

Dear Friends,

Several years ago a supporter responded to one of our personal prayer letters saying he did not really care about what my family was doing, or where and what I was doing, but wanted to know details of ministry--results, men reached, projects done, and mission trips accomplished! Since then, I have been very reluctant to send out a personal prayer letter. For the past 39 years almost everything that went out from Hard Hats for Christ also included what I was doing, so that seemed safely sufficient for Hodges news.

But, as you may have noticed in the last mission newsletter, my name did not appear. That is a first!! And rightly so, since I have taken a "back seat" by stepping down from all administrative responsibilities.

As "part time" Mission Rep and Historian, I am not in the "limelight" anymore. I have represented Hard Hats at some conferences, especially NICE Regionals, and the IFCA National. I attended the annual mission conference at the Shulke farm. (I was not an official delegate, just there to enjoy what God is doing and be available as needed). We were blessed to attend TWO church dedications, one for Moreland Bible Church in Portland and Deary Bible Church in Idaho.

During the week I sort, cull and glean information on projects and other matters, in order to put together a history of what has happened in Hard Hats for Christ. If you have ever written to me, or if we have sent you a personal letter, I probably still have its copy in one of the many file boxes I have kept since 1969. The sorting is overwhelming at times, and nostalgic—when I started, I still had all the financial records, mail lists, newsletters, letters that came in and copies of every letter we ever sent out!

I visit projects, encourage our missionaries and volunteers, take photos, visit supporters and contacts, and am available as a speaker when the opportunity arises. I don't do any "hands-on" construction now because of the cost of state industrial insurance. Since I am on "salary", even if I work just one day, I am responsible for a full month's state industrial charge at the highest category worked...(electrical, plumbing, carpentry, roofing, etc). Also my doctor has recently told me not to lift anything heavy or do construction due to a badly deteriorated back (damaged disks, bone spurs, and arthritis).

Jean and I are limited in travel since we are still the caregivers for her 103 year old father. He is no problem to take care of since he still manages to get around on his own. He eats a little of everything, goes to church every Sunday morning, and still enjoys listening to baseball, though he misses some of the words now. He is very, very deaf so communicating is truly limited.

Although he is almost totally blind, he still pecks away on the computer, trying to update his prophecy book by introducing "Sun Time" as the Scriptural measurement of time as opposed to Greenwich or Lunar time. Too complicated for me, but it does occupy most of his daylight hours. He sometimes cannot find the cursor, and barely sees the letters on the screen and keyboard. It may take him a couple of hours to just type one sentence – but he just 'keeps on truckin'!



You can read his unrevised edition at: <http://hometown.aol.com/sheppa1905/index.html>

Though I no longer have exciting stories to tell, or new statistics to report, I do appreciate you standing with us as we work to compile Hard Hats' past into a hands-on narrative and do public relations work as needed.

Jean and I need your prayers as we keep plugging away. We have made the decision to stay on active status with the mission as long as our financial support continues. Our monthly hours have been adjusted accordingly. My current goal is to limit my hours to 60 per month (in the old office). I meet in the new office with Dave Williamson once a week for prayer and updates. Ideally, I work on correspondence and archiving five hours daily, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday's. Of course, conferences, meetings and speaking interrupt that schedule.

We would still like to visit with each of you in person. Those who live close we can do fairly easily, if we would just set a time! Those further away will require us getting a caregiver to stay with Jean's dad. Thankfully, the Lord has provided a lady who can step in (with enough notice) for a few days at a time. Thank you for partnering with us,

In Christ,

*Jim Hodges*

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