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Summer 2017: Trusting in God's Promises



“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

As I pen this quarter's newsletter, I remember the fear I felt as I pulled away from our 14 year home in Charlotte, North Carolina to move to Columbia four summers ago. Apart from adopting our youngest, it was probably the greatest leap of faith I had yet undertaken in life. However, I learned once again that following God's lead undoubtedly never fails my soul or my family. Right now, I feel that J.O.Y. Ministries, as an organization, must cling to Him and trust that his presence will lead us as we make tough choices in the coming months.

We are more successful than ever in our ministry, having just completed an amazing Mission Week, finished the approval process to be a Feeding America site, started a recovery ministry at the

Center, and served more clientele with both physical help and training in financial and life-skills. I sat in awe of God's goodness one day in June, having witnessed in two days the Center serve a mom and kids escaping domestic violence, a disabled man who needed a deposit to live in subsidized housing, a seriously injured young lady and her father behind on bills, and a hard-working single mom who was temporarily overwhelmed with expenses. This ministry is so necessary to be a beacon of hope in our community! Thank you for your support.

Amidst this tremendous success, the Center is facing two challenges. The first is physical. We need a long-term lease, lease-to-own, or permanent residence for J.O.Y. Since we opened in April of last year, we have had two great locations, but are plagued with short-term leases. Constantly moving is expensive and time-consuming, causing us to have to divert resources and attention away from the ministry. We are making a public plea to the community, asking if there is a commercial location with good access and visibility to both donors and clients that we might be able to acquire via purchase or lease-to-own. If you know of any such property, please do not hesitate to contact any J.O.Y. Board members or me personally at 704-281-3055.

Our second challenge is meeting a pressing need in our community. As some of you know, the grant for our region's Upward Bound Program was not renewed. This program provided training and preparation for impoverished, outstanding youth to learn about and apply to college. We had enormous success with the program in our region, and many Adair kids participated and matriculated to Lindsey and surrounding schools because of the encouragement, knowledge and experience they gained through Upward Bound. Moreover, this program was one of J.O.Y.'s most valuable links to the needy in our community and to Lindsey Wilson College. Krystal Cundiff, one of our directors, worked at Upward Bound, helping us identify families in need and recruiting many Lindsey students to volunteer with J.O.Y. programming. Natalie Vickous, the director of Lindsey's Bonner Scholars Program, still sits on our board, so we are confident our Lindsey ties will remain strong, but we feel led to begin formal programming at J.O.Y. for these excellent high school students now left without the support they need to overcome their trying circumstances. This ministry will require even more resources and volunteers to be successful, so we will once again be raising the bar on our fundraising and volunteer expectations.

Despite the daunting nature of these two challenges, we know that God is good and faithful. He will provide and will direct us. The fear I felt when I left Charlotte four years ago has now been replaced with a blessed assurance that God will use his willing servants and will reward them with a steadfast joy that surpasses worldly understanding. So, we march ahead in confidence and with the promise that steadfast joy awaits us! Thank you for your continued support for this ministry as we move together into a future full of possibility!

Yours in Christ,
Maggie Coleman
J.O.Y. Director for Finance and Communication

Our recent work at the Crisis Resource Center by the numbers:

- Total assistance given in May, June, and July:
 - Rent - \$950
 - Hotel - \$230
 - Gas, Water, and Electric - \$330
- Total number of bags of food handed out in May and June: 466
- Total receiving financial assistance, furniture, food, clothing, or toiletries in May and June: 278 families, including one couple married by our employee, Billy Payne, a retired pastor!

Praises and Prayer: Mission Week was a resounding success! Once again, we had an amazing group of adult leaders, dedicated and passionate youth missionaries, and a week filled with service in God's name. We taught backyard Vacation Bible School, played bingo with the elderly, served meals to shut-ins, did maintenance on private homes, churches, and government property, held the Back-to-School bash for kids and praised and worshiped God every day! Here are some stats:

- Total number of youth involved: 69
- Number of adult helpers throughout week: 80
- Number of baptisms in the week: 7
- Number re-dedicated to Christ: 7
- Number called to serve in Missions: 1
- Number of meals served to shut-ins: 275
- Number served at Back-to-School Bash: 61 kids, plus their families for lunch equaled 150
- Churches involved:
 - Columbia UMC
 - Glensfork Nazarene
 - Pickett's Chapel UMC
 - JOY Church
 - Russell Heights Baptist
 - Egypt Christian Church
 - Columbia First Church of Nazarene
 - Columbia Baptist Church
 - Bloomington Chapel Brethren in Christ
 - Cane Valley Baptist Church
 - Knifely Christian Church
 - Sparksville Nazarene
 - Early's Chapel UMC
 - Knifely Chapel Brethren in Christ

Glory Sighting of the Quarter: Here are some sights from Mission Week to warm your heart and put a smile on your face!



Preparing cupcakes as dessert for shut-ins' meals.



Left: Worship at Columbia UMC



Right: Games with the elderly



Left: Backyard Vacation Bible School in public housing neighborhood



Right: Cleaning up the farm of an elderly resident

Church and Community Partners: We love our partners!!! A big thank you to all the local organizations that have come on board in powerful ways to support the ministry happening at the CRC!

- WAIN 93.5
- WHVE 92.7
- Lindsey Wilson College Bonner Scholars
- Jeffries Hardware
- The Adair Progress
- Pearson Painting
- Bank of Columbia
- United Citizens Bank
- Columbia Magazine
- Columbia UMC
- Glens Fork Church of the Nazarene
- Columbia Seventh-Day Adventist
- Beulah Chapel Church
- Knifley Chapel Brethren in Christ
- Russell Heights Baptist Church
- Cane Valley Christian Church
- Old Concord UMC
- Egypt Christian Church
- Bear Wallow UMC
- Old Concord UMC
- Red Lick UMC
- Rotary Club
- Gardening Club

- Town and Country Homemakers
- Farmer's Market on the Square
- Retired Teachers' Association
- North Century Pharmacy
- Bull Run Charity
- Experience Works
- Cash Express
- Kevin Sommer Trucking
- Grimsely's Jewlery
- TECE Title Services., Inc.
- Los Agaves Restaurant
- The Community Voice
- Trifecta Printing
- Valley Collections and Creations
- Learning Tree Kids Zone
- Salvation Army
- Mike Curry and A1 Transportation
- Columbia Wal-Mart
- Columbia City Hall
- Jax Cool Convenience, Russell Springs and Stanford
- Columbia IGA
- Save-A-Lot
- Rogers Trucking
- R-Tech, Mt. Vernon, KY
- Trinity UMC
- Bloomington Chapel Church
- Sparksville Church of the Nazarene
- Prayer Link, Columbia Baptist Church

If you would like your church or organization to consider partnering with us, please call to arrange a visit and presentation by our Board members to your membership! Please tell your friends and family to like us on Facebook at J.O.Y Ministries and to consider a regular donation!