



# FOUNDER'S FLASHBACK

December 2014

Dear Friends and Family,

"TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY..." Why is it that at this "JOLLY" time of the year people seem to find themselves not so jolly? The answer is who or what we focus on. We experience real joy when we focus on Jesus who has given us the reason for this joyous season. "Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart." Psalm 32:11 We praise God for His faithfulness to us and to our ministry. Included in that praise is a big thank you for your friendship, encouraging notes, prayers and gifts enabling us to continue reaching boys and girls for Jesus. Have a "JOYOUS" Christmas and remember "CHRISTmas begins with CHRIST."



We find our puppet friends are jolly. They love this time of the year. They are unpacked from their trunks and stretching their legs a little bit while Uncle Bob is standing by with all his tools (thread and needle) to do any necessary surgery required to get them feeling GREAT again which has been his major task throughout the year. He calls it job security.

This past year, Bob has been busy revising puppet patterns. He is making a few changes to make the patterns easier to follow for those puppet-makers who come behind us. He handles these sit-down jobs very well. He uses a hoveround to go up and down the hall at the office. In a recent promo video for GHH, Bob was caught on camera riding his hoveround. However, someone (?) must have adjusted the speed on the video. In the final production, Bob was traveling at a rather high rate of speed. (Very funny, guys!)

This brings us around to the fact that the teams periodically update their prayer cards. Thus, we send our most recent picture. This should make it clear how to pray for us. Thank you.



Shirley continues to enjoy her discipleship program. Students periodically send encouraging notes and pictures like the one drawn here depicting how she looks forward to the lessons coming in the mail.

Currently there are 78 students doing the lessons. Last spring 19 students had fallen behind, so Shirley sent out a reminder letter which had some games and puzzles to do for fun. She also sent them the lesson they should have been working on. What a thrill to have all 19 kids return to doing the lessons.

Shirley has started giving the students a different verse each week when she sends their new lesson.



EXAMPLE:

DID YOU KNOW? Jesus promised, "I will never leave you." Read Hebrews 13:5b

DID YOU KNOW? The Bible tells you what to do when you are afraid? Read Psalm 56:3

DID YOU KNOW? The Bible gives proof of creation,

"The worlds were framed by God's Word" Read Hebrews 11:3

## **FAMILY**

Our family takes very good care of us. Our son, Bob, Jr., (better known to Shirley as BJ) has been coming almost every Saturday for many months now. He would probably enjoy sleeping in on Saturday morning after driving truck 14 hours a day during the week. But his desire is to help us maintain our home by doing the jobs his Dad is unable to accomplish any more. And BJ does a beautiful job!

Even though their own lives are extremely busy, Robin and Jeff have told us if we have any needs we should call "anytime of the day or night!" And they never complain when we take advantage of that.

Many of you have asked about our granddaughters and how they are doing since their Mom passed two years ago this January. Sarai, 19, has been living with our son, Brian, and his family in Arizona. She worked for a year to establish residency so she could get financial help with school. She is now attending Grand Canyon University in Phoenix. Her desire is to learn signing and work with deaf children. Mackenzie graduated from high school last May and is now attending Western Michigan University here in Kalamazoo. She is excited to have turned 18 in November. This enables her to be responsible for herself and she no longer needs Grandma's signature for everything she does. Her goal is to become a veterinarian. The hard times come when Mom is not here to be a part of various situations in their lives.

## **PRAYER:**

1. Bob struggles with panic attacks when his congestive heart causes him breathing problems. He also struggles with restless leg syndrome which causes some nights of NO sleep.
2. Wisdom in answering mail from the children in the discipleship program
3. Our current support level is 77%. We would love to see it raised considerably.

## **PRAISE**

1. We are still able to go to the office 4 days a week.
2. Our great staff who are so forgiving with our late arrival in the morning, provide help with the computer problems we create, and work around our mobility devices. Patience is their gift.

Because of Jesus,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob + Shirley".

Bob and Shirley Friedl