

BRIGHT HORIZONS

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director Deborah Schaffer, Associate Director Angie Brown, Editor

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GOD'S TREASURES

A man came by the Mission and wanted permission to dig up round sinkholes in our parking lot. I asked, "Why?" He said, "These are the locations of former outhouses. I want to dig them up for the bottles." He promised to put everything back and fill in the holes with gravel. I gave the man permission to dig and wished him luck. I liked the idea of treasure from the dung heaps.

And so the battle of recovery, cleansing, loving, teaching and treasuring the people of God goes on. We seek out the least, the last, and the lost because they are God's Treasure. We seek out "the least of these" because they are "the apple of God's eye."

We seek out the broken things of this world that are nothing, so God can make something

beautiful. In the process God makes something beautiful out of the workers too. In the least of these God shows us who we really are. We find ourselves in the least, the last and the lost. And we find God among the Treasures of God.

There is a little girl who comes to the mission. Her life is broken by poverty, limited parental resources,

limited mental capacity and other things. At the Mission she is loved, protected, fed and taught that she is a precious child of God. Her smile lights up the sanctuary when she gives her pennies and praises God. Some folks see the limits and the brokenness. Others see the Treasure.

God extends an invitation to all; to join in searching for and recovering treasure. It is messy, inconvenient and will sometimes leave you wounded in heart and soul, but the outcome is so powerful that you will not long notice the wounds. Instead, you will spend time admiring God's Treasure and praising God for the opportunity to dig in the pits.

-Love, Pastor Bruce

Back To School Give-away!

The Annual Back to School Supplies Give-away will be held on **Friday, August 22 from 9-12; 1-3** at Urban Mission.

Supplies will be distributed to children in grades K-12. We are still in need of items for the giveaway. If you can donate any of the following supplies, please bring them to the Mission by Monday, August 18, 2003. Thank You in advance for sharing of yourselves that our children might have a brighter beginning to their school year.

Crayons, Glue Sticks, Pencil Boxes, Rulers, Highlighters, Scissors, Erasers, Theme & Composition Books, Makers, Colored Pencils, Folders, Filler Paper, Pens and Pencils.

This man has since recovered many bottles. Some are pre civil war era bottles. The work is a bit inconvenient. It makes a mess. Lots of broken bottles and pottery are left behind. The idea of digging through former latrines is enough to leave a stench in one's mind. Fortunately, a person can clean up. Baths and showers go a long way toward freeing us from distasteful tasks. And one can always look at the clean sparkling antique bottles, determine their value, and take pleasure in the hunt and display of treasure.

Unfortunately, it is a little harder to do the same tasks with people's lives. Attempting to recover people from the pits of despair, hopelessness, unworthiness, poverty, addiction and depression is very inconvenient, messy, and leaves a stench upon more than one's mind. Sometimes the stench comes from Christians who say, "Why are you doing that?! Don't you know that the Bible says the poor will always be with you?" Misusing the words of Jesus in order to avoid being your brother and sister's keeper is truly astounding. It stinks too.

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

-II Corinthians 4:6-7

DREAMS DO COME TRUE

Recently, I went on a mission's trip to the Dream Center in Los Angeles. The Dream Center is one of the largest inner-city missions in the U.S. with over 200 ministries reaching to more than 500,000 people a month. Some of those ministries are towards the teenage runaways, the gangs, street-walkers, drug addicts and the homeless. On skid row itself there are 20,000 homeless people and 10,000 of them are children. (There is no doubt in my mind that the only glamour in LA is on television and not in real life). The Dream Center is not just there to take care of their physical needs but to win their souls and restore their lives for the kingdom of Christ.

Through the hundreds of volunteers that stream in each week, lives are being touched and broken people are being made whole again. We ministered in some of the most dangerous areas in Los Angeles; skid row, crack hotels, bridges, parks and the South Central area. The week I was there, we fed the homeless, we prayed with them and we brought many to church. Children who live in the worst environment received hugs and someone to show love to them even if it was for just a few hours. One young man named Norman, who was homeless and coming off of drugs turned his life over to Jesus and committed himself to the Dream Center for their one-year discipleship program. Days later, seeing Norman he looked totally different. Gone was the look of hopelessness now he had the biggest smile on his face and he knew that his only way of not going back to his past was by staying in the Lord.

The LA Dream Center was a dream that God put in the heart of one pastor and now it is one of the largest outreaches to the poor and destitute. Think of how much we

can accomplish when we take the vision God gives us and we run with it.

The UM is a reflection of the dreams that God put in many peoples hearts. Take for example the Hutton House. A dream that Rev. Hutton received from the Lord and was bold enough to know that if God gave him a dream, He would bring it to pass. Although Rev. Hutton did not live long enough to see it come to fruition God still made that dream come to life.

Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come.
-Habakkuk 2:2-3 KJV

I came away from the Dream Center with many dreams for the Urban Mission. One of them is to have a mobile children's ministry where we can reach the children that normally do not come to the Urban Mission. Just to start this one ministry would require many needs; a truck, a PA system and lets not forget willing volunteers just to mention a few. But I know that with God all things are possible and if He puts a dream in your heart He can bring it to pass just as He did with Pastor Barnett and the LA Dream Center.

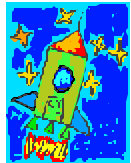
Another one of my dreams would be to see broken lives restored and the people we serve at the Urban Mission come to serve Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

I challenge you to come and help us bring some of these dreams to pass. There are many people in the downtown area alone who need to see Christ's love in someone. Why not let it be you. Come and make a huge impact in the Kingdom of God by serving those who do not know our Lord.

-Deborah Schaffer, Associate Director

SUMMER PROGRAM

The Urban Mission and Quinn A. M.E. Church Summer Youth Program has been a huge success thus far. The children are working on their math and reading skills. They are learning German and sign language and have attended field trips to Faith Ranch, Oglebay Good Zoo and a Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game. There is still time to get involved and help our children. If you can share of your time, please call Jacky or Cory at 740-282-8010 and ask how you can get involved with this wonderful program.



COMMUNITY NEWS

VALLEY HOSPICE THRIFT STORE

Valley Hospice will be opening a thrift store during the month of August. Volunteers are needed to accept, sort and display merchandise and assist with sales. For more information about how you can assist, contact Debbie Barto at 283-7487.

COMMUNITY BACK TO SCHOOL RALLY

*Harding Stadium
Wednesday
August 20, 2003
6 PM*

*Supplies for
Grades K-12*



NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Would you like to receive "Bright Horizons" via e-mail instead of postal mail? It's easy! Just drop us a note with your e-mail address and you can receive the newest edition delivered right to your home computer!



SERVING THE LORD TOGETHER

If you were to look in Webster's Dictionary the word incarcerate, you will find it defined as ...to imprison; to shut up or enclose. And to look up the word enclose you will find it defined as...to shut up or confine on all sides. We at Urban Mission are blessed daily with workers from the East Ohio Correctional Center. These workers are incarcerated at this facility because they have committed some type of crime. And other than being allowed work releases or home visits, they are confined to the location until their time of release. But being confined to the facility does not mean that they are personally confined within themselves. They still have the opportunity to use and share their hidden talents, such is the story of Jason Barnes.

Jason provided 29.5 hours of service working in the warehouse. While he shared his time with us, he also shared his talent of pencil art and poetry. He showed us a picture he completed for a friend who used it to propose to his girlfriend. The last day Jason was with us he sat in the back of

the warehouse and wrote a poem. I would like to share this poem with you.

Urban Mission

*In and around this community, we all do live.
We are sent on a mission, food we give.
This reflects kindness and sharing in us all,
during the Winter, Spring, Summer and the Fall.
The donated help gives something back
to give to the needy ones, with food in a sack.
We never realize the lives under the cover
of the families who can't pray as they eat their supper.
Before we eat there is something to say...
I thank you for this food, to the Lord I pray. Amen
By: Jason W. Barnes*

In the book of Romans, Paul shares his letters to his friends in Rome. In them he expresses his wish to be reunited with his friends, but most importantly, he also asked for their help. He tells them he not only wants to share his faith with them, but he also needs to be encouraged with their faith... stating that each of them will be a blessing to the other. So it is with these EOCC workers and Urban Mission. Many of them have expressed how they enjoy coming here to work. I only hope they realize what a blessing they have been to us who work with them.

Just a reminder, the item for the Thanksgiving collection for Aug. is chicken noodle soup. And we need LOTS OF IT!! Thank you for the cranberry sauce collected in July!

-Linda L. Poe, Program Director

PARISH NURSE NEWS: GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL

When you think about getting your children ready for school, what do you think about? New clothes? School supplies? Transportation? Before or after school care? Don't forget about their health! In order for children to learn, they must be in good health. There are health issues that need to be addressed. Are your children's immunizations up to date? Can your child see well? Can your child hear well? Does your child have a chronic health problem that requires medication or specialized care? All these aspects of health must be considered when sending your child to school.

Check your child's immunization record and make sure that his/her immunizations are up to date. If you have any questions about it, you can check with your family doctor or the health department. The health department has immunization clinics available at various locations. The nurses can give your child the shots that are needed for school. If your child's immunizations are not up to date, your child may be sent home until he/she receives the immunizations. It is best to take care of this before school starts.

Children need to see and hear well in order to learn. If you suspect that your child has a problem in either of these areas,

check with your family doctor or the health department about testing. These tests are simple to do and corrective devices can be prescribed for your child. Your child will then be able to see and hear the lessons in school.

If your child has a health problem that requires medication, make sure that you have an adequate supply of medication to send to school. If your child has activity restrictions, get a note from your doctor outlining the restrictions and send this to school. If your child requires any specialized care, get a note from your doctor about that care. Make sure that you take these to school and explain them to the school nurse and school administrators. They can then make sure that your child will receive the care that is needed.

Children spend much time in school. They need to be in optimum health in order to learn. School administrators and school nurses will work with your children in the area of health. Make sure that you keep them informed about health matters. When you're getting ready for the start of a new school year, don't forget to think health.

-Michalene A. King, RN, MSED, MSN

August 2003

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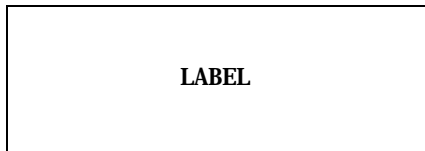
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Upcoming Events in August 2003

2	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
3-8	Joshua Team: Plainfield UMC, Plainfield IL (Host Ch.: Toronto 1st UMC)	
4	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
5	Hunger Committee Meeting	10:00 AM
6	Program/Evaluation Committee Meeting	2:00 PM
7	Personnel Committee Meeting	3-5 PM
9	Annual Street Carnival (No Mission Rejoice)	12-4 PM
10-16	Joshua Teams: Conneaut UMC, Conneaut OH & Boardman UMC, Boardman, OH (Host Church: Grace Lutheran)	
11	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
12	Finance Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
14	Ministries Council Meeting	5:00 PM
16	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
17-22	Joshua Teams: Wesley UMC: Manitowoc, WI & St. Timothy Lutheran Church: Bemus Point, NY (Host Church: Toronto 1st Presbyterian)	
18	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
19	Packing of Food Distribution Bags	9:00 AM
21	God's Pantry Ohio Food Distribution	9-12; 1-3
22	Back To School Supplies Giveaway	9-12; 1-3
23	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
25	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
27	Lupus Meeting	6-8 PM
28	WV Food Distribution Board of Directors Meeting	9-12 4:30 PM
30	NO MISSION REJOICE - Labor Day Holiday	
	<i>Bible Study every Friday at the Mission by Min. Toni Hubbard</i>	4-6 PM

Annual Street
Carnival

Saturday, August 9
from 12-4 PM

*Join us for free fun,
games, food and enter-
tainment.*



We still need volunteers for this event. If you would like to volunteer for the carnival, please call Jacky or Cory at 740-282-8010. Any help that you or your group can provide would be greatly appreciated.