



The Newton Nuggett



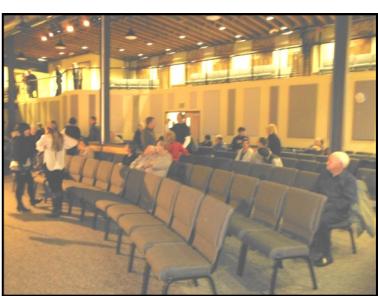
Merry Christmas to all our friends, family, prayer partners and supporters! 2012 has been a landmark year for Sherry and me. This year marks our 5th anniversary with Hard Hats for Christ. To date, we have been assigned to 22 projects in 5 states and 2 foreign countries. We are now transitioning from volunteer status to faith-supported. Expenses and the requirement to buy insurance have exceeded our budget. The HH ministry has recommended that we begin raising support to cover these added expenses.

January found me shipped off to northern California to assist Redwood Valley Community Church to install siding on their new activity building. While there, I stayed with a wonderful couple, Rick and Connie Hewitt in Willets, CA. I was joined on the project by two HH families, Tim and Marlene Higly and Curtis and Roxanne Hartwig. God moved in a wonderful way. The fellowship of volunteers was richly blessed of God. Working with Redwood Valley was one of the high points of my ministry! Following the California project, I did two brief assignments with Interact Ministries in Boring, OR and



Canby Grove Conference Center in Canby, OR. While in Canby, I was joined by a new HH missionary couple, David and Sherry Armstrong and an associate, Chuck Moe. We shored up the support timbers in the Tozer Tabernacle. Previous floods of a nearby river had ruined the base of the timbers and the Tabernacle was in danger of collapsing. Tozer Tabernacle was built in the 1920's and hosted a well known evangelist and writer, A W Tozer. He wrote the landmark book "Knowledge of the Holy."

In April, Sherry and I loaded up the RV and moved to St. Helens, OR for an assignment with St. Helens Bible Church. The church had outgrown its present buildings and needed to build an addition to the auditorium. While there, we framed the walls, installed trusses, shingled and sided the building to a completed shell. They have purposed to build on a cash basis and are waiting to complete the interior. On the job, I had a mishap. I stepped off a ladder and fell into the crawlspace below, cracking two ribs on a beam. This was a reminder to me that safety on the job is the first priority. Though I did not miss any days of work, my side hurt for 2 weeks. The families of the church were gracious and had Sherry and me visit many homes for dinner. A brief return to Cannon Beach, OR, allowed me to finish the porch for Ecola Bible School's staff cabin.



For June through November, our next assignment was in Vancouver, WA. Calvary Chapel has been meeting in school auditoriums for years. They were able to lease/purchase the old JC Penny's building in downtown Vancouver. This is an 80 year old department store in its original condition. The church volunteers and I gutted the building and rebuilt it into a ministry center for the church. This included massive upgrades to structure, sprinkler systems, heat and air systems and electrical. An interesting comment came from the Fire Marshal who inspected the fire system. He said, "This building was a death-trap. Now it is a life-trap." The church has a vision of being a gospel light-house to the downtown area. As most churches seem to move away from downtown streets, Calvary Chapel is moving in. Sherry and I were particularly blessed by a location for our RV. The church tried to find us an RV park near the church to stay in. Most RV parks have an age-limit on the motor-homes that they allow in the park. Because our RV is 25 years old, no park would admit us. A family in the church, Jack and Jan Bothwell, invited us to park in their beautiful Ridgefield property. We were surrounded by forest and the quiet of country. Our time there was a pleasure. Interesting to note, in 5 1/2 years of ministry, we have never stayed in an RV park. God has always provided locations: church parking lots, individual's driveways and even a riverfront location.

Finally, we are ending the year with a move to Rainier, OR across the Columbia River from Longview. Moreland Bible Church (our first HH project) invited me to return and build custom cabinets for the fellowship hall, office and Sunday school classrooms. They had no space to set up a workshop, so we began to pray about a location to stay and work. Mountain Ministries is a rescue and life skills training ministry that has a facility in Rainier. It is the old high school complex. They graciously invited us to stay on their property and use their workshop. I am currently building 6 cabinets with drawers and/or shelves. My next assignment will be to return to Mexico to assist building a dormitory for Rancho Betania, a Mexican church camp. A fellow HH, Duane Atkinson, will travel with me for a one month assignment. Sherry will remain in Rainier for her work at the office.

As I look back on 2012, I am reminded daily of God's amazing grace. He took a ruined sinner and lifted me out of the miry clay and set my feet upon The Rock. I am living my dream, giving my time to help churches build buildings that will be used to touch multitudes of lives for the Kingdom of God. Sherry continues to manage the office and assist our HH president, Dave Williamson. 2012 has seen growth in our numbers and the birth of two new ministries, "Building in Youth" and "Heaven and Earth Movers". Sometimes it seems that the world is spinning wildly out of control, yet I know that God is still on the throne. I am reminded of II Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise...He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." This is the reason for the birth of Christ, the salvation of hopeless sinners. Praise god for His precious gift of His Son.

FAMILY



This year we had addition to our family with the marriage of our son John to Christina in October. We knew when our son was coming for a visit in February and bringing a girl with him, something must be up. Well, it turned out that they could not work out flying to Washington to see us so they flew to Texas to see them! While in Texas we also met Christina's parents, Dave and Kathy Hampson, and her sister Tiffany. Eight months later we were back in Texas for the wedding. It was a great time for the family to get together. John and Christina did a wonderful job on the wedding, with her dad performing the ceremony, and mom and family putting together the reception. Patty and Dusty were also able to make it to the wedding and we were able to spend a good time with them.



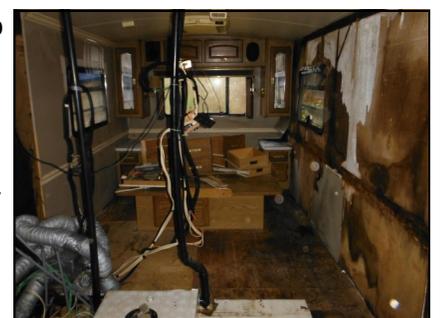
In between our introduction to Christina and the wedding my brother Doug and family invited me to go with them to West Point, NY. A high school class and teammate, Colonel Daisie Boettner, who teaches at West Point Military Academy, had invited us to come for a visit. Susan, my sister in law, was not able to make the trip at the last minute due to the sudden illness of her mom. Her mother is doing much better now. We saw several historical sites from the Revolutionary War and had a guided tour of the Academy from Daisie and one of her assistants. We also had the privilege of eating lunch in the Cadet Dining Room with 4,000 cadets. That was an experience in itself! Another highlight was a tour and dinner at the Culinary Institute of America. The best thing of all was getting to see an old friend and spend time with my brother Doug and nephew Jackson.

Work at the office has kept me quite busy. Part of the year I was commuting from St. Helens, OR to the office, 46 miles round trip and then part of it from Vancouver, WA to Longview. During the next project, I caught the CAP bus in Vancouver at 7 am and arrived at the office by 8 am. This trip was longer but only cost a dollar each way and I did not have to drive.

We also had a sad time this year when we had to put our last cat, Thomas, to sleep. He was 16 1/2 years old. That is 115.5 in cat years. Thomas was Joe's cat and the brother of Mouse, who was my cat. So now we are pet-less. They will be missed.



Now for the last story. If you have been following us on Facebook you have seen pictures of our newer home. Don't worry - we have not moved into it yet! We have been looking for a larger Class A Motorhome for some time. Currently I have to crawl over Joe to get in bed. A fellow missionary, Kathy Aschenbrenner, kept checking the Internet for a used one and came up with several possibilities. It turned out that they were not worth what they wanted or would not come down to what we could spend. So after a while we just turned it over to God and let Him, with the help of Kathy, find us one. We moved up to Rainier, OR for our current project and they were going to scrap out a 1991 37 foot Pace Arrow. Joe went and looked at it and found it to have a sound motor and a good body. The reason they were going to scrap it was it had leaked and ruined the interior walls. We wanted one that we could gut and start over with, so this was it! They asked only what they would have gotten if they had scrapped it and that was \$800.00. When it is done we will be moving from 180 sq. ft. to 225 sq. ft. To watch the progress check us out on Facebook or you will have to wait till our June letter to see the progress.



Thank you all for your prayers and support this year. Please drop us a note and let us know how you are doing.

Joe & Sherry Newton