Phil & Lucy Hayes recently joined the office staff as coordinators for youth mentoring and outreach, a new ministry designed to work with churches, Christian home-schooling groups and Christian camps to provide youth training in areas of construction. Here Phil & Lucy explain their ideas for the ministry:

Having owned a construction company since 1984 in the Seattle-Bellevue area, we felt the Lord calling us to Longview. Our intent was to build senior housing – but God had other plans. We were first introduced to Hard Hats through an inquiry from our church regarding plans for a new building. We met with Dave Williamson who shared his vision for a youth mentoring program. Little did we know that we would be the ones God was going to call. But a year later, we find ourselves in full-time missionary service here at the home office!

In many of our churches today, we are in a crisis of epidemic proportion. There is no longer a strong connection of godly men and women passing on their skills and talents and being mentors to our youth. It starts early by age-segregation or special treatment for our youth (separated worship services, etc) which leads to seclusion and isolation, which can then lead to estrangement and alienation, and can finally result in no connection to the church, and no relationship with God. Youth that have grown up in the church and have reached their late teens and early twenties are leaving – and many times not coming back – to our churches.

We intend to help bridge this gap and restore these relationships through our construction knowledge. We will have a strong emphasis on safety, goal setting and good work ethics in learning the “noble profession” of construction. The name of this new ministry is “Building in Youth”. We will be coordinating various Hard Hats projects with youth missions trips during the summer months. In the fall, winter and spring, we will hold construction clinics called “B.I.T.S. & Bites”, providing hands-on training of various construction aspects and techniques. (*Builders-In-Training and Service - who like to eat!)

There is a vast amount of talent and knowledge lying dormant in our churches. We want to excite and encourage the reconnection. Please pray that God will bind Satan’s efforts to thwart this new ministry and that men and women will rise up and join us in this urgently needed endeavor. Our main goal is to share the gospel from God’s Word: Proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance. Acts 28:31

We would value your insight, experience and comments. In the upcoming months, look for our new website, www.BuildingInYouth.com that will be linked to the main website. Contact us via philh@hh4c.org.

So many of the Hard Hats for Christ staff are new and are not acquainted with a lot of the people in our database. In an effort to get to know you better we are going to try to call everyone. We want to make sure that we have addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses correct. It would also be interesting to know how each of you first heard about this ministry. When we call we might also ask you to share when your birthdays and anniversaries are but we will not be asking for money. Please send back the response form or email us at VernaA@hh4c.org to let us know the best time to touch base with you.
What do Newell Christian Fellowship, Black Hills National Forest and Mt Rushmore have in common? They are all in South Dakota! If you decide to help this small Village Missions Church build their sanctuary you will also be just an hour and a half from Mt. Rushmore and the Black Hills National Forest where opportunities abound to explore this part of God’s creation.

This is Pastor Sean and Jani Carneys first pastorate with Village Missions and they are excited about the opportunities presented in their part of the country to share God’s love. The floor slab is poured and ready for framing to start in late April or early May. The workers there are looking forward to having the help of Hard Hat missionaries and volunteers. One of our missionary couples will be on site to spearhead this project. Please begin praying and planning for next summer as we come alongside this ministry.

Source Ministries    Minneapolis, MN

Have you ever been in a church that has an Awana program but not enough space for everything? Redwood Valley Community Church has already begun the work to provide the space they need for Sunday school classes and their growing Awana program. They have already started framing but are in need of more skilled and unskilled hands.

Think about traveling to Redwood Valley, California. Admire God’s handiwork in the Redwood Forest along highway 101 where this church is nestled. Help them as they construct a multi-purpose facility to be used to reach out with the gospel of Christ to the surrounding community. God has provided funds over the past four years and it is their desire to complete this project without debt. Will you help? There are RV spaces available.

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Have you ever been so cold you could not feel your fingers or your toes? Have you ever been so lost and afraid you thought God could not even help? Winter is coming to Minneapolis. Although the countryside is beautiful and fun to visit and explore there are many needy people in the big city. Source Ministries is a faith based non-profit that has worked with youth since 1989 and homeless youth since 1995. They provide outreach, transitional homes and life skills programs for young men and women who want to make a break from the past and set new foundations for the future.

In the fall of 2010, they began a campaign of awareness and prayer around issues of sex trafficking and the needed services for women who wish to escape. In December of that year they were able to purchase a small building and begin renovations. Their goal is to have five beds available by the 1st of November in a new transitional home which will provide a life skills program.

Hard Hats for Christ received a request for help with the remodeling. There is plenty of work that needs to be done in November and December. Can you show God’s love for those in need in Minneapolis? They need help as soon as possible!

Rolan & Lee McKay along with Jerry & Claudia Pollack are already at this project. You should hear how much they are enjoying the whole Warm Beach experience. When we talk with them they smile and laugh and share not only about how wonderful the facility is but how encouraging and uplifting the people they are working with are. If you would like to join them on this project you will be welcomed with open arms. RV spots and cottages are available. You will have lots of chances to help out because there is so much to do. They expect to have enough to do to fill two whole years. If you can’t help out right now start planning ahead. How about next spring, or summer, maybe fall, or even winter?

This camp and conference center is located an hour north of Seattle where it is green all year around. They are remodeling their Cedar Lodge. Right now they are starting with the bathrooms and then moving on to the rest of the lodge. Part of their ministry is for people with disabilities and they want to re-develop one of their original youth camps to provide a “camp home” for this important ministry. It is exciting and wonderful to be a part of a ministry that is touching so many lives!

Don’t pass up this opportunity to reach out and help others.