



Bright Horizons

May 2007

Urban Mission

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director

Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor

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Isaiah 58:6-12

6) Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? 7) Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? 8) Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. 9) Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, 10) and if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. 11) The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. 12) Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

Thoughts and Questions

The people Isaiah talked to had a compliant with God. Things were not going well for them. Their country was falling apart. Political alliances were not protecting them from enemies. The economy was way out of control. Nothing good seemed to be happening. Many were living in exile. So, they complained to God. “Where are you God? What did we do to deserve this? Aren’t we doing what you want? We fast, we pray and we read your holy scriptures, what more do you want from us?” These were the thoughts and questions the people had in their heads and God answered them.

There is such a thing as being too religious. All the worship and all the devotion to God in the world does nothing and means nothing if that same worship and devotion does not lead us to right relationships. How can we call ourselves Christians and not act like Christ? The hypocrisy of having food, clothing and shelter while your neighbor does not overwhelms the empty witness of worship alone. The poor of our county, made up largely of children and senior citizens, are a witness against the church. They make a mockery of the greatest wealth-producing nation in the history of the earth. The rich rulers of our land argue about nothing while poverty grinds the life and hope out of millions of our neighbors. The church can and must do more. Our credibility as followers of Jesus Christ is on the line.

The people in Isaiah had a mistaken notion about God. They believed that if they worshiped the right way or, the “correct way” then God would protect them from all evil and discomfort. How silly! God calls us to follow and lead the world in righteous living. There is a cost to breaking the yoke of bondage, exploitation and abuse. For example, if we examine the credit industry in America, it does not take long to conclude that a form of economic slavery exists. Credit Card companies target college students who have little or no income. Payday loan “businesses” loan more money than the borrower makes then charges exorbitant interest rates and thus traps the borrower in a cycle of debt with no hope of escape. If one speaks loudly about the issue, watch out! The credit industry has lobbyist to defend the practice. They are so effective that the government will not step in to stop an out of control economic abuse. Many of the poor have nowhere else to turn for credit.

Is it so hard to follow Christ in serving the poor and worship God? Is it so hard to love our neighbors in need and pray? Is it so hard to give ourselves to children and read the Bible? Think about it.

Love, Pastor Bruce

Appreciation Luncheon a Success!



I would like to take the time to say thank you to all the volunteers who attended our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on April 20 at Wintersville UMC. Thanks to Judy Manfred and her crew for the wonderful meal. Congratulations to the award winners and thank you one more time to all of the volunteers whose time and effort make this event possible!

Bless you as we continue to work together to do the Lord's work during 2007!

-Linda Smith, Program Director

Carnival Preparations Underway

Preparations have begun for our Annual Street Carnival. The Carnival will be held on Saturday, **August 11, 2007**. This will be a day of free food, games, music, prizes and fun for the children and adults of our community.



We are in need of churches, clubs and organizations to sponsor a booth for games or food. Donations can be made directly to Urban Mission Carnival Fund. If you are interested in volunteering or donating items, please contact Angela Suggs at 740-282-8010.

End Hunger in the Valley Update



Our End Hunger in the Valley matching funds grant challenge ended on April 30. We thank all of the churches, groups, businesses and individuals who donated funds so that we could take advantage of this opportunity. We will receive our portion of matching funds from the Feinstein Foundation in the upcoming weeks.

We also thank those who donated food items for this program. Each food item will be counted as a \$1.00 for the Feinstein Challenge. These donations allow us to cut our food purchasing costs for the distributions by a great deal. We thank you all for your commitment to helping those in need within our Valley.

Joshua Program Set to Begin



Spring is here and our first group will arrive later this month. Work Teams come to our area to complete minor home repairs for low-income homeowners.

We are anxious to see how the Lord will work through these groups to help those in need. We will keep you updated with information on the project.

This years hosts churches will be as follows:

<i>St. Mark Lutheran</i>	<i>Grace Lutheran</i>
<i>Starkdale Presbyterian</i>	<i>Second Baptist</i>
<i>First Presbyterian</i>	<i>Richmond UM</i>
<i>Agape Apostolic</i>	<i>Bell Chapel UM</i>
<i>First Westminster Presbyterian</i>	

Summer Activities

Due to a loss in funding, Urban Mission will not have a Community Summer Program this year. **We will still have our annual street carnival for children and adults to enjoy.**

Area churches will be providing summer Vacation Bible School activities. We encourage parents to sign their children up to be a part of these fun and spiritually educational programs. We are currently compiling a list of these activities and will bring them to you in our next issue.

We are also currently in the process of seeking out funding to help provide additional summer programming in 2008.

Thank you to those who have supported our summer programs in the past and we look forward to your continued support of our summer carnival.

Jelly Beans Everywhere!

The Easter Bunny's job was a lot easier because of all the helpers out in Bunny Land. We asked for 800 bags of jelly beans and received 1383 bags!



Students from Toronto packed a wonderful bag of goodies for our families to take home and share. Thanks from both the Easter Bunny and myself to everyone who helped this program to be successful.

-Linda Smith, Program Director

Minority Health Month Highlights



Health Month Kick-off: Janis Russell told of how she lost 110 lbs and how she made lifestyle changes after shocking news from her doctor.

Family Affair: After a meal served family style, Drs. Rex and Daria Crawley led participants in a discussion on what makes a healthy family. It was over too soon and everyone agreed this workshop should be repeated.

Health Screenings: 38 persons attended the Health screenings at the Fourth Street Health Center. First time volunteer, Dr. Joe Lewis, a Podiatrist did a great job and promised to volunteer again.

The Men's Breakfast: It is always an informative event. Each year it gets better.

Prostate Cancer Screening: Early detection is the only defense.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped throughout the month and special thanks to Patti West, Minority Health Month Coordinator.

Remember: Good Health Begins With You!

Welcome New Board Members



Welcome to our newest members of the Urban Mission Board of Directors, **James Baber and Beata Engle-Doyle**. We look forward to their valuable input.

Jody Glaub, President

Dave Schaefer, Vice President

Kathy Lawrence, Secretary

Eugene Gillison, Jr., NCDC Chair

Rev. William Westling, Personnel Chair

Rev. Kim Anderson, OVD Superintendent

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director

Christine Hargrave (*term expires 2007*)

Diane Piland (*term expires 2007*)

Cathie Caranda (*term expires 2008*)

Bob Gribben (*term expires 2008*)

Jo Grimm (*term expires 2008*)

James Baber (*term expires 2009*)

Beata Engle-Doyle (*term expires 2009*)

Sherry Sherrin (*term expires 2009*)

Parish Nurse News: Spring Cleaning

Spring is finally here. With the warm weather and sunshine, we are all thinking about our “spring cleaning” activities, both in our homes and outside our homes. Let’s take a few minutes to review some safety tips for spring cleaning.

When cleaning inside the house, remember to use step stools or ladders when you must reach high places. These are safer than standing on chairs or trying to reach with objects. You don’t want to fall or to have objects fall on you and cause an injury while spring cleaning.

When you are using cleaners, remember to read labels carefully. Some cleaning products require special ventilation, so make sure you have plenty of ventilation when using these products. Don’t mix cleaning products together as this can cause a chemical reaction that can produce toxic fumes. Some cleaning products require you to wear gloves to protect your hands, so make sure you are wearing the appropriate kind of gloves when using those products. Use all cleaning products as directed.

Remember to lift heavy objects properly—do not bend over at the waist, but bend at the knees and get good leverage before trying to lift heavy objects. If you are unable to lift an object by yourself, then wait and get help. You do not want to injure your back.



The same safety tips apply outdoors as well. In addition to the above safety tips, remember to use all equipment as directed and apply safety equipment such as goggles if needed. Goggles are especially important any time you are doing something that could result in a piece of an object flying into your eye. Your eyesight is very important, so take a few seconds to put on goggles and protect your eyes.

Remember to take precautions when doing your spring cleaning. That way you will be able to enjoy the summer ahead.

-Michalene A. King, PhD, RN

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May 2007

Upcoming Events in May 2007

2	Lupus Support Group Meeting: Trinity East	6:00 PM
3	Neighborhood Community Development Center (NCDC) Greater Steubenville Community Development Corp. Meeting	4:00 PM 5:00 PM
5,12 & 19	Mission Rejoice Service (Saturday's)	6:00 PM
7, 14 & 21	Parish Nurse (Monday's)	11:00 AM
8	God's Pantry Hunger Committee Finance Committee Meeting	10:00 AM 6:00 PM
9	Program/Evaluation Committee Meeting	2:00 PM
15	Packing for Food Distribution	9:00 AM
17	God's Pantry Food Distribution	9-12; 1-3
21	Lupus Support Group Meeting: Martin Luther King Center	6:00 PM
22	CSFP Senior Food Distribution	1:00 PM
24	Board of Directors Meeting	4:30 PM
26	No Mission Rejoice (Memorial Day Weekend)	closed
28	Closed for Memorial Day Holiday	closed
31	Newsletter Folding at Urban Mission	9:00 AM
	<i>Unity Kitchen is open for lunch Monday through Wednesday weekly.</i>	

The Hutton House Homeless Shelter is in need of:

- Pots and Pans
- Bake ware
- Throw Rugs
- Stoves
- Refrigerators
- Washer and Dryers
- Can Openers
- Alarm Clocks

If you would like to donate any of these items, please contact Debbie at 282-8903.