

The Harbinger

January 2012

In this Issue:

Memory Verse.....	1
From the Pastor.....	1
Outreach Ministry.....	3
A Look Ahead.....	7

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Next

HARBINGER

DEADLINE

February 19th

MEMORY VERSE



OF THE MONTH!

"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

II Kings 6:16

Compare to:

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

I John 4:4



Do I Really Matter?

Xvxn though my computxr kxyboard is an old onx, it works wxll xxxcpt for onx of thx kxys. I'vx wishxd many timxs that it workxd pxrfectly. Trux, thxrx arx 42 kxys that function, but onx kxy not working makxs thx diffxrxncx.

Thx church is oftzn dxscribxd in Scripturx as a body in which vxry pxrson is vitally important

Somxtimxs, it sxxmx to mx that our church is somxwhat likx my computxr kxyboard, not all thx pxoplx arx working proprly. You might say, 'Wxll, I'm only onx pxrson. It won't makx much diffxrxncx.'

But you sxx, a church, to bx working proprly and scripturally, nxxds thx activx participation of vxry pxrson. Thx nxxt timx you think your xfforts arxn't nxxdxd, rxmxbxr my computxr kxyboard, and say to yoursxlf, 'I am a kxy pxrson and thx body nxxds mx vxry much!'

This is a simple New Year's encouragement to get involved in the body of the church. You are vitally important!

Happy New Year!
Pastor



OUTREACH MINISTRY



From Sam Leonardi– Hancock County Prison Ministry

Dear Family in Christ,

I have been working at placing people who are released from jail into local churches. I was surprised to have more people show up at the little Blue Hill Church than expected this past Sunday! A young woman who was released a week ago and her husband, were introduced to their prospective new Church. They also brought a daughter and grandson. The Father of this little boy is also in my care at Hancock County Jail. Pastor Jim Stinson and I had a good long talk prior to their arrival. This little church family was a perfect fit. It is so good to see God's hand at work! I left from Blue Hill to pick up Stephanie at the bus station in Bangor and she is now at home with us.

As Cissy and I were shopping on Saturday we ran into a friend from the Lamoine Baptist Church. To make a long story short the toys for kids has expanded slightly. Your gift has been of great help to this endeavor. Of course, Cissy did the wrapping of the presents for the kids so I wouldn't get wrapped up in my own tape. Presents will be delivered this week. We will catch up after the rush of the Holidays.

PEACE AND JOY IN CHRIST

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Sam started a program this year similar to Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree. This was for families of people he has been working with in the prison system.

From the Hims



"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11).

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men, good will toward men." (Lk2:14).

We hope that you and your family will reflect on the true meaning of Christmas together. May Christ fill you with peace, joy and love as you celebrate Christmas this year. We are glad that this Christmas we are able to spend time with our extended family in the US—Both my family and Jennifer's family. Jennifer's parents and brother will visit us from Maine. Both our extended families and our own family will be meeting for breakfast and play games together on December 24 at my sister's house. On December 25, we (Jennifer's family and our family) will be meeting together for breakfast and open gifts with our children at home. Our children are looking forward to this! Before our children open their gifts, our tradition is to read the Christmas story with a focus on Christ coming to earth.

First, we make sure our children know the true meaning of Christmas. We have to keep in mind that Jesus is the reason we celebrate the season. We also acknowledge that Jesus sacrificially came to give us life by dying for our sins (John 3:16). There is nothing we can do to pay Him back, but in faith we could receive Him as our Lord and Savior (John 1:12; Eph2:8). All Jesus wants us to do is to offer our “bodies as living sacrifice, holy, acceptable” to Him, which is our active worship (Rom 12:1).

Secondly, we want our children to know that Jesus is the Light of the world; when we receive Him, He gives us that light to shine to all people who live in darkness (John 1:4,5,8). “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven” (Matt 5:16).



Thirdly, we want our children to know that Christ gave Himself to us freely and that we should not to live only for ourselves, but to live for others as Christ did. “Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” (Phil 2:4).

In last 10 years , we have been modeling this to our children on the field and most of older ones have been living their lives accordingly to what God’s Word says above. We hopefully they will continue to do so in anywhere in the world without us being around or when they grow up as adults.

His blessings, Heap & Family

The Him’s have been on sabbatical in the States. For the first four month’s they visited Jennifer’s family in Maine. In September they moved to live in a missionary house in a suburb of Philadelphia. Heap is taking some courses in family counseling to better equip him to serve. They ask us to “Pray for us as we adjust to life in the suburbs! We have been homies in the hood and rednecks, but never before have we been suburbians!”

We received a letter from our Compassion sponsored child in Uganda, Patricia. She writes:

I thank God for having another opportunity to write to you dear. Praise the Living God! How are you doing there? Hope you are alright. I am also fine and my family members are Okay.

I give glory to the Almighty for he is still keeping us well despite of the dry season we are experiencing. At home we are harvesting ground nuts, beans and peas. More still, people are preparing land for millet sowing but it is unfortunate for us at home we do not sow it. For us we plant cassava and potatoes.

I continue to thank God for the birthday gift you sent for me. It was a total of 59100 shillings. I used it to buy some scholastic materials such as books, toothpaste, pens, soap and many others. I was so much happy and it is my prayer to God that may He continue blessing you and the work you do. I really appreciate whatever you do for me especially the support you extend to me!

At school, studies are going on well and I am reading hard to get a good report at the end of the term. I still request you kindly to continue praying for me because things are not all that easy.

The only thing that inspires me most is that whoever believes in Jesus Christ will never be disappointed. We held a conference and the theme was “Do you want to get well?” John 5:6. It was the very day that I renewed my salvation and I thank God for that!

I have a verse for you from James 1:17. I love you all and I always include you in my prayers. Let me stop here wishing you the best in everything you do.

Greet all the people you stay with there in S.W. Harbor Congregational Church.

May God keep you well and bless you dear.

We also received an update from Compassion International. We share this because it concerns Patricia but it also shows some of the ways the money given for One Meal One Day is used.

Dear Friends,

Because you sponsor a child in Uganda, I wanted to provide you with an update on the current conditions.

Most importantly, we are ensuring that all Compassion children and their families are receiving additional assistance when needed.

In Ethiopia alone,

- 32 Child Development Centers have received emergency food supplies for distribution. The supplies include grain, cooking oil and a nutrient-rich supplement.
- 38,400 children and families are receiving assistance with food and medical treatment.

Aside from this much needed emergency relief, **we have been working on creating sustainable food security practices** in Africa since 2009. These long-term strategies have helped ensure that Compassion children and their families are able to survive in the midst of challenges such as this.

One example of Compassion's food security program is in the community of Tubur in **Uganda**. Here, Amenity Gloria is a Compassion sponsored child.

Gloria's mother is still using the seed from the corn received in 2009 as part of the program. She also received orange seedlings, beans and cassava cuttings at that time. She will soon have her first orange harvest, and she is on round three of cassava cultivation. Her last harvest of beans yielded two large bags.

Excited about her success, Gloria's mother eagerly shows visitors her thriving fields. While others might be saying, "Give me more," Gloria's mother is saying, "Let me show you more!"

Our goal is to help achieve food security for the families of the children that we serve in East Africa, like Gloria's. Especially in times like these, your faithful sponsorship of Nabimanya Patricia continues to be a true source of help and hope.



Short Term Missions Trip to Haiti

The Missions Ministry is seriously planning a short term missions trip to Haiti in January of 2013. If you have any interest, contact Mary Anna, Kay Woody or Dori. The group will be led by Pastor Brown.

The group will visit the Compassion Center in Port au Prince and then go on to work at Pastor Enock's project.

A Compassion Advocate friend of Mary Anna's was recently in Haiti. Mary Anna asked her to share some of her experience with us.

November 2011, My Five Days in Haiti

By Sandy Stowe,

Compassion International advocate/sponsor

I have been to other developing countries but always came across some more prosperous areas in these countries. In Haiti one of my big impressions as I traveled a couple hundred miles was the poverty doesn't stop. There is an 80% unemployment rate in Haiti, the government runs only 15% of the schools. Many children do not go to school because the private ones cost money. The literacy rate is 45%. Thousands of people around earthquake leveled Port-au-Prince are still living in the weather worn tent cities, with reconstruction money still sitting around without good systems to funnel it into for rebuilding. I was told most of the aide money has been used for cleaning up the rubble. There are still no enforced building codes so what gets built is not strong. This natural disaster as well as recent hurricanes has left many parts of Haiti in ruins.



Tent cities right next to the road in Port-Au-Prince.

Typical Haitian street

As I traveled through Haiti in our Compassion van I took many pictures of the same trash littered streets with make shift shops teaming with people selling whatever they could find. They even sold gasoline in old plastic milk like containers. In my hundreds of miles on one of the only main roads through the country I saw about 3 gas stations. Local products for sale were rice, bananas, sugar cane and coconuts. Two thirds of the country is not fit for farming because the land has been abused and has eroded. The trees have all been cut for the making of charcoal, which people use to cook over. Most people live in shanties of a room or two with no electricity, no indoor plumbing, no clean water and they cook outside.



It's unfair to leave you with a hopeless picture like this in any country. A Haitian saying is "work is dignity". I saw people at work making their everyday lives "work". People walking down the streets with huge containers balanced on their heads of something. I noticed two men haggling for a chicken one man was holding. People helping others lifting, moving things. A big transportation method is the "TAP-TAP". This is a pickup truck with seats in the back where people are protected by a brightly decorated roof and ride for 20 cents. Other transports are bikes, motorbikes, donkeys, horses and feet.

In purchasing some artwork I encountered the artistic spirit of Haiti. It is one of color, patterns and charm that defy their circumstances. They are an oral culture that loves stories and songs and dance. They speak the poetic Creole language. Voodoo, which is an undefined belief system that merges traditional African religion with Catholicism, gets expressed in magic, ceremony and performance art. This makes for a rich culture beneath the grime and poverty of daily life.

To sum up my trip to Haiti, I often say to people "AMAZING." The work Compassion International does there is truly amazing! The church based staff are extremely dedicated and professional, full of joy and love. They care for child and adults in their programs with the holistic approach to releasing people from poverty in Jesus name. (You can learn more about that from your local Compassion International advocate MaryAnna Fox) The atmosphere in the 4 projects we visited was joy filled. Meeting my 15-year-old sponsored Roseline was the icing on the cake, she is above average in school and wants to be a nurse and is a beautiful person! The opportunities to grow and develop in the Compassion program really expand her world and will help her development. It is the best \$38 I spend in a month! If you saw what is supplied for a child you would want to sponsor, too! There is hope for Haiti when God touches people's lives.



Three year olds
in a Compassion project

Sandy with her sponsored child,
Roseline





Jason takes his share of the “Happy Birthday Jesus!” cake.

SOME DATES TO WATCH FOR!

- 1. ALPHA 2012 begins March 4th at 5:00 PM**
- 2. Seder with Jews for Jesus Tuesday, March 29th at 6:00 PM**