



“The Working Class”

Since the 1970's, the beauty and amenities of Hot Springs Village (HSV) has attracted many retirees to the Village to enjoy and live out their retirement years. But in the last decade, there has been an influx of younger adult residents within the Village, some caring for children they are either responsible for or have living with them. These adults do find HSV a wonderful & safe place to raise a family, however this population of working adults can find themselves struggling to participate in planned activities within the village, because many occur during business hours or early evening during commute or children's activities.

This can also be true in places of faith and worship at times due to work schedules, family demands, and work location. According to HSV demographic data on areavibes.com, a surprising 34% of the population of the village still obtain their main source of income from an employment salary. This correlates to the age groups of the HSV population in the age range of 20-64, which accounts for approximately 32-34%. With the resident census of 13,510, that means about 4,000 HSV residents still work & have primary family responsibility in some capacity.

Our HSV churches do an amazing job of providing for opportunities of Bible study, worship, and activities that encourage members to fellowship with each other and form friendships with those in their circle. However, many working families find it difficult to join daytime or early evening activities and planned gatherings as they juggle home responsibilities, work schedules, school activities, etc. The ability to form actual relationships with other adults and supportive Christian friendships can be a challenge.

One church and a willing Christian couple have identified this population as an opportunity for ministry in Hot

Springs Village. Balboa Baptist Church, under the leadership and direction of Brother Denny Wright, have opened their hearts to reach out to younger adults who are still working and want a place to belong, worship, and fellowship together with other working families in the village.

The class is called “His Mighty Workers”, and is led by Harold and Carrie Griffin, two members of Balboa Baptist who feel compelled to reach out to those in the HSV area that find themselves still working and facing the struggles that come with raising families and work responsibilities in our world today.



The class meets in the Balboa Church Parlor on Sunday mornings, from 10:15 until 11:00 a.m. The atmosphere is relaxed, open, and inviting, very much like a living room of a close family member or friend. I asked Harold what led the two of them to start this class for working adults. He indicated that “there was such a need for a place for working, non-retired adults in HSV. We strongly felt led

to use the experience we had from starting other classes to help get this class started. This class is different [from other classes] because everyone in it works. All activities are planned around their schedules, such as evenings and weekends. The Bible studies are discussion type, where anyone who wishes may join in the discussion.”

And discussion happens! No person feels pressured to say anything if they don't choose to do so, but the openness of this class encourages discussion of lesson points and scripture and how they can and have been applied in daily life.

Some are married, others are single parents, and still others who have visited this class are collage and career age adults finding their way starting out in adult work-life and challenges. “There is no better place for them to be”, said one class member. “There is so much support in this group. We pray for each other, we encourage each other, and we lift each other up as we live our lives apart from one another Monday-Saturday. It is such an amazing blessing.”

I asked Harold and Carrie, if they were able to speak face to face with all the working residents in the HSV community about this class and the reasons for them to consider attending and participation, what would they say to encourage them to try the class out? Harold replied, “If Carrie and I could speak face to face with other working individuals in the HSV community, we would tell them what a joy it is to see people instantly bonding together by having so much in common, to see the fellowship and love they have for each other, a genuine care and concern. Then of course, there is the fun we have together. So much enthusiasm, great ideas, everyone joining in. It's hard to keep up with them! Come and See—you'll be glad you did!”



His Mighty Workers invite you to join us each Sunday morning in the Balboa Baptist Church Parlor at 10:15 a.m. following the 9:00 a.m. worship service as we study the Bible lesson together. For more information visit the church website at www.balboabaptist.church , or call the church office at (501) 922-0155.