



Home Helps Happenings

God is amazing! What a year!



Ryan, Erin & Todd

As Belinda & I reflect back on 2012 we keep saying “God is Amazing!”. We smile and reflect on the countless blessings that have been poured out into York County. We know that God has changed peoples’ lives through the Home Helps Ministry of Servants.

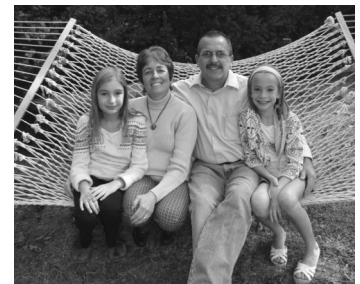
We are truly blessed by the volunteers who have unselfishly given of their time to provide hands-on help. Your gifts are the visible “hands and feet” of Christ in peoples’ lives. You are visible hope in action.

We smile at the countless donors that have given sacrificially to support this ministry financially. Your gifts have provided a source of hope in much-needed materials. This has allowed us to make repairs to about 120 homes last year. Without your resources, we would have been challenged to install wheelchair ramps, replace roofs, or even to simply patch holes in floors.

Your prayer warriors are an incredible asset! Your continual crying out to God for us and our Team has transformed lives! God

has heard your plea and has softened hearts to hear His message. He has opened suppliers’ eyes to the need and we have been blessed by material donations. Volunteers have been touched as they see York County through the eyes of Jesus when they serve. Your prayers have made a tremendous impact in the lives of people who have come in contact with this ministry. I firmly believe that we will only know how many lives have been changed when we finally meet Jesus face to face. What an exciting time that will be!

You are all indispensable parts of the Body. Working together, you are making a tremendous difference in York County. We are thankful for you!



The Jacksons

The Team is Growing!

God has allowed incredible growth! Our first year, 2007, we were in 5 homes. Each year since then, we have seen growth in the number of homeowners that God has connected us with. Some years were 100% growth! We have just completed our 5th year. In 2012, God allowed us into 140 homeowners’ lives! We weren’t able to physically help all of them; however, we were able to show them the love of Christ through other help we offered.

With this growth, we have had many prayer requests that have gone out to our Prayer Team. Erin, our Home Helps Coordinator, & I have been running at overflow for a while. One of those requests was that God would bring us another construction coordinator to help with the demands in the field. God has truly blessed us with Ryan Sohnleitner. Because of this growth, we

thought this would be a good time to make a few changes. One of those will be the format of the newsletter. We will take this issue to give you, our followers, a snapshot of the staff that God uses to meet the needs of our neighbors. Erin & Ryan have each submitted an article so that you can get to know them as well.

We have also changed the name to Home Helps Happenings. Belinda & I are not doing this alone. We have an amazing Team! God is at the head and there are many other people that play a part. We want to better reflect on the Team factor that God has pulled together. You also are part of the body, the Team. We trust you will enjoy the new format.

HOME HELPS — A MINISTRY OF SERVANTS

A newsletter from Todd and the team!

Serving Christ through serving others in York County

Our Team—Erin Schiefen

What an amazing year 2012 was for Servants' Home Helps and also for me personally. I have been working with Servants since 2008, right after graduating from York College with a degree in Behavioral Science. In 2011, I began exclusively working with Home Helps. I get the pleasure of greeting homeowners during their initial request calls. I also get to work with managing volunteer information and assisting Todd with coordinating team workdays. It is so wonderful to see the volunteers come along side of us and help our Brothers and Sisters in need within our community.



Matt, Drew & Erin

There is a great need for Home Helps in York County. With God's guidance and our amazing group of volunteers, we have been able to increase the number of homeowners' lives that we touch each year. To be a part of that process is such a blessing. I have seen transformation—not only homes restored but, more importantly,

the hearts of homeowners & volunteers. Working with Home Helps, the volunteers, and the homeowners is a reminder to me every day of God's love.

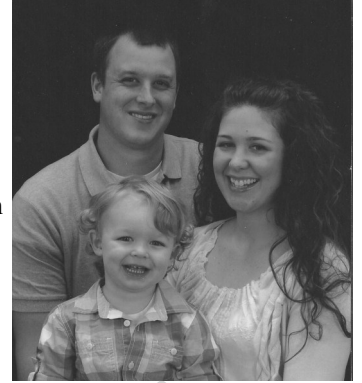
This year, personally, has been one of wonderful change. My husband, Matt, and I welcomed a beautiful baby boy, Drew, in March. I enjoy spending every moment I can with my husband and son. I feel beyond blessed with the life God has given me and I am so thankful..

We're on the Web!
www.servants.org



Our Team—Ryan Sohnleitner

For almost a year now, I have been so blessed to be serving the amazing people in York County. Time and time again, God's vision for my life has been proven to me in these past months. Since serving with the ministry, I have seen many lives changed and transformed from the love of Christ that's shown through his hands and feet—our volunteers.



Ryan, Bennet & Stephanie

After 7 years of working in and studying construction, I can finally see that this position with Servants was the purpose for it all. I am blessed with a wife, Stephanie, that understands what I do and why I do it. She also loves to share in the stories and transformations of people here in York. Also, we are raising a son, Bennet in our community. I love that I have the ability to help transform York, its people, and impact Bennet through the love of Christ.

This year has been eye opening—transitioning from working for myself alone all day, to working with the most amazing God-loving people. It has let me grow as a person right alongside all of our clientele. I thank you all for this opportunity to serve our community and share Christ's love to those who often need it most—right in our own area. God Bless!

Praise God for...

- *Huge tool donation from Glen Rock Church of Christ*
- *Donation of funding specified for a dump trailer*
- *Allowing us to speak truth into over 120 families lives last year*

Prayer requests

- *Pray that God provides the financial needs of His ministry in a way that we know it is from God—but we don't stress about it.*
- *Pray that we are always guided and energized by the Holy Spirit as we discern His will for the homeowners' true needs.*
- *Pray that we always have the courage to step forward in faith to honor God in everything He calls us into!*

A Wish List to Partners in Ministry

As you look over, pray over, our “Wish List”, we want you to realize the impact donor partners can have by providing these needed items. As people are able to supply items on our list, funds are made available from other sources to purchase needed materials for homeowners. Our partnerships are critical and empower us to provide needed supplies and building materials to our neighbors in need. This truly gives them “Hope” for their future and helps them feel the love of Christ!

Building & Office supplies

1. 25# Box Deck Screws #9 x 3” Torx or square drive (\$100)
2. 25# Box Deck Screws #9 x 2 ½” Torx or square drive (\$100)
3. 5# Box Deck Screws #9 x 3” Torx or square drive (\$25)
4. 5# Box Deck Screws #9 x 2 ½” Torx or square drive (\$25)
5. ¾” Subfloor Sheeting 4’ x 8’ (\$20)
6. “Shark Bite” Plumbing Fittings (mostly ½” sizes, shut off valves, T’s, couplings) *
7. PEX water line
8. 20 lb. Laser Printer Paper, 8 ½ x 11, 96 brightness
9. US Postage stamps (“Forever” Stamps are timeless)
10. Used Ink Cartridges (we recycle them for cash)

Closing Thoughts

We are blessed almost every day in our work and we realize that we have the most rewarding job in the world! We have the privilege of helping people that have nowhere else to turn, and to give them hope for their future. We are surrounded by an amazing Team that works together to serve our neighbors in need. We are humbled to be used as a vessel from God to share His love with others in our community.

We are blessed by you as well! It is comforting to know we are not alone on this journey. Your prayers, kind words of encouragement, and your desire to help us serve others in our community energizes us for ministry. You are an Amazing Team!

We thank God – for you!

In His service -- Todd and Belinda Jackson

Tools and Equipment

1. Dewalt 20-Volt Max Lithium-Ion Drill/Driver/Impact Driver 2-Tool Combo Kit (\$230) *
2. Bosch SDS 7/8” Hammer Drill (\$150) *
3. Empire 4’ Professional Box level (\$50) *
4. Reciprocating Saw Blades
5. Circular Saw Blades 7 ¼” & 10”

(Note: * These items are Brand specific due to support equipment we currently own)

Gift Card Options

We buy many other supplies for projects. If you would rather supply a gift card, in any amount, we could utilize this as well. We shop at John H. Myers, Lowe’s and Home Depot for most of our needs.

It is through partnerships with generous people like you that we are able to serve our neighbors in need! We can’t do this alone, nor does God want us to. We trust you will be blessed as you are a blessing to others!

How can you help?

- Volunteer in the Home Helps Ministry
- Become a Home Helps Prayer Partner
- Support the Home Helps Ministry by becoming a financial partner and donating to this ministry
- Refer a friend for a project or as a partner

God Moment - A Volunteer's Perspective

As I was asked to contemplate any “God Moments” that were experienced throughout the week and then share them with the assembly of volunteers and homeowners that were seated in the common area, I found that I was unable to speak. It wasn't that I couldn't find anything to talk about, but that I had too much to talk about. I sat and listened to the homeowners tell of their thanks to God and the work crews. I also heard how the mission of Servants was a simple one, yet complex as well—to help the people of York County feel the love of Jesus Christ.

I thought that the Love of Jesus Christ is always present yet it is up to us, as his servants, to accept and then share this divine love. Continuing with my thought process, I began to realize that having everybody there in one place for the workcamp validated that God's love was accepted but it was now up to us to share it as it is supposed to be—a huge responsibility to act on behalf of God. Wow, if we are here for this work, then we all must be called as special ambassadors for the pure unadulterated truth of the Lord! (God moment #1)

“it was extremely evident that the presence of Jesus was upon us.”

Following this deep thought, I began to reflect on the specifics of the days. I couldn't help but think about how dog-gone hot it was. I envisioned

how we all had shown the evident signs of sweating through our clothes and how some of us had forgotten to put on sun block. I thought about how tired and sore we were by the end of the day. Our muscles ached, our backs hurt, there were headaches and blisters on our hands. I myself ran a 16 penny nail through my boot narrowly missing, yet gently scratching, my foot (any symbolism here?). I watched one of my crew get his hand sliced open with a pressure washer. Putting all of this together, how could anyone not be reminded of the passion of Jesus upon his death on the cross. It all began to come together. Wounded hands, feet, and head with the exhausted body to boot, it was extremely evident that the presence of Jesus was upon us. We were suffering for others just as Jesus suffered for us. (God moment #2).



Hmm could all of this be just a coincidence? Maybe just my mind envisioning and creating what I want to see or could it be reality? As faith has it, it is my relationship with God making itself evident. As if all of this weren't enough proof that Spiritual moments do exist, I have even more. Many know that I have been a teacher of many things for almost thirty years. As a teenager, I learned that Jesus had the ironic occupation of a carpenter as well as the vocation of a teacher. Realizing that I too wanted to emulate Christ, I taught various things and learned the trade of a carpenter. Relating this to our workcamp, I found that I possibly taught the crew a few carpentry skills and taught the action of love to our homeowners. (God moment #3).

Again, I pondered all of these incidents and situations and gave thanks because I knew that what was happening was as real as it gets. I review in my brain what started all of this activity and I drew another parallel. To me this story is a root to many of the blessings that have been given to me. Well, here it is.

[There was a young man that lived 807 years ago being only 24 years old. He was a wealthy young man who lived large. The ideas of wine, woman, and song were at the forefront of his activities. This person went off to war and was captured by the enemy. He was ransomed by his wealthy father and when he returned home he was a different person. He contemplated the origins of his faith and how he saw God in his everyday life. This man was oddly drawn to those who were extremely poor where he saw God in the many things that they did. This young man's name was Francesco Bernardone. He lived in an area of Italy called Umbria. One day as he wandered the beautiful countryside thinking and wondering at all that had happened to him during the Crusades and how he felt as he came home, he stumbled upon a church that was in ruin. It was literally falling down. He went inside to pray in the San Domiano church and heard God speaking to him saying, “GO REPAIR MY HOME AS YOU CAN SEE IT IS IN RUIN.” This experience was overwhelming to him to say the least and Francis dedicated his life to rebuilding the church stone by stone. As time went on he renounced all material things of the world and took a vow to be one of the poor. He understood that without all of the material things in life, he wouldn't be distracted and could focus on the mission that God had set out before him. Francis' mission was to rebuild not only the church building of San Damiano, but the church as a community. He gained followers who believed in the same things and even women became part of the ministry.]

God Moment (Continued)

So, when you (Todd), asked me to help you with several building projects that a few unfortunate families could not handle, I couldn't refuse. At that moment, the entire story of Francis raced through my head and I saw and understood what was happening and being asked of me. At that moment, God was asking me to rebuild his home. That ten minute conversation hit me like a ton of bricks and stuck with me until even now. This was the beginning but I will call it God moment #4.

“We as the people of God, as the holy church of God, need to slow down and look around.”

The act of acting on the behalf of God, showing love, forgiving the shortcomings of those less fortunate, and offering hope and joy to others; All of this was something that we all had done throughout the week. This, even if some of us didn't know it, is God's answer to the prayer of St. Francis.

The prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

So, with this, I can say that we all have the abilities to serve God. Preach the gospel and sometimes use words.

God moment #5 through more than a billion—is in every smile, handshake, kind word, helpful gesture, and breath that we take each and every day. Our reward is out there in its entire splendor. We as the people of God, as the holy church of God, need to slow down and look around. We need to put aside personal differences and set aside the materialism that evolving society throws at us and see God. He's there for us and we must be obedient and loyal to His word.

To all who participate in the work of Servants, Christ is with you. Do your best to please him.

Peace to all.

-Tim Tracey

Servants



Serving Christ Through
Serving Others



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Home Helps Mission Statement

Our mission is to improve the lives of people in York County. Our purpose is to give them hope and help them see and feel the love of Jesus Christ.

We do this by providing home maintenance and repair services to homeowners, who for whatever reason, are unable to do the work themselves and are unable to pay professionals to do the work for them.

Senior Citizens, people with disabilities, and single parents are the focus of the Home Helps ministry.

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