



SKILTON HOUSE MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 1045 ■ Glenside, Pennsylvania 19038-1045 ■ 215-836-3461 ■ 484-477-9659 ■ www.skiltonhouseministries.org

Operation Brotherhood 2006

by Ann Egner

Operation Brotherhood 2006 reached 1940 families for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This surpasses any year so far and we praise God for the opportunity to minister to these families. However, we ask for your continued prayers for us as we endeavor to meet this challenge.

Looking back, we were truly blessed on packing night, having well over 300 people respond to our praise service and then stay and pack the baskets of food. Rev. Seong Kim, senior pastor of the Korean United Church welcomed us and gave the opening prayer for those families who would receive the baskets and turkeys. Rev. Henry Cooper, president of Skilton House Ministries, also welcomed everyone and explained the goals of Operation Brotherhood, noting that OB was about much more than feeding the needy with food. It was sharing the love of Jesus Christ and feeding people with the Word of God. George Petrella, a missionary with the Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship, shared a salvation message, emphasizing how a child of God should live a life to please God. Then young and old, members of various churches, missions, school students, faculty members and people of many cultures, gathered together to help fulfill the Great Commission – *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age* (Matthew 28:19). Rev. Kevin Chapman and his choir from Truth Memorial Baptist Church sang praises to God while we walked to the stations of food and packed and sang together. Within two and a half hours, the 1940 bags were packed and we praised the Lord.

The next morning the representatives from our churches arrived with many willing helpers and carried the baskets to the churches where Gospel of John booklets



were inserted in readiness for delivery. We thank the Philadelphia Bible Society for their contribution of copies of the Gospel of John for each basket and a Spanish language devotional for our Spanish speaking families.

The 1940 turkeys arrived on Tuesday, November 21, 2006 under sunny skies and about 50 strong men and women unloaded the tractor trailer. Pastor Cooper prayed for the families who would be receiving the turkeys and the members of the churches who would disciple them. All wished each other a blessed Thanksgiving. The turkeys were then delivered with the baskets to those needy families whom we pray will come to know our Lord as Savior.

We sincerely thank everyone who participated in any way to make our *Operation Brotherhood 2006* such a wonderful success, beginning with our fall rally at the As The Holy Spirit Leads - Church of Healing and Deliverance on October 1, 2006, to the bagging of potatoes and onions and counting cans on November 16th, giving devotions, prayers, singing and packing bags on the 17th of November, picking up the bags to take to the churches on the 18th, unloading the turkeys and putting them on trucks for delivery, and the many who contributed canned goods, groceries and money to pay for the turkeys. Yes, it takes many dedicated Christians to help in fulfilling "The Great Commission" which Jesus gave to us. And last but not least, a special *thank you* to the Korean United Church of Philadelphia who has partnered with Skilton House Ministries through these many years. We praise God for the opportunity to serve Him and we give Him all the glory.

HARTRANFT SCHOOL CRT MOVES FULL-STEAM AHEAD!

For a few years now a Christian released time education program has been offered for students of the Hartranft School (kindergarten through eighth grade) at 720 W. Cumberland Street in Philadelphia. This CRT is held within a short walking distance of the school at King Solomon Baptist Church and is sponsored by the Genesis Christian Fellowship Center. Nearly every Tuesday at 2:00 PM Pastor Johnny Reynolds and teacher Pat Wright, along with Brother Roscoe and Barbara Guerrero, teach the Bible and the basics of the Christian faith to an average of sixteen 7th and 8th graders.

There is every indication that this CRT is having a positive effect on the students and their families. Last year a student from a Muslim family attended and this year a returning student has led nine of her family members to Jesus Christ!

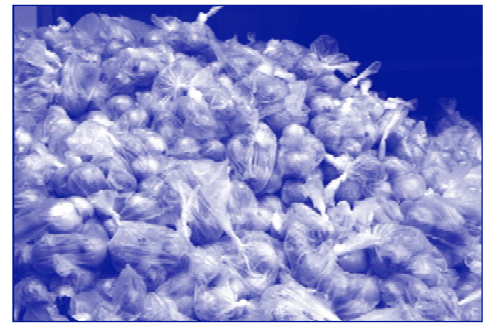
The Hartranft CRT began this school year in mid-November and has conducted special programs including a Christmas program and a Black History Month program in February.

Pray with us for the folks involved in the Hartranft CRT as they continue to teach the young people from the school. May the Lord grant more CRTs like this one! Pastor Reynolds has requested that we pray that God would continue to send new students. May he do that and more.

Operation Brotherhood 2006 Photo Gallery



Rev. Aaron Messner, from Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia and soon to be campus chaplain at Covenant College, preaching about the Prodigal Son in Luke 15 at the OB 2006 Rally.



Onions! Onions! Onions!



Youth group passing baskets of food to lower gym.



Jane Petrella, "Captain of the Corn," passing out cans of corn to volunteers.



1,940 baskets of food to bring glory to God!



The Boy Scouts were assisting to reach out for our Lord.



It takes many dedicated Christians to make Operation Brotherhood a success.

Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers

Written by Christian Smith, William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center for the Study of Religion at the University of Notre Dame with Melinda Lundquist Denton; Published by Oxford University Press, Oxford and New York, 2005.

Smith and Denton provide an eye-opening expose on the nature of teenage religion in America. Many myths about teenage religious life are shattered in this ground-breaking study. Given the fact that Skilton House Ministries is committed to reaching out to young people of all ages, including teens, through the released time education program, it behooves us to be familiar with the material in this book. There are lessons to be learned from this book that may apply to younger children as well. Smith and Denton are involved in the National Study of Youth and Religion and *Soul Searching* is the first publication to arise from this survey.

Soul Searching is based on several hundred

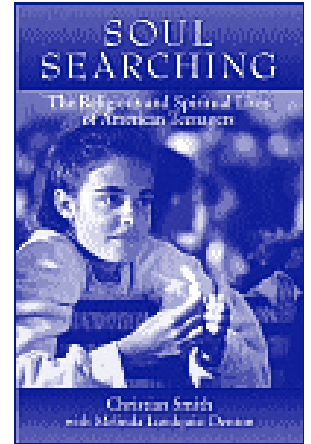
telephone and face-to-face interviews and there is a fair bit of technical sociological discussion in the book that can be glossed over quickly by those not interested in that aspect of the survey. Interspersed throughout the book are helpful charts and explanations. More importantly, there are engaging accounts of interviews that reveal teens with no interest in religion, teens with some commitment, all the way to teens who are fully committed to their faith. Despite what we may have been told, teens are not, as a rule, opposed to religion. In fact, for the most part, teens follow the religion of their parents. Peer pressure is a reality, but parents have much more influence over their teen children than either Hollywood or Madison Avenue would like to admit. Christian churches and organizations should find this piece of information encouraging.

However all is not well. Most teens, even those with a strong religious commitment, could not clearly articulate just what they believed. Teens expressed vague notions of

God and their faiths which suggest that the purpose of religion is to merely make a person happy and well-adjusted. God has become a cosmic bellhop in the sky. There was not even the slightest

hint that God might be displeased with humanity because of sin or that there might be the need for salvation. Smith and Denton came to refer to this phenomenon as *Moralistic Therapeutic Deism*. Religion is reduced to that which makes teens have a better self-image or what helps them avoid run ins with the law. It is doubtful whether any church would recognize the faith so poorly articulated by these teens. There is work to do. They should be taught what their church believes and what kind of behavior it expects of its adherents. Christian churches need to move beyond macaroni paper plates to teaching the faith once for all delivered to the saints.

Smith and Denton do not leave the reader with this mixed bag of conclusions. They step out of their roles as sociologists and attempt to explain why we find ourselves with teens who cannot articulate their faith. And they offer suggestions for what the results of this study might mean for church youth groups. Clearly the church needs to work with whole families. And where we work with detached young people, the church needs to become a family for these teens. And we need to be aware of the environment in which we work. The church faces competition from the entertainment, advertising and information technology industries. But the answer to these and many other environmental factors is not more glitz and glamor. The answer is the Gospel presented in all its depth and richness.



How Does Skilton House Ministries Implement Christian Released Time?

- * Establish interest in CRT in a local church
- * Contact Skilton House Ministries
- * Form a committee of interested church volunteers
- * Select CRT curriculum
- * Approach local school/district
- * Establish the time and place for CRT
- * Distribute permission slips
- * Begin classes
- * Keep attendance records and report these to school
- * Hold special classes for holidays
- * Hold a graduation ceremony at end of year
- * Conduct annual evaluation of CRT
- * Participate in teacher/volunteer training

Think On These Things: Bible Truths for Faith and Life

We are pleased to be able to present to the readers of the *Skilton House Ministries Newsletter* a selection from the late Dr. John Skilton's book *Think On These Things: Bible Truths For Faith And Life* which can be purchased from SHM.



John Skilton

But when they knew that he was a Jew, all with one voice for about the space of two hours cried out, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians." — Acts 19:34

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. — Psalm 145:3

BIBLE READING: Acts 19:23-41

In the large theater of Ephesus the devotees of Diana cried out the praise of their grotesque nature goddess. For about two hours they confessed with one voice, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians." The cries of their loyalty expressed the esteem that many had in that day for the crude goddess whose worship centered in the magnificent temple that was one of the seven wonders of the world. If insistent and emphatic affirmation could establish falsehood as true, the cries of faith that were uttered in the theater of Ephesus should have established forever the excellence and magnificence of Diana.

The centuries have passed, however, and the worshipers of Diana have gone; the great city of Ephesus has fallen into ruins; the temple of Diana has been destroyed, and now a stagnant frog pond is found at its site. Today, instead of cries of devotion to Diana one hears the croaking of thousands of frogs.

Ephesus is dead and Diana is dead. With other discredited and abandoned deities of antiquity, Diana has perished—her followers have been replaced by frogs in a stagnant pond. But the Gospel that Paul preached in Ephesus is not dead and will not die. And the God to whom Paul testified in Ephesus still lives and reigns forever. For He is the One who alone is great and is greatly to be praised, and whose greatness is unsearchable.

Executive Director's Corner

by Jeff Waddington

It is my pleasure to greet you all in the name of our Triune God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you, our readers, some of what has been happening with Skilton House Ministries over the past few months. I want to thank all those who have supported us financially, morally, and with prayer. Especially thank you to all those who have volunteered to help in our various forms of outreach. Thank you also to the board of trustees and its executive committee. All that we do is meant to lead the lost to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to bring glory and honor to God (1st Cor. 10:31).

You have Ann Egner's Operation Brotherhood 2006 report so I do not want to repeat what she has said. All I want to say is that the effort this past year was phenomenal. All the work that was done was fueled by the desire to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with families through sharing Thanksgiving dinners. By all accounts the effort was a success. The highlight for the volunteers was surely the Friday evening worship service and bag packing. And it was a real pleasure to be a part of the turkey unloading and distribution.

The development of new CRTs is progressing slowly but surely. You will find a report about one of our CRTs (the Hartranft CRT) elsewhere in this newsletter. I have communicated with some 300 plus churches about the CRT program and will continue to meet with church leaders encouraging them to come on board with us to reach out to public school students in their neighborhoods. At the moment we have two or three churches considering establishing a CRT. I have designed a colorful new brochure about Skilton House Ministries' CRT program and recently had the opportunity to address a church in the Pocono region using a new multimedia presentation. If you or your church are interested in receiving brochures to distribute or to have me come and deliver a talk with the multimedia presentation, please feel free to contact me. We are also looking at developing a CRT "toolbox" where we can offer recommendations for teaching materials to prospective churches. In the future we also hope to work in conjunction with the Conestoga Bible Conference offering CRT students an opportunity to benefit from a week of sum-

mer camp. Another exciting new development is the possibility of getting students from a nearby seminary involved with Skilton House Ministries in teaching at area CRTs. Many churches in the area are interested in hosting a CRT but just don't have the people to help. This is one way we can stand in the gap.

I am pleased to tell you that we have a new website up and running at www.skiltonhouseministries.org. We are still perfecting the website with new and updated information, but feel free to visit and interact with the various sections of the site. We plan on placing each of our newsletters on line through the website and you will be able to read them through the use of Adobe® Reader.

Finally I would encourage you to consider giving a financial gift to Skilton House Ministries and sending it to: P.O. Box 1045, Glenside, PA 19038-1045. As you no doubt know, it costs money to conduct outreach and Skilton House Ministries as a non-profit organization depends on your generous gifts. Without your support we would not be able to extend the vision of our founder, the late Dr. John Skilton.

Thank you for your continued interest in Skilton House Ministries.



BOOKS FOR SALE
at www.skiltonhouseministries.org

Think on These Things
Author: Skilton Cost: \$1.50

New Testament Student and His Field
Author: Skilton Cost: \$5.00

Jack the Cat
Author: Skilton Cost: \$5.00

Gospels Today
Author: Skilton Cost: \$7.50

Listening to God's Voice
Author: Skilton Cost: \$1.50

Bondage of Grace
Author: Vickers Cost: \$7.50

Christian Truth in Critical Times
Author: Vickers Cost: \$7.50

Soul Searching
Author: Smith Available through most bookstores and Amazon.com