
WITH SWORD & TROWEL

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Staff articles and reports

Hard Hats for Christ, TLC, FMW

Construction Workers Christian Fellowship

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HAYFORK COMMUNITY CHURCH

Featured Project

Beginning this month, the people of Hayfork Community Church are in the early stages of replacing their old worship center with a new one. All trades are needed for this one.

Bob Virts will be heading up the project as soon as his eye surgery will allow him to do so. Dave Black, a contractor from Nevada, is interested in bringing his crew to the project to handle the plumbing rough-in and the flatwork.

RVers will be staying at the county fairgrounds, so full hookups are available.

The old building is nearly demolished, but early arrivals might find themselves involved in the therapeutic activity of demolition. It is always a good feeling when we work out our suppressed aggression by beating a couple of 2x4's into submission.



A local bridge is being replaced (it won't affect the project) and the crane company working on the bridge volunteered to bring their crane to the jobsite and remove the bell from the steeple, a task that was mystifying the people of Hayfork.

Why not join in on the "fun" of seeing the people of God work together to raise His House in this beautiful valley in northern California. Located about 60 miles west of Redding, CA down SR 299 and SR 3, Hayfork is noted for its surplus of sunshine and shortage of rain during the summer months. At 2300 feet elevation, the air is clean and the sky is blue.



From the General Director

Jim and Jean Hodges Kelso, WA



IT'S OFFICAL: I have appointed Dave Williamson as the new President of Construction Workers Christian Fellowship (Hard Hats for Christ). He will now be taking more responsibility for the day to day affairs of the mission.

I will be "mentoring" him until the next Annual Board meeting in March 2007. At that time, I plan to step down from my CEO position as General Director and remove myself from any executive offices or responsibilities. After founding this ministry 37 years ago, that will not be easy.

At this point, it is my intention to serve as Construction Chaplain with Hard Hats for Christ and Representative-at-Large. I can see my duties including speaking, traveling to encourage our

staff and volunteers as needed, and doing the ministry of evangelism.

Functioning in this way will depend on three things: (1) approval by our new President (who becomes CEO March 2007), (2) your continuing financial support, and (3) my physical ability to do so.

Jean and I are still the care givers for her 100 ½ year old father. Milton Sheppa is not as strong as previously, but is clear mentally. Although he is almost totally deaf and legally blind, he can still listen to Mariners Baseball with special ear phones, and type letters on his computer with

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specially made glasses. Eye drops for glaucoma are his only prescription drug.

By spells, my heart misses beats with accompanying dizziness. Though my cholesterol is low, my blood sugar is starting to rise. I will be checked by a Neurologist for the numbness of

my left leg, forearm and hand, and partial loss of use of my little finger. I also will have my head examined(!)—actually my scalp—by a dermatologist to rule out, or try to prevent, skin cancer. Your prayers would be appreciated.



From the President

Dave and Ann Williamson Kelso, WA



One of the things we miss about Nepal is the sound of the harness bells on the pack trains that used to pass our house on their way up and down the long trail from the Tibetan Himalayas to the Indian plains. Our village was a prominent stopping point on the route, so we often had two or three trains camped nearby our house overnight. During the hotter months we would hear the bells begin to jingle at three in the morning, as the “donkey-wallahs” started loading their pack animals, hoping to get started early before the heat became unbearable. The sound was so pleasant, we didn’t mind being awakened, even at that hour. It meant that the supplies we, or someone else needed, were going to be delivered faithfully, so long as the trails were open and the horses, donkeys, and their masters lasted!

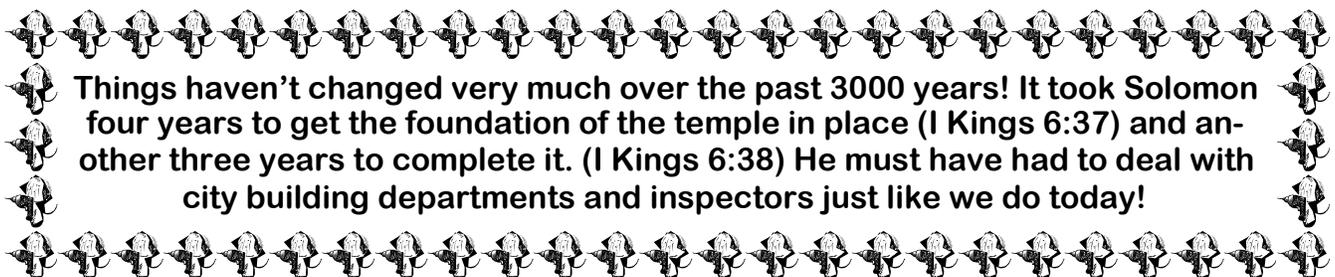
Jim Hodges continues in the role of General Director of Hard Hats for Christ for another year, and this is a good thing! By continuing to mentor me in my expanding role at the top of the heap, he is helping to assure that the load settles down on my shoulders in a gradual way. Sort of like a kindly “donkey-wallah” in Nepal loading his beast of burden for a long trek. It’s best to be sure that the load is balanced and everything is cinched down tight before you take off on your journey.

The donkey analogy is apropos in other ways, too (no *snide remarks* from the peanut gallery, please!). The work of management here at the

home office is to carry the burdens of day to day operations in order that our field personnel can continue to effectively minister to Christian camps, churches, and missionary organizations, “*Promoting Christ in Construction - home and abroad*”. Making sure that salaries, expenses and taxes are paid, staying in contact with donors, seeing that we are in compliance with the IRS, that projects are chosen and staffed effectively, and forwarding missionary mail are just a few of the functions of the home office. If our missionaries had to do all of this by themselves, there wouldn’t be much time left for ministering!

We also work to keep the Hard Hats “pack train” on the right trail. We pray for our missionaries each week, and seek God’s guidance for our administration of the mission. We appreciate each of our staff, and all of you who remember us in prayer. We need that help to keep the burdens light! We are grateful to those who support us, and the Hard Hats General Fund, on a regular basis. Thank you for giving up something for the sake of the Kingdom! May God richly bless you as you serve Him where and how He has called you.

We hope these newsletter are like the jingle of the harness bells: a welcome reminder that God’s work through Hard Hats for Christ is continuing to go on faithfully, so long as the donkeys hold out!



Things haven’t changed very much over the past 3000 years! It took Solomon four years to get the foundation of the temple in place (I Kings 6:37) and another three years to complete it. (I Kings 6:38) He must have had to deal with city building departments and inspectors just like we do today!



Dennis and Darlene Korneychuk Pine Bluffs, WY



Dennis and Darlene spent the winter at Youth Haven Desert Ranch in Picacho, AZ, where they kept very busy with a variety of projects for the Ranch.

that the Chandler project was ready for concrete; word that never came.

Dennis and Darlene were joined at Picacho by several of the HHfC volunteers including Don and Vernita Anderson, and Rex and Sylvia Harpster. New volunteers Gene and Mary Thompson, from Michigan, and Glen and Irela Rhodes, from British Columbia, joined them for a short period as well.

They remodeled the office complex, made a new staff apartment, and converted most of the car ports to garages. While they were busy with these projects, they were waiting for word from Dick Avis



Darrell and Leota Buhler Willow Springs, MO



After several months of working in Louisiana and Mississippi, Darrell and Leota have spent some time at their home in Missouri before they head out on their next project. They are part of the team

that is going to England in September to work on the project described below.



Bill and Barb Mead Dallas, OR



Having had problems with her knees, Barb has undergone knee replacement surgery just recently and anticipates

having the other knee done in about 6 weeks. This will keep them off the jobsite for the next few months.



Cody and Crystal Swanson Pine Bluffs, WY



Cody and Crystal joined our ranks as FSM candidates at the March Board meeting. They also went to Antelope, OR with the team for the weekend of March 31-April 2. After a brief period of R&R, they are returning to Wyoming to begin the process of

partnership development for financial and prayer support. We look forward to a long relationship with them as they seek to serve our Lord.

Have you ever wanted to take a trip to England and have the trip be at least partially tax deductible? Have you ever wanted to visit London and see the sights? Have you ever wanted to become a brick layer? OK! OK! How about 2 out of 3???



World in Need Crowborough East Sussex, UK

For the cost of airfare (and a few paltry additions),

you, too, can have a great 5 to 6 week visit in England, serving the Lord and getting fed for it. World in Need is in need of a second story addition to one of their present buildings. Housing is free (We will stay with people who live there.) and food is free.

(They will feed us, too? What a deal!!!!!!!!!!!!)

only a few slots left

at this price



Airfare \$875.00 +/- each

Medical Insurance



2.50 /person/day

Polo Team shirt



\$16.00 each

Experience PRICELESS

Give me a call at 360-423-5022, grab your favorite hammer and a change of clothes, and LET'S GO!!!! If you call me at 888-423-5022, we can talk on my dime!