



Bright Horizons

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director

Angie Brown, Newsletter



Complex Issues: The Bible and Missions

The Bible is one of the most used and misused books in human history. The Bible is important to the Urban Mission because it tells the story of Jesus and provides his teaching. At the Urban Mission we strive to do the things that Jesus did, teach the things Jesus taught, and act as faithful disciples. The Mission is celebrating 50 Years of Service. Our foundations are being explored and celebrated. Throughout the years, many have quoted scripture to me in many ways for various purposes. Those purposes have varied from teaching and encouraging, to damning and condemning, as the basis to give financial donations and for not giving financial donations. Every use was deemed, "ok" or "justified" by the one employing the Bible. Of one thing I am certain, superficial understanding and use of the Bible almost always falls well short of the potential for growth and transformation of the user.

Our culture is a culture of consumers. Some use the scripture as a commodity to be purchased and used for personal enjoyment and growth, a kind of a self-help book. Others see the Bible as a tool with a specific job to do. If you have a saw, cut what needs cut then put the tool away. Still others find the Bible to be a foundation of faith and life. It can be a guide for right living and right understanding of God. The Bible can be the answer book for some. Still others might find the Bible to be a question book. Many read it for the historical value.

For me, the Bible asks the question, "Who is God and what is God like?" Then the story revolves around all the responses, good and bad, that people have to God. It is a long telling of the relationship between God and people. The scripture works hard to describe the nature of that relationship. The key human divine interaction is the story of humanity and it is my story. All those characters who interact with God in so many different ways are my ancestors. They all want to be right with God and yet display an amazing ability to act against God. I used to look with disdain upon the disciples in the Gospel of Mark. Now I look upon them and am comforted by their misunderstanding. God forgives them and gives them work to do in the Kingdom.

For me, the Bible enables me to embrace humanity with sympathy and love. The scripture acts to open me to people; and open me to God. The Bible teaches me to accept the sinner that is me, accept the mercy of God in Christ, and move to focusing upon work in the Kingdom of God. The Bible is complex, functions in many ways, and yet comes down to exploring the past relationship between the Divine and human, shaping the current relationship between God and the Church; and providing hope to an even closer and clearer relationship between God and people. "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation." 2 Cor. 5:18.

We serve then in hope, gratitude, and with the purpose of following Christ and encouraging everyone to receive the mercy God offers. Christian love means food, shelter, clothing and compassion in the midst of a harsh and impoverished world.

-Love, Pastor Bruce

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The Urban Mission Ministries, Inc. Presents:

50th Anniversary and Scholarship Award Dinner

**Thursday,
May 14, 2009**

5:30 – 7:30 pm

*Froelich's Classic Corner
501 Washington Street
Steubenville, Ohio*

"Celebrating the Past, Focusing on the Future"

*Join us as we reflect upon
and celebrate the past 50
years and look ahead to
continued ministry.*

Tickets: \$25

**Call Jennifer at 740-282-8010 to
reserve your space by
May 8, 2009.**

Easter Thanks

Thanks to everyone who helped our Jelly Bean Challenge to be successful. We needed 850 bags of those brightly colored treasures. Not only did we receive the 850 bags needed, we received an additional 174 bags. And we already know what we are going to do with them!

I want to say thank you to the many churches both near and far who had their congregations accept the challenge. Thanks also to the women's groups and Beta Clubs who brought them in. Thank you to the doctor's office and staff who brought them in. Thanks to the individuals who brought them to us. And to the many "anonymous" helpers who helped us reach and surpass our goal.

A very special thank you goes to Christ the King Chapel at Franciscan University. For several years this group has had students who took it upon themselves as sacrificial giving to help provide Easter treat bags for our families. They are given to the families in addition to the bags Urban Mission provides. This is a wonderful program for both the students and the families as it is an "everyone wins" project.

Another thank you goes to the Aldi Food Store Company. They so graciously donated the bags we used for our Easter treat bags. Our families receive a bag so full of goodies that it takes a bag the size of an Aldi's bag to hold it all!

As you can see, it takes lots of helpers for our Easter Program to be as great as it is. But, the most important part of the program is the fact that working together as a team, we are able to allow our families to share in the joy of the holiday.

Thank you to everyone, from myself and my co-workers for your love and kindness. We as a staff hope and pray you were all blessed with a wonderful Easter.

-Linda Smith, Program Director

The Easter Bunny made a special stop at Hutton House. Thanks to everyone who donated treats, games and items for the Easter baskets. The children had a wonderful time picking through the baskets and discovering the treats! On behalf of our families, thank you for sharing of your gifts so that our children could have a blessed Easter.

-Debra Bryan, Hutton House Director

God's Pantry Food Registration Changes

The families who come in and sign up for our food program have one very important piece of criteria they have to meet. That is to be within the income guidelines according to the size of their family.

These guidelines are issued through Mid-Ohio Foodbank in Columbus, OH and the amounts of the guidelines change on July 1 of each year. This has always created a slight problem for Urban Mission as we have always done the registration process in October. In doing this, we have always had increased paperwork to match up with the date of guideline changes.

In order to make it easier for both Urban Mission AND the families we serve, we are changing the date for the registration process. **This year the registration will take place on June 22nd, 23rd and 24th.** The event will be held at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church. It is the same location we used last year. It is a wonderful location and the members of the church were very gracious to assist.

This registration will **ONLY be for the food program**. We will continue to do the registration for our Christmas Programs in October. Doing it the new way will allow the families to move through the process much quicker.

Anyone who has helped in the past or would like to help in June...please mark your calendar and get in touch with me as soon as possible. I will be putting together the schedule of workers and I welcome all who want to help.

If you have any questions about these changes or want to help, please call me at 740-282-2911. It is always exciting to watch how new changes work out, and I welcome everyone who wants to help.

-Linda L. Smith, Program Director

Matching Funds Campaign Successful!

Our Hunger Drive came to a close on April 30. We received many monetary and food item donations toward the campaign. Rhode Island Philanthropist, Alan Shawn Feinstein will proportionately match the donations and we will receive our portion in the upcoming weeks. Thank you to everyone who participated in the effort by donating monetarily or food items. May God continue to bless you in all you do!

Parish Nurse News: May is Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month

Osteoporosis is a condition in which there is a loss of bone mass. Healthy bone continuously undergoes a process of absorption and rebuilding. In osteoporosis there is more absorption of bone than rebuilding, leading to a loss of bone mass. The bones become weakened and prone to fractures. Areas in which fractures occur most often are the hip, spine, and wrist. Although osteoporosis occurs four times more frequently in women, men also develop this condition. Osteoporosis can be prevented, so let's look at the measures that can be taken to prevent this condition.



It is very important to build strong bones throughout your lifetime. Prevention of osteoporosis needs to begin in childhood and continue throughout life. Although there are treatments for osteoporosis, prevention is always preferable to treatment. The National Osteoporosis Foundation has developed five steps for the prevention of osteoporosis. Let's review those steps.

Step one is to consume appropriate amounts of calcium and vitamin D. Calcium can be obtained from the diet or supplements. The recommended intake of calcium is 1000 to 1300mg per day. The body needs vitamin D in order to properly absorb calcium. Vitamin D comes from exposure to sunlight and from the diet.

Step two is to exercise regularly. You should engage in weight-bearing exercises starting in childhood. Walking, dancing, stair-climbing and hiking are good weight-bearing exercises.

Step three is to avoid smoking and excessive alcohol intake. Step four involves working with your health care provider, such as your family doctor or nurse practitioner. You should discuss bone health with your health care provider, including activities to promote healthy bones.

The last step is to have a bone mineral density test and take medication when appropriate. A bone mineral density test is a painless, noninvasive test. One version of this test is done in a hospital or outpatient setting using an x-ray scanner. Treatment for osteoporosis can prevent further bone loss, which can reduce the risk of fractures.

Osteoporosis is a silent condition that can lead to bone fractures in later life. These fractures can significantly impair a person's life. Talk with your health care provider about ways that you can prevent and treat osteoporosis so that you can prevent fractures that could negatively impact your life.

-Michalene A. King, PhD, RN

Plant Lover Wanted

We are in need of a volunteer who loves to care for plants. We are looking for someone who will come in and take care of our plants. Please give Sharon a call at 740-282-8010 if this is something you are willing to do.



JOSHUA Host Churches Needed



Our first JOSHUA team will be arriving at the end of the month. We still have several weeks available for Churches who would like to serve as a Host for work teams coming to our area.

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.

If your Church is interested in hosting a group, please contact the Mission at 740-282-8010 to schedule your week of ministry.

Minority Health Month Highlights

This was a good year for Minority Health Month. The community attended the events in record numbers. We had two new agencies to sponsor events for the first time. Each of their events were successful. We started the month off with the Kickoff at Emmanuel COGIC. Two billboards were displayed in downtown Steubenville about the months events.

Some of the months events included:

- Women's Health Luncheon
- Health Screenings
- Line Dancing and Exercise
- 2-Day Family Health Expo
- Men's Health Breakfast
- Prostate Cancer Screening
- Well Woman Retreat

All of the events were successful and the attendance was great. However, I have heard from several folks who missed some of the events or could not attend for some reason or another (who really needed the testing and information).

Although Minority Health Month has ended, it's not too late to start taking charge of your health. Remember, ***"Be Faithful, Fit and Fine in 09"!***

-Sharon Kirtdoll, Community Developer



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Urban Mission: "Listening With Compassion; Serving With Love"

Upcoming Events in May 2009

2, 9, 16, 30	Mission Rejoice Service (Saturdays)	6:00 PM
4, 11, 18	Parish Nurse (Mondays) Neighborhood Community Development Center Meeting (@JCC)	11:00 AM 6:00 PM
5	God's Pantry Hunger Committee Meeting	10:00 AM
6	Program/Evaluation Committee Meeting	2:00 PM
7	Greater Steubenville Community Development Corp. Meeting	5:00 PM
12	Finance Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
14	50th Anniversary and Scholarship Dinner (See pg 1.)	5:30 PM
19	Packing for Food Distribution	9:00 AM
18	Lupus Support Group Meeting	6:00 PM
20, 21, 22	God's Pantry Food Distribution	9-12; 1-3
23-25	Closed for Memorial Day Holiday. No Saturday Mission Rejoice Service on the 23rd.	Closed
27	CSFP Senior Food Distribution	1:00 PM
29	UM Newsletter Folding Board of Directors Meeting	9:00 PM 4:30 PM

Hutton House Needs

- ⇒ Mops
- ⇒ Brooms
- ⇒ Kitchen garbage cans
- ⇒ Dust pans
- ⇒ Buckets
- ⇒ Cleaning supplies

