

Beulah

Land News

Dalton's Homecoming

In our last issue we told you about the Extreme Build in McCreary County, Kentucky where over 120 volunteers built a house in one week for Brenda Perry and her three grandchildren: Brandi, J.T. and Dalton. The home has been completed, and thanks to the hard work of Pat Ball and volunteers from the McCreary County Schools Community Center and others, the home was furnished with beautiful furniture, appliances and housewares—everything that the Perry family will need to live comfortably in their new home.



Dalton home at last with his grandmother, Brenda Perry.



Dalton arrives in an ambulance at his new home.

This project brought together people from all over Kentucky and other states as well. The Kentucky Baptist Fellowship (KBF), the McCreary County Community Housing Development Corporation (McCHDO) and other partners sponsored the Extreme Build. Brenda Perry needed a home that would allow her to take care of three of her grandchildren including Dalton, who suffered brain damage as a result of complications from diabetes. A few weeks ago, Dalton came home. The smile on his face makes it all worthwhile.



Volunteers unload home furnishings at the new Perry home.



Paramedics place Dalton in his new bed.



Some of the home furnishings donated to the Perry family.

For more on this story and others in this newsletter, go to www.cbfmissions.org.

All Church Challenge 2006



Many boundaries were crossed during the 2006 All Church Challenge—racial boundaries, denominational boundaries and class boundaries. One of the beauties of the All Church Challenge (ACC) is how people come together from all walks of life to change lives in the impoverished community of Helena, Arkansas.

This area has been identified as one of the poorest in the nation by CBF's Rural Poverty Initiative "Together for Hope."

This year there were more volunteers from the local community than ever before. Volunteers also came from North Carolina, Virginia and other parts of Arkansas. All Church Challenge is a great missions experience for the entire family. The community welcomes volunteers with open arms, and they want them to keep coming back.



Volunteers tell Bible stories to Helena, AR children.

Meals for the volunteers were provided by St. Johns Episcopal, First United Methodist and New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. Sister Mary, whose church is currently without its own building, did the cooking at New Hope.

Long term relationships have been formed through the ACC. Just ask Debo and Mr. Oie. A few years ago Mr.



Debo and Mr. Oie

Oie, a volunteer from North Carolina, met a young African American boy named Debo. Debo's life was in turmoil. His mother had left home, and he was failing in school. Mr. Oie took Debo under his wing and kept in touch with Debo throughout the years encouraging Debo to do better in school. As a result, Debo is now making good grades and his mother has returned home. Mr. Oie replaces the biological father that Debo has never known.

A major event for this year's ACC was the "Stories on Wheels Mobile Toy/Book Learning Library." The bus is a gift to Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) missionaries Ben and Leonora Newell from First Baptist Church, Huntsville, Alabama. FBC Huntsville retrofitted one of their church buses into a beautifully painted mobile library. The bus



Bus donated by First Baptist Church, Huntsville, AL.

was presented to the Newells at the 2006 CBF General Assembly in Atlanta, Georgia. The Newells are full time CBF missionaries who live and work in Helena, Arkansas. They host the All Church Challenge.

Because of the donation of sporting equipment such as tennis rackets and balls, softball gloves and golfing equipment, lessons in each of these sports were offered to local children.



Interior of "Stories on Wheels" bus.

After the ACC was over, adults from the community created a softball league for the children. This is a positive step that reveals that the community is being transformed by God's work through the volunteers who have invested themselves in Helena, Arkansas.

Our part of this year's All Church Challenge was to photograph and produce a commemorative video DVD of each week's activities that the churches could take back with them to show at their respective churches. The videos were edited and produced onsite in Helena so that they could be given to the churches before they left for home—no small feat since it takes at least one hour of editing for every minute of finished video.

Already plans are underway for ACC 2007. If you are interested in participating, contact Ben and Leonora Newell at bn@worldmail.org.

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Together for Hope Leadership Meets in South Dakota

Each year, the leadership of "Together for Hope" (TFH) holds a three day meeting in one of the five regions of the U.S. that experiences a high rate of poverty. This year's meeting was held in Rapid City, South Dakota. Four of the twenty poorest counties in the United States are in South Dakota: Buffalo, Shannon, Todd and Ziebach. There are four American Indian reservations located in these counties: Pine Ridge (Shannon County), Cheyenne River (Ziebach County), Crow Creek (Buffalo) and Rosebud (Todd County). In "Together for Hope" this region is known as the High Plains region.



Ray & Kathleen Kesner

We were all introduced to Ray and Kathleen Kesner, the new facilitators for the High Plains region. Ray and Kathleen took over this responsibility from Chris and Dayna Thompson. Chris and Dayna are still working with Warm Embrace (www.warmembrace.org).

The meeting was well attended with over 25 people present. Some arrived a day early to go sightseeing in the area. We were among them. One of the sights we visited was Mt. Rushmore. We had already been informed that to the Lakota people who have lived in the Black Hills of South Dakota for centuries, the faces carved on Mt. Rushmore are considered a desecration of their sacred mountains. They have opposed the carving of the president's faces on the mountain from the very beginning.

Out of respect for the Lakota people, we visited the Crazy Horse Memorial in the Black Hills. At the invitation of the Lakota chiefs, sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski began work on this massive project in 1949. As Lakota Chief Henry Standing Bear wrote, "My fellow chiefs and I would like the white man to know the red man has great heroes, too."



Crazy Horse Memorial

Korczak died in 1982 before finishing the project. Several of his ten children are involved in finishing the project which will take many more years to complete. We were impressed



Model of what the finished Crazy Horse Memorial will look like.

that two generations of this family have dedicated their lives to complete this sculpture. On Friday, the last day of the meeting, the attendees split up into two groups. One group went to the Cheyenne River reservation and the other went to Pine Ridge. We went to Pine Ridge.

Our guides were Leon Matthews, Native American Pastor of Gospel Fellowship Church and Ata Jack, also a Native American and Associate Pastor of Gospel Fellowship. While we were talking with Ata Jack, he shared his testimony about being a drug dealer, alcoholic and bully before he met Christ.



Leon Matthews

While in prison, he found the true meaning to life and accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior. He found his way in the Bible. He says,



Ata Jack

"I picked it (Bible) up and began to read, and I could not put it down. I read the whole Bible in one month, and I have not stopped. I read His word every day." Both men are involved in ministries to reach the Native Americans for Christ.

Before we all headed back to the hotel, we visited Wounded Knee. Standing next to the gravesite of the Native Americans who had been massacred at Wounded Knee, Leon told us the story about what took place there in 1890 and again in 1973. This is another very sacred site to the Lakota and rightfully so.



Leon Matthews telling the story of Wounded Knee.

This leadership meeting is one we won't soon forget.

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We Need You!



Nick & Ann Skipper

In order for us to do the work that God has called us to do with Together for Hope we need your prayer support and your financial support. We ask you to partner with us as we serve in Partners in Hope.

Please designate your contribution for Nick & Ann Skipper's ministry and send it to:

*Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
P.O. Box 101699
Atlanta, GA 30392-1699*



New Opportunities Ahead

The Communications Department at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) in Atlanta, Georgia has taken notice of our work. They have expressed the desire for us to work closely with them to help produce website content, videos and publications for CBF. We are excited about this new opportunity to use our talents.

Who would have thought that when we retired in 2000 that a video camera purchased for a vacation to Alaska would have such a huge impact on our lives. That camera has led us serve in a television ministry, helped us produce videos and build websites as well as produce various print publications.

It is now evident that our calling is to help CBF and its other missionaries tell the stories of God's work on the mission field. The only thing that restricts our work is limited funding. We have had to turn down opportunities to serve because of the lack of funds to travel to the various mission sites. Pray with us that the Lord would provide the needed funds to continue our work.