

the Lighthouse

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

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Greetings in the wonderful Name of our Lord, and may grace and peace be unto you. What a day and age in which we live! Surely, things must be buzzing in Heaven! Opportunities abound for us to tell the story of God's plan for our lives, and at the same time, it seems as if evil abounds more and more. Only the Lord knows what a day may bring forth. Challenging days, yes, but for such a time as this God has prepared us.

As I reflect on this year just a bit, I have satisfaction in that it has been a wonderful year of spiritual growth for our congregation and staff. We have seen the Lord work mightily, and we are hearing a lot more amens in the services. What a privilege it is to be able to preach the Gospel every day to a packed crowd, and then have a wonderful fellowship meal after every service. That is getting the Gospel down off the shelf and putting it on the plate. Yes, most of them appreciate our labors in the Lord. Many sincere words of thanks come each day. We believe that we have made spiritual advancement this year.

We are ever so thankful for the continued financial support and the material donations to accomplish the mission on which the Lord sent us. It is a wonderful thing to contemplate God's hand upon us as we now move toward our ninety-third year of operation. God is faithful and has provided for all the tasks that He has asked us to do. I am reminded of Psalm 44:8: "In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name forever." We could not do that if we took faith-based (government) funds or the county human service grants. We want our faith in God to be visible in His provision for us. We appreciate the freedoms that we still have in this country to run such an operation as this for the Lord. Please keep praying and supporting God's work here.

Well, the year ahead? We have hope and optimism from the Bible. Christ could return even before this issue hits the press. What a day that will be! "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ" (Acts 5:42). So we too endeavor to do as they did. That is our only battle plan. It is the only one we need. It is totally sufficient to meet all needs.

May the Lord bless you too as you endeavor to fulfill your calling in Him.

By His grace,



Ken Clarkston

Encouraged to Vote

Although this article was written before the elections, it reflects our desire to get people to vote. Since government was ordained by God, we have a responsibility to be involved in whatever level is available to us. Chaplain Clarkston works at the grass roots level with the Priority Boards, City Commission, and the courts. One soon finds out that the value system of the Bible--honesty, morality, integrity, etc.--is really what communities want and certainly need. We can't just sit back and let evil roll on. Thank the Lord for those who stand in opposition to abortion, for those who stand for keeping the Ten Commandments in public places so that all might see the fabric upon which this country was founded, for those who stand for keeping God in the Pledge of Allegiance, for those who stand against a distorted re-writing of history, and for those who still believe that God's pattern for marriage is a husband and wife.

So, the mission encourages everyone to vote intelligently. Many issues are at stake, even the future of our country. But remember that God has control of all government. A great passage in Proverbs 21:1 says: "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord; like the rivers of water; He turneth it whithersoever He will."

United Way...vs...I Am the Way

In our last prayer letter we explained the situation concerning changes in the United Way. We said that we could no longer receive 100% of your designation unless we belonged to the United Way. If we do not join the United Way, they will allow only one half of your contribution to come to the mission and they will still keep approximately 17% for handling and 8% for non-collected funds. Therefore, only 75% of half of your contribution would go to the Gospel Mission. We received many words of encouragement saying the mission had taken the right stand on this issue not to join the United Way. All were confident that God would supply whatever was needed from whomever. Thanks for your support in this matter. God knows our budget and expenses before they happen; He will work it out.

Chaplain Clarkston recently attended a meeting on this issue because so many people had voiced a concern. Well, at this point, United Way doesn't seem to be pressured enough to change back to the old way of acting as a pass-through organization. Even then your contribution would be reduced by 25%! We have to say the best thing to do is simply not to support them. We are aware of the pressure that is applied at work for 100% involvement, but there comes a time to stand up and be counted. You might also want to examine some of the other organizations that are supported by the United Way system and try to square them with your Bible.



New Staff Family

Our new missionary family has joined our ranks and they are busy in the Lord's work. Shown are Ty and Jullianne, three-year-old Charissa, and six-month-old Anna. Ty is finishing his Master's degree from Southwestern College in Texas. His jobs are many. As most missionary couples know, they have to wear many hats. He has a full regimen of training scheduled well into next year. His initial task will be centered on the youth, then all the other ministries of Nehemiah University.

It was a long search to find someone to take the responsibility for this area of the mission's ministries. We know that Ty and his family were God's choice. We certainly thank the Lord for His sovereignty in bringing all things together. It is God who prepares His own for their particular ministry. He gives the right abilities, gifts, the right temperament, wisdom, and in this business, the perseverance to work under very challenging conditions. The staff, board of directors, and the community heartily welcome our new family. May the Lord bless their service to Him for many years to come

Holiday Needs

We have a very detailed list this year of items you may purchase for our holidays. All our supporting churches will receive the list, which we hope they will make available to their congregations. This list is now posted on our web site at www.GospelMissionDayton.org. You may also request one by e-mailing us at Director@GospelMissionDayton.org or regular mail. Thanks for taking the little extra effort to obtain this information. It gives us more room in the Lighthouse to share the wonderful things that God is doing here.

Monthly Prayer Letter

We certainly need your prayers for our daily operation. You could become one of our informed prayer warriors by receiving our prayer letter each month. This can be read on our web site at www.GospelMissionDayton.org or we will be happy to e-mail it to you if you will send your e-mail address to us at Director@GospelMissionDayton.org. Thanks for caring and praying.

Century Garden

We hope the color photo will show some of the beauty that we have experienced this year from our garden. Many, many hours of labor have gone into the project in order that we might have a very attractive place in our community. All the weeding required certainly reminds us of the garden of Eden and the subsequent fall of man into sin. We are thankful for those who know how to serve the Lord in many different ways, including planting, mulching, watering, and weeding. Our garden seems to get a little more beautiful each year. We pray that the Lord will be pleased with our offering of beauty to honor Him



By the way, the name "Century Garden" comes from the fact that we have tried to maintain plant and tree types that were indigenous to the prairie of this area 100 years ago.

From our Web Site

If you have web service and haven't checked our web site recently, you might find some new items. The Good News Chronicle is our monthly newsletter sent to our surrounding community. There is always so much bad news from conventional news services that we try to focus on the Good News. You will find this at www.GospelMissionDayton.org click NEIGHBORHOOD. Our prayer letter is posted each month; click PRAYER AND NEEDS. Click HOW YOU MAY HELP for our current needs for the pantry. This time of year you will find special needs for the holidays.

Discussions in Immortality

The Doctrine of Immortality is the current series of study in our Nehemiah University Chapel. It is a subject which doesn't seem to get much discussion because it deals with the obvious, the reality of physical death. Most people like to avoid the subject. Who is really prepared? Dr. Charles Hodge said, "It is important that when we come to die, we have nothing to do but die." What a blessed hope we have in the risen Lord. Only misery would be our lot if we did not have the guarantee of eternal life in Heaven with God Almighty through the provision made by Christ.

Immortality has been in the heart of all societies since the beginning. Many have contemplated the thought that surely there is more to one's being than finally learning how to live, and then die. Ancient societies have always sensed and prepared in some way for eternity. Their ways were certainly not as pleasant as what God has to offer, but nevertheless, they believed in eternity. "He has also set eternity in their heart" (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

It is interesting to study and learn what God has prepared for His own beyond the grave. It is a study of hope and encouragement, a study to give us a proper focus on our brief life here, and a study in which gives us the assurance that "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord" (II Corinthians 5:8). Amen and Amen! Thank God for His eternal design for us!

WFCJ Chocolate Festival a Success

The Gospel Mission had a booth at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds at which we shared our ministry with the many thousands who attended the second annual WFCJ Chocolate Festival. This is a fundraiser for the Ruth Lyons Children's Fund for Christmas toys to go to hospitals. What was the mission's part? Moose Tracks ice cream! We received a large donation of Moose Tracks ice cream, which is loaded with chocolate. We are thankful for the fine turnout, the opportunity to present the ministry of the mission, and the funds that were raised for a fine charity. Shown here is Moose Tracks Max, the company mascot.



Nehemiah University

The Microsoft Word 101 class is very popular. It is an essential introduction to using the computer. In our first year of operation, the classes have made a big difference in jobs and other opportunities for our students. We also encourage many of our seniors to take the classes for mental exercise for the brain. We are very thankful for our volunteer teachers and the donated computer systems.



Nehemiah University Tutoring

There is so much to learn in our world today. It is certainly no place for a bad start. We can honestly say that most of the pre-high school youth with whom we work at the university are terribly far behind their expected grade level. As adults, we ask ourselves what has happened since we were their age? We would have been "hung out to dry" if we had performed like that in school! As we investigated the education problem, we have learned that tutoring is more than simply teaching $2 + 2 = 4$. Many other issues block the brain's ability to comprehend. Webster says that a tutor is a teaching assistant, and much has to be done to get the right answers.

In our Virtual Reality Game Night sessions, we learn much about our youth through their interaction with others. We had a fourth grader who was placed on a team to play Bingo. He threw a real tizzy fit! Why? He couldn't read the numbers or letters! Bad behavior was his defense mechanism so as not to expose his inability to read. Our youth sometimes carry a lot of deep emotional baggage with them; broken homes, poor living conditions, frequent moves, utility shut-offs, raising themselves, etc. So our tutors know that it takes a lot more than trying to teach $2 + 2 = 4$. Much has to be done to get the right answer.

We hope to expand this area of our ministry as God provides tutors to do the job. The requirements are a few hours a week, a Bureau of Criminal Investigation check, a love for the Lord, and a willingness to share one's abilities with others. Please pray for this very important area of the work at Nehemiah University. *Thank you, Lord, for giving us this place, and for all who invested in it. May you receive all the glory for the great things that are being done.*

Basketball and the Bible... What Do They Have in Common?

It is our responsibility as missionaries to take the Gospel into the entire world, from the rice paddies of Okinawa, to the squalor of the hills of Caracas, to the depths of the inner city. Thus, we find ourselves in Dayton doing what we need to be doing to bring people to the Lord. Here, the basketball is one of our tools. For some missionaries their tool is a plow or a doctor's black bag. The Lord has wonderfully blessed this area of our ministry known as God's Gym. It is a structured session which meets three times a week for a total of ten hours. The Bible, of course, is always the centerpiece in the activities, and much progress has been made.



One of our volunteer leaders is brother Ralph Wilcoxson. Ralph is a juvenile magistrate for Montgomery County. He has seen some of our fellows when they were a little younger, and under different circumstances. What wonderful plans God had in bringing Ralph into a setting where he can really talk to these fellows about the Lord. We praise God for bringing things together that we could never even imagine. May God bless and plant His Word in the hearts of the young people in these very important sessions of Basketball and the Bible.

Annual Senior Picnic

The annual senior's picnic was held on the last Friday of August. A special menu of baby-back ribs and fried chicken, along with all the side dishes, were served. Live music was provided as a brief reflection on the goodness of God in sustaining us through all ages. Time is beginning to close for some of our seniors. Pray for them to trust in Christ.



Keeping Focus on Our Calling

As a missionary agency, the Gospel Mission has one focus, preaching the Word of God. As most of you know, the mission does many, many things for the temporal relief of the poor and the advancement of their general education.

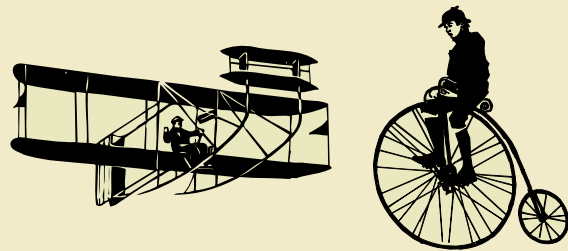
We believe if we honor God by putting His Word first in all things, Christ being pre-imminent, all the necessary temporal needs will also be met. If we were a hunger agency, then hunger would be our first concern. If we were medical doctors, then medical aid would be our focus. If we provided housing for the poor, then we would build houses and do a fine job of it. If someone were so destitute that they were barely conscious, we would, of course, endeavor to revive them physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Christ is our ultimate example of human compassion. We love to serve fine meals in our restaurant, The King's Table, and we see people leave with a smile on their face.

Bikes for Work

We are very pleased to be involved in distributing bikes, which will enable people to get to and from work or school. A new program to start a Wright Brothers' Bicycle Recycling Center (perhaps in the Wright-Dunbar area) is still in the works by the Dayton Rotary Club. Until the details are worked out, the Gospel Mission is serving as a prototype distribution center for the bikes that are collected and repaired. We would like to thank Jerry Hauer of Hauer Music for making this opportunity available to us.

All the bikes are ready to go when they arrive, thanks to a very loyal bike enthusiast. We received and distributed ninety bikes and are awaiting more. Adults must verify the need for a bike for employment or school. If you have an adult bike that you would like to donate, it must be ready to ride. Please call 223-4513 for delivery hours.

The Lord brings new ways to us every day as tools to help those in need. Although the mission was in existence at the time of the Wright brothers, we had no connections with them. Recently we supplied some roll-around chairs to a group of ladies working at the Wright Aeroplane Company. They were very thankful to be able to roll around the planes (1902-03-05 versions) while sewing on the fabric. It wasn't much, but it was rewarding to see the planes at the Dayton Air Show (and some of the mission's chairs). We have a God who does take care of the details.



The volunteers understand the concept of serving our guests as if they were serving Christ himself. What wonderful opportunities we have been given to combine compassion with the Good News of eternal life through Christ.

Much love, labor, compassion, and energy are put into all that we do at the mission, all because of our charge to preach the Gospel. God has blessed us over the years with staff, facilities, and volunteers. We must, therefore, honor Him. The motivating force of our ministry is the love that Christ has for us. In that great demonstration of His love, we "should not henceforth live unto ourselves, but unto Him who died for us and rose again" (II Corinthians 5:15). What a joy to proclaim the Word of God because it brings glory to Him that has done so much for us.