



WITH SWORD & TROWEL

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AN ORDINARY MAN

As we look forward to the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus there are many things that come to our minds. We think about the music, the gifts, the parties and the baking but mostly we remember the greatest gift of all. Jesus chose to come to us as a human being—a baby. He came because of God’s great love for us. He wants us to know that He cherishes our ordinariness. God’s son was born into a humble family and He grew up as a carpenter. He had a choice about whether or not to follow God’s will for Him and because He chose what God wanted for His life, all human history is written around Him.

In Utah at the 777 Ranch there is an ordinary cowboy who trains horses. You can tell by watching him that he loves and respects the beautiful animals he works with. One year Hard Hats held their Rendezvous at the ranch. Missionaries, volunteers, and board members gathered to fellowship together and to work on several jobs around the ranch. One evening as a youth group joined them they had the chance to watch the ordinary cowboy break a horse that had never been ridden. As he worked with the horse he talked about what God wants from each person on earth, how He longs for us to come to Him and submit our wills to His. For an hour and a half he worked the horse and preached one of the most wonderful salvation messages to a very attentive audience.

In South Dakota near Mount Rushmore there is an ordinary man who knows how to make ropes. As he demonstrates his skill to people who stop to watch he also talks to them about how God wants to be a part of their lives. He shares that someone encouraged him to use what he knows to talk to people about God. He shrugs his shoulders and says, “I know how to make ropes. I like to make ropes.”

In Kelso, Washington there is an ordinary man who likes to play in the dirt. He and his wife recently joined Hard Hats thinking that they would be doing general construction jobs. Their first project assignment was repairing a building which had been damaged by flooding. Right away he saw how moving the dirt around could help prevent future damage to the building. God has given him a talent and a passion for playing in the dirt. As he “plays” he patiently talks to young people as he shows them how to use his big equipment. He also talks to them about living godly lives. It is his desire not just to move dirt around, but to glorify God with his life.

Each one of us is an ordinary person. If you have accepted God’s gift, He’s given you a way to share His message with others. How are you using your passion to serve the Lord?

MAKING MISSION CONNECTIONS

At Building In Youth we continue to see God doing mighty things and making many connections with other like-minded ministries. We were privileged to attend MissionsFest 2012—Seattle in October. It was very encouraging to hear how God is working through other ministries that target youth. We highly recommend marking your calendar to attend next year’s event Oct 11-12, 2013 (missionsfestseattle.org).

Building In Youth had a display at the Cowlitz-

Wahkiakum County Construction Fair hosted by Kelso High School. (Thank you Mollie DeBois!) One of the students talked with Phil and tried out some of the hand tools. After talking about the opportunities Building In Youth offered, he expressed a desire to get involved. Phil asked him where he attended church, thinking he might belong to a youth group. He said he didn’t attend church. Phil let him know that if he regularly looked on our website for upcoming events, we would

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Find out more about our projects through the

ACTIONGRAM

Don’t miss out on an opportunity to volunteer and to pray for a Hard Hats for Christ Project

MISSIONARY UPDATES

As many of you know from the last Sword & Trowel, we took Jean's parents' ashes to Springboro, Pennsylvania to be buried in the old family plot. Her daddy, Milton Sheppa, was born in 1905, and was raised in the Springboro area. He met Jean's mom in Washington DC, where they were married in 1935. Mary Sheppa died in Longview, WA the month of their 69th anniversary.



It was a joy to spend time with family, represent Hard Hats along the way, and reminisce with many from HH4C's past. I hope to share some of their stories with you as I slowly continue to put together the early history of Construction Workers Christian Fellowship (Hard Hats for Christ). I would really appreciate it if I could get some written accounts from early volunteers. My memory is not so good, even though we were thrilled and thankful for your "Hard Hats" input. You can send your stories to the office or email me at mrhardhats@gmail.com. We are still open to come visit, or have you come here and spend a day, or a week, with us!

Jim & Jean Hodges



Leaving home on August 16th we traveled over 6,000 miles by car in ten weeks, which included stops in WY, ID, WA, OR, CA, then back through OR, WA, ID, MT, and WY. We were able to visit friends, family, former HH4C volunteers, churches, supporters, attend Staff Rendezvous, plus spend six weeks in the HH4C home office for training and connecting with the office staff. The Lord is "expanding our borders" for ministry, which is a bit daunting at this point, but we know He is able to equip us where He calls us.

Dennis & Darlene Korneychuk



I was in Colorado for the month of October doing the drywall and other work on a staff house at the Cross Bar X Ranch in Durango. I was also able to go to Gallup, New Mexico to visit Grace Bible Church where I assisted with the drywall two years ago. It was great to see old friends, again.



I am preparing to return to Matias Romero, Mexico at the end of November with a group of guys from my home church, to finish putting a metal roof over a small orphanage that we worked on last year. This is also the dedication of a Hard Hats project that was started all the way back in the 80's.

In January, I am planning to work at another camp in northern Mexico, Rancho Betania, as well. Several other Hard Hats missionaries will join me on this one.

Duane Atkinson



This past summer we traveled back to the Midwest for the first time since 2005, when we began volunteering with Hard Hats for Christ.

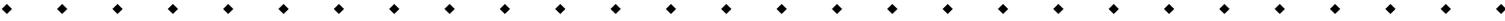
One of the highlights of the trip was to meet two of Lou's great-grandsons in Illinois for the first time and another highlight was to attend the wedding of Kathy's son, Jeremy, to Sarah Wild on June 12th in Michigan.

Now we're back at HH4C's project in Rainier, Oregon for Mountain Ministry's Women's and Children's Life Skills Center. The dorm building passed final inspection 9/18/2012 and that meant occupancy was granted to the 20 women (some with children). 3,400 square feet of floor tile were laid in about a week, while they moved in. What a BLESSING! Work continues on the main, three story building and the Director's residence is taking shape in the former maintenance building. Thank you for your prayers and continued encouragement. Pictures and details can be found on our blog: <http://louiskathy.blogspot.com/> *Lou & Kathy*



The last six months have been busy for us. We helped St. Helens Community Bible Church finish the first stage of their new addition. Then, we moved on to Vancouver, WA to assist Calvary Chapel in turning an old J C Penny building into a lovely new worship center. Joe also led a Bible study at our home church in Longview. The best of all was the addition of a new family member. Our son, John, married Christina Hampson on Oct. 12 in North Richland Hills, TX. See more photos on my Facebook page or in our news letter coming out soon.

Joe & Sherry Newton



You can look for signs of wear and tear, because we traveled close to 11,000 miles this year! We don't think you will find much wrong because we have had a great time visiting 11 current and past Hard Hat projects and 12 missionary and volunteer couples. God has blessed us as He stretched us with new and different experiences. Please pray for us as we look forward to getting out to visit even more projects and people in 2013.

Robert, Verna & Rob Atkinson

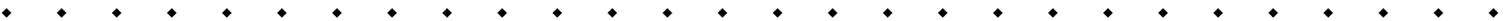


Life on the Pend Oreille River - Debbie & Terry Parsons

At the end of April, we moved to a new HH4C project at the Pend Oreille (pronounced *Pond O'Ray*) Bible Camp. We started out doing lots of repairs and helping to get the camp ready for the camping season. As the season progressed we helped open and close the camp for various groups and were able to give the camp directors, Troy and Christy Johnson, a break, once in a while. We enjoyed getting to know them and their girls, and the camp Board.

Terry did most of the missions construction work at the camp while Debbie was working in Priest Lake. Debbie pitched in when needed, cleaning cabins or washing dishes. When Debbie lost her job in June, God really showed up and provided for us! Time and again a love gift or box of groceries arrived just at the time we needed it the most. Another miracle happened when Debbie was offered a full time job in nearby Priest River, without even applying for it! God is so good!!!

During the summer, in between other projects, Terry remodeled a mobile home for housing for camp volunteers. We will be living there for the cold winter months. We are enjoying our camp experience and are looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us in 2013.



Jacob's eyes welled up with tears as he pulled me aside and said, "The building is almost completed. It's almost time to go and it's going to be hard."

We build more than just buildings on our construction assignments, we build relationships. We witness beautiful stories of forgiveness, hardship, prayers answered. God is so good to allow us to be a part of what He is doing.

In the last six months we assisted Redwood Valley Community Church with their new AWANA building. Jacob also shared the ministry of HH4C at a couple of men's breakfast meetings and at the monthly senior lunch. Most importantly, he spent daily time in prayer and Bible study with the project volunteers – one of the most valuable things we do on HH4C projects! Thank you for sending us to encourage this body of believers. Because you are praying for us and supporting us, you, too, are participating in what God is doing in the many ministries we serve!



Next, we assisted Trout Creek Bible Camp with the finish work on eight new cabins. We lifted some of the construction burden off the camp maintenance man, who was working six days a week to complete this project in addition to his other camp duties.

We're now at the Hard Hats for Christ headquarters for a while. Shannan looks forward to helping Project Coordinator, Robert Atkinson, learning more about the ministry applicant process, the coordination of missionaries, and the management of HH4C projects.

We're also excited about assisting a recovery discipleship program. Mountain Ministries is establishing their women's residential program at a nearby, dilapidated school campus. Along with another HH4C missionary couple, Lou & Kathy Aschenbrenner, we will help remodel it into dormitories, a housing unit for the director's family, kitchen facilities, school classrooms for the children, and the list goes on and on.

We are excited about what God will do through all our assignments throughout this next year. Thank you for being a part of what God is doing through Hard Hats for Christ!

Jacob & Shannan Thiel



Since we came on board with Hard Hats this spring we've been very busy learning the ins and outs of full time involvement with this terrific ministry. We've worked two short projects (2 weeks and 6 weeks) as well as going to Israel for a month to lay the ground work for future projects in the Holy Land. Initially we thought we would be doing general construction, but we've been led to focus on Dave's God-given talent and passion for "playing in the dirt" (being an equipment operator). We're currently establishing a new division of CWCf to facilitate coordination of heavy equipment operations and operators (see our website

www.heavenandearthmovers.com). If you are a heavy equipment operator and would like to have your name and a brief bio included on our website as an operator under CWCf/Hard Hats for Christ, please call Dave at 303-842-4031 or email him at dave.armstrong@heavenandearthmovers.com.

Dave & Sherry Armstrong

The President's Column



Like many conservative Christians, I had a hard time sleeping on election night. Convinced that we are witnessing the end of our constitutional republic, I got up to pray and to think, and began to ponder, "Just when did the 'beginning of the end' occur?" Can we name a date, event, or Administration where the Progressive slide to socialism and the accompanying moral decay (or is it the other way around) began?

In the midst of these troubled thoughts, the Holy Spirit whispered, "Yes, we *can* pinpoint 'the beginning of the end', but it's not the one you're stewing over!" The *real* beginning of the end occurred on a Sunday morning nearly 2,000 years ago, when Jesus Christ burst from a tomb in a glorious, resurrection body, announcing that God was reconciled to man, having accepted the sacrifice of His son for the forgiveness of our sins. **THAT** was the beginning of the end - the beginning of the end of the government of Satan and the rule of death on this planet. **THAT** was the beginning of the end of ignorance and sickness and violence and injustice and poverty.

Christ's church has worked for two millennia to alleviate all of those despairing problems, and continues the work today, despite having abdicated a good bit of it to Government. But lasting change (for the good) will never come by political means. What the people of the world need is a heart transplant - replacing stony hearts with ones of flesh that beat with love for their Creator and Savior. This change comes through hearing and believing the Gospel. Our nation may be on an irreversible course toward judgment, but the earth is on an irreversible course toward the Return of the King in triumph! This is Good News!

Oftentimes the good work of proclaiming the Good News requires the construction of good facilities. That's where *your* partnership with us comes in. Every Christian has a role to play in fulfilling the Great Commission. Some preach. Some heal. Some build. Some undergird it with prayer. Some underwrite it financially. All are missionaries! We are asking God to increase by 1,000 our ranks of volunteers, construction missionaries, staff, board members, and financial partners in the next five years. Already He is answering, as new people step forward for these roles. In this newsletter you will read about one of our latest additions, *Heaven and Earth Movers* – the ministry of Dave and Sherry Armstrong through CWCF. In the coming year, we expect to announce several new initiatives. All of them need your participation through prayers and financial gifts, and maybe even the giving of your time and talents. Travel costs for several overseas projects need to be covered. New and old missionaries need their monthly support to reach sustainable levels. New facilities are needed for expanding programs. We appreciate your partnership in these and other ministry initiatives.

Until Christ returns and sets all to right, whether the 'end is near' or whether we are still 'in the beginning of the end', the ministries and missionaries of Construction Workers Christian Fellowship (CWCF) will continue to "Serve Those Who Serve Others", providing construction assistance for the expansion of God's work, mentoring and encouraging youth and adults in service for the Lord, and "Promoting Christ in Construction - Home and Abroad". We thank God for His faithfulness to meet our needs through His people!

Making Missions Connections

Continued from P. 1

keep in contact with him. He seemed disappointed and drifted away from the area as there were many other kids huddling around the tool stations. Later he came back and asked, "If I start going to church where my uncle attends, could I join a short-term mission trip with Building In Youth?" Phil realized that the mission field is everywhere—even right under our noses. We are dealing with a generation growing up in an absolutely non-religious environment with no Christian influence. God can use our short interactions with youth. If a student would even consider attending church (where he might hear the gospel), it is worth every effort we make. We want to thank Dennis & Darlene Korneychuk for helping with the display booth! They also enjoyed their interaction with the youth.

Oct 26 - 28 a group of us from the office went to the YoungLife "Washington Family Ranch" in Antelope, Oregon. There were over three hundred volunteers, half of them under 25 years of age! We were all assigned to different teams to help clean up, make repairs and build. The work experience and fellowship of like-minded believers was encouraging. YoungLife is a great organization and is doing much to minister to young people.

In early November, six of us manned (and "womanned") a

booth at the Pierce County Career Day. Nearly 3,000 high school students visited the different exhibits and booths, and many stopped by our construction demonstrations. A big thank you goes out to Kristi Grassman from Workforce Central, who organizes this huge yearly event, for inviting Building In Youth to set up a booth and work station.

Our next display booth will be set up at MissionConnexion NW in Portland, OR, January 18-19. Eighty mission organizations will be represented and over 8,000 people are expected to attend. The keynote speaker is Dr. Ravi Zacharias. More details at www.MissionConnexion.com

Building In Youth plans to travel to Rancho Betania Mexico in March 2013. We are planning a mission trip to Israel in June/July called: **Epic Adventure: Walking and Working Where Yeshua Lived**. There are 10 open spots in our group of 16. If you know of any young people aged 18+ or someone wishing to be a mentor, contact Phil at philh@hh4c.org for more details.

With the recent unrest and current events going on in Israel, we would ask that you pray first, for the nation of Israel, and then for us as we monitor these events to determine the safety of our team.