

The Connection

Volume 8, Issue 2, February 2010

Haiti Update

Preliminary reports from Phil Murphy, who visited the House of Blessings and the Children Of Promise Sponsorship Program in Callebasse, Haiti, this past week, indicate that about 50% of our sponsored children's homes were completely destroyed in the earthquake on January 12. They lost everything – household goods, clothes, beds, etc.

We are pleased to report that the three children of Francky and Tania Desir (directors of House of Blessing orphanage in Haiti) were released by US Immigration authorities into the custody of Lonnie Murphy. The children are fine. Please join us in thanking God for their release, and for sustaining them, their parents, and the Murphy's through this difficult and exhausting time.

Here is a portion of the report from Phil Murphy:

The general status of Port-au-prince at this time is best described as chaotic at best. Haiti is a mixture of chaos and an attempt to act as if this is just another day. North of the capital, markets attempt to function normally and one would not know that there was a problem except for the steady stream of cars loaded with suitcases and personal goods fleeing the disaster areas.

Communication was one of the first frustrations we recognized. Those on the ground trying to assist and distribute aid felt very crippled by the fact that they could not locate people or find out where assistance was most needed. A

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MOPS Fundraiser Provides Baked Goodies for Valentine's Day

by Shannon Naftzger

All the components of the MOPS ministry, from the relationships in the group to the resources for moms and leaders, intentionally point toward a relationship with God through Jesus. The season of early mothering is a time when moms are more open to spiritual truth as they are seeking a foundation for their family life.

February 14th before and after service MOPS moms will be taking donations for an amazing assortment of baked goods in the main entry with "grab and go" bags AND in Baker Hall, where you can enjoy your delicacies with friends. For those still sticking to New Year's resolutions, a silent auction in the main entry will be stocked with items donated by MOPS moms and will end 30 minutes after service is released, with winners announced in Baker Hall.

We are grateful for the support of friends of MOPS through prayer, volunteer participation and financial giving and we look forward to seeing what God will do in future generations of moms as we continue with the calling God has placed on each of the leaders to reach moms during the essential seasons of mothering young children.



BAKE SALE

Introducing Interim Pastor Jerry Dickinson



Jerry is a professional interim Pastor, who travels from church to church, healing congregations and preparing them for a new senior pastor. He has been a Church of God minister for over thirty years. He and wife, Bonnie, have four grown daughters.

Jerry will be arriving February 15th. His Spiritual gifts are: Pastor/Teacher, Leadership, Faith, Helps, Prophet, Intercessory and Exhortation. In Jerry's words: *"I'll come with the heart and soul of Jesus; to enhance your vision and purpose for ministry. I will come to unite and empower."*

Applications
can be picked
up @ the front
office!

Love Youth?
Love Youth!

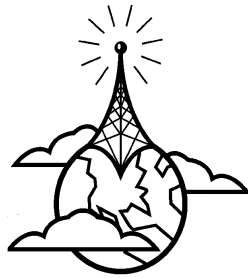
HSM Wednesday's
are growing!
We need help...
LOVING leaders
NOT just warm
bodies!

A monthly publication of **Blue Mountain Community Church** 928 Sturm Ave., Walla Walla, Washington 99362, (509) 529-1212, www.bluemountainchurch.com, Editor: Julie Caton, bmccbulletin@gmail.com. Deadline for submissions: 9:00 AM, the second Tuesday of the month prior to publication. Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space. Unsolicited materials welcome.

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Faith Promise News

by Vic Phillips



Sometimes I refer to my house as a hovel. Yet, as I think of the living conditions of others, I am thankful for what the Lord has provided. I think of the simple dwellings we worked on in Guatemala: single room, dirt floor, smoky wood stove, open door, four open windows.

In Walla Walla some people don't even have that. The last letter from the Christian Aid Center describes the situations in which many of our local people find themselves.

The number of families requesting emergency shelter continues to increase as winter approaches. Growing unemployment, the lack of affordable housing, and limited financial resources contribute to the growing number of families finding themselves without a place to live. Regretfully, our Family Services turns away as many as five families per week for lack of space and we have a waitlist of over a dozen families needing housing at any given time.

In the meantime, some families are living in their cars, huddled beneath blankets trying to keep out the cold. Without water or heat, some individuals who are homeless use public spaces to stay warm during the day and public bathrooms to 'freshen up'. Stores, restaurants, and other businesses that are open 24 hrs. become a 'home away from home' for those who have no home. The more fortunate homeless 'couch surf' with friends or family members, but their stay is often limited to a few nights before they need to find another place to spend the night.

Is there something we can do to alleviate this situation? We have a lot of space out back. Just a thought.



UpStreet kids' ministries offers an engaging hour of learning God's Word to young people from kindergarten through fifth grade. The format is similar to Vacation Bible School. We worship together and then break up into three groups, moving from station to station. We close our time together worshipping our Creator together.

We would love to have you join us. The responsibility is minimal and the rewards are optimal! We believe strongly that our leaders need a balance; therefore, once or twice a month is all you would be asked to serve. Please pray about joining this team...I promise, you will not regret it! If interested, please call Cailey Dumler @301-4797.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

Newsletter Deadline

Articles are always welcome from any member of Blue Mountain Community Church. Submit it to bmcc_newsletter@charter.net. The deadline is the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00 AM. The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

*Celebrating February
Birthdays and Anniversaries*

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Jamie Nachtigall | 14 | Phyllis Branscum |
| | Elissa Stites | 16 | Laine McMillan |
| | Nick Swisher | | Joseph Watson |
| 2 | Peter Erb | 17 | Davin Sands |
| | Kraig Kushar | | Jack Sands |
| 3 | Alex Carias | 18 | Joshua Branscum |
| | Scott Haen | 19 | Ed Hendricksen |
| | Rose Paul | | Esmerelda Spence |
| | Levi Sands | 20 | Terry Burner |
| | Evelyn Wallace | | Zachery Harris |
| 5 | Bob Conwell | | Sarah Wood |
| | Amanda Gorze | 22 | John Bender |
| | Walter Zier | 24 | Kaeldra Caton |
| 6 | Cassandra Sept | | Marcia Napier |
| 7 | Rachael Adkins | 25 | Paula Hoppen |
| | Rebecca Mize | 27 | Claudia Huntley |
| | Phillip Somers | | Polly Josifek |
| 8 | Willis Goodwin | | Jackie Kuljis |
| | Marilyn Groom | | Darlene Mings |
| | Abby Larreau | | Rich Young |
| | Jessica McDaniels | 28 | Gail Johnson |
| | Adam Voss | | Erika Swenson |
| 9 | Leanne Howard | | |
| 10 | Samantha Cobb | | |
| | Dan Kilmer | | |
| 11 | Irene Buttice | | |
| 12 | Kathy Wood | | |
| 13 | Emily Larreau | | |



- 14 *Mark & Mary Ellen Farr*
Bill & Mary Luisi
 20 *Bill & Christene Thrasher*
 21 *Steve & Rebecca Mize*
 22 *Don & Lee Lynch*



Women's Ministry

All Ladies of Blue Mt. Community Church are invited to meet us at

The Well

a place where . . .
 Women Encounter the
 Love of the Lord

"The Power of Pairs"

Monday evening, February 22

6:30 - 8:00

and then stay Beyond the Well
 from 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.





From Your
Administrative Pastor

Our church fiscal year runs from July 1-June 30. We have completed the first and second quarters of our 2009-2010 year. Our forecasted budget for this year is \$720,441.46.

In the first six months, we have received \$280,326.57 in cash contributions and \$14,490.01 in other income for a general fund income total of \$294,816.58, which is 19% less than we forecasted for this time period.

Our expenses have been \$336,358.63, which is 7% lower than we forecasted for this time period.

As of the end of December, we were at an income shortfall of \$65,404.14, we were in the red \$41,552.05.

If you would like a detailed YTD budget report, please contact the church office or if you have any questions concerning this financial overview please feel free to call me and we'll set up a time to get together.

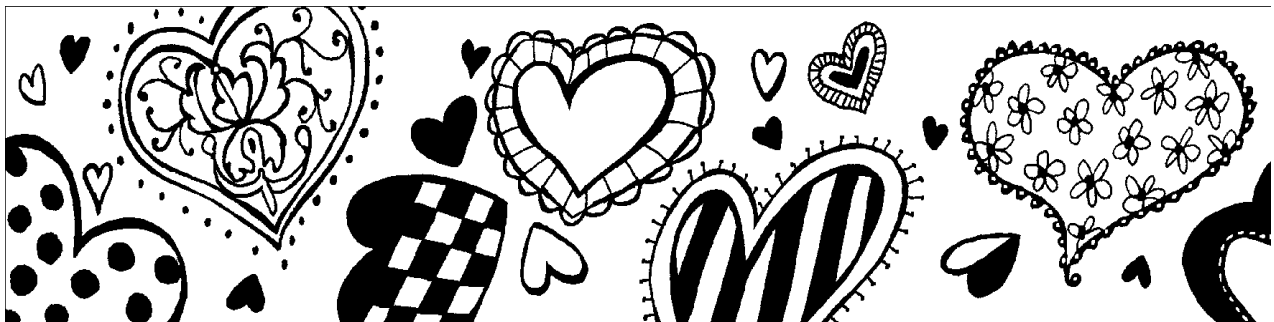
Heart to Heart Family Dinner

Join us for a fun evening of entertainment and fellowship with your family for a special Valentine dinner on Saturday, February 13th at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Advance tickets available in the office, from Joyce Paine, or from Michelle Paine. Tickets will also be sold at the door. \$5.00 each or \$20.00 for a family. Free childcare. Pictures taken for a small fee beginning at 5:30 PM.

Come connect heart to heart with us as we help to repair the girls' dormitory roof at the Masaka Good Samaritan schools in Uganda.

If you have any questions, please contact Joyce Paine at (509) 301-2098 or Michelle Paine at (425) 765-8176.



Dear Blue Mountain Community Church,

It is with great appreciation that Mark and I write to thank you for blessing our ministry in Guatemala with the proceeds and donations of the Women's Tea in December. The money will be hugely helpful in meeting a number of ministry expenses and keeping the doors of El Refugio, our women's abuse shelter, open.

We have recently received two new women at the shelter. Sandra came to El Refugio two weeks ago badly beaten. Her facial bruises are still very noticeable today. Sadly, she was in the second trimester of pregnancy during the time of her last beating and she lost the baby. Olga arrived last week along with her 3-year-old daughter. Olga is seven months pregnant and was beaten and kicked out of her home late one night. Olga, whose fetus is malnourished, and her 3-year-old who arrived sick, are both being treated for their physical needs. We pray that through counseling, discipleship, and lots of sharing the love of Christ that we are able to help meet their spiritual and emotional needs as well.

At the school, a new semester has begun. We are expecting the turnover of our director and numerous teachers this year. Due to decreased donations to ministry a number of missionary families face the possibility of having to leave the mission field. Blue Mountain as a church, and its members continue to faithfully support us, encourage us, and pray for us, and for this we know that we are truly blessed!

We pray that God will richly bless you in this new year, as you have been a blessing to us.

Kim Agrellas and family

What's Happening at . . .



Our community service project for the month of February will be focusing on the Blue Mountain Humane Society. The Preschoolers will visit the Humane Society on a field trip and families and staff who are interested will donate items for the shelter.

Other events coming up in February will be a Science/Math Family Activity night. We will serve a complimentary spaghetti dinner that evening. This is a good time to encourage families to take time and "play" together as well as get to know them better.



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company from Orlando has donated several mobile communications satellite systems. These units support phones and Internet connections. Local phone lines were not working at all when we arrived and were sparse, at best, by the time we left Haiti.

Security was the topic of discussion that capitalized most thoughts. The distribution of services and goods was crippled by the fear of riots and violence. As a result, people were dying unnecessarily.

Main Roads on the Northern side (Delmas) of the capitol are open. Damaged buildings continue to collapse as a result of the aftershocks. The harder hit areas in downtown and towards the epicenter towards Leogone are almost 100% destroyed. In some cases the roads are buckled and damaged.

The biggest need in most areas at this time is clean water. Many cisterns were cracked and all water had leaked out. I was not able to find any water filtering companies up and running. We found no one selling clean water anywhere.

After speaking with several medical personnel on the ground, the general consensus is that the crucial window of time is right now. Serious and not so serious injuries are causing deaths. A few hospitals remained up and functioning while most national staff had immediately left their posts. Aid workers and Doctors from other countries were doing the best they could under horrific conditions.

Because of the security concerns, medical supplies were not moving fast enough and the doctors on the ground were pulling non stop shifts and were exhausted. A lack of proper equipment was forcing the medical professionals to do things such as operate with pocket knives and no anesthesia. The medical people I spoke with are very concerned about the possibility of a Cholera outbreak, which they fear

will wipe out most of the remaining survivors. The medical professionals needed are General Practitioners, Pediatricians and surgeons. Many people are going to die from infections caused by untreated breaks and wounds.

Bacterial problems caused by unclean water are a huge fear. Therefore Flagil and Bactrim is being requested for the weeks and months to come.

John Ackerman is supporting a medical team that has been set up at Heartline ministries. They have turned their sewing house into a hospital. John is trying to keep them supplied with equipment, meds and supplies.

Phyllis Newby was visited on this trip. Their compound was mostly untouched. She is ready and willing to house people and operate the hospital. The hospital is ready to serve but it is more than an hour and a half to get there from Port.

Quisqueya Christian School is being set up now as a distribution center. The U.S. military had moved onto campus before we left Haiti. The hope here was that the military could help provide security for both goods and services coming into and going out of the school campus.

Thank you, church, for the generous special offering that came in January 24th. \$5,695.49 will be sent to Church of God Headquarters to assist their efforts in Haiti.

Weekly Events

Sunday

Middle School Youth 7:00 PM

Wednesday

Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM

High School Youth 7:00 PM

Thursday

Taking Off Pounds Sensibly 5:30 PM

Worship Team Rehearsal 6:30 PM

Monthly Events

- 4 SAMS* 10:00 AM
- 8 EOD Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- Worship Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- The Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 9 Quilter's Guild 6:30 PM
- 11 MOPS * 9:00 AM
- Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 PM
- 13 Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM
- Heart to Heart Dinner 6:00 PM
- 14 MOPS Bake Sale and Auction 11:30 AM
- 15 CE Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 18 SAMS* 10:00 AM
- Missions Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- Building & Grounds Commission 6:45 PM
- 22 The WELL 6:30 PM
- 26 MOPS * 9:00 AM

**SAMS- Senior Adult Ministries*

MOPS- Mothers of Preschoolers