be with the Lord the night before in an automobile accident. Our heart and condolences go out to his family and church for their loss. We have a sovereign God who makes no mistakes; one day we will understand. That next morning as the children came, Sue Clarkston gathered them all together and told them that the Lord had taken Bob home to be with Him. They prayed for the family and church and made cards to send to them.

So, with much sadness, we cancelled the balance of the VBS. Our Father knows best for all of us. How much time we have is in His hands. Some live longer than expected and some seem to depart life at an early age. It is imperative that we share the Gospel of Christ with everyone every day. Please pray for Bro. Snyder's family and church as they learn to be without his presence for a little while.

## Sinclair Community College

We are very grateful for the new computer lab that was designed and put on line by students of Sinclair Community College. Nehemiah University had a number of computer systems that needed to be repaired, updated, and put to use. The Sinclair students spent an entire quarter in designing the lab, as well as networking the entire building with computer wiring. This will give us a great deal of flexibility in the future. We can have almost any type of computer programming anywhere within the university and mission facilities. This will give us some definite advantages as we begin the fall quarter in September. Thanks again to the folks at Sinclair for being "Good News" to our community.

Chaplain Clarkston was invited to the review session at Sinclair, in which the students presented the project to other students and professors. He was given the opportunity to comment, and he praised the students for their excellent work and diligence in this endeavor.

## Prayer Support

Pray without ceasing - three simple words, but it is an admonition of huge proportions. Could we live without breathing? Perhaps our prayers should be considered as essential as breathing itself. We are thankful for those who pray for our daily operations. We have only one task: to glorify God. The method He has given is to preach the Gospel. We need much prayer for the many opportunities we have to reach those who have no idea who Christ is, and what the Gospel is all about.

We encourage you to remember the mission in prayer. A monthly prayer letter is posted on our web site at [www.GospelMissionDayton.org](http://www.GospelMissionDayton.org). It will also be e-mailed upon request to interested prayer supporters, simply e-mail us at [Director@GospelMissionDayton.org](mailto:Director@GospelMissionDayton.org). As you breathe, pray without ceasing -- both are essential to life.

## Focus of Heart

Many mission conferences are held throughout the year, especially in the spring and fall. Every missionary has a heart for a particular group of people. God gave the call to that missionary, and it weighs upon his/her heart to respond. Thank God for missionaries who have responded to many places where others would not want to go. Perhaps the inner-city mission field is not the place for you, but the Lord has sent us staff and volunteers with a desire to serve Christ.

Mission conferences provide information about many mission fields, the heart of the missionaries, and their needs. Not everyone has the privilege to go to the mission field in person, but they can be there in spirit, prayer, by financial support, and by letters. And in this high-tech age, missionaries can be contacted instantly by e-mail almost anywhere in the world. We receive numerous letters and notes that encourage us to keep on keeping on; we appreciate them very much.

We pray for our missionary brothers and sisters around the world for the progress of the Gospel. Every missionary and every field are important to God. We are thankful for those who have been moved by God to pray for and support our mission field. Every Christian should have a mission field or two about which they are knowledgeable, and then take those burdens to heart.

Perhaps your church would like to learn more about the Gospel Mission and its ministry. Chaplain Clarkston visits many churches to do just that, as well as present a challenge from the mission field. Just call the office at 937-223-4513 to make arrangements.

## Ninety-Second Year of Operation!!!

*Where there is no vision, the people perish* (Proverbs 29:18). We are thankful for the leaders and volunteers who had the vision to spread the Gospel to this mission field years ago. Mission field opportunities abound all over the world; one person, and then another, and yet another had a vision for this area of the world – our city – and they responded. Thus, God moved the heart of one individual to serve here and the heart of another to serve elsewhere. Before we realize it, ninety-two years have passed!

We can only praise Him for sustaining the work all these years, and we are grateful for the tens of thousands of people who shared in the vision to reach the lost in the city. Eternity alone will reveal the great harvest of those who labored day in and day out, never ceasing to preach the Gospel.

The mission was started by Rev. Peter Quartell in 1912 to become a typical rescue mission ministry. As the needs of the city and nearby communities changed, the mission was there to meet those needs in the name of Christ. We have come a long way from the storefront operation of 92 years ago, but our primary purpose to share the Gospel has not changed one bit. Through the thick and thin of many trials and tribulations, Christ has been presented. One of many great missionary promises is found in Isaiah 55:11: *So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but shall accomplish that which I please, and shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

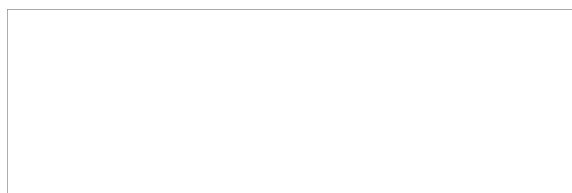
Ninety-two years is a fairly long time for a ministry to survive and advance. The hand of God has definitely been upon the Board of Directors, Chaplains, ministry workers, and volunteers as they did (and still do) their daily work. God has always provided the resources to do the job, and during the last decade or so, many churches have joined with us in our vision for the city. Please pray for the mission's leadership, that our vision would always be in the will of God.



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*The Light Shineth in Darkness John 1:5*