



A-Team Bulletin

Dear Friends,

December, 2014

It's hard to believe, but 2014 is quickly coming to a close and it's time to give you a review of this year and our ministry with God's Helping Hands! Last winter was long and harsh, but it finally warmed up in time for us to load the puppets and equipment into the bus and enjoy a full three months of ministry! This year's stage for the series, "Light Up Your Life," was the coast of Maine and included a free-standing working lighthouse which was almost seven feet tall. Jesus told his followers in Matthew 5:14, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." As we built the lighthouse step by step each day in VBS or a camp chapel, we compared it to us as Christians. In order for a lighthouse to be effective, it must have a firm foundation, be tall, have a keeper, and have a light that shines without going out. In order for us to be effective lights to the world, we begin with a firm foundation of faith in Jesus. We grow tall and strong by reading and obeying God's Word. The Holy Spirit is our "keeper" and He cultivates fruit in our lives. Those good works are what others see and then give glory to our Heavenly Father (Matthew 5:16). Finally, we must be vigilant and never give up shining the light of Jesus Christ.



The children enjoyed listening to Captain Watt and his parrot, Crackers, as they learned lessons about shining the light. They heard some examples of famous Christians whose lights shone for Jesus. As different puppets bumbled their way through skits and learned different lessons, the children listened and got the message! The Bible stories taught through puppet plays, object lessons and chalk pictures caught their attention and many responded to the salvation invitation. That is what this is all about and we are so grateful that God allows us the opportunity to be part of reaching boys and girls in this way!

Not only do the kids learn, but we do as well. At the beginning of summer, we were feeling extremely stretched and rather discouraged about a number of things. The first couple of weeks of summer are always so busy that we have little time for anything besides rehearsal and programs. Special days in June (birthdays, anniversaries, Father's Day) are all but forgotten as we work to make sure the program is running smoothly and we are confident in what we are teaching. During practice one day, we were having an unusually difficult time which stretched everyone's attitudes to the breaking point. Soon, our voices began to soften and tears began to flow as the words of the scriptures began to make an impact on our own hearts. Thankfully, the Lord forgives us when we fail and continues to allow us the privilege of serving Him.

Since we are in a new place each week, we rarely get a chance to hear or see whether or not we've made an impact. This year, the Lord allowed us to hear the following encouraging stories:

- At one particular VBS which had a small attendance, there was one child each day who gave their heart to Jesus.
- A young adult who had been helping with VBS came to the church early one morning to talk to the pastor and make sure he was right with God. The things he had heard during the program had spoken to his heart.
- A mother thanked us for reading the story of Jesus' crucifixion right from the Bible. She said her eight-year-old daughter turned to her with tears running down her cheeks and said, "I didn't remember that story was so sad." The Word spoke to her heart.
- A family that had been in our VBS a few years ago let us know that while they were reading Galatians and talking about the fruit of the Spirit in their family devotions, their kids jumped up and started singing the song we had taught them naming those fruits. They could still name them all!
- A young adult gave testimony at her baptism that the things she learned in a Family VBS the previous year had cemented her understanding of salvation and the scriptures.
- During this year's His Ability Week at Camp Barakel, a middle-aged camper received Jesus as his Savior.

These are priceless stories that we love to hear!



For the first time in five years, we were able to return to Maine for three weeks. We served five different churches and did ten different programs. It was great to be able to visit with some family, friends and supporters while we were there. The weather was great and although Jeff was sick during one week and we were trying to start some school work with the boys, we did make a couple of trips to visit favorite spots in Bar Harbor and at Fort Knox. As you can see, at least one of the stops we made can be considered an educational field trip! The trip was only marred by Jeff experiencing days of dizziness which made a trip to the ER necessary. They didn't find anything wrong at that time and he has continued to struggle with the dizziness on and off since we got back home. We continue to look for an answer. But on a positive note, our switch to a Christian health-sharing group rather than health insurance proved to have been an excellent choice and the bills were settled quickly. The bus behaved all summer, until we were on our way home from Maine. It began to lose oil, but we were able to make it home without any trouble. Jeff found a place to get it repaired at a reasonable cost, and we are grateful that those things will be fixed long before next summer's travels.

Since arriving back home, we have been busy with a few programs, a missionary conference, two rally/fundraising events, a board of directors meeting and much work in the office. There are always bills to pay, donations to deposit and receipt, letters to write, maintenance in the building, and getting things prepared for next summer's series. But we have a terrific staff and they all work well together to get everything accomplished! Jeff has pulled the other team's bus into the building and started renovation work on it. The plan is to have that ready for them to use by the summer of 2016.

Robin tries to work mostly from home so that she can teach the boys and coordinate their activities. Logan is in high school and Jordan has moved up to middle school. They are both taking Taekwondo this year with Christian instructors through the Dojo of the Risen Son in Kalamazoo. Logan is once again in a Homeschool Performing Arts' production which he always enjoys. He is in the cast for "The Little Princess" in January and February. He is also leading a drama team in his youth group which does a skit for the rest of the group about once a month. Jordan is in Middle School Music at church and he's excited that they will join the adult choir for part of the Christmas concerts this year. These boys keep us busy! Isn't that supposed to keep us feeling young?

Our family keeps growing! On November 2, Eowyn (pronounced "Ah-oh-win") May Knobloch was born to Kendra and Nick. Emma, who is two, is quite taken with "her" baby and we don't blame her! Once again, Grandma Awe was able to be present and greet our sixth granddaughter as she was born. What a blessing! We look forward to having all of our children and grandchildren with us during the Christmas holidays...maybe even all at the same time!



Thank you for your prayers for us in this ministry to the children. Please pray:

- that we would continue to grow in our relationship with the Lord and be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in our family and ministry. We praise Him for good, solid Biblical teaching at our home church.
- for wisdom as we teach and train our boys to walk with and serve the Lord. We are grateful for our boys.
- much needed support for our missionary staff. We praise the Lord for continuing to provide in unexpected ways.
- that the hearts of children will be soft and ready to receive God's gift of salvation. We praise Him for the grace and mercy He extends to all of us.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeff, Robin, Logan and Jordan Awe". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Jeff, Robin, Logan and Jordan Awe

