

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@GMission.org • Web: www.GMission.org, www.CampJabez.org

Greetings from our mission field here in Dayton.

Jesus Saves is the Good News and that is what we have to share everyday here in the city. Our God is able to save to the uttermost. What a privilege to show others changed lives through the witness of saved souls. As the year moves on, we trust that every day is in His control. There are many challenges that cross our daily path. We must praise Him for His goodness to us.

We have the greatest desire to see our daily visitors brought into a saving relationship with Christ. As you well know, many are bound to some addiction. The Bible talks about addiction in Proverbs 23:29-35; it is very accurate. The Bible also has the cure; Proverbs 3:5-6, *Trust in the Lord...* God's way is the only way to secure the body and soul for the here-and-now and for all eternity. The Lord's way is real. The whole person is changed. *Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away; behold all things become new* (II Corinthians 5:17). The Bible program is preventive to keep our life style in order with the Lord and sustainable by the power of the Holy Spirit until He comes or we go! Our approach to the ills of society is Christ. At their best, rehab programs are for the here-and-now; a short span of life. A saving relationship with Christ is forever and has positive results now. That is the two-for-one approach of the Gospel Mission and it works!

I want to especially thank all of our dear supporters who keep the doors open. As most of you know, our support is strictly non-governmental. We are thankful for the freedoms we have to openly minister as we do and bring many positive things into our community and people. We appreciate the blessing that God has directed our way through your heart to be involved.

We look forward to the balance of the year as we get into the many summer and fall activities to the glory of God. You are always welcome to stop in for a mission field visit...consider coming to a tour offered the second Saturday of each month.

By His grace, in His service,



Chaplain, Director

106 Years of Ministry



This July the Gospel Mission will be celebrating 106 wonderful years of ministry. The mission is truly a work of God. He has provided all of the way and we always pray that He will provide until the day He comes again...that will be exciting! Meanwhile, we are thankful for every day and all of the substance He has added to the mission's ministry over the years. You are welcome to attend our celebration picnic on Saturday July 14th from 11 AM until 1 PM at the main campus 64 Burns Avenue.

We expect a great congregation of Gospel *missionites* one day in Heaven; it will be a *shower of blessing* (Ezekiel 34:26) to see the many of those who were often turned away from society because of their social behavior. The Lord has not saved the last soul yet and by the grace of God we will preach until that day.

Notes of Encouragement

We often receive notes of encouragement from our supporters and those we serve. We are thankful for your prayers and kindness...

I wanted to thank you so much for the tireless love you put into helping so many people year after year... We thank God for your perseverance and commitment to His Gospel; you are making an eternal difference... Thank you for your wonderful work.

The Gospel Mission gives glory to God for all things that are able to be accomplished; it is only by His grace and we are thankful to be ambassadors for Christ. Thank you for your words of kindness.



Assistive Wheelchair Lift

The lift was finished just in time for this issue of the *Lighthouse*. It is such a blessing to be able to get special needs people in and out of the building so much more easily! Our final cost was \$92,000 of which \$75,000 has been donated so far. This will have minimum impact on our budget. We are still accepting contributions to offset the cost. Thanks so very much for being part of this project in prayer and cost.



*To God be the Glory,
great things He has done!*



Bible Institute Report

At Nehemiah Bible Institute, we are encouraged this year

about the growth in the number of our students. We averaged 18 students in our Tuesday and Thursday classes during the first quarter of this year. That is exciting! Our year began with our 101 class—The Basics of the Christian Faith. Thursdays for the next 8 quarters will see a sequential presentation of our basic series of classes covering OT and NT surveys and survey of Christian Doctrine. On Tuesdays we continued with our basic series with a survey of Christian Doctrine I and will conclude in the current quarter with Christian Doctrine II.

Our students enjoy coming to Bible class and engaging with the Bible and various Biblical topics. It is especially encouraging when one of the students takes the time to pursue things further and completes the required work for our Bible Certificate. During the first quarter one student completed the requirements for a Certificate in both classes! This means that he presented his testimony to the class, memorized the Apostles creed, and wrote a summary of his doctrinal beliefs, and passed his tests. We are looking forward to continuing on with our students during the new quarter.

Gerry Grimson,
Nehemiah Bible Institute, Director

*Create in me a clean
heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit
within me.*

Psalm 51:10



Painting the Town



We want the Gospel Mission to be a *light that shineth in darkness*. This year we hope to brighten up our block by painting many of our buildings. Our desire is really to be a testimony in all portions of our ministry. We want our presence here to reflect the brightness and joyfulness of Christ. The mission is looking for volunteers to assist us in this missionary endeavor. How about a mission trip here in Dayton? We hope to have close to five months to complete the projects.

A Changing Mission Field



The people atmosphere around the mission has gone international in the last ten years. We have many different nationalities now in our community. Many have no idea what the Gospel is about. Pray that we will have the vision and the right words to secure their interest and express our true concern for them in the days to come. We have had some come to the door but will not come in once they learn that we minister the words of Christ. Who could have ever guessed that all of the mission fields of the world would literally be at our front door one day?

From Evangelism to Teaching and Equipping

It Our goal every day is to bring people to a saving knowledge of Christ. Our daily preaching is toward evangelism. We pray that the Holy Spirit through the good Gospel of Christ that souls will be brought to praise God for their great salvation. From there we disciple and teach the elements of Scripture to begin their life in Christ. As that develops, we are prepared to equip them with all they need to have a Christ-filled life on our earthly journey. *And Jesus said unto them, Come after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.* (Mark 1:17)

It is indeed a joy to see the miraculous changes that take place when one is born again. The new creations are wonderful testimonies of how Christ works in a regenerated heart.

Keeping the Community Green

One of the most beautiful gardens in the area is the Hope Garden next to the Nehemiah University. For ten years the project has been taken on by a Master Gardener, Kathleen. We want to thank her and her team for making such a beautiful bright spot in the community. It is a lot of “dirty work” as most gardeners know to keep out the weeds, keep things trimmed and the mulch looking nice. A clean neighborhood is a great deterrent for crime, vice and drugs. Thanks Kathleen for doing more in our community than you think!

It is wonderful contemplation about how God brings together so many different gifts and talents to support this missionary endeavor. How about using your gardening gifts here?



Even our fish have a ministry

The Purpose of Camp Jabez - Sue Clarkston, Camp Director

Camp Jabez desires to show the wonder of God's creation, the amazing design and complexity of His works and most importantly His best design for man...Jesus Christ. The camp is a very beautiful place of woods, plants, animals, birds (including giant wild turkeys), great horses, Lake Jabez, Fossil Creek and wonderful quietness. Experiencing God in a natural environment is becoming rarer for many children. We ask the Lord to fill our camp even though we leave out the latest electronic devices. Camp is ramping up. We are sure it will have a wonderful impact on every child attending. Send them in!

Camp Jabez In Progress

There are many new things going on at Camp Jabez right now. A brand new ropes challenge course has been installed, we call it the Walkway in the Clouds; a very exciting new adventure this year. How about the Eye of the Needle zip line...it is definitely a different experience. There are many more wonderful learning challenges and wonderful fun in the Name of Our Lord. He is our provider.



Our horses are wonderful and we have different levels of involvement with them, even special camps that are horses only. We are anxiously awaiting seeing video with our new drone that will be watching the activities and posting on our Facebook site! Pray for all of the fantastic work that the Lord is doing at Camp Jabez. Our motto this year is Jesus First.

Now is the time to register online for ages 5 to 17. It will be a memorable and very positive time for the youth. Check out the web site for information or give us a call.

Sue Clarkston, Director, looks forward to having many of camp 2017 youth back with us.

The Latest Generation Z

Youth born between mid-1990s and 2015 are considered as part of generation Z; 25% of the population of the United States. Gen Z—the generation following the millennials—is the least Christian generation to date, according to a new Barna study – 34 percent of Gen Z's religious affiliation is either atheist, agnostic or none. In fact, teens 13-18 years old are twice as likely as adults to say they are atheist. And just three in five 13- to 18-year-olds say they are some kind of Christian (59 percent). Many in this group have never been exposed to Christianity. We are living in a world where values and beliefs are becoming arbitrary. This is a generation that is looking for reality. They know the digital world is make believe but yet it has serious consequences on their lives. We want to give them some anchor points to build their lives upon. Harnessed technology can be a real tool for a Christian life. Our challenge is to take the new generation and its tools and show them the steadfastness of God in that He has a plan for every soul and every generation...even generation Z. Pray that our staff would be able to effectively show them the reality of life in Christ as the foundation of all generations.

A Youthful Workout - Rich Anglin, Dir. of Ministry Development

Our youth ministry is quite active, with programs five nights/week and Saturday mornings. The number of children continues to grow, averaging 25-30 a night, with our Friday night God's Boys and God's Girls programs reaching nearly 40 youngsters combined. While most of the children we serve reside in the South Park neighborhood, children living in Old North Dayton and in the neighborhoods along North Main Street and Salem Avenue are able to participate through our van/bus ministry.

Bible teaching is a critical part of everything we do. We are very intentional about sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our children, trusting in the promise that God's Word will not return void (Isaiah 55:11). We are currently studying the Gospel of Mark, combining scripture with a variety of age-appropriate video resources.

We are so thankful for available space in God's Gymnasium and Nehemiah University. With the increased numbers of children served, we are able to break the children up into smaller groups based upon age/gender. We are also updating our game room for children who are less physically active. The warmer weather will allow us to use our outdoor recreational fields once again. Friday nights are also an opportunity for our youth programs to travel to Camp Jabez.

We continue to seek volunteers for our mid-week evening programs. So many of our children come from difficult family circumstances and need Christian adult role models. 1-2 hours a week can be used mightily by the Lord to greatly impact the hearts of hurting children. Perhaps this is an area where you might feel a call to serve?