



Bright Horizons

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor

Urban Mission
September
2007

The Humility of Jesus Christ

"...Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. And during the supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God, and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples feet and wipe them with the towel that was tied around him." -John 13:1b-5

The image of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples and wiping them with a towel is powerful. The gospel of John makes a major point of demonstrating the deity of Jesus through the signs and teaching of Jesus. Here at the critical moment in the Gospel, Jesus demonstrates humility in a manner that stuns us, and in a way that eludes our ability to replicate. So much of human life is made up of finding our place compared to others. We are far too busy and far too important to wash someone's feet. Yet, we find the creator of all that is, was and shall be, washing the feet of his followers and his betrayer! Love is a power, capable of overcoming the foolishness of ranking people. The scripture says, "having loved his own...he loved them to the end." Christians forget the command to love one another at their own peril. Nothing is so dead and so manipulative as Christianity without love. Our failure to serve others in humility is the result of failing to love.

As Christians we have the capacity to love. This ability to love is a God given part of us, perfected in Christ and sustained in the Holy Spirit. We, like Jesus know we have come from God, and we know we are going to God. Genesis teaches us that we were created in the image of God, out of the dust of the earth, by God's own hand. And we know that the Way to the Father is open to us by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We too have the capacity of humble ourselves and serve with love those around us. This loving and serving is a tough thing. Jesus is a hard act to follow. Jesus choosing to wash and wipe the feet of Judas leaves little room for our excuses. One man told me he would never give to the Urban Mission because he knew one of the people who ate at the Mission had enough money to buy his own food. I know who this man was too. He came because the Urban Mission was his social outlet, his community so to speak. This man who had enough money to buy his food donated money to the Mission. This other man chose to stop serving and loving because he did not approve of another man. Sometimes we choose not to serve the poor with love and humility because we think the poor are lazy and deserve what they get; or that they are stupid; or we believe that we pulled ourselves up by our bootstraps so why can't they? It is so easy to become Pharisees about how we have worked, been blessed or even served. The truth is that the poor people are the same people that we are.

Jesus does not offer us any of those options. He simply takes off his coat, wraps a towel around his waist and begins to serve us in humble love; even those of us who find excuses to avoid service. It does not matter who we serve, if we approve of them or not, whether they are like us or not. We serve because of the One who serves us. Do not begin to think that Jesus washed feet once and never had to serve again. Christ sits at the right hand of the Father interceding for us daily. Jesus bears the burden of humanity daily. Only love can bear such a burden as our unbelief, greed, and hopelessness. And only incredible generosity can call us to service in the name of Jesus Christ. It is an honor and a privilege to serve. None of us deserve this honor; yet this is the honor that Jesus offers to all who hope in him. Friends, are you serving Christ? Take the time to ask God where to serve and how to serve and to give you the love and humility to serve.

-Love, Pastor Bruce

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Annual Coat Giveaway October 22, 23 & 24



We are collecting good used coats for our Annual Coat Giveaway. We are in need of coats of all sizes for men, women and children.

Please bring your coats (in good condition) to the Warehouse at 311 North 6th Street by October 12, 2007.

Please help us to make this winter a warmer one for our friends in need.

**Urban Mission:
"To Listen With
Compassion;
To Serve With**



Registration and Thanksgiving Schedule

REGISTRATION FOR THANKSGIVING CHRISTMAS KIDS & COAT DISTRIBUTION

October 22, 23 and 24, 2007

9:00 – 12:00 & 1:00 – 3:00

PACKING BAGS FOR THANKSGIVING

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Beginning at 9:00 AM

Lunch provided for volunteers.

Please call if planning to help.

THANKSGIVING DISTRIBUTION

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

9:00 – 12:00 & 1:00 – 3:00

Thursday, November 15, 2007

9:00 – 12:00 only

***For questions about the registration process,
please call Linda at 740-282-2911.***

The following information is needed for registration:

- A form of identification
- Birth certificate, medical card or social security card for each child in the household (For Christmas Kids Program)
- You must know the source and the amount of income for anyone in the household having income.
- Written verification of address (utility bill, rent receipt, etc.)

If you know of someone you feel could benefit from our services, please share this information with them and encourage register. If they prefer privacy for the interview process, that can be arranged.



Christmas Ministries

Operation Christmas Stocking

This project involves filling a Christmas stocking or holiday gift bag with toiletries for a teen female or male. The stockings (200-250) will then be presented to teens ages 13-18 just before Christmas.

Suggested items to include: **soap, toothbrush/paste, deodorant, comb/brush, shampoo/conditioner, cologne/aftershave, lipstick/compact, hair spray, hair combs, barrettes, nail polish, cotton balls, Q-tips, jewelry, cassette tapes/CD's, restaurant gift certificates (McDonalds, Burger King, etc.).**

Please have the stockings back by **December 7.**

Santa's Recycle Shop

Each year we have several families who do not make the deadline for getting their children registered in our Christmas Kids Program. In order to help these families have toys for their children, we will have **"Santa's Recycle Shop"** on December 19 and 20 from 9:00 – 12:00 and 1:00 – 3:00.

If you have any used toys, games, etc. please consider donating them for this program. We ask that these items be in very good condition (toys in good working order, puzzles with no missing pieces, books not colored or written in, etc.).

Items for this program can be delivered to the warehouse located at 311 North 6th Street in Steubenville.

Hat, Glove and Mitten Tree

Hats, hats, hats...gloves, gloves, gloves...mittens, mittens, mittens, girls' underwear and socks and boys' underwear and socks!! Can you tell we need lots of these items?

Each year we fill a large Christmas tree in the office with these items. When parents come in to pick up the gifts from our Christmas Kids Program, they are also permitted to take these items for their children.

Last year, the donations were wonderful and plentiful. We had nearly enough to make it through to the end of the distribution. When we help provide toys for nearly 800 children that creates a need for lots and lots of hats, gloves, mittens and underwear.

If you wish to help with this project, please mail or bring the items to the Mission at 301 North 5th Street or to the Warehouse at 311 North 6th Street.

NOTE: *As you can imagine, it takes lots of help to make these programs successful. We are also asking for volunteers to help during the Christmas Season. If you truly want to be blessed during the Holidays, this is where it can happen.*

If you would like to volunteer during the holidays, or if you have a question about the programs listed above, please give me a call at 282-2911. I will be glad to work with you and share the Spirit of the Season!

Reflections on an Outstanding Summer

The children are back in school and another summer is coming to an end. We reflect on the great things that happened at Urban Mission during the last few months.

On August 7, "**Diva Day**" was held for young ladies. This was a day spent promoting love, friendship and appreciation of self. The ladies also played dress up in their finest Diva gowns!

On August 11, our **15th Annual Street Carnival** was held in the parking lot of Urban Mission. "God Bless America" was the theme. Katherine Losey, a local teen opened the carnival singing the National Anthem of America. Over 1,000 children and adults attended the free event. Guests enjoyed games, entertainment, inflatable rides and lots of carnival food, including hot dogs, snow cones and cotton candy.

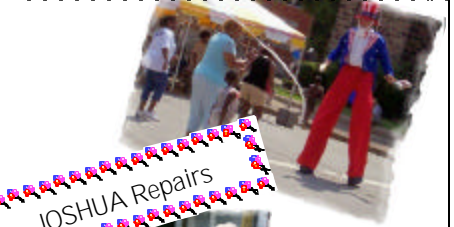
On August 24, our **School Supplies Distribution** was held. Over 300 bags of supplies were given to area students in need.

Our **Joshua Work Mission** program was held from May through August. Groups from Illinois, Delaware, New York and all over Ohio completed home repairs for low-income homeowners of our area.

All of these activities took many hours of preparation and work. Thank you to every person who donated time, funds, finances and prayers to the Mission. We appreciate all that you did to make this an outstanding summer.

Special thanks to our seasonal staff members, Angela Suggs, Street Carnival Director, Bill Morris, Joshua Site Coordinator and Doug Devor, Adam Shelton and Kathryn Chojnacki, Joshua Site Supervisors.

Fun at the Street Carnival



JOSHUA Repairs



Before



After



"Diva Day"

Parish Nurse News: Meningitis and the Meningitis Vaccine

What do you know about meningitis? Do you have any adolescents in your family? Do you know someone who is going away to college for the first time? Have you seen the commercials on TV for the meningitis vaccine? Did you know there is a meningitis vaccine that is recommended for all adolescents from 11-18 years of age? Let's take a few minutes and discuss meningitis and the meningitis vaccine.

Meningitis can be caused by viruses or bacteria. The meningitis vaccine is used to prevent a certain form of bacterial meningitis. This form of bacterial meningitis is contagious and can be spread by coughing, kissing or even drinking from the same cup or bottle. The symptoms of bacterial meningitis include high fever, headache and stiff neck. Other symptoms may include nausea, vomiting, discomfort looking at bright lights, confusion and sleepiness. Later symptoms can include seizures, circulatory collapse and even death.

If you suspect that someone has meningitis, seek immediate medical treatment. Tests including a spinal tap will be performed to confirm the diagnosis of meningitis. Intensive medical care is required to treat bacterial meningitis, including antibiotics and treatment of symptoms.

Prevention is always the best treatment, so vaccines have been developed to prevent the most deadly types of meningitis. The first meningitis vaccine was available in 1981 and initially was recommended for college students who would be living in a dormitory.



A second meningitis vaccine became available in 2005. Both vaccines can prevent 4 types of meningococcal diseases, including 2 of the 3 most common types in the United States. Although there are two vaccines, only one injection is required. The meningitis vaccine is now recommended for all adolescents from 11 to 18 years of age. This vaccination may not be covered by your health insurance, so check about payment prior to your visit.

If you have an adolescent between the ages of 11 and 18 who has not received the meningitis vaccine, check with your doctor or the nurses at the health department about this vaccine. This vaccine can be administered at any time between those ages, and may prevent some forms of meningitis. Additional information about meningitis and the meningitis vaccine can be found on the internet at www.cdc.gov.

-Michalene A. King, PhD, RN

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LABEL

September 2007

Upcoming Events in September 2007

1	No Mission Rejoice Service: Holiday Weekend	No Services
3	Closed for the Labor Day Holiday	Closed
7	Lupus Support Group Meeting: Lenora's Restaurant	6:00 PM
8, 15, 22, & 29	Mission Rejoice Service (Saturday's)	6:00 PM
10 & 17	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
11	God's Pantry Hunger Committee Meeting Finance Committee Meeting	10:00 AM 6:00 PM
12	Program/Evaluation Committee Meeting	2:00 PM
13	Neighborhood Community Development Cntr. Meeting Greater Steubenville CDC Meeting	4:00 PM 5:00 PM
18	Packing for Food Distribution	9:00 AM
20	God's Pantry Food Distribution	9-12; 1-3
24	No Parish Nurse	
25	CSFP Senior Food Distribution	1:00 PM
27	UM Newsletter Folding Board of Directors Meeting	9:00 AM 4:30 PM

Thanksgiving Challenge 

The challenge item for this month is **Vanilla Frosting** **1,200 cans.**

- Hutton House Needs**
- Refrigerators
 - Gas or Electric Stoves
 - Personal Care Items
 - Cleaning Supplies
 - Towels and Wash Cloths
 - Dish Towels & Dish Cloths