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Looking back, it's all been a little bit of a great journey, I suppose. This little tool in God's Toolbox called Hosanna Industries, once not even an idea, is now a mission that stands on the threshold of a 23rd anniversary occasion!

How'd that happen? Even if I had 23 years to try to describe it, I'd fail. Too much has taken place, too many great people getting involved, so many miles travelled, and all those thousands of unknown events that caused people to give so many things and so much of what they gave; truth is, I believe only the Lord truly knows how this happened in its totality.

Why? He wanted Hosanna Industries to happen. God sent the vision, provided all the necessary people, granted the gifts given from the same hearts that He quietly speaks to whenever he chooses, God did it all.

Sure, he used the simple, sometimes meager, often broken resources that we possess along the way. He used a dream. A lot of hammers and nails, the wisdom of long-lived real saints, and the vinegar of unspent youth to make it all happen, but when you look closely, none of that alone could have penned the story of 23 years of growth and service; only God could have written the story.

I suppose it could be honestly said that in some ways, it's somewhat of a big story, maybe even a good one, too!

150 houses built for the homeless. 50,000 tons of material put to good use. 150,000 volunteers reporting for duty. 2.5 million miles

travelled through 25 states, 2550 home rehabs completed for the needy, 14 million dollars raised and given to produce nearly \$50 million in actual construction value! These things my eyes have seen happen, and it's been wonderful to behold.

Here's a few other things that are evidence that God built this little mission called Hosanna Industries:

30 wonderful children are now being nurtured in this great world because their parents met at Hosanna Industries, reporting for work duty. They had no idea where the journey would go!

143 young men and women served God at the mission, for long or short runs of time. They all learned something important. Each left an indelible impression upon our journey! Many are out in the world today, living productive lives, running businesses, employing others, helping in many ways, and using skills they learned and developed at Hosanna.

A congregation of faithful people heard a better sermon, their hearts were warmed, because the preacher took his nose out of the books and put a hammer in his hand helping somebody who could never help back. Inspiration produced expanded inspiration!

A business man went home last night with something more than profit on his mind. He smiled when he considered the power and potential within that generous gift he gave to help those who really need help desperately.

A mother fell asleep last night, proud of her daughter, proud of

her hard-working, God-serving child, who did not grow up to be just another commonplace self-centered person in a crowded culture of many others.

An old and disabled widower, retired from a lifetime of hard work, with little to show for it at today's mounting costs, had a visit from God recently. The visitor looked like a school boy who came out to volunteer for the first time, but the old man knew better. That's why tears fell from his eyes at the end of the day.

A young man from a ghetto in Pittsburgh learned how to use a tape measure at the mission not too long ago. He's 24, unmarried, homeless, and the father of two kids. He wants his children to grow up in a better world than the one to which he was born, but he doesn't know how to make this happen. Although he graduated from the public school system, no one ever taught him how to use a tape measure. He doesn't comprehend fractions. He feels stupid, expendable, worthless, and full of angry rage. Somebody at Hosanna took the time to teach him something he couldn't do before. Now, his life is different. His confidence is being born. Who knows what he may one day build because God built a mission called Hosanna?

It's all part of a journey, dear friend. It started back then at the beginning, and who knows how far the journey may go? Why, if Hosanna does what it's already been blessed to do, nine more times, people then might be talking about the 230th anniversary! That could very well happen, as time goes by so quickly, if God wants it

to happen. 23 years ago, none of us dreamed of Hosanna at age 23! We've learned a lot through all these wonderful years. We've learned to say "hello," and how to say "goodbye". We've learned that young people grow older and often move on, and old people die, and they move on too. We've learned that trucks and tools don't last forever, that building products constantly change, and that even the best of builders can't build something eternal with wood, and nails, or even stone. Things like that always invariably fade away. But they are useful for a time.

The big things? That's easy. Love. Real, deep joy in the heart. Hope. Peace. Friendship. Family. Sacred, silent memories. Awareness of God's abiding presence. These are the materials that eternity's made of. They last. Forever.

Until then, it's all a part of the great, global, universal journey. Your life, and mine. One step at a time. Each day understanding more of what we're supposed to understand about ourselves, our neighbors, our universe, our Lord and God and His desire to save us when the saving needs done, fix us when we're nothing but broken, restore us when another would throw us out, and grow us into the people of Light that we were born to become.

If you listen closely with your heart, you might still hear the clip-clop sound from where that saving journey began long ago. Halfway around the world, 2000 years ago a great crowd gathers. A little donkey's hoofs progressing through the city street's cobbled pavement. A man astride that humble animal, beginning a new journey that very moment. The people cry out "Hosanna! Save us, Lord!" The Carpenter's been on that journey ever since.

~with love,DDE

Construction Update

The last couple of months may have been cold and gray outside, but for the homeowners we've helped, warmth and hope abide. In the past two months we've helped 16 households with more than \$100,000 worth of charitable construction services. We've painted, carpeted, hung drywall, replaced hot water tanks, and installed a furnace. Beyond providing heat for a needy household or hot water for a family who was without it for more than two years, we've restored dignity, renewed hope, increased security, and spread Christ's compassion. Our Wednesday club, the lacrosse team from Olivet College, a group from Dutilh United Methodist Church, and your support have helped to make this possible. Volunteers gave their time to our neighbors in need and know deeply that, "It is better to give than to receive." Because of their gift of time and your gifts of treasure, lives have been changed this winter. Thank you and may God bless you.

Terrell Trade Skill Learning Center Opens

It's new. It's exciting. It's the Terrell Trade Skill Learning Center. We have nine students learning to be builders. Eight young men are coming to us from Homewood Renaissance and one is from the Butler area. At the beginning of the semester, the men did not know how to read a tape measure or what a router is. Today, they know how to build a floor system, frame walls, and build trusses. Throughout the next three years they will learn exterior finishes, flooring, drywall, plumbing, electrical, and all they need to be builders. Keep these young men in your prayers. Many of them come from disadvantaged and marginalized backgrounds. While lessons are designed to teach basic construction skills much time is also spent developing the young men into capable, constructive, contributing adults. It is a thrill to watch them learn and become more than they once dreamed they could be. If this type of learning stirs something in your soul, call the mission and schedule a visit. We'd love for you to meet these great young people. Finally, as part of their learning the students have framed a micro-house. This 16'x12' building is for sale. It could be a quiet retreat, a comfortable hunting lodge, a delightful playhouse, or a large shed. Final cost will be determined by the interior and exterior finish selections of the buyer. If you are interested please contact the mission as soon as possible at 724-770-0262.

New Website

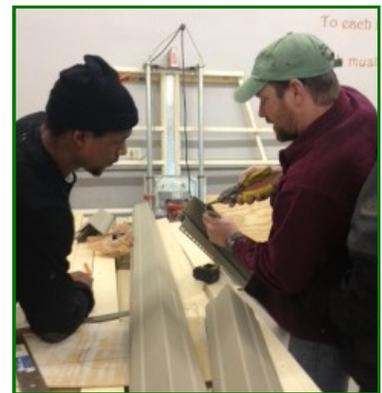
Check it out! Just a few days ago, Hosanna went live with a brand new website thanks to Gray MacKenzie of Guava Box. We are also on Facebook and Twitter and send out a weekly e-blast. Friend us, follow us, and find out what's happening at Hosanna so you can be a part. We're changing lives and we want you to know about it.



Young volunteers learn how to install a carpet while helping a neighbor in need.



This man's pastor tells us he was at a loss of words from our kindness and in awe at our gracious act.



Much learning is happening in the Terrell Trade Skill Learning Center.



Under construction: the micro-house that is for sale.

Hosanna's 23rd Anniversary and Kennedy Community Center Dedication

Palm Sunday and Hosanna's 23rd anniversary are fast approaching. On March 24 at 4:30pm the mission workers will gather in Morledge Chapel for a brief service of re-commissioning. Immediately following the service, we will walk over to the community center and have a dedication of this building in honor and memory of Bob and Bernie Kennedy, two dear friends whose lives of service to God helped Hosanna Industries become a mission. An appetizer reception will follow. You are invited to be a part of this heartwarming, memorable event.

March Mission Madness

Even as you are receiving this newsletter we are in the midst of a new fundraising effort, March Mission Madness. Palm Sunday, March 24, 2013 is our anniversary. In the first 24 days of March we are attempting to raise \$24,000 to start our 24th year. If you would like to show your support of our efforts and help us kick off our 24th year of service, please memo March Mission Madness on your check. There is so much need in our community as evidenced by the photos from our recent work. You can make a difference for people just like these. You can provide help and hope. Join with us today to make our 24th year our best year yet!



Prior to our mission workers' help, this household had not had hot water for six months.



Exactly two years after this homeowner's husband passed away, our mission workers made a positive change for her.

Disaster Recovery

In our last newsletter we announced our plans for disaster recovery work in 2013. We are progressing with these plans. We have identified four households in West Liberty, Kentucky who need our help. We are planning to build one home, help another household finish the construction of their home, and complete repair work for the other two households. The home we are hoping to complete is for a widow and her 15 year old daughter. Their home was destroyed by the EF-3 tornado that ravaged their small town and just four short months later the husband and father passed away very unexpectedly. Please keep this mom and daughter in your prayers. They are hurting but looking to the Lord each day.

In regards to Superstorm Sandy, it appears that infrastructure repairs, demolition and cleanup have been progressing. Identification of households in need is beginning to occur. Through Bob Whittaker of Elfinwild Presbyterian Church we have made a solid contact with a man named Tom on Staten Island who is connected with several churches in that area. He is working directly with households who were impacted by Sandy and is very interested in assisting Hosanna with identifying needs and receiving our help in the rebuilding efforts. We are aiming for an early June involvement. If you would like to volunteer for our disaster recovery work, please contact Emily Cadenhead at 724-770-0262. If you would like to financially support our disaster recovery efforts, there is great need. Please simply note your intentions on the memo line of your check.

Trap Shoot Benefit and Golf Outing Save the Date

The 9th Annual Trap Shoot Benefit is right around the corner! With food, fun, fellowship, and prizes, everyone involved is sure to have a wonderful time on Saturday, May 18. To keep things moving this year we are limiting the number of shooters to 85. Register early to ensure a spot for your team! Please visit our website, www.hosannaindustries.org, for more information or contact Amy Lee at 724-601-7557. Also, please mark your calendars for Monday, September 23rd. Our 16th Annual Golf Benefit will be held at Shannopin Country Club on that day. Finally, look for updates on our website or in our next newsletter; because of the tremendous outpouring of support we've received from our Trap Shoot Benefit we are planning our First Annual Autumn Trap Shoot. These benefit events allow us to continue to provide much needed home repairs for impoverished households in our community. Please join us for these fun-filled days!

Homeschool Students Visual and Industrial Arts Classes

Lise Sentell, a long-time volunteer and friend of the mission, learned about the Terrell Trade Skill Learning Center and shared her dream with us. As part of a homeschool network, Lise realized that many students don't have the opportunity to learn industrial arts. We listened to Lise's concerns and came up with a plan. This Spring we will be offering classes in basic home maintenance, woodworking, metalwork, clay construction and mosaics for homeschooled youth. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Julie Wettach at julie@hosannaindustries.org or 724-770-0262.

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The Real Worth

In the mail...

Thank you so much for all you do for the communities. You not only bring comfort, security and love to those in need but also the gift of the Lord and His Gospel. Many thanks! ~The members of the Big Knob Grange

In person...

The Christmas tree you gave my daughter is the only decoration she had this year. When she opened the door and saw your people there with the tree she just started crying. Thank you for your kindness. She is doing much better now.

By e-mail...

I was reflecting during Thanksgiving how thankful I am for the opportunities to work with Hosanna people. You could think, "You're the volunteer, no need to be more thankful than we are for your help," but what I am grateful for is your mission and ministry that lets people like me share in an all-too-thin sampling of the rich life of two-way blessing that your staff has all year round. Give me Hammers, Hearts, and Hands anytime :)

On the phone...

Cathy initially called for help in 2012 explaining that due to many tragedies in her life, she had been placed on permanent disability for severe depression and was at that time on eight different medications. We did some drywall repair, painting and siding for her. She called again recently to ask if we can help her elderly neighbor. During the conversation, she explained that her experience with Hosanna's mission workers inspired her to begin doing projects to make her house nicer. She said, "I saw all those girls doing all that hard work and I thought, 'I can do it, too.' They did such a nice job and were so kind to me. I just never saw anything like it. I want yinz to come see my place. I have done some nice stuff." She closed her conversation with this, "I have been slowly released from taking any depression or anxiety medication and I am currently looking for a job for the first time in 15 years. It is because those workers you have made me want to get better and help people the way they do. They did great work and their love just kept shining...."