

CFH CHRONICLES

CHRIST FOR
HUMANITY'S
NEWSLETTER

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"AND THIS GOSPEL OF THE
KINGDOM WILL BE
PREACHED IN THE WHOLE
WORLD AS A TESTIMONY
TO ALL NATIONS..."

THE JOY OF ANSWERED PRAYERS **Tina Rollins** Director

God answers prayers, but not often do His children see God's hand moving the puzzle pieces around to create a beautiful picture that will glorify His name. Yet, during the first week of August, Christ for Humanity's staff witnessed such an event.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, things at CFH are moving slower than usual due to the pandemic. Our staff prays daily that God will show us where we can serve Him significantly. During the first week of August, the Lord answered our prayers, using a couple of baskets of tennis shoes as His springboard for something much bigger.

One day after playing tennis, I notice two basketfuls of gently used shoes in the foyer of Philcrest Tennis Club and wondered where they would make the biggest impact. Instantly, homeless people came to mind. CFH had collected shoes from Philcrest before, and the club manager was only too happy to donate all of these shoes to the ministry again.

On the way home, my mind wrestled with the problem of distributing the shoes to homeless people. When I turned on my computer, an email appeared from CFH's Board Chairman Bruce Randall, which included contact information for City of Hope — a ministry targeting the homeless. Some people might consider the arrival of that email a fortuitous coincidence, but



for believers like me, nothing occurs by happenstance. I saw the hand of God moving and immediately emailed City of Hope founder Jon Maust, asking him if he would like to have the shoes I had just collected.

The next day, Jon phoned me at home. "I guess you heard about the shoe drive my ministry is having for our annual foot washing outreach to the homeless on August 8th," Jon remarked. I was surprised and told him I didn't know anything about the event but just thought homeless people might need shoes. Jon went on to say that he had plenty of socks but

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needed at least 350 pair of shoes. He was praying for shoes because, thanks to the pandemic, his ministry had only collected 120 pair. He definitely wanted any shoes CFH could spare with the outreach only a week away. Jon went on to say that funding needed to purchase food and other aid normally distributed at this event was in short supply.

Jon's words made my heart skip a beat! Food is a commodity our ministry has in its warehouse and freezers. I told Jon I would go to CFH the following day to see what food was on hand. I also made inquiries about the other items City of Hope needed, which included t-shirts, jeans, hygiene products and adult diapers. I could almost see God smiling down at me as I realized much on Jon's prayer list could be found at Christ for Humanity.

When I arrived at the office, the staff had managed to find 100 pair of athletic shoes. The ministry freezers were filled with 5 pound pork loins, and we had just received 408 cans of carbonated water. But a check of the clothes closet left me a bit disappointed — almost no t-shirts and very few jeans.

Just as I was getting ready to leave, volunteer John Gates excitedly asked me to come upstairs to see what he and Randy discovered while cleaning out one of the unused offices. Inside a couple of old suitcases were 300 new, cotton t-shirts (all sizes) from a country western concert — shirts evidently donated years earlier and unknown to anyone. I was stunned! T-shirts desperately needed to help the “least of these” had remained hidden in a locked room until just the right moment. Paul said in II Corinthians 9:8: *“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”* A truer statement couldn't have been made in this situation.

Jon arrived at CFH that afternoon to collect the shoes. He left with many of his other prayer needs fulfilled. He and wife JoAnna slow-cooked 75 pounds of CFH pork loin for the outreach. They and 15 volunteers spent eleven hours on Saturday, August 8th, driving a rented Penske truck around Tulsa to areas where the homeless congregate. These dedicated Christians humbly washed

the feet of the needy, giving new socks, shoes and shirts to more than 350 men and women fighting to survive on Tulsa's streets. Over pulled-pork sandwiches and cans of ice cold water, life's difficulties were shared and prayers offered in the name of Jesus.

How blessed CFH was to partner with City of Hope in this annual foot washing outreach to area homeless people! However, perhaps the greatest blessing of all was watching everything fall into place piece by piece and realizing only God could have orchestrated events so perfectly. Christ for Humanity's prayer is that God will continue to use the ministry to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ in both Word and deed, particularly in these troubling, uncertain times.

“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” (John 13:14-17)



COMMUNITY WELLS IN THE GAMBIA

Apart from health outreaches to people impacted by the coronavirus, most international ministry has been curtailed during the past six months. Mission teams, scheduled to serve abroad, cancelled their plans indefinitely, waiting for their sending agencies to determine when it is safe to travel outside the U.S. Even in-country missionaries were forced to curtail their community outreaches as countries went on lock-down to decrease the spread of the virus. These are difficult times for Christian organizations to show the love of God to people living in darkness — difficult but not impossible.

On September 10th, Christ for Humanity reached out to longtime, ministry partner Dave Reiersen, President of Hope2Others, a well-drilling ministry in West Africa. Noticing that Covid-19 cases seemed much lower in Mali, our staff wondered if the same were true in The Gambia, where Dave’s ministry works, drilling family water wells. Our prayer was that Dave’s drilling team was able to continue working during the pandemic, and if so, did he need help with some of his projects. Below is the email the ministry immediately received back from Dave.



“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

James 1:17

Dear CFH Friends:

As you know, Hope2Other has been working for years in The Gambia and more recently in Senegal. Initially, The Gambia shut down but did very little testing, thus the low numbers of reported cases. However, since the government began testing, the infection numbers are definitely increasing. Senegal completely closed the border, so Hope2Others was unable to continue its extension projects there. Though our drillers have tried crossing the border as essential workers, governmental bureaucracy has foiled these attempts. How frustrating because the people are asking us to come and drill.

Currently, The Gambia is nearing the end of its dry season, and most people have used all the money they made from selling last year’s crops. With travel restrictions in place due to the virus, earning additional income from trade is impossible. Sadly, few families have any financial resources available to pay even a minimum drilling fee, so the family well project is on hold at the moment.

As you know, Hope2Others focuses on drilling family wells because the long-term sustainability of village wells has proven poor; however, during this pandemic, I have decided to make an exception and drill village wells. Many villages lack access to clean water for hand washing, which is essential in fighting the virus. This unprecedented event certainly calls for flexibility and compassion for people in need.

To keep Hope2Other teams employed and to help villagers, our ministry is sponsoring 10 community wells, primarily in areas where we have done little work. I already have drilling materials in place in The Gambia, so the drilling cost only will be \$350 per well. I would love to have CFH sponsor as many wells as God leads, and Hope2Others will cover the remaining cost.

In Him,
Dave



In response to Dave’s appeal, CFH decided to sponsor all ten wells and emailed Dave on Thursday afternoon that a check would be forthcoming.

Once again, CFH staff members got to see God’s hand moving. In Monday morning’s mail, a check arrived from our partnering foundation in Florida — additional 2020 grant money for international humanitarian relief projects yet to be determined. This gift not only covered the cost of all ten wells but also left funds to spare for an additional outreach. Our God is so good!

THE SWEETNESS OF LEMONADE

Every donation to Christ for Humanity is appreciated, but there are a few that fall into the “precious” category. Over the course of the coronavirus, the news has been filled with reports across our nation of governmental agencies, churches and businesses, stepping into the gap to provide food and other necessities to help the millions of people impacted by the disease. Christ for Humanity, too, has worked hard with a number of our partners, getting humanitarian aid to people in need.

While Covid-19 has disrupted all of our lives, one virus benefit is that the disease also opened the door for many Christian parents to teach their children about the importance of being the hands and feet of Christ within the local community. Fortunately, Christ for Humanity was blessed by a financial gift from one such family.

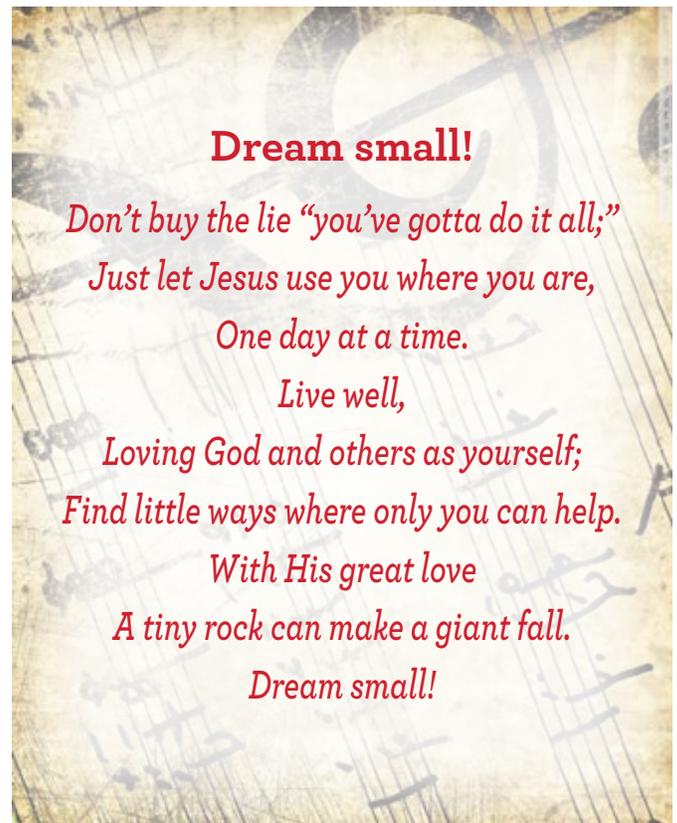
On July 8th, Jenny McMinn arrived at Christ for Humanity’s office with her two daughters — Mary Lee (10) and Hannah Lynn (8). Jenny told staff members that the family learned about CFH when The Highway Church held services in its building for nine months in 2019. The girls remembered their time at the ministry and wanted to give something back. The young entrepreneurs decided to sell lemonade to friends and neighbors and give the proceeds to CFH (all the while following CDC protocols for social distancing, of course). Manning a lemonade stand in July was hot work, but both girls rejoiced because their sweat-equity represented an act of service in Jesus’ name. They prayed their \$30 gift, given from loving hearts, would help struggling people during the pandemic.

God certainly honored that desire because four weeks later, CFH partnered with City of Hope’s annual outreach to homeless men and women around Tulsa. Our ministry provided much of the food for this event,



and the McMinn’s \$30 gift helped defray our bill at the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. Imagine, one small act of kindness impacting more than 350 lives with the love of Christ.

In light of page five’s discussion of the importance of small things to God, I am including the refrain from one of my favorite songs by Josh Willson — “Dream Small.” It instantly came to mind when I learned about the McMinn’s lemonade stand fundraiser.



BE MINDFUL OF SMALL THINGS — THEY MATTER TO GOD LUKE 16:10

We live in a world where bigger is considered better. Nevertheless, small things hold within them great power, and the failure of small things can have disastrous consequences. Remember this old tale: *For the want of a nail, a shoe was lost; for the want of a shoe, a horse was lost; for the want of a horse, a soldier was lost; for the want of a soldier, a battle was lost; for the loss of a battle, the kingdom was lost. Ultimately, the kingdom was lost for the want of a nail.* God wants His people to learn that small things matter in the grand schemes of life: ***“He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.”*** (Luke 16: 10) God blesses faithfulness, particularly in little things.

The Old and New Testaments are riddled with anecdote about small things that brought glory to God’s name and accomplished fruitfulness in His children:



- When God asked Moses to free His people from slavery, Moses hesitated. God told Moses to throw down his shepherd’s rod. It became a snake. When Moses retrieved it, it became a piece of wood once more — the mighty rod of God that shepherded the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land, ultimately making of them a great nation.
- David was a teenager when he faced Goliath. With one smooth stone and a sling, David defeated the nine-foot tall Philistine champion. Small beginnings lead to kingship.
- Our Lord multiplied a young boy’s lunch of fish and bread, feeding thousands with baskets leftover, signifying the manifold abundance of God. (Mathew 14:13-21)
- Mary of Bethany anointed Jesus’s feet with a small jar of perfume, an act of veneration that would inspire millions for the next 2,000 years.
- The impoverished widow never realized that her sacrificial offering of two copper coins would motivate believers throughout the ages to generously support the work of Christ.

God takes notice of little things. He wants His people to be fruitful. Too often our view of others stifles personal ministry. Remember, Jesus never did anything “big” in His life. He didn’t hold a high, public position. He never built big buildings. Jesus talked about small things — sparrows and figs, a lost coin or a wayward son. He did good everywhere He went, and His life impacted the world like no other. Therefore, do what God has gifted you to do and be fruitful.

Small things are the measure of fruitfulness. When God gets ready to measure us, He will regard our faithfulness in small things over our great accomplishments because everything big is built on the small. Don’t tiny drops of water make mighty oceans, and granules of sand build the whitewashed beaches? Our integrity with regard to time, talent, money and resources impact our fruitfulness for God; therefore, Christians should never be tempted to do less than their best in any facet of life. Your faithfulness in the least matters might draw someone to Christ.

Small things have incredible force for good or bad, as well. Just as people become overweight one spoonful at a time, and addiction builds on each successive experiences, so the faithfulness scale in a Christian’s life tips back and forth on a small pivot. For instance, David wasn’t instantly prepared to face a giant. As a young shepherd, David gained confidence protecting his sheep — first from a lion and then from a bear. David was faithful in small things, and ultimately, God made him the shepherd of a nation. Likewise, Elisha humbly served Elijah. His faithful performance of menial tasks pleased God, and in time, God performed twice the number of miracles through Elisha than through his more high-profile predecessor.

Don’t despise the day of small things, but don’t be content doing little either, especially if God grants the opportunity to do something grand. Complacency would be sin. In John 15:2, Jesus said: ***“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit***

He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” God wants



His people to bear fruit — as much fruit as possible. Remarkably, if a Christian brought only one soul into the kingdom each year and taught his disciple to do the same, in 30 years, 25 million names would be added to the *Lamb’s Book of Life*. That outcome shows

the unimaginable power of multiplication — moving from something small to monumental!

Don’t waste your energy on cheap trivialities. Don’t be satisfied with less than God has for you. Let your goal be as big as this world, but never forget that God is the God of small things, too. If Christians remain faithful in the small things, who knows what big plans God has in store!

(Ideas from a sermon by Pastor Adrian Rogers)

ON THE LIGHT SIDE

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE PEOPLE'S SURVIVAL INSTINCTS TOLD THEM TO GRAB TOILET PAPER.

I'm going to stay up on New Year's Eve this year. Not to see the New Year in, but to make sure this one leaves.

If I had only known in March it would be my last time in a restaurant, I would have ordered dessert.

Until further notice, the days of the week are now called, Thisday, Thatday, Otherday, Someday, Yesterday, Today, & Nextday.

At the store there was a Big X by the register for me to stand on...I've seen too many Road Runner cartoons to fall for that one.

Having some states lock down and some states not lock down is like having a peeing section in the swimming pool.

THE DUMBEST THING I'VE EVER PURCHASED WAS A 2020 PLANNER.

The buttons on my jeans have started social distancing from each other.

Keep in mind, even during a pandemic, no matter how much chocolate you eat, your earrings will still fit you.

When does Season Two of 2020 start? I do not like Season One.

They said a mask and gloves were enough to go to the grocery store.

I never thought the comment "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are.

They lied, everybody else had clothes on.

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