

Spiritual Fruit Farm

Implanting the seeds of Truth.

May 2003

Dear Fellow Laborers of the Field,

We want to praise God as Phase One: The Children's Ministry of the Spiritual Fruit Farm continues to thrive and flourish! God is awesome in the amazing way He continues to provide. As we announced in April's newsletter, once again we took 2 children to the Spiritual Fruit Farm. We also want to thank you for your prayers for our ministry, for your time to read this newsletter and ask for your continued support in prayer.

Writer: Deborah R. Force Editor: Gregory L. Donough

Please let us know what you think of our newsletter, we'd love to hear from you!

Email: gdonough@supernet.com Phone: 717-392-2421



Meet Jared Stevens, he is 10 years old and this is his second visit to the Spiritual Fruit Farm. We were very glad that we could bring him out after he expressed his desire to come again within the first few hours of his last visit!

Here Jared discovered some dry bones in a cow pasture. At the Spiritual Fruit Farm, God uses even dry bones. After reading Ezekiel 37:1-11, where God takes Ezekiel to a valley of dry bones and God asks him if these bones can be brought back to life again, and then tells Ezekiel to prophesy over the bones to bring them to life; we asked Jared a question. Why did God ask Ezekiel if the bones can live? And why did God need Ezekiel to say the words to bring the bones to life?

The answer is that God chose to use Ezekiel, God didn't need Ezekiel to say the words; God could have brought them to life before Ezekiel's very eyes. But God used this Hebrew picture imagery to show Ezekiel that God can bring life out of death. The bones representing God's people and His ability to reestablish them in the land of Israel.

Here Jared is fishing. But this time we didn't catch one, not even a nibble. When asked what he thought of this fishing expedition. Jared said, "It wasn't as much fun." Afterwards, we read John 21:1-14, Jared remembered the object lesson from when he caught nine large trout! We asked him what was different from the first time when Jesus told them, "Follow me and I'll make you fishers of men"? In this scripture Jesus was the risen Christ in full power, the nets did not break and when they came ashore, Jesus already had caught the fish and was cooking them. Bible Dude helped Jared understand that although Jesus asks us to follow Him and be fishers of men, that He already has the fish. God chose to use Ezekiel to speak over the dry bones, just as Jesus chose to use the disciples, asking them to cast their nets one more time. We see that God does not really need us to catch the fish or speak over the dry bones. He already has the fish, He's already brought life out of death, but He allows us to be part of His great plan and to be used of God. God gives us the privilege to serve Him. God chooses to use us.



We would like to invite you to be used of God in this ministry. We would ask that you commit to praying for this ministry 3 times a week, asking that the Lord would bring into this ministry individuals with passion, connecting us with others who have various skill sets and even the resources and gifts to be a part of a dynamic ministry team.

Or maybe you, yourself could help make the Spiritual Fruit Farm a physical reality? If you are willing to be a prayer team member, please let us know. Do you know someone who would love to be involved in this type of ministry? There are many needs, would you like to know what they are to see if you could help in some way? If so, please contact us.

RE-CLAIMER: *The views and opinions of this newsletter are necessarily representing the views of the Spiritual Fruit Farm!*



Spiritual Fruit Farm reaches out to the children of Single Parents of Lancaster County Bible Church.

Meet Jonathan, he is 5 years old; Jonathan is not homeless, however his home is not what it once was. This is a time of change, upheaval and emotional stress; these are circumstances in his life that Jonathan has no control over. Here he is learning that the ride is not always smooth, in fact, the road of life can be full of bumps. He can choose to be fearful and stiffen up or relax and be flexible knowing that God is in control and stability that can only come with a relationship with Jesus Christ through these object lessons specially designed for him using agricultural Hebrew picture imagery.

(Picture: Mary Bechtold, Equestrian Specialist, Jonathan and Rowdy at Flintrock Stables.)



Volunteer Spotlight!

Here is an example of individuals willing to be used of God!

By sharing a partial vision of the Spiritual Fruit Farm at an awards dinner to Hughe Karreman, a veterinarian of Lancaster County, he got so excited about this ministry that he started sharing the vision with farmers he works with. This is how we met Carey and Cathy Christ.

After one brief meeting with Hughe, we received an email suggesting we contact Carey and Cathy. Greg Donough met with them and shared the vision in depth. After which, Cathy exclaimed, "...this is of God!" Carey and Cathy then began to share just how much God had blessed them. Carey was an electrician and Cathy owned a hair salon, both bringing in a comfortable living, but they never saw one another, so they decided to go into dairy farming. "Now," Cathy says, "we're poor, but happy!" Carey trained under Roman Stoltzfoos for 3 years and God blessed them with having their own farm for the last 7 years. God also blessed them with two lovely adopted children after years of disappointment, of the amazing healings that occurred in both children, Nathan 5 years old was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and he shows no signs of the disease! Nelly 3 ½ years old was born a heroin baby not given much hope to live or be normal, but she is also a perfectly healthy and happy little girl. Out of all these blessings, Carey and Cathy's hearts are full and wish to help others, so they have opened their home, family and farm to the children of the Water Street Rescue Mission.

At the farm, two children get to experience life with a real, functioning Christian family. To be part of a home that is safe, warm and loving. Here they can play outside when they want to, play with toys or just sit on the porch swing and have a moment all to themselves.

Thank you so very much, Carey and Cathy, Nathan and Nelly for extending your arms wide open with God's love! Your generosity has allowed us together to touch the lives of homeless, inner-city children in a way they will never forget! May God continue to bless you all the days of your lives!



Carey & Cathy Christ know that sometimes you have to go out on a limb for others...because that is where the fruit is!

Other news to share!

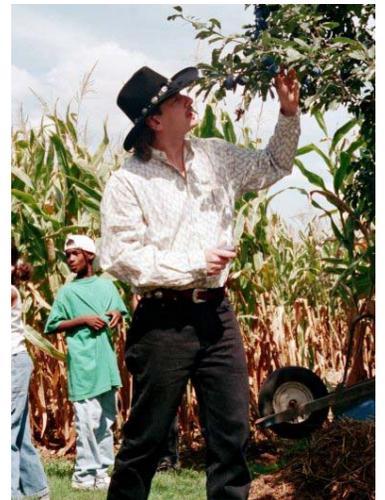
- Joe Hershey of Hornafius Insurance Agency has agreed to assist the Spiritual Fruit Farm in liability and other insurance matters. Praise God!
- We will be Spiritual Fruit Farming the weekend of June 6-8th! Keep us in prayer for safety and hearts open for implanting the seeds of truth.

Thank you again for your prayers as we continue.

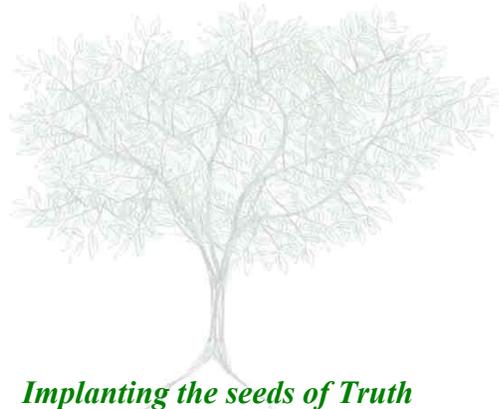
To The Kingdom!

Greg Donough
President
Spiritual Fruit Farm

THE BIBLE DUDE



Thankfulness is the soil in which joy thrives!



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746 New Holland Avenue – Lancaster PA 17602 - 717-392-2421
gdonough@supernet.com future website: www.spiritualfruitfarm.org