

With Sword & Trowel

In This Issue

What is Building <i>In Youth</i> ?	P.1	Romance on the Mission Field	P.3
Updates from your Missionaries	P.2 & 4	God's Bountiful Blessings	P.3
Be on the Lookout!	P.2	Too much sharing? Never!	P.3
Gone Home	P.2	Occupy! And Grandpa Sheppa	P.5

Office : 360-423-5022
 www.hardhatsforchrist.org
 E-mail: information@hh4c.org
 Snail Mail: P.O. Box 636, Kelso, WA 98626

WHAT IS BUILDING *IN YOUTH* HERE AT HARD HATS FOR CHRIST?

By Phil & Lucy Hayes

As the Coordinators of Youth Mentoring & Outreach, we are encouraged and excited to see what God is already doing with this new ministry. In July we had a mission trip to Oregon with a local church youth group. We've met with several youth leaders and pastors who want to plan 2012 mission trips with us. On our recent travels we connected with Bible camps, churches, a university campus, and two YWAM bases. We've also been in contact with Young Life.

You might ask, "What is the purpose of *Building In Youth*?" The connection between older adults and youth is at a critical point in the life of the Church, as it has become greatly diminished nowadays. Young people in their late teens or early twenties who have grown up in the church are leaving, and many are not returning to our churches. Our main emphasis, then, is to encourage men and women in the churches who have construction talent to rise up and join us in mentoring their youth. This

becomes a vehicle for outreach and evangelism as well. By passing on skills,

knowledge and training to today's youth, a spiritual relationship and bond can be established. *Building In Youth* will provide valuable hands-on experience where mentors can work side-by-side with young people.

We want to prepare youth in construction skills and safety awareness prior to their short-term mission trips. To do this, we will be conducting *B.I.T.S. & Bites** training clinics during the winter months with a strong emphasis on safety, goal-setting and good work ethics. (**Builders In Training & Service who like to eat!*)

Besides the *B.I.T.S. and Bites* training clinics and mission trips during spring and summer months, we are formulating and developing an apprenticeship program for those youth who want to advance further in the construction field.

Please pray that men and women will rise up and join us to mentor youth! We have an *Initial Interest Form* on our website, www.BuildingInYouth.com, as well as a *Church Youth Group Mission Trip Request Form*. Christian ministries in need of skilled labor are welcome to contact us to plan future Mentoring Short-term Mission trips.

Through all these planned projects, our ultimate goal is found



Phil & Lucy Hayes

in Acts 28:31: "Proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance." We see these opportunities as nothing less than a vehicle to share the love of Jesus Christ and the Gospel. I Corinthians 3:9-11 is our focus: "For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

We are confident that the investment of our lives and the focus on the Gospel will result in re-focused lives among our youth. In the process they will gain useful life skills, and older friends they can look up to.

Please pray for our current needs which are travel expenses and providing safety equipment: eye and ear protection, gloves, safety vests, etc., and, of course, hard hats. We also want to have basic hand tools for use during the clinics and on the short-term mission trips. Donations can be made through Hard Hats for Christ.

For more information about us, we invite you to visit our website at www.BuildingInYouth.com



Updates from our Missionaries

A new era is starting in my life and Jean's. With the home-going of her dad, we will be freer to travel and make long-promised visits to friends and "Hard Hats" we have known over the past 50 years. Three "area" trips are being planned. The first will be to California and Arizona for 3 weeks in January. The second will be back east and the southern U.S. mid-April thru the end of June; the third to the Midwest early in August thru September. Please let us know if you want us to stop by!

We are so thankful to the many of you who sent cards, calls, and emails for our 50th wedding anniversary celebration. We loved hearing from you. A number of family members and friends from around the country showed up and surprised us Nov. 12th. It was a very special day!



Dick and Vi Avis report that "the work at Huachuca Oaks Camp is starting to roll. We have all the permits and are removing the old walk in cooler, and will soon be getting the ground leveled and formed for the concrete slab for the two new coolers. I have been and will continue to do a lot of electrical maintenance and up grades around the camp."



The Korneychuks headed south for the winter, after spending a year working on their home church in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming. Dennis and Darleen are now helping with maintenance and other construction odds & ends at Youth Haven Ranch in Picacho, AZ.



Brenda Jeffries continues to fulfill her indispensable duties, receipting the donations to HH4C from her home office, and doing the mail and bank runs. Maybe we should reword that—there have NOT been any runs on the banks in Kelso-Longview, at least, not recently (but if there are any, we'll be sure Brenda gets in on them)! She enjoys helping and being helped by her neighbors at her condo, and was able to spend some time with her mother, in Florida, in October.



Duane Atkinson continues to hone his drywall construction skills on Hard Hats projects in the Oregon/Washington area, where he has become our resident expert and "go to" guy when it comes to installing and finishing interior ceilings and walls. He also lends a hand on "foreign" projects in Latin America. He is looking forward to another visit this month to the orphanage ministry in southern Mexico, where he first helped build over 20 years ago (see the story in our Summer 2011 issue). He is always on the lookout for opportunities to return to the Dominican Republic or the American Southwest for projects there, as well.



Shannan Thiel Writes:

We are currently assigned to Source Ministries in Minneapolis, MN. Source is in the middle of an amazing project: "The Annex," a transitional home for sex-trafficking victims. Source will provide counseling and housing as well as live-in role models to help these women adjust back into the community.

We are very excited to be working alongside Source ministries and helping them get this project completed so they can open the doors of this home to women who are eager to escape from a horrific life.

A lot has happened over the last few months, namely, the Lord has provided us with our own RV to use as we serve these ministries! Visit our blog to view before and after pictures of our RV as well as pictures of this and other Hard Hats projects we've been assigned to. www.ThielFamily.com Thank you for standing with us in prayer as we serve these ministries!



Henry Hard Hat

Be On The Look Out!

We are thankful to John Stuart who designed "Henry Hard Hat" and "RV Ralph" for us. John is a retired teacher from Castle Rock, WA who is well-known for his artistic abilities and attended the same church as our newest missionaries, Phil & Lucy Hayes. Watch for "Henry" and "Ralph" to appear in future publications!

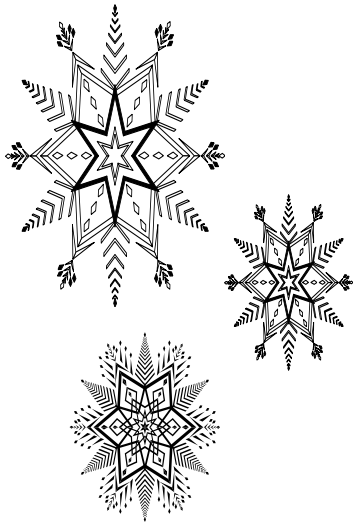


RV Ralph

Job Completed—Gone Home

Longtime Hard Hats volunteers, Bernie Taylor of California, and Joe Cipale of Wyoming (recently moved to Arizona City), hung up their earthly tools and went Home to be with the Master Builder in November. Our thoughts and prayers are with their wives, Mary Taylor and Shirley Cipale, and their family and friends.

Romance on the Mission Field



Often Hard Hat missionaries and volunteers find themselves on projects that involve much more than building or remodeling physical structures. Missionaries Rolan and Lee McKay along with volunteers Jerry and Claudia Pollock are serving at Warm Beach Christian Camp in Stanwood, Washington. In the few weeks they have been there they have been welcomed into a community of people that are of one mind and goal, "To serve God and to serve each other."

The volunteer coordinator at the camp is a lady named Jessica. In 1999 she was serving as a missionary with Christian

Services International in Jamaica. While there she developed a friendship with a young man named Mosiah. Their friendship budded and over the years blossomed into a full romance. This romance ran into some difficulties because Mosiah is not a United States citizen. The prayer request came into the Hard Hat office that this young couple needed some prayer so that he could get into this country and this young couple could get married. Everyone started praying and looking forward to updates about what was going on in their lives. Prayers were answered and Mosiah was able to come to America.

As part of the camp's annual dinner and auction they also had a time to congratulate Jessica and Mosiah. After the funny and factual roast, delivered by Nancy Nelson, the camp's Development Director, many in the room went forward to place their hands on them to pray for their marriage and ask God's blessing on their future. Mosiah and Jessica were married on October 29th.

It is wonderful to be a part of not only the building that is taking place at Warm Beach Christian Camp but also a part of the lives of the people who serve there.

God's Bountiful Blessings

Last spring the Three Rivers Bible Church youth leaders asked Robert if we could set up a mission trip for them in August on a Hard Hat project. They decided to start raising money even before they knew where they would be going—their goal was \$2000. They decided to hold an auction and serve apple pie and ice cream. A couple of ladies in the church were able to get some amazing donations from several companies. They had fishing poles and fishing trips, memberships in some of the local gyms, yards of gravel or sand, and dinners at some of the local eateries. They also had some amazing baskets. There were bath

baskets, sportsmen's baskets gardening baskets, and even a couple of men's shaving and bath baskets. When we arrived for the auction, there weren't very many people there yet and as the time to start got closer not many more had arrived. As we sat observing we said, "God will have to do a miracle if they are going to make much money tonight."

When the bidding began items went quickly, and the bidding was very lively. Soon we were wishing that we'd been keeping a running total. Several things went for a lot more money than they had expected to get for them. One of the

youth leaders later shared that they would have been satisfied to get an average of \$15 a basket. Some of them were going for \$60 and \$80. It was amazing! People were having fun and bidding each other up higher and higher. As we sat there we knew we were watching a miracle. The next Sunday morning at church the youth leader told the congregation that when the auction started he was very disappointed to see that so few people had joined them. Then he added that everyone there had witnessed a miracle because they had raised close to \$3000!

Have You Visited Our Website Lately?

We've been making some improvements (we hope) to our website. There three new videos sprinkled amongst the pages there, which you can also find on YouTube.com simply by searching for "Hard Hats for Christ" (until we pull it down, you'll also get one old video: the 8:41 "Introduction"). On YouTube you can click on our channel and it will take you to all three new videos. We have DVD copies available if you'd like to share the ministry of Hard Hats for Christ with friends who would prefer not to have to cruise the Web to see us!

www.hh4c.org or www.hardhatsforchrist.org

Spread the Word!

Know people who might be interested in *Hard Hats for Christ* or *Building In Youth*?

Forward this e-mail to them!

Now, that was easy, wasn't it?

Updates from our Missionaries

Lou and Kathy Aschenbrenner

The Mountain Ministries project we've been praying about for three years has started in Rainier, Oregon! We are volunteering with Hard Hats for Christ on the old Rainier high school building which was purchased by The Vancouver Church of Truth and then given to Mountain Ministries. This three story building is being remodeled into a Life Skills Center for women and *women with children* who are enrolled in their post-addiction discipleship program. What a blessing that women do not have to be apart from their children during their year in this program. Here's the link for more information: <http://mountainministriesranch.com/wof.html>

Mountain Ministries is not funded by any state or federal grant. It is solely supported by prayer and donations. Through their programs, addictions are being overcome through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Lives and souls are being changed and saved. We are being blessed by seeing what the Lord is doing every day.

We have posted on our blog about the connection between MM, Lame Deer, MT, the Boles, our dear friends from Michigan and us that could only be woven so perfectly by the Lord. If you would like to read more about that and keep up with this project please go to our blog: <http://louiskathy.blogspot.com/>



Joe-n-Sherry

"Sufferin' for Jesus" at beautiful Cannon Beach, OR. — Joe was assigned this summer to help Ecola Bible School remodel an old cabin for use as teacher's quarters. Mountain Ministries sent 12 men to help remove the roof structure and interior walls, then set new trusses and decking. In two days, we accomplished two weeks' work. What a pleasure to labor alongside men who love the Lord and work joyfully. Two couples and an individual also joined in the work. In three months, the project was completed except for the installation of the kitchen and floor coverings. Our next assignment will likely be assisting Redwood Valley Community Church in California to complete construction on their new educational building. In the springs of 2013 and 2014, Joe will be leading a construction project south of the border in Mexico. My last assignment in Mexico was an awesome time of serving and building relationships. Sherry continues to divide her time "holding the fort" at Hard Hats offices at Longview and traveling with Joe. Recently, we had the pleasure of visiting supporting churches and renewing old relationships. Our God is an awesome God! Please pray for us as we pursue excellence in ministry.



Rolan and Lee have had a great time serving this year with Jerry and Claudia Pollock. Both couples live in California and started their trek north in the spring, planning to help do some remodeling on a church in Oregon. That church wasn't quite ready and they willingly stopped at Cascade Christian Ranch near Grants Pass to help for a couple of weeks. They built trellis work on a huge outside deck, did several repair jobs around the camp, and became the official Hard Hat llama wranglers. The project they were coming to do just was not able to move forward, so after a couple of months they agreed to go even further north to Stanwood, Washington. They are now working at Warm Beach Christian Camp and Retreat. They are building bathrooms, doing hundreds of maintenance repair jobs, and have helped to put up thousands of Christmas lights for the camp's annual Lights of Christmas celebration. Alaska is north of Stanwood but they are hoping they won't be asked to do that!



Robert, Verna and Rob

As we come to the end of our first full year at Hard Hats we find ourselves busier than ever. The list of people to send a card to keeps growing. The number of emails and letters that go out asking for help on different projects increases. Since there are more people in the office, there are even more trash baskets that need to be emptied and carried out. The list of projects keeps growing. Opportunities to share the ministry are multiplying. Chances to meet and visit with volunteers and missionaries increase. We would like your prayers as we seek to portray God's love with each of these chances to serve Him. We are having a wonderful and exciting time being a part of Hard Hats for Christ.

Robert's Dad is now in a nursing home and as his health continues to decline, hospice has been called in to help keep him comfortable. Thank you for your prayers.



Lee and Caroline Suitter and their four boys made a trip to western New York state to lend a hand to a pastor friend with a parishioner in desperate need of building assistance. They are looking forward to their first official HH4C project assignment, a camp project in Maine, beginning the spring of 2012.



Greetings from Snowy North Idaho. It seems like every time we run into an old friend we are asked, "Didn't you used to be Hard Hats Construction Missionaries?" We say, "We still are!" We are just between projects. We have to explain that as Volunteer Construction Missionaries we promise to volunteer for at least 1 month or more each year. It so happens that our first project lasted for 6 months. FSMs or Faith Support Missionaries are full time missionaries. Right now VCMs is the right fit for us. We can go on a job, like our project in Arizona last winter and this spring, then we can work a while and save up to help with another project. We are hoping that a shorter project will come up in our area this winter or spring. Funds coming into our work account at Hard Hats will accumulate and be available to help us go out on another mission to Serve Those Who Serve Others.

Back on the home front, the Lord has been using us to help our neighbors with a few repair projects and Terry has been helping the men at our home church with some much needed maintenance.

We are looking forward to getting together with Phil and Lucy Hayes and learning more about "Hard Hats' new baby": Building *in Youth*. This is a ministry that helps to teach youth construction skills. Sounds like something that might be right up our alley. We can't wait to see what God has planned for us this coming year.

Debbie & Terry Parsons

Milton Sheppa, “Grandpa” to many of you, went to be with Jesus the night of Nov. 7, 2011. God gave him a long, fruitful life--106 years and 7 weeks—allowing him to walk on his own until the last three weeks. He died in his bed in his own apartment, pain free as far as we could tell. He just stopped breathing.



Milton Sheppa,
Jean Hodges' Father

He retired when he was 58 years old. He loved the Lord and was a man of prayer and Bible study. Jean and Jim, Edie and John, his two daughters and their husbands along with his 6 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren were blessed by his example and will miss his physical presence, but we know we will see him when we get to heaven.



“And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come...” Luke 19:13 (KJV)

Frankly, I've not paid a lot of attention to the “Occupy Wall Street” movement. But I'm struck by how it reminds us of the relevance of Scripture. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem for the last time, and many (especially his disciples) believe and hope that he will establish his kingdom on earth when he gets there. They are busy dreaming of their high and comfortable places on his right and left hand, in a Utopia he will undoubtedly usher in. Change is in the wind! Oppressive rulers and religious systems are on the verge of being overthrown. A new day is at hand! They will enjoy many benefits for very little effort! The Big Money boys' are about to be brought down (Matthew and Zacchaeus are just the tip of the iceberg)! Wealth and power will be redistributed!

At this point Jesus tells a parable about a wealthy ruler who gives a talent or “mina” (equivalent to about three months' wages) to each of 10 servants and departs for

Occupy!

a far country. He tells them to “**Occupy** till I come,” which means, “Do business, trade, get busy putting my money to work, until I return.”

The amount given to each servant was hardly a windfall inheritance – it was just sufficient to maintain body and soul while working diligently to invest the remainder in such a way as to both keep them sustained in the Master's absence and present some profit to him on his return. The master gave orders to be diligent “until” he came back. He did not say *when* that would be.

How like today! We are given talents, and hope for the soon return of our Master who will equitably reward all His servants. But we don't know precisely *when* He will be back. We are charged to stay busy about His business as long as He is away. He gives us enough for our needs (our daily bread), with enough extra to put to work for His estate (our time, talents,) and financial resources beyond our needs. A day of accounting is coming, when the Master will ask to see the results of the trades we made with the *minas* he invested with us. Those who invest well, whether they gain “ten more” or “five more”, will be applauded and rewarded by

their Master. But those who “bury” the Masters resources, will be in need now, and impoverished eternally.

How are you investing your God-given resources (time, talent, money)? Hard Hats for Christ, Building In Youth, RV'ers for Christ, are vehicles through which people may invest resources entrusted by God to them for the increase of His kingdom. By “Serving Those Who Serve Others”, we enable “front-line” ministers and ministries to more effectively fulfill the Great Commission. Your skills and experience can be put to work either in building on a Hard Hats project, or in mentoring and training a young person in a skill you have mastered (or both). This is what *Building In Youth* is all about – passing your legacy of Godly wisdom and tricks-of-the-trade along to the next generation. Perhaps you're at that stage in life beyond being able to go on a project or mentor a young person. Have you made plans for the preservation of your assets for the good of your family, your church, and God's greater kingdom after your time here is done? We can help with that. Give us a call Whatever stage of life we're in, wherever we're at, we are to

OCCUPY until He comes!

How is your trading working out?

“ The amount given to each servant was hardly a windfall ... “