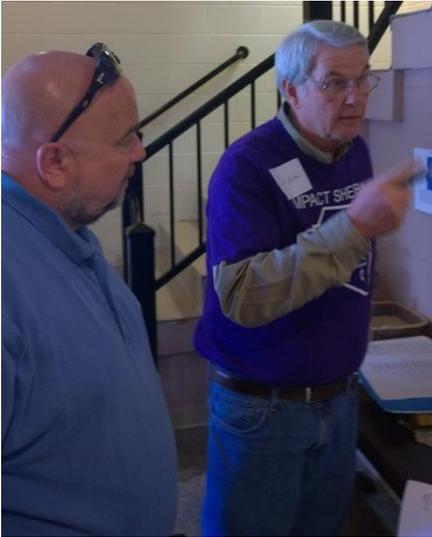


# IMPACT SHELBY 2014

## A Testimony of Faith, A Thank You from the Coordinator

By Clyde Tharp



**Clyde Tharp, (right) IMPACT Shelby Coordinator, making a point for the Lord with Frankfort District Co-Lay Leader, Pat Bennett**

God heard some Methodists in Shelby County, KY had planned an encore of their 2013 IMPACT SHELBY for April 19, 2014. Thinking this was a wonderful idea, He used His unparalleled creative ability to provide the most wonderful day possible on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April as a way of expressing His Thankfulness in Advance before any act of benevolence had been offered. From there, fellow Methodists representing seven of our Shelby County churches, worked their miracles to share God’s Love in a most tangible way through a variety of means.

For this, I have only a simple “THANK YOU” to offer hoping all good Methodists may recall it throughout the year with a sense of joy and satisfaction in work well done. I am confident God’s servants will receive accolades from others they encounter who also appreciate their offering the Love of Christ. Receive those compliments well knowing you have lived out Jesus own words found in John 13:35 (NLT) “35

Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

Knowing some of you are not as privileged as I in knowing the many activities that took place during IMPACT SHELBY 2014, I will attempt to summarize for you. So many through their own special activity carried the Love of the Living Christ to those He Loves but are sometimes taken for granted, forgotten or ignored by the general public.

Nine (9) different work projects were completed. They ranged from simple yard (3) clean-up for elderly to landscape and mulch work for two (2) public entities, Heritage Elementary and Simpsonville Park. At the Simpsonville Park, about 40 youth and adults spread two (2) trailer truckloads of mulch around the play equipment to make it safer for play by those in the community. One generous family purchased, prepared and served the lunch meal for this mammoth team of labors for Christ.



**Methodists happily at work in service for others to glorify God.**

Another team did extensive landscape work for a lady unable to clean the plant beds and spread the 80 bags of mulch. But she did provide delicious home baked rolls for the team and helped where she could. This is a perfect example of “receiving a blessing while providing a blessing”. Similar blessings were received by teams all day from the recipients of the labor of love being shared but I cannot recall all.

Three (3) teams did construction projects. One built benches for outside seating at a facility where primarily seniors live and another did simple exterior home repair for a single lady. The third team took down a deteriorated ramp which had caused the user to turn over in his wheelchair and replaced it with one this early 50 year-old can safely travel to enter and exit his home.

The Food and Hospitality team provided a wonderful beginning for the day as we fellowshiped in the registration area. But it surely went beyond that; Christian love and hospitality went to Main Street, an IMPACT Block Party. Free food, fellowship and a bouncy for children were enjoyed by many. Approximately 240 grilled hot dogs were served to the people visiting. The Kentucky State Police representative was most pleased with the number of parents taking advantage of their children’s fingerprinting service just in case of a future emergency.

An ongoing ministry at Centenary, Kids Korner, joined IMPACT SHELBY for the day since the 19th was their regularly scheduled meeting day. And the leaders used this time to have their own ministry project for the day. They went to the nearby Laundromat offering free quarters and a scripture verse in an Easter egg for those present. They also promoted the free food on the lawn on Main Street. Their efforts proved fruitful as many came and again experienced Christ’s Love in a tangible way.



**Kids Korner**  
joined the  
IMPACT  
Shelby efforts  
attracting  
youth and  
their parents.  
Some of the  
people we can  
identify in this  
photo are:  
Louise Pratt,  
Andy Aitken  
and Jason  
Sharp, pastor  
at Rockbridge

The Children’s Team for IMPACT did share part of their day with Kids Korner but also did their own thing. They had promoted the idea of providing items for Backpack, the Women’s shelter or the Men’s shelter. The quantity of items received was significant. Separating and re-boxing the items was the first task before delivery. Then the Piped Piper adults led the children pulling a wagon full of supplies to the Backpack storage center (It took two trips). A longer trek down Main Street was needed to reach the Women’s shelter supply storage. The Men’s shelter items were delivered by the adults. But all enjoyed their mission experience and blessings will be received by young and old, female and male, because children are being taught the value of mission.

Bakers prepared over 160 dozen cookies. And some of those were donated by people not associated with the churches in any way but believed in the mission and wanted to help. Of course, those delicacies were divided

by the Notes of Appreciation Team among the 360 First Responders, police, service providers, etc. plus the 320 employees of the nursing home and assisted living facilities.

This same team added a very personal touch to their “baskets of appreciation” delivered on Saturday and the following Monday. Tokens of appreciation appropriate to the group plus personal notes, scripture verses and devotional books filled these baskets. As last year, comments as to “I cannot believe you are just giving this to us because you care” were common. Also, visible signs from last year’s IMPACT SHELBY were present and comments were made about their significance to the group. As Bishop Davis said in his devotional and send off, “a gift or act of love we believe to be small is enlarged by God to serve His purpose in ways we never know when our act is done out of our Love for following Christ’s example”.

Our Visitation Team visited all of the nursing home and assisted living facilities. Some 320 residents were offered Christian Love in a most special way. One of the IMPACT SHELBY leaders, Wilda Woodyard, spearheaded a group that some fashion a Prayer Shawl process, there was the made enough” and calls had volunteers to bring their group was short. But as the in the Bible, all were provided left, two (2) at last count. God

Verbal Thanks abound in this You note has been received has written, “Thank you so for the time you put in making the many others you have

By headcount, the Prayer this year but surely not in perseverance. They shared the requests across the seven (7) homebound Prayer Warriors medical facility but gave it Another told me he had to allowed him to stop have prayed each hour. Four (4) (4) different congregations in the Prayer Chapel praying, scripture/hymns and just Risen Lord as they added

This group along with a few other individuals not only had their church’s list but the entire list of 200 requests. Their burning passion was to make sure each request was carried to God’s Throne multiple times on the 19th.

But you say who did these things in the Name of the Living Christ? It was Methodists of Shelby County. By registration count, there were about 210 but clearly, there were many more that signed in that morning or just showed up. Yes, some were unable to attend at the last moment but God’s Provision always exceeds those who could not attend. The worship time with Bishop Davis was estimated by all parties to be as full if not fuller than 2013. So yes, the purple-shirted (for the most part) participants in IMPACT SHELBY 2014 were large in number and spirit, filled to overflowing with the Love of Christ seeking a venue to share. And they generously shared their gifts and graces.

Thanks to all for being a “Good and Faithful Servant of Christ”!!!

**Another Note Read:**

**05/05/14**

***To Centenary (Shawl Givers),  
What a great work you are doing!  
Angels appear in different forms and  
I am sure you are one of God’s  
Angels, unaware of your service to  
him.***

***I am so pleased with the prayer  
shawl that someone made for me. It  
is not only to keep me warm but one  
that was made with love. When I feel  
cold or depressed, I wrap myself in  
the shawl and derive more than body  
warmth from it.***

***May God bless you and yours for the  
wonderful service you render.***

***In Christian love,  
Fran Curtis***

knitted, sewed or made in for each resident. During this lingering question “Had they to be made to various extras to some point, as that great fishes and loaves story a shawl and there were some is our Provider!

area and one written Thank for a shawl. The individual much for your thoughts and this warm shawl for me and made to make us warm.”

Team was smaller in number dedication, zeal and approximate 200 prayer congregations. Some of those were in a nursing home or their best all through the day. travel that day but the format someone else drive while he individuals representing four stayed together the entire day singing, reading generally worshipping the other things to the format.