
With Sword & Trowel

Winter 2003/2004

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

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Directors Report

It seems like the economy is still not recovering like we had hoped. Yet our faith partners have been faithful in their finances and prayers for our missionaries. I am truly thankful for each one. Although all of our missionaries have not met the minimum support level, two are at a critical stage. Please pray for additional support to come in soon.

One of the ways I have decided to cut cost is to sell our three remaining ministry vehicles. One is a van that was recently donated, and has a brand new, rebuilt transmission. The cost of taxes, tags, gas to get it home, and the transmission has run us about \$1,900. It has four captain's chairs and the back seat makes into a bed.

The Dodge Ram has been a big help in the couple of years we have had it. Except for the need to service the air-conditioner, it seems to be in good shape. It has a matching topper on the back.

The third vehicle is the Mallard motor home. We have been blessed to use it on several projects. But again the cost of insurance and such is more than our general fund can support.

And a note to our members. I have been proposing we add annual membership dues. This would effect about 300 people. If your current membership card is expired, please let me know how a membership dues fee would effect you renewing your membership.

Jim Hodges

Rediscovering the Joy of Work

One of our newest volunteer couples is Ralph & Linda Wright, of Nampa, Idaho. Ralph told Linda when he retired that he was so fed up with work, he never wanted to see another electrical job! But soon he was going stir-crazy just sitting around the house.

Linda remembered they had volunteered on a Hard Hats project back in the 80's, and called us. "Could you possibly use an electrician?" she asked. Little did she know that we had been praying for several weeks that God would supply an electrician!

Ralph & Linda have served at Camp Jonah in Washington and at Soldier's Hospitality House in Texas. He recently reported to us about his involvement on the Burley Bible Church project:

"I enjoyed great fellowship once again with wonderful folks! Since my retirement I've rediscovered the enjoyment of working!"

Do you know anyone who would like to rediscover the joy of working for the Lord? Send them our way!

PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

Cheney Community Church, Spokane, WA is doing a major addition. All crafts are needed.

Sierra Vista, Arizona — Larry Early invites Hard Hats volunteers to live at Huachuca Oaks Baptist Camp while doing odd jobs at local churches that support the camp ministry. RV hook-ups available.

Pollock Louisiana — Even though Duane Atkinson has moved back to the Pacific Northwest, there is still work to be done at the Louisiana Church of God assembly ground. RV hook-ups & dining hall available.

Great truths children have learned:

#1 - No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats

Trinity Evangelical Church, Issaquah, WA is into a major addition. Interior finishes Spring 2004.

Straight-Way Training Center, Hungerford, TX doing a major remodel on their rehab/women's home.

Western Indian Ministries — Tremendous need for repairs to one major building — shoring up one side, replacing the foundation, adding rooms, etc. In Arizona, northwest of beautiful downtown Gallup, NM.

Let the Children Come, Westville, OK is building a new dorm. RV and dormitory spots available for you.

Abundant Grace Community Church, Edinburg, TX is building four townhouses on their property.

Frontier School of the Bible, La Grange, WY, is planning more dormitories to be built in 2004.

Call Dave TODAY at 888-423-5022 if you can help any of these projects in the next six months.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1987 Dodge 1/2 ton pick-up in good condition
1987 Ford conversion van in fairly good condition
1987 Mallard 26' class C motor home, "party van"
floor plan (lots of seating), in good condition
Call Jim for details (360) 423-5022



We wish you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Project Reports

Dick Avis writes: The summer was slow with no engineered plans for the Roggen (Colorado) church. When they were complete it was a rush getting the work done and inspected. Praise the Lord the inspector passed us the first try!

The Labar family moved out of the first house at Preston Ranch and Jean Anderson with 20 children moved in one week later. Lots of work was done on the house during that week and after.

Had a great time at Fellowship Ranch after a weekend of sharing at Cadiz, Kentucky Emanuel Bible Church. Good work time and meetings and fellowship at staff retreat, code class was very good and Pastor Don Wantland was great.

Dennis Korneychuk writes: Since September we've been attempting to keep the Cedar Ridge project moving forward. Lots of projects around the site were accomplished without the building permit.

Retreat at end of the month was a good time of fellowship and getting reacquainted.

Duane Atkinson writes: Attended one Hard Hat board meeting to give the devotion and update the board on what I have been doing. I've worked a lot fixing up our house in Rainier. I returned to Audubon to finish the stone work facing on the stage.

I went to Cadence Ministry for the Hard Hats staff meeting. We talked about building codes and worked on a deck for their lodge. Good project to work with other staff people.

Returned to Louisiana to say good bye, pack up and leave. Moved family to Oregon.

Byron Goodman writes: "Dry heat" or not, Phoenix was HOT! But progress has been good on the Romanian Baptist church. The decking is on and the RV pads are ready for three rigs.

Jim Crenshaw writes: I am calling "having a BBQ for our immediate neighbors" a project. We invited 11 and 2 came, we had a great time for four hours. Keeping busy with church activities. Represented Hard Hats with the display at Sheridan, OR.

Standing in the GAP

Ezek 22:30 "And I searched for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land..."

Hard Hats for Christ was recently accepted for affiliation with Northwest Christian Community Foundation (NCCF) based in Portland, Oregon. NCCF assists over 200 Christian ministries in the Pacific Northwest with fund raising and other donor programs.

As you know, we rely on God's people, moved by the Spirit, to supply our needs. Yet, all of our missionaries, as well as the General Fund, are chronically under-supported. That does give us many opportunities to see God supply our needs in unexpected ways (or to learn to be content with what we have). But it also stifles our ability to expand and move forward.

Perhaps you are no longer able to volunteer on a project, but would like to "stand in the gap" by making it possible for others to carry on in your place! You're at that stage in life where you are living off your savings, but you know your interest income these days is nothing!

NCCF is introducing a Gift Annuity Program (GAP), in which a donor who desires to give money to Hard Hats for Christ can receive a lifetime income from that gift, as well as an income tax deduction. NCCF invests the gift and pays a rate of return calculated on the donor's life expectancy. These rates are excellent, ranging from over 6% for a 70 year old, to at least 11% for a 90 year old. Combined with the tax deduction for making the gift, the rates are even higher. Upon the donor's death, the amount donated becomes Hard Hats for Christ's to use as needed.

By contributing to a Gift Annuity you will not only increase your investment income, you will also leave a legacy for future Hard Hats, and take some strain off our General Fund.

For more information contact Dave Williamson at (888) 423-5022.

Great truths adults have learned:
#65 - Wrinkles don't hurt!

Project Coordinator's Report

This past year Hard Hats helped Christian camps in Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and Spain, built decks for ministries in England and also in Missouri, helped build or remodel churches in at least eight states, finished an orphan's home in Colorado, built a Soldier's Hospitality House in Texas, and advised churches and ministries on design and planning issues in Idaho, Washington, and elsewhere. We trust the Lord that all this work was for His glory and the building up of His kingdom by helping other ministries reach the lost.

We thank God for our dedicated staff of "construction missionaries" and faithful volunteers who helped out on these projects.

We appreciate Gary & Jolene Hambrick who returned several times to the Soldiers' Hospitality House in Killeen, Texas, and Clyde & Ruby Coble, who helped there and on several projects with Dick Avis in Colorado. The Lord sent Ralph & Linda Wright to us just at the right time to do the electrical work in Killeen and at Burley Bible Church. Thanks also to Bruce Jahn, Ron Fredenburg, and others who assisted up there.

Doug Olson helped on several plumbing jobs and is always eager to be of service. Mike Harvey left his business in Wyoming to help out at Cedar Ridge E. Free Church in Missouri after lending a hand to Jerry McGhee and Palmer Norling at Ravencrest Bible school in Colorado. Don Boswell consulted on design and contributed some fancy stone to Duane's project in Audubon, IA. Jim & Nancy Parker worked in Southern California and Arizona. Keith Shannon even recruited his pastor for a quick helping hand on the roof at Cheney, WA. Bill & Barb Mead recruited Russell and Judy Loewen (or was it the other way around?) to work on the Fairview Community Church in Coquille, Oregon and other jobs.

You can't beat the experience of giving away your time and talents, working alongside like-minded brothers and sisters in Christ. Spread the word!

Thanks to all of you (and I hope I didn't miss anybody)! I am looking forward to working together again in 2004.

Dave Williamson
