



Bright Horizons



Urban Mission Ministries, Inc.

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director

Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor

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"Proclaiming the Good News"

The depth of Jesus' loneliness in the Garden of Gethsemane is frightening. Wanting comfort from God his Father, Jesus prayed, "Let this cup pass from me." For Jesus the cup did not pass. "...Not my will, but thine..." Later, on the cross, Jesus suffered the loneliness and desperation equal to, and perhaps surpassing the physical abuse he took, when he prayed, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Even in this misery Jesus managed to commend his soul to God.

For Christians everywhere the faithfulness of Jesus is our salvation and joy. We know that God chose to reject death and embrace Jesus. Death became eternal life. Grief became uncontainable joy. The Son of Man became the Son of God. In remembrance of Jesus' loneliness I think about the lonely of our community. People are lonely for many reasons. Sometimes we are lonely due to our faith. Sometimes speaking up on behalf of the poor and Jesus is a lonely experience.

Recent budget proposals reveal just how lonely and vulnerable poor people are. Who speaks for those who have no power in America? Far right Christianity has prostituted itself to the idol of far right politics. The far left follows an agenda that destroys faith, erases ethical integrity, and embraces elitist "I know best" thinking. Meanwhile, one in five children live in poverty, (one out of two black children), senior citizens must choose between medication, food and utilities each month, and our political leaders simply ignore life in America.

How can such a wealthy nation ignore the plight of her children? How can such a powerful nation pretend to be helpless in the face of poverty and abuse? Government? Every day a "Lazarus" dies on some doorstep longing for food, clothing, shelter and compassion. Does proclaiming the good news of Jesus mean that we hold up the needs of the poor during the current budget debates on the State and Federal levels?

Proclaiming the good news of Jesus is always the responsibility of disciples. It is an act of faithful love. People may not hear. You might even feel lonely and isolated for caring about people that no one else seems to care about. But take heart, every sacrifice of love each of us makes for the Kingdom will not be forgotten or overlooked by our Lord.

Being faithful to the life and call of Jesus is easily worth those small crosses. Our little sufferings and crosses on behalf of Jesus lead to the resurrection, hope and eternal life. Friends, proclaim your faith in Jesus Christ! Proclaim the Good News!

-Love, Pastor Bruce

FEINSTEIN HUNGER CHALLENGE

There is still time to contribute to the Feinstein Matching Funds pledge by Rhode Island Philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein. He has pledged to proportionately match donations of funds marked for hunger from **March 1 thru April 30, 2005.**



If you haven't yet sent in a donation toward this challenge, please consider doing so. Help us fight hunger in the Upper Ohio Valley by sending in your contribution today. Please be sure to mark "Hunger" in the memo if donating by check.

Annual Volunteer Luncheon

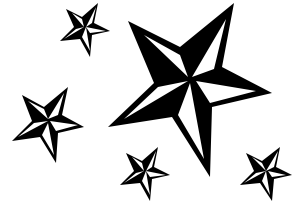


“Volunteers are Stars in our eyes!”

**Friday, April 29, 2005
12:00—2:00 PM**

First Westminster Presbyterian Church
235 North 4th Street
Steubenville, OH 43952

**Please RSVP by April 22, 2005
Please call 740-282-2911 or 740-282-8010**



You're Invited!

During the year 2004, many groups, churches and individuals combined efforts and gave over **52,000 hours of volunteer service** at Urban Mission. It would be impossible to thank each volunteer individually for all of their hard work. Therefore, we would like to thank everyone collectively, with a celebration in your honor!

If you, your friends or anyone you know volunteered at Urban Mission during 2004, please share the news of this luncheon with them. Invite them to share in the celebration, as we say thank you to a very special group of hardworking individuals.

K-KID'S Dinner

The Annual K-KID'S (Keeping Kids Involved During Summer) Ham loaf dinner is coming up! The dinner will be held on **May 13, 2005 from 4-7 PM** at the Wintersville UMC Church, 702 Main Street, Wintersville.

This dinner is the only fundraiser for our children's summer program. Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling the Mission at 740-282-8010. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. Carry outs will be available.

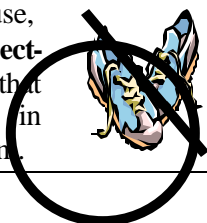
Easter Thanks

The Easter Bunny needed our help to provide 670 bags of jelly beans this year. We had to give him a little extra help but with your donations of jelly beans and funds, everyone was able to receive them. Thank you to those of you who helped with this wonderful project by donating jelly beans or funds to purchase them.

The Easter treat bags were distributed at the Ohio and West Virginia distributions. In addition to the treat bags, everyone also received a box of candy bars. The Easter Bunny did a real good job with putting lots of goodies in everyone's bags. And as usual, we look forward to helping him again next year. Thanks again for a great job!!

Annual Shoe Giveaway

Due to limited space in our warehouse, please remember that **we are not collecting shoes this year**. We are asking that you please do not collect or bring in shoes, as we have nowhere to store them.



Calling All Churches

We still have a few weeks open on the 2005 Mission Rejoice Calendar. Most of the weeks have been filled but we still have some dates that are open for you to join us in ministry.

Has your church signed up to be a part of this wonderful ministry? This involves a church providing the preaching for the Saturday night service and the meal or one or the other. The weeks that are still available are listed below.

May 21, 2005

May 28, 2005

July 2, 2005

July 16, 2005

July 30, 2005

September 3, 2005

September 24, 2005

October 1, 2005

October 29, 2005

If your church can share in this wonderful ministry opportunity, please call Rev. Toni Hubbard at 740-282-8010 (Monday - Wednesday) to schedule your week. Help us complete the calendar for this year by calling today.

Ministry Opportunity at Urban Mission

The Unity Kitchen is in need of volunteers to help prepare and serve lunch on Monday's, Tuesday's and Wednesday's each week. Do you have a few hours to share in ministry at Urban Mission?

Meal preparation begins at 8:30 a.m., with lunch being served from 12 -1 p.m. Would you please consider sharing an hour or two each week? If you are interested in volunteering at our Unity Kitchen, please call Rev. Toni at 740-282-8010 (Monday—Wednesday) and schedule a time to come and share in service.

Minority Health Month



April is Minority Health Month in Ohio. Special events will be held throughout the state to provide Health Education and raise the awareness of the Health issues of Minorities and promote healthy lifestyle changes. Please see the enclosed calendar of events.

Tell your family and friends about the activities. All events are open to the public and some events target specific groups. Please feel free to contact me at 740-282-8010 for additional information concerning any event.

-Sharon Kirtdoll, Community Developer

Joshua Host Churches Needed

We are in need of churches who would like to host one of our many groups coming to work this summer in the JOSHUA Program. The duties of a Host Church include preparing and serving a breakfast on Monday morning and a dinner on Thursday evening. Being a host church is a wonderful way of taking part in a groups visit to our area.



Below is a list of dates available. Would your church consider being in ministry this summer and serving as a host church? If you would like to be a part of this special ministry, please call us and schedule your church for service. (Please note: The dates listed are the Monday's for the Breakfast Meal and the Thursday's for the Dinner.)

June 13 & 16 June 20 & 23 July 18 & 21 August 1 & 4 August 8 & 11

Parish Nurse News: Child Abuse Prevention

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. According to data collected by the Department of Health and Human Services, there were 896,000 confirmed cases of child maltreatment in the United States in 2002. This is an ongoing problem in our country, so let's take a few minutes to look at this problem and some solutions.

The CDC has categorized child maltreatment into four types: physical abuse, child neglect, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse (psychological/verbal abuse/mental injury). The highest number of cases of child maltreatment is neglect, which constitutes 60% of the cases. Physical abuse accounts for approximately 20% of the cases and reported sexual abuse accounts for approximately 10% of the cases. Psychological and emotional abuse accounts for the other 7% of reported cases. Shaken-baby syndrome (SBS) is another form of child abuse that affects between 1200 and 1600 children every year.

There are many consequences to children who experience maltreatment. In the year 2002, there were 1400 confirmed child deaths from maltreatment. Maltreatment can also lead to other consequences, which include health and behavior problems; physical, mental and emotional problems; and injuries that lead to disabilities such as blindness or cerebral palsy. What can be done to prevent this tragedy?

The CDC and other government agencies have developed several programs to help with the prevention of child maltreatment and abuse. The CDC and government agencies

are developing programs to identify and intervene with individuals who are at risk for maltreating children. In addition to governmental programs, individuals need to become aware of this problem and the interventions that can be taken if child maltreatment is suspected.

What can you do about child abuse? If you suspect that a child is being abused, you must report your suspicions to Children's Services or your local law enforcement agency. If you think that someone has the potential for child abuse, then you need to refer that individual to an appropriate source for counseling or treatment. Some examples are as follows: if a person has a terrible temper and tends to lash out violently, then that person should attend anger management classes or if a person does not have enough money to buy the basic necessities that a child needs, then that person needs to get in touch with agencies that can help supply those necessities. If you are in a situation and you are unsure about what to do, then talk with the pastor or the parish nurses. They will keep the information confidential, but will also help you examine all your options.

Unfortunately child maltreatment and abuse remain a huge problem in our country. We must all try to prevent this tragedy from happening. Educate yourself about this problem, so that you can recognize it. Intervene if you suspect a problem. Our children are precious gifts from God, and should be treated as such.

-Michalene A. King RN, MSED, MSN

April 2005
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LABEL

Upcoming Events in April 2005

2	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
4	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
5	Hunger Committee Meeting	10:00 AM
6	Program/Evaluation Committee Meeting NCDC Meeting	2:00 PM 4:30 PM
9	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
11	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
12	Finance Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
16	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
18	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
19	Packing Day for Food Distribution	9:00 AM
21	God's Pantry OH Food Distribution	9-12; 1-3
23	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
25	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
26	CSFP Senior Food Distribution	1:00 PM
28	God's Pantry WV Food Distribution Board of Director's Meeting	9-12 4:30 PM
29	Annual Volunteer Luncheon (See Inside)	12:00 PM
30	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM

Hope Box

- Apartment Size Stoves
- Canned Food Products
- Paper Products
- Small Microwave