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# WITH SWORD & TROWEL

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November 2006  
Staff articles and reports  
Hard Hats for Christ, TLC, FMW  
Construction Workers Christian Fellowship

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## From the General Director

Jim and Jean Hodges

Kelso, WA



Jean and I are still taking care of her dad. He turned 101 September 17<sup>th</sup>. His biggest concern is to finish his "End Times" book before the Lord takes him home. Caring for him keeps us from getting away together very often.

We really regret not getting up to Mt. Vernon, WA to visit John and Linda Hollo this summer as planned. Linda died September 21 of leukemia, which had first been diagnosed just three weeks previously. She would have been 82 on September 27<sup>th</sup>. The hospital emptied a room big enough to hold their whole family so they could all celebrate Linda and John's 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary together on September 12<sup>th</sup>, complete with cake and punch!

For ten years Hollos regularly volunteered with HHFC for 6 to 8 months annually. They were both enthusiastic workers. They often reminded us that those were the happiest ten years of their lives! They blessed Jean and I (and others) many times over during those precious years.

Thanks to one of our faithful supporters who provided an air miles ticket for me, I was able to attend the funeral of my brother-in-law in Kansas on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Jack Hoekstra died September 1<sup>st</sup>. He was married to my second

sister, Patsy. He was an evangelist and a Village Missions pastor. It was good to spend time with many family members, share at the funeral and even preach the next day in the little church my sister Sue attends in McFarland KS. (By the way, they could use a sheetrock crew!)

As we come to the end of our 38<sup>th</sup> year of ministry, we have built a lot of memories. Some of the folks who made those memories are gone, but the memories will stay with us. I pray you will rise above the struggles in your own life and build good memories too. Share some of them with me via letter or email.

In five months, I will relinquish my CEO position with HHFC and become a mission rep. We need much prayer support now and when we are able to go on the road again. How often and how far Dave sends us will depend on the amount in our travel fund! Our support level will determine how much we can help him... Please keep us in your prayers as we work toward this ministry change. My office email is [jimh@hh4c.org](mailto:jimh@hh4c.org). Let me know if you wish to receive our prayer letter after our status changes.

*Jim Hodges*

## Ministry Needs

**Hard Hats for Christ needs volunteers with computer skills for the following tasks in the home office—please pray, and pass this along to those who might want to help out:**

- **Data Entry (updating and improving our database)**
- **Website development (creating interactive forms, etc. for our website)**
- **Microsoft Small Business Server 2003 maintenance and training**



# From the President

Dave and Ann Williamson

Longview, WA



Proverbs 3:5-6 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

When we acknowledge someone, we take note of their presence or accomplishments, and we point them out to others. Sonny Mykkanen, leader of Hard Hats for Christ Minnesota Chapter, told me a story lately that I think illustrates a practical application of these verses.

Sonny was performing subcontract work on a good sized job. One day the Project Manager invited all the subs out for lunch. As the men seated themselves at the restaurant table, Sonny felt the Lord prompting him to ask if anyone would mind if he asked God’s blessing on their meal.

While some of the guys were probably a little taken back, no one objected, so Sonny prayed. He not only asked the Lord to bless the food, but he asked for a blessing on each of the men and their families. He asked for blessings of safety and good success on the project. And he thanked the Lord for all the good He had done and was going to do in each person’s life and business.

No one said anything, but naturally, Sonny kind of wondered if he’d done the right thing. The next day he was called to the Project Manager’s office. They needed to discuss something about the project, but before they began the Project Manager said, “I want to tell you something about what you did yesterday.” Sonny feared he might have offended the man or someone else and that perhaps he was about to receive a reprimand. “I’ve been in construction just about all my life,” the man said. “And I’ve been running projects for a lot of years. Yesterday was the first time I’d ever had anyone offer to give thanks at a business lunch.” “Oh-oh,” Sonny thought, “here it comes.”

“I want to thank you. That was a real encouragement to me,” the Project Manager concluded.

Sonny is not sure this man knows the Lord. But he is sure the man knows Who Sonny’s Lord is, and a seed has been planted in all of those subcontractors’ hearts. The Lord knows what fruit may one day come. In today’s society, what Sonny did took courage. But the Lord was pleased - he “acknowledged Him”, even at a contractors business lunch.

## Rumors of Jim’s “retirement” are Definitely Premature

What? Retire? Jim?

What do you mean, retire?

Dictionary.com suggests “retire” can mean:

1. to go to bed
2. to withdraw from office, business, or active life, usually because of age
3. to remove from active service or the usual field of activity, as an army officer or business executive

Maybe you thought of one or more of these when you heard that our Founder and CEO, Jim Hodges, was “retiring” in March 2007. But truth is, none of them accurately describes what’s going to happen with Jim and Jean next spring. What they are fixin’ to do is much closer to a definition from the *Good Ol’ Boys Dictionary of Southern Slang*:

*Ree-tahyuhr* - to rearrange those round rubber things that go on the wheels of your pickup truck, as in “I can’t afford new’uns so ah’m jest gonna retire (rotate) the old’uns.”

The reason that *this* definition is so much better is that, Jim and Jean aren’t leaving the Lord’s service in Hard Hats for Christ, they’re simply rotating to a new area of service.

True, Jim will be stepping down as CEO, and I’ll be taking that position. But no one could ever *replace* Jim! He and Jean will continue to represent the Hard Hats ministry to churches and others, and Jim will pursue his desire to see effective ministries spring up to evangelize and disciple men and women who work in construction. They will continue to be active, and they will continue to need your active participation in prayer and financial contributions.

Thank you for continuing to support Jim and Jean in their **ON-GOING** ministry with Hard Hats.

Dave Williamson



## From the Project Coordinator

Byron and Lois Goodman

Kelso, WA



Well, things have hardly been dull in the Goodman household over the past few months. Towards the end of May, we departed Kelso for Aurora, IN, where we spent the better part of three months working on the ministry house of Next Step Ministries, the future residence and base of operations for Dave and Irene Lewis. We met the Lewises when we were living in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and when they told us they were finally going to be able to get their ministry center started, we felt moved to help them. While we were there, we got to know Chris and Kari Powell. They are trying to get their 501(c)3 status for a retreat center in Indiana. It looks like this will become a Hard Hats project as soon as they get their approval and final funding in line.

Also, while there, we had a few days down time, so we drove to our sending church in PA for a brief visit.

A couple of days after we arrived, we got a phone call from Monticello Park, the assisted living facility Lois' father was staying in while we were on the projects, telling us that Rey had been taken to the ER with breathing difficulties. Shortly afterward, we got a call from the doctor requesting we head for Kelso. Before we could even think, they called back and told us that Rey had died. We then had a whirlwind marathon of travel to Kelso, San Diego, back to Kelso, and finally back to Dayton where our son had taken our truck.

We finished up the project time in IN, headed to Callaway, NE, to visit Dennis and Darlene Korneychuk for a couple of days and then on to Hayfork, CA for a three day stay to assist with the framing of their new church. Then it was back to Kelso for a week and into the air for England, where we are at this time, building missionary "flats" for World In Need.

## Missionary Reports



Duane and Kenny Atkinson

Rainier, OR



June found Duane spending some time at Shiloh Bible Camp in Washington working on drywall finishing followed by a trip to the Dominican Republic to do advance work on a project for his church while working with a team from Maryland.

Returning from the Dominican Republic in early July, he hosted the annual July 4th barbecue for

Hard Hats before meeting with the mission board of his church to report on the trip to the Dominican Republic.

After some well deserved vacation time, Duane finished off the month of August with a whirlwind tour of Washington and Idaho with Jim Hodges visiting several Hard Hats projects before returning home. Deary, ID, is now enjoying his dry wall expertise.



Dennis and Darlene Korneychuk

Pine Bluffs, WY



The Korneychuks have been leading the team at the Callaway Community Church (Nebraska). They have decided to spend the winter there in order to see the job to completion. They've enjoyed good participation by the members of the church, as well as Hard Hats volunteers. Among others who have joined them for parts of the project were the Chris Hayden family, Cody and Crystal Swanson, and Nick and Judy Greear.



Dick and Vi Aviss

Marion, NC



After caring for loved ones and neighbors for a few months, Dick and Vi recently enjoyed a visit to the Canadian maritime provinces. They will head back to Chandler, AZ, in November to assist Faith Community Church once again. Until more funds become available, they do not anticipate the need for many volunteers. Pray for the funds to come in so that the work can continue this winter.

## More Missionary Reports



Bill and Barb Mead Dallas, OR



Bill and Barb have been focusing on Barb's knee replacement and physical therapy. They hope to be back on projects again in 2007.



Darrell and Leota Buhler Willow Springs, MO



Darrell and Leota were all set to go to Sussex, England with the team when a flare up of Darrell's back problems made them decide that "discretion is the better part of valor", so they decided it best to stay on this side of the Atlantic for a while. They are looking forward to using their talents in the mid-South region soon.



Lou and Kathy Aschenbrenner "On the Road"



Lou and Kathy have returned to Clover Valley Community Church in Woodland, WA, to work on it's completion. The good Lord willing, there could be a glorious Christmas Service in the finished building. The funds and volunteers are in place and the race is on to get occupancy before the middle of December. They will also be helping out around the home office before heading up into the Seattle area. At Puget Sound Christian College, in Everett, WA, a downtown building has been donated for a student center, but it needs a lot of work. The Aschenbrenner's hope to help them out and also spend some time representing Hard Hats to churches in the area.



Cody and Crystal Swanson Pine Bluffs, WY



Cody and Crystal continue to work in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming as they prepare for the Partnership Development phase of ministry. Cody has been taking a Computer Aided Drafting course via the Internet. We hope to utilize his new skills in schematic designs using our Chief Architect program. The Swanson's are excited to announce that they are expecting the first addition to their family next spring!



Gene and Mary Thompson "On the Road"



Gene and Mary have returned to Wildhorse Canyon, Young Life's fabulous ranch near Antelope, OR, where they are assisting with the many construction, remodeling, and maintenance projects going on there year round.

Your Picture  
here

This space reserved for YOU!! To find out how you can become involved with Hard Hats projects in your area or around the world simply call the office.  
**888-423-5022**

### PROJECTS in THE WORKS:

Callaway Community Church (**Nebraska**) — interior finishes through this winter  
Puget Sound Christian College (**Washington**) — interior work this winter and spring  
Deary Bible Church (**Idaho**) — interior work this winter and spring  
Moreland Bible Church (**Oregon**) — permit in process; work to begin May 2007 or sooner  
Indian Hills Community Church (**Arizona**) — roof repairs and interior remodeling this winter  
World In Need (**Kenya, Africa**) — Training center for cross-cultural gospel outreach, Feb 2007