

2010 November news letter

By [Mercy Flows](#) on Wednesday, 03 November 2010 at 21:08
WOW!!!!!!!!!!Time flys and GOD IS GOOD!!!!!!!!!!

Here we are at the beginning of November. This year we have seen a great slow down of volunteers to New Orleans.

Matthew 9:37 "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few"

We have two more projects that we need to finish and thirty seven on the books waiting. We have a couple of teams coming in January and two teams scheduled for June but need more.

The good news is that the churches we have rebuilt are getting many new members. HALLELUJAH!!!!

In March we had an average of seventy volunteers a week and got a lot done in St. Bernard, the lower 9, and Desire communities. April was slow and in May we were blessed by being able to go to the middle Tennessee to aid after the floods. We were able to feed on average of two hundred people a day in Centerville, Tennessee, along with helping two churches to get back open from the floods. Thanks to all that volunteered or supported this.

This summer we had fourteen teams come to New Orleans to work in the lower 9 and Desire communities. Thanks to all our volunteers. During this year we have fed an estimated 4,700 meals to the homeless and needy. This number is rising weekly due to the recession and many who are being laid off. We were able to demolish three houses, gutted two homes, rebuild two and are two thirds way of finishing our thirteenth church which is named Morning Star Missionary Baptist. We also have been able to cut around three hundred abandoned lots and picked up over eleven hundred bags of trash. Thanks to all the volunteers and our supporters for being GOD's hands and feet.

And now the rest of the story as Paul Harvey would say.....

Psalms 136:1 "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good
His love endures forever"

The rest of this year plans are Thanksgiving as we do every year in the lower 9. Again this year we are blessed to have Walgreens bringing their mobile medical bus back for free exams. This year we are partnering with Central Missionary Baptist Church to feed...We need volunteers to come help. If you can't come and still want to help with this we could use some help with funds to make this happen for food cost continues to rise...You can really help by keeping this in your prayers....."Thanksgiving remains time to remember God"

In the fall of 1621, Pilgrims held a three day feast to thank God for a successful harvest, an event many regard as the first Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving became a national holiday in 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday of November a national day of thanksgiving for God's blessing and provision in the midst of the Civil War. "No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things "Lincoln said in proclamation."They are the gracious gifts of the most high God, who while dealing with us in anger nevertheless remembered mercy" Thanksgiving is about what we have to be thankful for, but even more about who God is and our gratitude for his love towards us.

We are planning to do Christmas in Agood, Tennessee, where the floods destroyed a church .We are planning on rebuilding this church next year as we believe the church is the cornerstone of the community. We are planning on doing Christmas just like we have in the lower 9. On Christmas Eve doing a live nativity scene, feeding around three hundred and giving everyone a gift no matter their age. Also, we will be giving out coats, blankets and clothing. If you would like to come and volunteer for this, please contact us. We need donations and funds to make this happen. Please pray for the event to go good and that we show the true meaning of this special holiday....THE CHRIST IS BORN!!!!

Luke 6:38 'Give to others and God will give to you; you will receive a full measure, a generous helping, poured into your hands-all that you can hold. The measure you use for others is the one God will use for you.

Making life count.....

God designed us and he has given us the gift of life. He has a purpose and certain plan for each of us.

The Apostle Paul wrote "It is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Paul clearly says that we are not saved by good works but we are created for good works-work that God has already prepared for us.

There are the great moments in life, when you are born and when you discover why you were born. It is important to discover how God wants you to be personally involved in his mission in the world through praying, giving, going-or all three. You need to know not only what you should be doing, but where and with whom God has a plan for you. But your destiny is not your fate. IT'S YOUR CHOICE.....GOD loves us so much he gave us free will....Remember it's up to you to make your life count.

"Then the angel said to them, Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord"Luke2; 10, 11

This proclamation of the birth of Christ is more than just a seasonal ritual. It is still relevant today. "Do not be afraid "the roots are deep in sin. As we are all sinners we have something to fear, Jesus came to take the fear of punishment for sin away and to deliver us from lesser fears as well. Matthew1:21 "He will save his people from their sins"

Good tidings "Good news was scarce when Jesus was born. In today's world of challenges, it is still welcomed. The good news is Jesus came to take our place and die for our sins.2 Cor. 5:21 "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God". Great joy, the joy of knowing Jesus is available to all! Nehemiah 8:10 "Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength" To you...Jesus is a personal savior, this day "What a wonderful day that must have been. Every time a sinner experiences the new birth, the joy of that day is released once again...2 Cor. 6:2 "In the time of my favor I heard you and in the day of salvation I helped you" "Christ is the Lord" he is not just a savior, he is Lord of our lives. Christmas is relevant because Christ stays connected to his people. Christmas is not just a tradition. Believers know the joy of experiencing the significance of this day every day of their lives.

A NEW YEAR 2011

Two thousand years ago, Jesus fed the hungry, healed the sick and visited the lonely. JESUS HAS NOT CHANGED!!!! He still meets the physical and spiritual needs of the poor and suffering people. He hears their voices rising from dilapidated neighborhoods and impoverished nations. He sees the hungry children, grief stricken mothers and unemployed fathers. Jesus' heart breaks! Fortunately Jesus still today actively works. He works through his followers to feed the hungry and gives them hope. Jesus longs to wipe away their tears. As believers, we must not turn a deaf ear to the cries of the poor and suffering. We must not isolate ourselves from the destitute and dying or throw up our hands and say "what will be, will be". Instead in the name of Jesus we must respond with concerted prayer and acts of compassion.

Jesus asks us to resist the temptation to do nothing. Most believers want to rescue the perishing and care for the dying but often because the needs are great, we don't know what to do or where to start. Actually its quite simple. Jesus asks us to invite him to fill out hearts with greater passion and to open our eyes to the ministry opportunities such as disasters, recessions, war etc.....Jesus wants us to do work in our hearts. In addition to prayer and acts of compassion every believer has a biblical responsibility to give to the poor as unto the Lord! In turn God promises to give his blessings and favor in our lives!!!!!!

That's why at Carpenters House our mission statement is Matthew25:35-40. It's also in Luke14:13-14 "When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind and you will be blessed! Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteousness. Jesus asks us to give generously and joyfully, he also commands us to feed the hungry. To think when we do this we are partnering with Jesus to make a lasting difference in the lives of men, women and

children who are hungry and alone. Letting them know that no matter where they are Jesus is always with them.

Yes, times are rough, the recession is hard, jobs are few, money is tight, inflation is going up, the dollar value is going down...but God has not changed!!!! God is good all the time...Carpenters House is just like many missions and churches that have experienced the decline in donations. WE WILL NOT LOSE SIGHT NOR TURN FROM OUR MISSION OF GODS WILL...As found in Joshua 25:15 "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

As some of you know back in December 2005, I prayed to God to serve him however he wanted and confessed that I had the faith of a mustard seed...

WOW! Talk about moving mountains! Matthew 17:20 "Because you have so little faith I tell you, if you have the faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing is impossible for you"

You see faith is designed by God to grow...faith can only grow by continual use and expansion of vision, which believes God for greater and greater things. And then the seed turns into a tree as we see in Matthew 13:31-32 "The kingdom of Heaven is like a grain of mustard seed, which man took, sowed in his field, which is indeed the least of all seeds, but when grown it is the greatest of herbs, becomes the tree, so that birds lodge in the branches.

You see each of us have faith but are we using it? Has our faith continued to grow into the far-reaching impact Christ wanted it to? You see these transformations in our faith will never come if we do not use our faith and live out our faith.

God has blessed Judy and me in so many ways. Just to name a few.....

1. Judy is cancer free...
2. We have met at least ten people from every state.
3. Have gotten to minister to people in the USA, Canada, Afghanistan, Austria, Germany, Egypt, Honduras, Haiti, and Mexico
4. Many opportunities to share the gospel
5. To be able to have canoed the Mississippi river and share gospel in seventy one cities and so many more blessings...

In 2011 we are hoping to be able to continue the ministry in New Orleans as well as being able to be mobile to go to disasters where needed. Those of you that knew us from the beginning know we have felt God wanted us to be mobile. Being human we fell into worldly things, as in getting to stationary...we believe God reminded us of our mission in May when we went to Tennessee to help with the floods there and again in August in East Tennessee. We also experienced and saw the need across America last year during the canoe trip. We have to admit to you and ourselves during these times we had a feeling of comfort and closeness to God. We've been in deep prayer for God's direction for Carpenters House, in doing so some scripture came to mind. One is Luke chapter 5..."Can you imagine all the fish it would take to sink two boats and the bragging rights of catching that many fish at once? But you see Peter, Andrew, and James obeyed Jesus and left it all to follow him! And then there was Levi the tax collector, no doubt quite well off, who left everything to follow Jesus. And then my favorite is found in James 4:15 "you ought to say, if it is the Lords will, we will live and do this or that..."

This my friends brings a question to mind.....If tonight you and your family are gathered together, having fun in all the comforts of home...a knock came to the door and it was Jesus saying come follow me...What would you do?

Judy and I want to follow him. Yes we have made mistakes. Yes we have sinned..Yes we have been forgiven...We have told GOD.....we want to serve him in anyway...While praying for guidance and looking back, we see and feel strongly that we are to serve God by being mobile....

Since the recession, more folks are losing their jobs, their homes, their retirement....

We want to thank everyone who have supported us in our mission...There's so much more to do...We are making personal sacrifices to be able to continue to minister....We want to thank all that helped with the house that we live in...by looking at what God wants us to do and the cost of mortgage, insurance, flood insurance, utilities and taxes, we have decided through much prayer to sell the home and get a cheap motor home, to not have those expenses. Therefore being able to go where ever he leads...Any

profits will be going to help support the ongoing ministry. In 2010 we lost 60 percent of our support. God has been good to us providing our needs but with the recession more people need help. Saying this, friends and family we need your help. I have been learning a lot about pride and ego.....These two things will not work. God says be humble...by being humble we gain grace as it is found in James 4:6. "God opposes the proud but gives to the humble"

Judy and I are asking you that believe in what Carpenters House is doing to please make a commitment to donate funds monthly so we can continue the journey of serving our gracious LORD AND SAVIOR. As I am writing this someone just called Judy asking for food and clothing for their family. We are getting phone calls from Red Cross and other agencies for our help...What a wonderful God we serve!!!

In closing I want to share some scripture that I believe shows why America is where it is..It's found in Malachi which was written to Israel through him.

Malachi 3:6-12

"I the Lord do not change. So you, o descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you" says the Lord Almighty....but you ask "How are we to return?" Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me, but you ask how do we rob you? "In tithes and offerings you are under a curse-the whole nation of you-because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe to the storehouse that there may be food in my house. Test me in this" says the Lord Almighty "And see if I will not throw open the floodgates, of heaven and pour out so much blessings that you will not have enough room for it. I will prevent pest from devouring your crops, and vines in your field will not cast their fruits "says the Lord Almighty. Then all nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land "says the Lord Almighty...

I believe its time for the church here in America to take a stand, by sharing Gods love in this time of need..by getting prayer back in school, to put God first back in America

Please pray for our country, our leaders, and help continue our mission to serve by giving hope to the helpless, food to the hungry, clothes to the needy, and last but most importantly the gospel to those in need....

In Christian love,
Charles and Judy