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Reflections from Ron

Colleagues and friends,

There are many today who are struggling with the fundamental issues of living. We've seen gas prices skyrocket, though now that the election is closer the prices have dropped significantly. We've seen food prices go up and that goes along with the increased prices for gas. We've seen prices for almost all goods and services increase as we (some of us who are working in service industry jobs) require more just making it from day to day. The bottom has fallen out of the housing market while the move to rescue Wall Street gets debated in Congress. People from all walks of life are trying to figure out what to do about it all. And there appears to be no simple answer for any of our problems. There is some connection in all of this to who we are as God's people and what our mission is on the Five Rivers District.

For those who might be trying to figure out the financial piece, we've had a ministry resource in the district office for several months now titled "The Good Cents" program. It invites us as God's people to gain control of our finances so that we don't get caught in the money woes of the day. It is not the answer, but is a resource to help us be in line with God's will for our financial lives and our lives as Christian people. It's also one way to cultivate Christian growth among us. And in contrast, one of the things that would cultivate Christian growth is examining how we might give more instead of less.

We could use this downturn in our nation to begin praying more earnestly that God's will be done; not prayer as individuals, but prayer as churches and small groups; prayer circles that lift up to God our concern that we are living in accordance with God's holy word. Increased prayer is another way to cultivate Christian growth.

There may be other ways that you can think of to cultivate Christian growth during these difficult times. Yet, I'm reminded of the scriptures that lead me to believe the things I've spoken about today:

²² ... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)

God bless you all for your patience, endurance and your steadfastness.

Agape and Shalom,
Ron

“Because God Says To”

By Marvé Ralston

Joe and Shirley Edgerton had planned on a three week sabbatical in the US. Their plans included enjoying their children, grandchildren, rest and relaxation and speaking to church groups to raise funds for their long term volunteer mission experience on the South Side of the Island in La Gonave, Haiti. Then hurricanes Hannah and Ike both struck Haiti. The Edgerton's were barely back to the States before Ike hit. They were thinking along with so many others that are praying for the people of Haiti; “please God, not again for them.”

On Monday the Edgerton's returned to Haiti after only ten days. They were returning with thirty-five thousand dollars worth of food to feed the Islanders in La Gonave. The food was provided by GBGM with the conditions that the Edgerton's helped deliver and hand it out.

Shirley and Joe were at Wellsville UMC last Sunday to raise awareness for the people of Haiti. She brought a basket of beautiful conch shells to sell for a fishermen friend from Haiti whose boat needed repair from the storms. I have a beautiful one that will remind me to pray for them every day. They definitely didn't want any sympathy for their having to leave early. What I heard from them was the urgency of getting food delivered to their friends back in Haiti.

Shirley began by talking about some of the acronyms used by the United Methodist Church. Volunteers In Missions or **VIM**, may be new to some of us. This is where the Edgertons began doing work in other countries and the US through VIM disaster response programs. There is currently no VIM in Haiti.

Another acronym is **UMCOR** which stands for United Methodist Committee on Relief. This relief effort is responsible for sending help to hurting people all over the world.

The major funding they recently received came from **GBGM**. This is the General Board of Global Ministries. In addition to that, they received money from a collection that was taken up at Annual Conference for them and was just recently distributed to them. They also are very grateful for donations from local churches and individuals that send in the money to Lawrence Central with the Edgerton's advance number written on it. 100% of each gift to the advance reaches its' intended mission or ministry. Central forwards the money to them in Haiti.

The scripture that Shirley chose for her message was from Matthew 19: 21-30. She said the hardest part of that parable is, "not what you don't understand, but what you do." She went on to explain what they get out of their mission work. She used the scripture when Peter asks God what they would get for leaving everything and following him. "A hundred fold blessing of what you give up," is what Shirley paraphrased. She said they are blessed with a "whole lot of friends." When they go for walks in Haiti late into the evening, they are invited into homes. People are volunteering to help teach them the native language of Haiti which is Creole. Then there are the friends back in the States that are praying for and supporting them.

When asked what a mission trip accomplishes she said that someone once told her; "We could do this at home." She said "A mission trip makes us vulnerable and open to doing more things to help at home." Others have told her it makes them better stewards of what God has given them.

The Haiti natives are a people that have not had a real voice for 250 years. They are just beginning to realize that there are brothers and sisters thinking of them and who care. As of this newsletter, the Edgertons are back in Haiti. Please continue to remember them in prayer as they continue their work there.

Please see page 8 for pictures and information on how to help the Edgertons.

Project Revolution Successful

By *Marvé Ralston*



Lead Singer
Nathan Piche

Three years ago Five Rivers District Superintendent, Rev. Ronald King had a dream for our district youth of a district wide rally. In order for this to happen; there had to be a

the five youth clusters. From that group and others like it over the next two years, he began talking to them about planning some district wide events. Two D.C.Y.M. coordinators were chosen.

It was a slow and sometimes insurmountable prospect. It seemed that each time a new meeting was held, many of the youth workers had changed so new lists were made...again.

Youth are busy, it is hard enough to get together with your own group; how was this going to be possible? What was their vision of a strong District Council of Youth Ministries? Could they collectively plan and carry out a district wide event? How would they

get the funding?

Next step was getting the youth in the district more involved. Officers were chosen and dreams of what could be accomplished with some funding were discussed. Rev. King asked the groups to discuss what they would like to do as a district and what they might need funding for. A budget was made and proposed. Although the whole amount was not given, a sufficient amount was allocated for this group to begin planning the event.

In the meantime, mission work trips and youth mission trips happened, Camps and Institute were supported. Local churches continued to have successful youth groups and activities.



The rainbow was a double one. George McCrary, the father of D.C.Y.M. secretary, Kaylin McCrary noticed it first. It went from one side of Worden UMC to another.



functioning D.C.Y.M. It began with him calling together the local church youth coordinators. There were meetings held in each of



Sheryl McCrary from Worden, Sean Moore and daughter, Tricia Dillard from Baldwin 1st, helping supervise the outdoor activities.

A marshmallow game led by Kelli Harris, Worden's Youth Director.



Art Norman, Burlington youth director-gives the scripture and instructions used for the obstacle course event.



Article One
concert began
at 9:00 p.m.



Plenty of
room was
available to
get “up close”
and really en-
joy the band.

However, in many local and small churches there are only one or two youth participating. This can make for very isolated Christian youth.

The dream for a district wide youth event survived however and became a reality on October 13th and 14th. After months of planning, much work from the D.C.Y.M. youth, and coordinators Tami Clark, Lawrence 1st and Matt Stuckey, Iola Wesley, the event finally happened. Project Revolution was held at Worden UMC with 73 youth and 13 adult sponsors attending.

Worden UMC and the new pastor there, Rev. Bud Tuxhorn, graciously opened the church with its wonderful gym and sanctuary to provide the place to have the district event. He was present and gave a lot of support to the workers and kids during the event. He had so much good to say about his own youth director, Kelli Harris. She and fiancé, Zach Haeffner were there and helped lead the kids with enthusiasm.

Tami and Matt the D.C.Y.M. coordinators, kept the “staff” youth on task and everything seemed to be running well. Youth are not easy to corral. They were definitely all over the church but busy with obstacle courses, small group games, outside soccer, football, and some games that were invented on the spot. D.C.Y.M. youth had each had been given things to be in charge of. One staff member took the job on of grilling all the hamburgers and hotdogs. There was plenty of food and snacks available. This was all before the concert began.

The band chosen by the group was Article One. The four members were there most of the day Saturday, and interacted throughout with the kids. It is impossible to describe the excitement of the youth without being there. The band was definitely perfect for this venue. They have been on tour with Superchick, another Christian band. Throughout the concert the vocalist, Nathan Piche, gave personal testimony to Christ. Each member of Article One was talented and very entertaining. To see district youth so fired up, hands raised high for God was very inspirational.

The evening ended with a midnight worship service. The next morning the youth were all in the sanctuary for 8:15 a.m. worship service. I would like to say they were as energetic as the night before but I think it is enough that they were there. Pastor Tuxhorn gave a great sermon on forgiveness. He admits to being very tired as well, but even sang a solo that morning. Mission accomplished, our first D.C.Y.M. youth rally happened. Thanks to all local churches that pay their apportionments, carry on the steady work of your church, and support the future of our churches though supporting events like this for our youth.

Thanks for Rev. King for having the first vision of this event, thanks for Matt Stuckey and Tami Clark the D.C.Y.M. coordinators. Thanks to the

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October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September 29th	District Committee on Ministry 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Wellsville UMC
September 30th	District office is closed in the afternoon for travel time to Wichita. Crisis Training, Extended Cabinet DS in Wichita.
October 2nd - 3rd	District and Conference offices closed. Leadership Institute at Church of the Resurrection . For more details go to www.cor.org/catalyst/leadership-institute/
October 6th	District Health Insurance meeting at Garnett UMC, 124 W. Oak, Garnett 9:00 a.m.-noon for actives, 1-4 p.m. for retirees.
October 9th-10th	PAUMCS Meeting in Wichita District Office closed
October 10th-12th	Mates In Ministry Retreat www.mates-in-ministry.com
October 13th	Incubator Meeting at Ottawa UMC in the Parlor
October 16th	Appointive Cabinet, DS in Wichita
October 18th	Conference Leadership Team at Crestview
October 25th	Preaching Workshop at Garnett UMC 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
November 1st	District Workshop, "Growing as Disciples." 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Speaker Carol Krau. Ottawa 1st <i>registration form out soon.</i>

Project Revolution a Success continued from page 5.

D.C.Y.M. youth that helped lead this event, the local church youth leaders that helped and promoted it, and parents that helped make this a success.

I forgot to tell you about the rainbow God provided for the event. George McCrary the father of Kaylin our D.C.Y.M. secretary was the first to show us a double rainbow that appeared at dusk. I was unable to photograph the complete rainbow or it's total splendor but It was a beautiful reminder of God's promises.



Clergy Birthdays

October 8th Rev. Michael Tomson-DeGreeff

October 10th Rev. Ronald King

District Prayer Calendar

Oct. 5 Melvern-Quenemo

Oct. 12 Iola: Calvary-Salem

Oct. 19 Michigan Valley

Oct. 26 Fort Scott 1st

Our District Council on Youth Ministries

Our missionaries in Haiti

Joe and Shirley Edgerton and work teams

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District Superintendent: Rev. Ronald King
Administrative Assistant, Newsletter editor : Marvé Ralston

Mission Statement: Cultivate Christian Growth

The Edgerton's ministry can be helped by sending funds in care of:

Lawrence Central UMC
1501 Massachusetts
Lawrence, KS 66044-4273

Please put Advance #982465-6 and "Edgertons" on the memo line.



Shirley Edgerton at Wellsville UMC



**Marvé Ralston Administrative Asst.
Conch shell from Haiti**