

SKILTON HOUSE MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 1045 ■ Glenside, Pennsylvania 19038-1045 ■ 215-836-3461 ■ 484-477-9659

Operation Brotherhood – Love One Another

By Ann Egner

Once again we will be challenging churches in Philadelphia and the suburbs to “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love . . .” as found in Romans 12:10, through OPERATION BROTHERHOOD 2006.

This is an opportunity for Christian Churches to come together to reach those who may not know our Lord as Savior and who are needy. Churches and Schools who wish to participate, whether requesting food baskets and turkeys, or/and wish to help by contributing canned goods, groceries and money towards the turkeys, please come to our opening meeting to be held at the Korean United Church on Thursday, September 14, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. This meeting is most important as we set our plans for the whole Operation Brotherhood Program and we need YOUR input to make things work smoothly. If your representative is not there, then we know you aren't interested in participating, so PLEASE note your CALENDAR now!!

Our OPERATION BROTHERHOOD 2006 RALLY will be held on Sunday, October 1, 2006 at AS THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS, CHURCH OF HEALING AND DELIVERANCE, located at 1843 South 22nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19145. Pastors Sterling and Mary Ruffin have been blessed by OPERATION BROTHERHOOD through the years. And they have asked us to come to their neighborhood to pray for it and together walk through the neighborhood, hand out tracks and share the WORD of GOD with those with whom we come in touch during the RALLY.

The RALLY will begin at 3:30 P.M., however please bring your requests for food bas-

Meet Jeffrey C. Waddington

By Rev. Barry Traver
*Immediate Past President
of the Executive Committee.*

Skilton House Ministries has a new Executive Director! Jeffrey Waddington comes to us very highly recommended (keep reading for the details) and is well qualified to fulfill the responsibilities that will be his as outlined in a job description prepared by the Executive Committee for that office. We much appreciate the former service of his predecessor in that office, Paul Humber, but would like to see the role of Executive Director expanded in areas where Jeff's predecessor may not have had the advantage of the same training, background, or experience as Jeff, and we



kets and Turkeys before 3:30. The requests must be written on your Church Stationery with the names of those receiving and their addresses. This way we know who we're praying for throughout OPERATION BROTHERHOOD 2006. Names will be held in confidence with Executive Committee of Skilton House Ministries members only.

Please advise your Church members to mark their Calendars so they may have an opportunity to be in MISSION by bringing canned goods, groceries, contributing money towards the turkeys and help to pack the many bags of food. Two flyers are attached to this Newsletter, one gives information about the Rally and the other about the food distribution and the Calendar of Events. Please copy them and distribute amongst your congregation.

We are challenging you right now to please pray for OPERATION BROTHERHOOD 2006. MAY WE TRULY GLORIFY GOD more than ever, through our efforts this year, THANK YOU...

believe that Jeff has the expertise to fulfill additional tasks and goals for the benefit of Skilton House Ministries.

As I said, Jeff comes to us highly recommended. For example, the following comments come from a pastor who had personal experience of Jeff's work with two different congregations:

“I can heartily recommend Jeffrey for the position of Executive Director of Skilton House Ministries! He is a godly, theologically astute brother whom I think you would find fully qualified to fulfill the responsibilities undertaken in that position. Particularly, I can

cite the fine work he did . . . to train potential elders and deacons among the Indonesian members of Immanuel Fellowship Orthodox Presbyterian Church in South Philadelphia. In that capacity he demonstrated sensitivity to Christian brothers of a different ethnic and cultural background than his own, and lovingly sought to bring to bear biblical truth to their particular needs and interests. He was always punctual and prepared, and I could count on him to handle the meetings of the church board when I was unable to be present. Additionally, he served the Yardley Orthodox Presbyterian Church mission work in many ways . . ., filling the pulpit and being always ready to assist in any task given him.”

A church officer also has high praise for Jeff based on his personal experience of Jeff's work with a third congregation.

“I am an elder with Covenant Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Easton, Pa. I have had the pleasure of working with Jeff in his position as Outreach Coordinator for our church and also as a youth leader and director of our Vacation Bible School.”

“I have found Jeff to be well organized,

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Christian Release Time Education

by Jeffrey C. Waddington

It is my pleasure to share with you my vision for the future of Skilton House Ministries's Christian Release Time education program (CRT for short). My predecessor as executive director of SHM, the Reverend Paul Humber, established a fine base of CRT programs over the past few years. My goal is to strengthen what we are currently doing and build on the successes of the past in order to expand our outreach, with our Lord's blessing, into new churches and schools in and beyond the immediate Philadelphia area.

Before I share with you my vision for the future, I think it makes sense to explain just what CRT is. Christian Release Time education involves the release of children from instruction in public schools for a one hour a week class in the basics of the Christian faith. Believe it or not, this is perfectly legal from both a Federal and state perspective. Not only has the Supreme Court of the United States recognized the legitimacy of such religious instruction, but many states have statutes on the books allowing for it. Take Pennsylvania for instance. In the early 1980s the Pennsylvania state legislature in Harrisburg passed a release time bill that was subsequently signed into law and has been in force ever since.

So what is the role of Skilton House Ministries in all this? I am glad you asked. SHM provides supervision, coordination, support, and resources to the churches that participate in the CRT program. Here is how we go about establishing a CRT program. First, we determine what Bible-believing churches are located near public schools within a given geographical region. Then we contact the pastors of these churches and meet with them and others in the churches who are interested in getting involved in the program. Ideally there will be many people interested in helping with CRT. Once we have a church that is willing to participate in the program and we have people interested in teaching the class, people to escort the children to and from the school to the church and teaching assistants, we then approach the principal of the nearby school. This whole process is accompanied with fervent prayer as we seek to bring the gospel to the children who attend the program.

It is essential that we establish a good relationship with the schools with which we work. Even if the relationship is initially adversarial (we are, after all, invading their turf), our goal is to work with school administrations. This may involve many meetings and we may resort to the school district superintendent or administrator if there is

continued resistance. But working with the school administration to gain clearance and schedule the time for the particular CRT is only part of what we need to do. We also need to explain the program to the parents of the children with whom we hope to work. According to the Pennsylvania release time education law, parents must give their permission to involve their children in CRT. SHM can offer to speak to the local PTA and at that time distribute flyers about the program and permission slips or these can be distributed near the school at another opportune time.

Now that we have the CRT ready to begin, what is involved? Our goal at SHM is to enable local churches to conduct CRTs as an evangelistic and educational outreach of the local church. Some churches may want to develop their own curriculum, while others may use Sunday School materials they already possess. And some churches may want to use a curriculum the SHM has developed. Whichever route a given church takes, we want the gospel to be presented in all its clarity to these children. After all, these are children who otherwise would not darken the door of any church.

All well and good. But where do we go from here? Again, I am glad you asked. We hope to make a concerted effort to encourage more churches to participate in the CRT program and we want to get into more schools. We have a goal of establishing continuity from one school year to the next. We are also concerned that the teaching of each CRT be solidly biblical. The lessons should convey the essence of the Christian faith. One of the things I would like to see is training sessions for the church workers involved in CRT. Perhaps a brief one or two hour training session with each church or a regional training session before the beginning of the school year is feasible. I also hope to get to know the volunteers well. Additionally I would like to see recognition luncheons or dinners where teachers, helpers, and churches are recognized and thanked for their involvement and hard work.

It is my prayer that we will see the CRT grow deeper and broader in the days ahead and by our Lord's blessing, it will.

Memorial Gifts

*The following have given memorial gifts to
the work of Skilton House Ministries*

Rev. and Mrs. Carl Erickson

in memory of

H. Wilson Albright

Mrs. Ann Egner

in memory of

Betty Baxter

President's Corner . . .

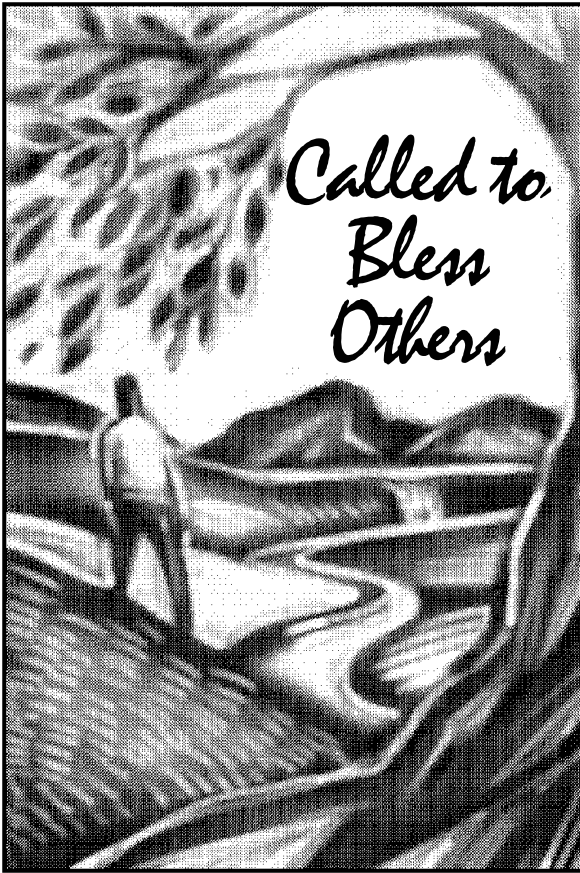
Rev. Henry Cooper
President of the Executive Committee

***By faith Abraham obeyed
when he was called to go out
to the place which he would receive
as an inheritance.***

– Hebrews 11:8

One of life's most distressing experiences is being separated from the things and the people we love. For instance, it is very difficult to leave a house that has held so many pleasant memories. So it wasn't easy for Abraham to obey God's demand that he separate himself from his country and his friends and his relatives. Yes, without obedience to God's command, there would have been no blessing for him or his descendants.

*To be continued in the next issue
of the Skilton House Ministries Newsletter*



Meet Jeff Waddington

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conscientious and task oriented in his work for our church. As Outreach Coordinator Jeff handled hundreds of mailings to new residents in our area and also coordinated the door to door outreach on Wednesday evenings for us. He also provided ideas to our session to help determine what other ministries we could provide."

"When the session decided to start a youth program for ages 4-12, Jeff was willing to teach the older children in our program. He did an excellent job teaching the catechism program and formed a wonderful bond with the children that I still see to this day. This same connection was found when Jeff was director of our Vacation Bible School. He handled all the administrative work and also served as a teacher during the week."

"Jeff has also served as pulpit supply and adult Sunday School teacher for our church. Jeff has shown the ability to work with children and adults of all ages. He has not only shown the ability to handle the many administrative requirements for the programs he has helped us with, but is also very hands on to get things completed."

Although you might not expect it from his ability to work with children and youth, Jeff is now a doctoral candidate (having completed all the course work and passing comprehensive exams) at Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, where earlier he earned the degree of Master of Divinity with First Honors and won the prestigious Greene Prize in Apologetics (i.e., defense of the Christian faith, which Jeff is able to do both on an academic and on a popular level).

In addition to his experience with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (Jeff subscribes fully to the doctrinal standards of Skilton House Ministries), Jeff has had experience with other denominations, such as the Presbyterian Church in America and (for many years) in the Salvation Army, which provided him with significant experiences in urban ministry. For example, he was Commanding Officer (Senior Pastor & Business Administrator) for the Salvation Army, Queens Astoria Corps, Long Island City, New York, for 1991-1994, where (as at other Salvation Army posts) his duties included pastoral/ministerial responsibilities (such as preaching, teaching, counseling, and organizing programs for youth and seniors), administrative responsibilities (such as supervision of employees, grant writing and work

with foundations, clerical work, bookkeeping, and fund-raising), and development or public relations, community involvement, and social service responsibilities (such as counseling, intervention, and other aspects of social work).

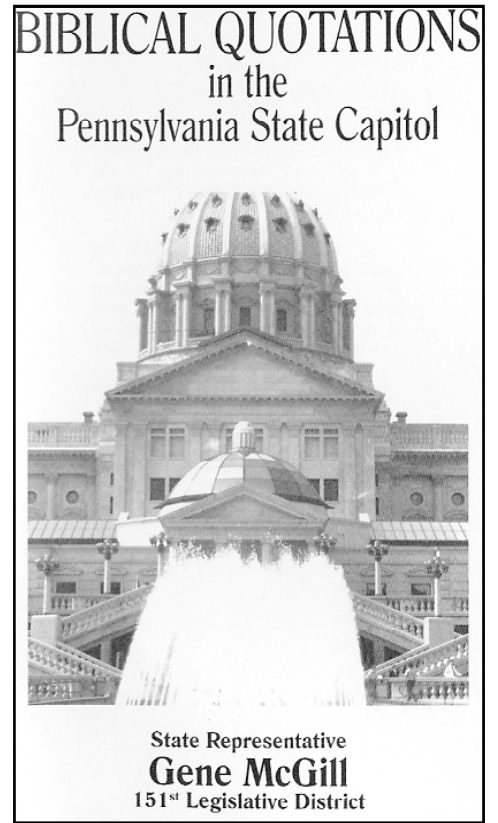
Jeff is not only enthusiastic about working with "C.R.T." (Christian Released Time), Operation Brotherhood, and Sowers' Ministry, but also looking forward to working with the Skilton House Web site (Jeff also knows something about Web sites, having worked with several that are related one way or another to Westminster Seminary), the Skilton House newsletter (and other ways of getting out the word about what Skilton House is doing, such as personally representing Skilton House at churches interested in our ministry), and other activities associated with Skilton House (including not only fund-raising and grant work to ensure that S.H.M. is on a secure financial footing, exercising Christian stewardship in the proper use of funds, but also an expansion of the Christian ministries of S.H.M.).

We look forward to Jeff's own personal ministry in our midst, and (through him) look to our great and gracious God to bless the work of Skilton House Ministries to His glory and honor.

Representative Gene McGill Authors Booklet

The office of State Representative Gene McGill, who represents the 151st legislative district (Montgomery County including Horsham), has produced a unique little booklet that contains photos of artwork and biblical quotations that appear on the walls of the state capitol building in Harrisburg. Also included are brief vignettes of the the artists whose work are represented in the booklet.

Copies of the booklet can be requested from: State Representative Gene McGill at either his Horsham office at 603 Horsham Road, Suite A, Horsham, PA 19044 (Telephone :215-654-1186 – Fax: 215-654-1187) or at 430 Irvis Office Building, House Box 202020, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020 (Telephone:717-783-7179 – Fax: 717-772-9859).



SOWERS DIVISION OFFERINGS

The Sowers division of Skilton House Ministries was established to encourage the production and dissemination of quality Christian literature and to provide opportunities for the defense of the faith.

Skilton House Ministries, Inc. *Sowers Division*

Books Available	Price	Units Ordered	Total \$
<i>Jack the Cat/Skilton</i>	\$ 5.00		
<i>Listening to God's Voice/Skilton</i>	1.50		
<i>New Testament Student and His Field/Skilton</i>	5.00		
<i>Christian Truth in Critical Times/Vickers</i>	7.50		
<i>Add \$2.00 for postage for up to 10 books</i>	2.00		
Make checks payable to: Skilton House Ministries, Inc.	TOTAL		\$

Order by filling out and mailing to:

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