



# Bright Horizons

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director

Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor

URBAN MISSION MINISTRIES, INC.

June 2008



## Christ . . . A Right Focus

Much of what we take for granted is being cast into doubt. The economy is teetering on the edge of a major meltdown. Prices for food and gas are through the roof. Tornadoes in America, cyclones in Myanmar and earthquakes in China cause us to question our mortality. Assumptions are being challenged everywhere. This environment is perfect for meditation and prayer. A close examination of our beliefs is in order!

When we Christians are forced to look hard at our assumptions concerning life, faith and hope, we can find ourselves adrift and maybe even discovering that in practical terms, Jesus is not really the one in whom we place our trust. In our culture, money, power and sex are central to the good life. We used to call it greed, idolatry and lust. Shake our financial health and we ooze fear and loss. Take away our power, political and social, and watch us mourn for past glory. Take pictures of a girl, not a young woman, put those pictures on a fashion magazine and watch us debate the appropriateness of the issue. Sexually charged pictures of minors used to be greeted by disgust and charges of pedophilia. Today, we talk about it.

Throughout the history of the Judeo-Christian Faith life, we have seen the examples of destruction for all who put their hope and faith in anything other than God. It is not a surprise to discover that wealth does not equal security, peace and salvation. It is not a surprise that a political alliance between church and state fails to bring us salvation. It is also not a surprise that abusing the good gift of sex does not lead to satisfaction and salvation. Our faith history, theology and Bible are very clear on the matter. Life, Faith, Hope and Salvation come to us in Jesus Christ.

We are about following Jesus Christ in the Kingdom of God. This means that we choose education, careers, actions, economic plans, life plans with hearts fully set on serving Jesus Christ. Where we live, how we live and how we worship, all depend upon the present and future salvation given us in Christ. It is right and good for Christians to "store up treasures in heaven" rather than chase the empty idols of this culture. Much of what we focus on in America is empty, null and void. Looks, fame, money, partying, political power and the gathering of goods are fleeting and gone in a heartbeat. Christ is eternal and ever gracious.

It is easy to be led astray by all the noise in our culture. It is difficult to keep a focus upon God and living a life of joy. Christians need to be people who make firm decisions and foundational decisions that determine the course of life. Then we must be ruthless in our will to maintain a focus on Christ. Any decision or activity that does not reflect that firm focus upon God must be given the lowest priority in our minds, or left out completely. Another way to say this it to keep alive a vibrant living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. That prime relationship determines the character of all other relationships.

Our hope in Jesus Christ is found in His life. Christ is the Risen Lord! Death has no power over Jesus Christ. Since we are found to be in Jesus Christ, death has no power over us! We can choose to spend our lives in service to Christ and our fellow man without the fear of emptiness, or missing something. Our future is secure. Our joy has already started and will never end. It is better for us to be quiet servants of Jesus Christ, never recognized and known in this culture's celebrity worship, than to be an empty American Idol. Why would we ever allow ourselves to be judged by Randy, Paula and Simon? Christ alone chooses salvation for us. We would do well to remember Jesus Christ and let our lives reflect the glory and love of Christ. This is what we should be focusing on.

~Love, Pastor Bruce

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## Hutton House Yard & Bake Sale

**June 1-3, 2008**  
**10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**  
**908 Market Street**  
**Steubenville, Ohio**



Many items to choose from including:

- Very Good Condition Children's Clothing
- Household Items
- Baked Goods and much more!

**All items priced to sell!**

*Proceeds benefit the Homeless Shelter.*



## Let's Talk Turkey!!!

Well, we're not actually going to talk about turkey. But, we are going to talk about some of the items that will go along with the little bird for a great Thanksgiving dinner. Yep...it's that time again.

Starting this month and continuing through October, we will be doing the annual Thanksgiving Challenge. For anyone who is not familiar with this fun program, here is how it works.

Each month a different product is going to be asked for. These items will be part of the bag our families will receive at the November food distribution.

This can be a fun project for churches, groups, businesses and families. You can issue a challenge among yourselves while helping Urban Mission collect the needed items.

### The schedule for the items needed is as follows:

**June:** Chicken Noodle Soup (2,400 cans needed)

**July:** Cranberry Sauce (1,200 cans)

**Aug.:** Sweet Potatoes 18-20 oz can (1,200 cans)

**Sept.:** Vanilla Frosting (1,200 cans)

**Oct.:** Yellow Cake Mix (1,200 boxes)

If you have any questions about this project or want to participate, please give Linda a call at 282-2911.

## Hundreds Blessed with Shoes

On May 19 & 20, our shoe giveaway was held at the Warehouse. In just two days, over 3,000 pairs of good new and used shoes, purses and clothing items were distributed to those in need. We had many large donations of shoes and some even purchased new shoes for the giveaway.



Special thanks to all of the churches, groups and individuals who donated shoes for this massive effort. We also thank Patti West who coordinated the event and the many volunteers who sorted and organized the shoes. Thank you for helping make this event a successful one.

~Sharon Kirtdoll, Community Developer

## Good Time at Gospel Fest



Several hundred folks came out for the first annual Valley Gospel Fest at the Berkman Amphitheater. The Mission received several food items and monetary donations from the event. Thank you to everyone who supported the fest and donated to the Mission.

## Annual Street Carnival in the Works

It's time to prepare for our Annual Street Carnival to be held on **Saturday, August 9, 2008 from 12-4 p.m.** It will take place on the streets in front of the Mission and surrounding parking lots. This is a great time for the community. Hundred's of families will attend this free event.



As always, we need lots of volunteers and donations. If you, your family, church group or civic organization would like to volunteer please contact the Urban Mission at 282-8010. We need food and game vendors. We are also looking for choirs, soloist and dancers to minister to the audience throughout the day. Each vendor is asked to completely supply their section. For example, the wonderful Currin Family will bring a tent with games and prizes along with their own workers.

If you would like to make a donation toward the event, please mark it "Carnival". I look forward to seeing you there!!!

~Angela Suggs, Carnival Director

## Hutton House Shelter Update

June is just beginning and the Hutton House Homeless Shelter has already provided housing for over seventy (70) children and adults so far in 2008. We are in need of the following items to replenish our depleted stock and prepare for the new incoming families:

- Cribs (in good condition)
- Personal Care Items
- Bibles
- Kitchen Garbage Bags
- Restroom Garbage Cans
- Fans
- Mops, Brooms and Dust Pans
- Toilet Brushes
- Silverware
- Cooking Utensils
- Pots, Pans and Bake ware

**If you would like to donate any of these items, please call the Shelter at 740-282-8903.**

### Did You Know?



Hutton House provides a fully finished apartment for families while helping them get back on their feet? Many families come to the Shelter with only the clothes on their backs. Through donations, the Shelter is able to provide families with all the essential items for daily living.



## JOSHUA Work Projects Underway

Our first JOSHUA Team arrived early last month. Church of the Lakes UMC, from Canton, Ohio completed much needed repair work for a few homeowners and many projects at Urban Mission. This group of very skilled workers scraped down, repaired and painted our entry hall of the Main Office that was damaged by a water leak. They also installed new lighting and painted the Unity Kitchen and back entrance hallway. This group of seasoned workers, age 62 and up, did a fantastic job! This is only the beginning of the transformations we expect to see as the next several groups arrive.

We welcome our JOSHUA Director, William Morris, and our Site Supervisors, Doug Devor and Adam Shelton. We also welcome the following groups to our area:

### June 1-6, 2008

Sacred Heart-Griffin High School, Springfield, IL

**Host Church:** Second Baptist Church, Steubenville, OH

### June 8-13, 2008

Zoar Lutheran Church, Perrysburgh, OH

### June 15-20, 2008

St. Mark's Lutheran, Warren OH; Zion Lutheran, Columbus, OH; St. John's Lutheran, Sydney, OH

### June 22-27, 2008

Calvary Baptist Church, Newark, DE

**Host Church:** First Presbyterian Church, Toronto, OH

### June 29-July 4, 2008

Faith UMC Youth Missions, North Canton, OH

We still have a few groups in need of a Host Church. The open dates are **June 9 & 12, June 16 & 19, June 30 & July 3**. If your Church would like to host one of the Work Teams, please call 740-282-8010.

*(Note: The dates listed are the Monday breakfast dates and the Thursday dinner dates.)*



June is National Safety Month. Let's take a few minutes and review some safety tips for outdoor work and recreation.

During the spring and summer, we spend a lot of time outside working on our lawns and gardens. The following are some safety tips for working outdoors:

- Be cautious when you begin physical tasks, rest frequently and stop if you experience any pain
- If you experience chest pain or trouble breathing, stop immediately and call 911
- When lifting heavy objects, bend at the knees
- If you are unable to comfortably lift an object by yourself, get help
- If you are using any chemicals, make sure that you read the labels and use them properly
- Remember to store all chemicals (including pool/spa chemicals) in their original containers and in a safe place away from children and pets

When you are done doing your yard work, you may want to relax by swimming. The following are some swimming safety tips:

- Use the buddy system when swimming or en-

## Parish Nurse News: National Safety Month

*gaging in other water recreational activities*

- Never dive into an unknown body of water or into a backyard pool unless it is specifically designed for diving
- Supervise children near water or pools
- Use effective barriers around pools, ponds, and other drowning hazards
- Avoid swimming after dark
- Avoid using alcohol or other drugs prior to and during recreational water activities
- Learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and encourage adolescents and adults to do the same
- Establish a rescue station near pools or ponds with clearly posted emergency numbers and first aid procedures

Whether you are working or relaxing, remember to dress appropriately for the environment. Use sunscreen when you are going to be in the sun and use an insect repellent when you may be in areas where there are mosquitoes or ticks. Keep hydrated by drinking plenty of fresh water. Remember to stay safe and enjoy the summer.

~Michalene A. King, PhD, RN

### Community Conversations: "Health Disparities"

Date: TBA

Jefferson Community College

Facilitator: Dr. Betty Yung, Univ. of Dayton Medical Center

Look for more information about these events in our next newsletter.

### Mission Rejoice Picnic

July 26, 2008

Jefferson State Lake Park

Time: TBA





Urban Mission  
 301 North Fifth Street  
 Steubenville, OH 43952

Phone: 740-282-8010  
 Fax: 740-282-8514  
 E-mail: mail@urbanmission.org  
 www.urbanmission.org

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**Upcoming Events in June 2008**

1, 2 & 3	Hutton House Yard and Bake Sale (See front cover)	10-1 Daily
2, 9, 16, 23 & 30	Parish Nurse (Monday's)	11:00 AM
3	God's Pantry Hunger Committee	10:00 AM
5	Neighborhood Community Development Center Mtg. Greater Steubenville CDC Meeting	4:00 PM 5:00 PM
7, 14, 21, 28	Mission Rejoice Service (Saturday's)	6:00 PM
9	Lupus Support Group Water Aerobics: The Milsop Center, Weirton WV, Coordinator: Patti West	6:00 PM
10	Finance Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
16	Lupus Support Group Picnic: Belleview Pool House	6:00 PM
17	Packing for Food Distribution	9:00 AM
19	God's Pantry Food Distribution	9-12; 1-3
24	CSFP Senior Food Distribution	1:00 PM
26	Bright Horizons Newsletter Folding	9:00 AM
	Unity Kitchen: Open Monday through Wednesday	12:00-1:00 p.m.

**Reminder:**  
 There will be **no**  
**Program/Evaluation**  
**Committee meetings** for the  
 months of **June** and **July**.

There will be **no** Urban Mission  
**Board of Directors meeting**  
 for the month of **June**.

Enjoy the weather.  
 See you in July and August!