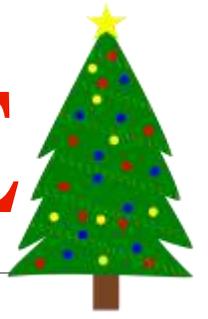


GHH AT A GLANCE



Winter 2017

What would you like to do if you were made able? Would you take that dream vacation? Build that house? Pursue that new hobby? It's good to have dreams and goals. It's motivating to have something to work towards. It's not that we find our purpose in our goals; but when we apply our God-given purpose to real life, He infuses goals into our desires, helps us walk toward them, and ultimately accomplishes what was always His goal in our lives. Take a minute today and see this idea given in the Scriptures in Psalm 37:4-5 and in Psalm 16:11.

When God started God's Helping Hands Inc., He pointed out a particular verse that became a guiding principle for what we do. Months, years and decades continue to roll by, but this verse, untinged by the stain of age, continues to shine as a beacon by which we steer this ministry. It's Colossians 4:3, "...pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ...". Since 1980 this request of the apostle Paul has been the very heartbeat of God's Helping Hands. The chalk art, the storytelling, the bus travel, the discipleship mail club, the internships, and the puppets have all been doors opened to us for the word — doors the Lord led us through so that we could proclaim Christ to boys and girls and their families.

And yet, all these years later, we still have work to do. In fact, as much as we'd like to work ourselves out of a job, the need for Christ to be proclaimed is greater than ever! Children are inundated with everything, it seems, EXCEPT Christ. The greatest truth they could ever know is buried under a mountain of the urgent "now". The greatest relationship they could ever have is elbowed out of the way by a thousand competing interests. Our mission field is growing.

To meet the ever-growing need for Christ in an ever-changing society, we at GHH are constantly seeking new doors of opportunity. For years we have gone out to give thousands of Gospel presentations to children, meeting them in their churches, camps and communities. We love it and are committed to continuing this outreach. *But we want more.*

For the last few years, we have been evaluating our ministry to see how the Lord may want us to expand. In so doing, we have dipped our toes into some new ministry ideas.

- * The weekly podcast. With a growing library of nearly 300 episodes touching on subjects ranging from Bible stories to school problems, *Off Hand: with Stephen and Lydia* allows GHH to reach into the homes of boys and girls audibly on a weekly basis.
- * Internships. Though not a new idea for GHH, we have restructured our internship program to give interns a more well-rounded experience while enabling them to have a very hands-on impact while serving the Lord.
- * Classroom curriculums. *Simple Lesson Solutions* is the arm of GHH that houses materials that can be used by teachers to bring God's truth to their students once again giving GHH an expanded impact.
- * Puppet short films. Originally developed for our own use in conjunction with live presentations, our short films have already seen expansion as they have become an integral part of each of the classroom curriculums.

What is the **Reach More** campaign?

Reach More is the next step for God's Helping Hands into our future. While we will continue doing what we have always done, our hands are ready to reach out into added opportunities.

How will Reach More work?

The project is focussed on three things: **1)** Flinging open a door for the word through professional, engaging and purposeful short films featuring the GHH puppets to be distributed in a variety of ways including an increased online presence (going where the kids already are). **2)** Expanding our physical building on land we already own to house the necessary film studio as well as much-needed housing for our travel vehicles. **3)** An expansion of the second floor of our existing building to facilitate and maintain our current ministry opportunities. We are in need of storage and workspace.

What will Reach More cost?

An early estimate suggests the cost to be approximately \$150,000.

What is the time frame?

Because we've laid the groundwork for this ministry expansion over the last few years, we stand ready now. Additionally, the transition of ministry responsibilities for Jeff and Robin Awe allows Jeff to provide greater focus to this expansion. However, our ministry is committed to move ahead debt free, and we will act as the Lord provides the finances.

How can I be involved?

If you are excited about this, the time to get involved is now! Do you have skills or knowledge about these kinds of projects that you can share? Are you willing to lend a hand to God's Helping Hands? Are there some of your finances that God would have you invest in this project?

"...a door for the word..." — that's what we pray for, and it seems that God is showing us a door. Would you consider walking through it with us? Let's reach more for Christ together!

Expansion



Imagine with me for a minute. You are heading out on a trip across the country. The whole family is going and your five kids are super excited. The luggage pile is gathering by the front door, and you begin questioning your sanity on deciding to take a trip of this magnitude when you see: Eight suitcases; because your teenage daughter decided one just wasn't enough. A couple large coolers. (No road trip is complete without snacks. Lots and lots of snacks.) Backpacks. Remember you said, "I want the older kids to bring some school work along". Then there's the booster and car seats for the little ones. Oh, and did I mention the dog is coming? You head out to the driveway to plot your plan of attack on this packing mission ahead of you, but you scream as you realize you only have... a VW Beetle?!

Does this sound more like a stressful nightmare? Haha. Well, this is how our missionary staff often feel when it comes to space at the home office! For a few years now, we have been bursting at the seams when it comes to storage for all the puppets, costumes, and props. And then there is the lack of square footage when it comes to workspaces. It's quite interesting filming puppetry in a space the size of a large closet, or trying to practice a program without getting sawdust on the puppets because the only space left is the workshop.

How can we solve this problem? A building expansion! We would love to build an addition on the side of our current building and add a second floor above, what is now, our current shop area. We have the land available to do this project, so here's what we are envisioning. An addition that is 72-ft. long by 50-ft. wide. The first 30 feet would be used for our new recording studio. The remaining 42 feet would become a garage, complete with large overhead doors for the bus and trailers so they don't have to sit outside and can be worked on during the winter months. The second floor over the existing shop would give us additional practice space, more storage, and just a little more elbow room in general.

We are excited about these possibilities and anticipate that our God can do big things!

Transition



Traveling for ministry became a way of life for us nearly 40 years ago when we picked up puppets for the first time to help Mom and Dad (Bob and Shirley Friedl) tell boys and girls the message of the gospel. It was something that we both enjoyed right from the start and we were excited to see how children paid attention to the puppets and learned from them. Over the next few years, we became more involved helping Mom and Dad as they began the ministry of God's Helping Hands. We soon realized God was calling us to make this children's ministry our first summer, we traveled for thirty pop-up camper. I was expecting only three children managed to break out of camp. It was tiring but so exciting hearing and understanding the gospel involved and became talented helpers at young ages. There are many stories of God's provision, His hand of safety on the road, people we met and befriended along the way, and funny or embarrassing moments! The best stories are when people tell us how the Lord revealed His truth to them as it was shared through the puppets or stories. That is what it has always been about! Now we find ourselves at a point that requires a difficult transition—stepping away from the traveling and puppetry. We are not as young as we were and our bodies are complaining about the abuse they've experienced from years of traveling, carrying heavy equipment and twisting into positions only a fellow puppeteer understands! Fortunately, Chris, Amber and their girls along with Juli and Nicole continue to travel as a ministry team and we hope to add others in the not-too-distant future. At the same time, new and exciting plans are being made for outreach to children in ways we are just beginning to explore—like podcasts, curriculum and puppet short films. Jeff will now be available to lead the staff into these new areas as well as continuing to build stages, props and sets, recruit interns and additional staff and keep the vehicles running. This is not the end of our ministry with GHH; it's the beginning of a new chapter!~Robin Awe



Along with the festive pictures below, you will find each staff member's support level.

Would you prayerfully consider coming alongside one of our staff and helping get them to 100% support?

Would



90%

Shirley



84%

Chris, Amber, Kylie, Elli, Gwen & Claire



85%

Jeff, Robin, Logan & Jordan

Christmas Gifts to Missionaries

If you would like to send a Christmas gift to your missionary, please see the donation slip with instructions.



49%

Nicole



52%

Juliana