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Winter Newsletter, 2016
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MOH KEY CALENDAR DATES 2016

January 2016	Thank You Letters & Receipts & Phone Calls
Winter 2016	"Soup for the Hope" Food Collection Drives
March 31 & 4/1	Outreach & Distribution Event – Oneida, TN
April 1	Construction Ministry & Handicap Ramps Builds Begin
April ?	Alice Lloyd College – Scholars Recognition Trip
April ?	Outreach & Distribution Event – Blaine, KY
April ?	Lincoln Memorial University – Scholars Recognition Trip
April ?	Repair Fair Event – Middlesboro & Pineville, KY
May 7	Day in The Park Outreach Event – Sneedville, TN
May	End of School Year Parties – MOH Volunteer Teams
May	Scholarship Program Fundraising Event
June 25	Day in The Park Outreach Event – Oneida, TN
June ?	HOPE Academy – Black Mountain, KY
June, July, August	Summer Mission Trips to Appalachia (By Church Team Groups)
July & August	19 th Annual Back to School Program
August ?	Stuff the Bus Back to School Collection at the Pinnacle – Turkey Creek
August 12	13 th Annual Mission of Hope & Chick-fil-A Golf Classic
August ?	Cruisin' For Kids Car Show at Joe Neubert Co. on Clinton Hwy
August ?	Outreach & Distribution Event – Sneedville, TN
September ?	Repair Fair Event – Williamsburg, KY
September ?	Outreach & Distribution Event – Hazard, KY
October ?	Outreach & Distribution Event – Williamsburg, KY
October 31	Construction Ministry & Handicap Ramps Builds Ends
November 3	Annual Celebration & Fund Raising Banquet
November ?	Zoo for the Hope Food Drive @ Knoxville Zoo
November ?	4 th Annual Christmas Drive Collection at Pinnacle – Turkey Creek
November ?	Keyboards at Christmas (Tennessee Theater)
November ? thru	21 st Annual Christmas Program and Barrel
December ?	Collection Drives in Knoxville and Lexington
December ?	LMU Christmas Concert & Tree Lighting (Toy Collection for MOH)
December ?	UT Lady Vols Basketball Game (Toy Collection for MOH)

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Note: Dates & Locations will be confirmed for upcoming events on the Mission of Hope Website (www.missionofhope.org) and through Emmette's E-mail Updates.

For More Details:
Call 865-584-7571 or
Toll Free 877-627-1909.

Greetings Dear Friends:

Christmas deliveries to our 27 schools during December were made without a hint of snow. Weather conditions were more spring and summer like—lots of rain and warm temperatures. Your kindness and generosity enabled us to assist more than 18,000 children and their families and friends in poverty-stricken Appalachian communities throughout Northeast Tennessee and Southeast Kentucky. We also provided several mountain ministry centers with items to distribute to the needy in the areas they serve. We are grateful to each of you for your generosity and support of the Mission of Hope. What an incredible feeling it is to be able to offer a hand up to so many special ways. My sincere thanks to our collection and media sponsors, transportation providers, donors, prayer partners and our amazing family of Mission of Hope Volunteers.

May God bless and protect you and your families each and every day with hope-filled hearts!

Emmette Thompson, Executive Director--ethomval@aol.com

20TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Most of us are blessed with warm homes, clothes, plenty of food, and employment to provide for our needs. Many in rural Appalachia are struggling to provide basic necessities for their children each and every day. We supplied approximately 18,000 students and their family members with NEW clothes and toys and food and hygiene items. We are grateful for God's provisions and for our Donors and Sponsors who make our work possible.

A big thank you goes to our many MOH Volunteers who worked countless hours to see that our Christmas deliveries were made on schedule. They are indeed amazing, awesome, incredible and devoted. They are the true HERO'S OF THE HOPE! Our special thanks to the following Volunteers for serving as coordinators and team leaders for our Christmas Program.:

Leadership **Coordinators:** Wayne Jones and Joe Peck, Barrel Placement; Joe Peck and Wayne Jones, Drivers and Pick Ups; Helen Jones, Buyer; Mary Emma Bunch and

Mildred Queen, Clothing; Gail Brooks and Don Jones, Food; Bonnie Bayless and Jackie Johnson, Hygiene; Jara Allen Gillett, Suzanne Burnette, Pat and Mac McCarter, Laura Peck, and Cap Smith, Toys; Stan Starr, Transportation and Deliveries; Johnnie Barry and Martha Murray, Volunteers; Bud Brickeen, Pete Hoke, Jim Montgomery and David Burnett, Warehouse; Jill and Russell Travis, Lexington Coordinators; Emmette Thompson, Shirley Plant, Diane Webster and Lesa Medley, MOH office staff.

SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS OF CHRISTMAS DRIVE

The help and support that Mission of Hope receives from sponsors, donors, supporters and dedicated volunteers is what makes its Christmas Drive possible each year. We extend our sincere thanks and heartfelt gratitude to each of these dear friends.

Major Sponsors: Chick-fil-A Knoxville, Food City, Home Federal, Kmart, Knoxville TVA Employees Credit Union, CVS,

Sears, Mercedes-Benz of Knoxville and Land Rover Knoxville.

Media Sponsors: WBIR-TV 10, The Knoxville News-Sentinel, WRJZ Joy 620 AM and Cumulus Media Knoxville (WIVK 107.7, News Talk 98.7 and SportsRadio WNML FM 99.1.

Co-Sponsors: Coleman's Printing and Awards,

Fleenor Security Systems, Robert W. Elliott & Assoc. and Rothchild Catering and Event Rentals.

Lexington, KY Sponsors: Chick-fil-A Central Kentucky, Appalachian Regional Healthcare (ARH), Curves, Lexington Family Magazine, Lexington Herald-Leader, WKYT-TV, The Bull Country 98.1, and Christian Broadcasting System Lexington (770 AM WCGW, Life 99.1 FM WJMM and NewsRadio 630 WLAP).

CHRISTMAS AT OWSLEY COUNTY ELEMENTARY

Mission of Hope provides a special Christmas to kids at 27 different schools located in Southeast KY and Northeast TN. Students at Owsley County Elementary received a big surprise when Mission of Hope visited their school just before Christmas break.

After bringing in box after box, volunteers transformed the school gym into a toy store. Students entered this

"wonderland" by grades and selected the toys they wanted to call their very own. They also received hygiene packs and other necessities.

"They smile the rest of the day because they feel like someone cares about them from outside of their family . . . they feel like they have a chance," said teacher James Cornett. Teachers like Cornett, who

have watched Christmas come early for these students for many years, say this day brings a lot more than a bag full of toys for each child.

"With the resources we have there is only so much we can do. Christmas is about giving, and if you can give a child a good holiday and a smile . . . that is pretty amazing," explained Cornett.

"This group really fills a big void in this county," said Cornett.



Thanks to The Pinnacle at Turkey Creek for sponsoring the "Lights Up" benefit for the Mission of Hope on November 20.



A BLESSED YEAR FOR MOH MINISTRY

We were richly blessed in 2015 with the privilege of serving those who need our help the most throughout rural Appalachian communities. By working with elementary schools and mountain ministry centers located in these areas, we are making a difference by assisting those in the depth of poverty. Our hearts truly break for those who are struggling in areas which offer little opportunity for new jobs or prosperity. Many coal mining jobs that provided economic stability for many in years past have been totally eliminated.

We minister in a variety of ways at the HOPE. Envision a tree with two roots and seven branches. The two roots we serve the rural poor through are our Elementary Schools and Mountain Ministry Centers. The seven branches are: Resource Distribution, Back-to-School Program, Christmas Program, Healthcare, Construction, Scholarship and

Evangelism. It is our approach to help those in dire need and yet insure accountability for our supporters. Last year we put 91 cents of every dollar back into our ministry. Christmas will always be the gift of the Christ Child. In our year-round ministry, we incur expenses from time to time that are not always in our budget. We are now attempting to get a better delivery box truck. We will be selecting a new class of Scholars this spring. It is our desire to locate new ministries which might need a hand up in as they serve others.

We would be most grateful if you would deem the Mission of Hope worthy of a financial donation. For additional information or to make a donation please contact the Mission of Hope office at 865-584-7571. You may mail a donation to Mission of Hope at P.O. Box 51824, Knoxville, TN 37950. Donations may also be given by going online at www.missionofhope.org.

KEYBOARDS AT CHRISTMAS CONCERT

How grateful we are to Donna McNeilly and Pianists for the awesome “Keyboards at Christmas” concert at the Tennessee Theatre on November 29. It was a beautiful display of talent and love for music. We are most appreciative that they deemed our humble Ministry worthy of such an effort. A special thank you also goes to all of

sponsor friends and to all who attended this program.

We are so excited that we now have a way for our MOH friends to remember and to enjoy this wonderful evening for days to come. We have been fortunate to have DVD's made of the Concert. They are now available for purchase for \$10 each. You may

come by or call the Mission of Hope Office (865-584-7571) to order your DVD. You may pay by cash, check and or credit card. This is a wonderful way for anyone who may not have been able to attend to enjoy the concert. If you were in attendance, this is just another opportunity to be able to enjoy again the amazing evening for The HOPE.

Thanks to the Lady Vols and the Knoxville Zoo for sponsoring events to collect toys and food items for our Christmas campaign.

“Keyboards at Christmas” DVD's are now available for \$10. Contact MOH office to get your copy.

THANK-YOU ACROSTIC FROM A STUDENT

Meeting New People
Impossible Task
Salvation is Free
Sins Forgiven
Inspirational Love
Obedient to God
Never Tires of Giving

Ongoing
Forever Giving

Helping the Poor
Optimistic about Future
Perfect Praise
Everlasting Love

We love you Mission of Hope!!!



MIRACLE AT A RAMP BUILD PROJECT

I just had to share this powerful story that took place at our last MOH Handicap Ramp Build Project in the Black Mountain, KY Community. We go to Black Mountain Elementary School there and our MOH Team for this School is Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church. The Team Captain is Ginger Forbes and she discovered this heart-breaking need while at their HOPE Academy Mission Trip last summer. We made it our last Ramp project for 2015. It was a two day project, and we had a great group of MOH Volunteer Heroes led by our Construction Ministry Leader Barry Ownby and me to build it. Just so you will know, I am the least qualified to do construction. I think they take me along just to buy lunch and dinner. I also make

the runs back and forth to local building supply store to get the materials needed to complete our projects.

On the morning of our second and final day there, a lady next door came running out of her house and into the yard of the house where we were building the ramp. She was screaming for help for her husband who was not breathing and in dire need of assistance. Three of our MOH Ramp Team Members ran into their house and performed emergency CPR. They saved the man's life.

I returned from the building supply store to see the ambulance loading the patient to rush him to the local hospital. He not only survived but was also released from the hospital a few days later and is doing well. Ginger and some other MOH friends actually got to see

this family and the family that we completed the Handicap Ramp for a few days right before Christmas.

This may be one of the greatest examples I know of in our ministry's history where God had us somewhere for a completely different reason—one that only He knew. That beautiful October fall day we were His Vessel for fulfilling Hope and extending Life. Dear God, thank you for the privilege of being your Servants.



NEEDS AT THE HOPE

We are continuing to receive more and more urgent and desperate requests here at The Hope.

Food – canned goods, soups, canned meats and stews, peanut butter, pasta, crackers

Hygiene – bar soap, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste

Furniture – good used beds, dining suites, sofas & chairs, stoves & refrigerators

Bibles, Tracts, Christian Books and Bibles on CD

If you can help the MOH with any of these items, we will be grateful. Perhaps your church and/or business would like to help. Please call the MOH office for more details.

BIBLES FOR THE HOPE

Every few years we try to take Bibles to the children and families we serve in the communities of rural Appalachian. I feel without hesitation it is the greatest gift and source of true hope that we can give. Each time that we have done this God has provided the financial harvest that He knows we will need to pay for them. And we are once again going to have faith He will provide for our financial needs to buy Bibles.

I have located a beautiful color pictured Bible that will work for both children and adults. They normally cost \$9.95 each and I have been able to purchase them for \$2.95 each. I need 11,000 of them and they have now been shipped here. We have already been blessed with two \$10,000 Donations to go towards this purchase. If you are interested in making a donation towards this purchase we would be immensely grateful. We must, as a Christian ministry, continue to share the greatest gift to all who will receive it.

Mission of Hope is a fully licensed 501c3 nonprofit charity and your donations are tax deductible as allowable by law. We have all the proper licenses for local, state and federal requirements. If you would like additional information, or have questions regarding our ministry, please contact the MOH office.

Thanks to Editor Mary Sue Miller, MOH Staff members Shirley Plant, Diane Webster and Lesa Medley, Coleman's Printing and Awards, and Direct Mail Services for their help in compiling, preparing, printing and mailing our Newsletters.

Thanks also go to Brian and Tammy McKinley for doing a great job maintaining our Website at www.missionofhope.org. Please visit our updated Website to keep informed of MOH activities.