

CFH CHRONICLES

CHRIST FOR
HUMANITY'S
NEWSLETTER

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"AND THIS GOSPEL OF THE
KINGDOM WILL BE
PREACHED IN THE WHOLE
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TO ALL NATIONS..."

REHOBOTH SCHOOL RAISED THE ROOF AND OPENS ITS DOORS THIS FALL!

In 2014, Christ for Humanity raised more than \$18,000 to build three classrooms for the Rehoboth Christian School in Mali, West Africa. On May 20, 2015, missionaries Jim and Jennifer Bowers, who have been spearheading the project in Mali, arrived in Tulsa with a wonderful report. The walls for all three classrooms have been raised and the roofing materials are ready for installation. Any remaining funds will go to purchase wood to build study tables for the children.

Several years ago, Christ for Humanity purchased a machine from Polk Building Ministries (BPM) that can make strong, reliable building blocks from local soil. In 2012, Arnold Polk, the device's designer, traveled to Mali with his invention to train people in the proper use of his machine. Since that time, three Malian men have



The walls of the second classroom are ready for a corrugated metal roof.

worked tirelessly making bricks. Three thousand blocks were needed to construct one classroom, which meant 12,000 blocks were made to complete the project.

In 2014, Mr. Polk returned to Mali on yet another teaching mission: to instruct area stone masons how to lay the foundation and build the walls using these unique interlocking blocks, which resemble Legos. Additionally, Arnold taught missionaries from Switzerland and Honduras (also serving in Mali) how to operate the block maker. These missionaries will, in turn, construct buildings for their missions using BMP blocks, once the school building is completed. The Bowers



Arnold Polk demonstrates the proper method for setting the classroom foundation.

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are elated that the local people have a vested interest in the school project and have worked faithfully to raise the walls.

In October more than 180 children from kindergarten through twelfth grade will attend Rehoboth Christian School. The young people will have the opportunity to receive a quality education from a well-trained teaching staff. More importantly, these primarily Muslim children will also hear about the Lord Jesus Christ and establish a saving relationship with Him. Currently, only 2% of people in Mali are Christians. The Bowers and other missionaries in Mali hope to increase that number through a quality education that addresses their academic, economic and spiritual needs.



Block makers mix local soil with a little cement to make interlocking blocks for the school buildings.

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

MEXICO

In 2011 Christ for Humanity received grant money from a Florida-based foundation to fund a joint-venture project with United Indian Missions (UIM) in the state of Nayarit on Mexico's west coast. The community development project, raising goats for food and trade, was designed to provide long-term economic benefits to struggling Huichol Indians in 12 villages — more than 600 individuals.

Starting at ground zero meant cultivating the land with fodder crops, building corals and fences, and training people to breed and care for goats. Everyone involved realized that these goals would take at least several years for the Huichol people to accomplish because they were poorly educated and had little or no modern agricultural equipment. Until all necessary preparations for this project were completed, the funds to purchase the goats were held in trust by United Indian Missions. Yearly reports from the field indicated that expected progress was evident.

Last November, the ministry received news from UIM that its project manager had resigned. Without his help and supervision, the village elders were opposed to moving forward with the goat project, despite all the prep work the village had completed. Christ for Humanity contacted our foundation partner with this news, asking if its board would approve another project to help the Huichol people: The area high school needed a roof and bathrooms. The funds held in trust by UIM would cover these improvements with a little money left over to construct a road to the village cemetery. The foundation approved the revised proposal, and now the school has a new roof and bathrooms for its children, and the road is under construction.

Doing projects abroad can be challenging. Progress is not as forthcoming as we would like, and sometimes the outcome isn't what we expect. However, all of us at Christ for Humanity have learned to trust God in every situation. He is in control, and He will accomplish His purposes, which will bring glory and honor to His name.



LIVES TRANSFORMED

On Sunday, April 12, John and Neisa Gates were publically baptized at Fellowship Bible Church in Tulsa before family and friends, some of whom had shared a two and a half year odyssey of redemptions and reconciliation with the couple. The expression of joy and excitement on the faces of this husband and wife was evident to all in attendance, exemplifying how a relationship with Christ changes lives.

In 2013 John and Neisa were really struggling. Though married, neither of them took their vows or commitment as seriously as they should have. John admitted to infidelity. As a Type I diabetic, he had undergone heart surgery and suffered from seizures related to his disease, making full-time employment nearly impossible. Neisa wrestled with alcoholism. The couple argued regularly and even discussed divorce. Not only was their marriage on the rocks, but their financial situation was dire.

Out of food and on the verge of being evicted from their apartment, John checked the 211 listing for agencies that might help. Near the top of the list

was Christ for Humanity. John dropped by the ministry for food one Monday morning two and a half years ago and learned about the *1st Steps Program*. As a hot lunch was being served, he decided to stay and see what the ministry had to offer besides groceries — a decision that would change his life and Neisa's.

John said the first person he met at that meeting was Mark Rollins, the welcoming founder of Christ for Humanity. He introduced John to other mentors such as Bob Ashinhurst, Bob Hudspeth, and John Tyson. Everyone seemed so friendly that John decided to stay for the Bible study. Later, he mentioned that one of the things he really liked about *1st Steps* was the relaxed atmosphere in the class. Biblical truth was the topic, but no one pressured him to make a commitment. On the contrary, he was encouraged to join the discussion and voice his questions and concerns.

Neisa began attending the class, too. She developed a strong bond with mentor Connie Hudspeth, and over time the two of them began tackling Neisa's drinking problem. Eventually, Neisa entered a live-in, Christian recovery program, attending for a month. With God's help and the support of Christian friends, Neisa stopped drinking and has been alcohol free for more than a year. The Lord also blessed her with a good job at Cellular One, where Neisa has received commendations for her work. Though she and John have been living with a friend for the past two years, Neisa anticipates moving into their own apartment soon.

Both John and Neisa eventually accepted Christ. They are members of Fellowship Bible Church and active participants in the church's small-group program. John volunteers on Sunday morning in the media department, recording worship services for internet viewing. During the week he volunteers at Christ for Humanity and has been extremely helpful while CFH's warehouse manager recovers from triple by-pass surgery. John has also been a cast member in CFH's annual Christmas pageant for the past two years.

In **Matthew 11:28**, Jesus said, **"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."** These words ring so true in John and Neisa's lives. From the ashes of a failing marriage, alcoholism, and health issues, Christ has rekindled love, respect, and self-control. Finally, Christ has ignited a sense of purpose and inspired John and Neisa to become servants of the Kingdom within the church. How great Thou art!



John and Neisa Gates were baptized by friend/Pastor John Tyson at Fellowship Bible Church on April 12th.

LOCAL OUTREACH NEWS

Young and Old Join the Good Friday Prayer Walk

On Good Friday in 2012, Alvin Lee Watts and Jacob Carl England went on a racially motivated rampage in North Tulsa, shooting and killing three people and severely injuring two others. The shootings drew national attention to Tulsa, shining a light on some of the city's racial, social and economic inequities.

Though all forms of segregation were declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 1968, for the most part, the city of Tulsa still remains racially divided, widened by the majority of African Americans living in North Tulsa while the white community lives in the southern part of the city.

The infamous Race Riot of 1921 destroyed Tulsa's Greenwood District (also known as the Black Wall Street), purportedly the wealthiest black community in the United States at that time. As many as 10,000 African Americans were left homeless when 35 city blocks composed of 1,256 residences were destroyed by fire. In the intervening 94 years, North Tulsa never has recovered, struggling economically against high unemployment and crime rates compared to other areas of Tulsa.



Prayer warriors ready to begin CFH's three mile Prayer Walk from Gateway Grocery to 46th Street North.

"IF MY PEOPLE WILL PRAY"



Participants formed a circle of unity during the final prayers for the North Tulsa community.

also gratified and proud that half of the group were members of the Association of Christian Athletes from McClain High School. Prayer warriors walked three miles along Peoria from the Gateway Grocery parking lot to 46th Street North. Along the way, continuous prayers were raised, seeking God's blessings on area businesses, schools, churches, neighborhoods and individuals. Marchers also asked God to stem the tide of racism and to promote reconciliation and cooperation between all areas of Tulsa.

In an effort to promote unity and reconciliation throughout the city, Christ for Humanity's Ronda Tyson organized a prayer walk to take place on the third anniversary of the 2012 Good Friday shootings. Ronda chose **II Chronicles 7:14** as the foundation verse for the event: *"If My people which are called by My name shall humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I bear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."* Ronda and many other Christians in Tulsa believe that only through repentance and prayer can we resolve the on-going problems facing our community.

Thirty-eight individuals (some in their 70's) participated in the CFH Prayer Walk. We are

“Doer of the Word”

Adapted from an internet article by Claudia Ruano

While seated in a sidewalk café, a homeless man came in and sat down near me. His scent was unpleasant, and people entering the café stared at him, some rolling their eyes. He was simply doing what we were all doing, drinking coffee and enjoying the afternoon. Yet, his appearance elicited ridicule.

The man brought his well-behaved dog with him. He proceeded to tell me that he was a veteran and had walked 60 miles from Seattle to Tumwater over the past few days. He spoke highly of Legacy, who journeyed with his master every step of the way without complaint. As soon as Legacy was told to lie down, he obeyed and fell sound asleep.

Sadly, people distanced themselves from this homeless veteran. Kids, who inquired about the dog, were quickly shielded by their parents and hurried away. The vet explained that most people have no concept of what it means to be Christ-like because they simply place Christ on the shelf as soon as they leave church. He related that while he was in Bellevue, Washington, five well-known Seattle Seahawk players walked past him. One of them made a rude comment about his homelessness and then tried to offer him a \$20 bill. When the money was declined, the Seahawk player, who claimed to be a Christian, was offended. The homeless man told the wealthy man that he would not accept money from someone who would belittle him in front of others while claiming to be a Christian. Needless to say the player was embarrassed because his friends had witnessed his rude, prideful behavior.



Later that evening, I offered the veteran a meal, which he gladly accepted. Then I overheard my new friend telling his dog that they would soon find new shoes to continue their journey. I noticed that his shoes were disintegrating. Remembering that I had a new pair of boots in my storage unit, I asked the vet that if they fit, would he accept them. He said, “Yes.” I left while he was eating and after a short drive, returned with the new pair of boots, which were his exact size. His face broke into the biggest smile, and he told Legacy that their journey would soon continue.

As he removed his worn shoes, he apologized because his socks were dirty and falling apart. I inquired if he had any others, and he said the ones on his feet were his only pair. Jokingly, he wondered if I had any spare socks with me. I had just done laundry and had several pairs of clean, white socks in my car. I gave them to him, and he proudly donned his new boots.

We shook hands and wished each other well. While walking away, I overheard a final conversation between the veteran and his dog. He simply patted Legacy on the head and said, “I told you God was going to take care of us.”

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The Bible entreats believers to be doers of the word, not just hearers. **James 2:15-17** states: *“Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, ‘Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well’ – but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.”* (NLT)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT FOR FATHER'S DAY

The 10 Most Wanted Men – from “The Ideal Man”

1. The man who puts God's business above any of his own affairs.
“...for if we live, we live for the Lord; or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lords.” (Romans 14:8)
2. The man who teaches and sets a good example for his children.
“And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)
3. The man who recognizes that anyone who needs him is his neighbor.
“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:27)
4. The man who measures his giving by what he has left rather than by what he gives.
“Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully.” (II Corinthians 9:6)
5. The man who reads the Word of God as diligently as he does the daily paper.
“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.” (II Timothy 2:15)
6. The man who lives for the treasures of heaven rather than the pleasures of earth.
“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth
- nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart will be also.”* (Matthew 6:20-21)
7. The man who recognizes his obligations to his family, church and community as well as to his business.
“And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared.’” (Luke 12:19-20)
8. The man who sees his own faults before he sees the faults of others.
“And why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?” (Matthew 7:3)
9. The man who wants to help others rather than serve himself.
“... do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:4)
10. The man who recognizes that all of life should be lived distinctively.
“Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory



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