

NEW ENGLAND CHAPEL: RESTORATION

SHOWING COMPASSION, MENDING INJUSTICE

February 2014

The Basin and The Towel

By Jodi Koeman

When we serve something happens; a gap or distance between two people is bridged in the act of serving. We go through life with lots of little gaps between us and others, but in the moment of "bowing" into service, we make a small movement towards closing the gap. Jesus' ministry on earth displayed example after example of barriers broken and gaps bridged. One perfect example of this is the day Jesus washed his followers' feet. In humility, Jesus took the position of a servant and picked up his powerful instruments of humility and service - a basin and a towel.

Michael Card wrote a wonderful song about the event. Here are the words: "In an upstairs room, a parable is just about to come alive. And while they bicker about who's best, with a painful glance, He'll silently rise. Their Savior Servant must show them how, through the will of the water and the tenderness of the towel.

And the call is to community, the impoverished power that sets the soul free. In humility, to take the vow, that day after day we must take up the basin and the towel. In any ordinary place, on any ordinary day, the parable can live again when one will kneel and one will yield. And the space between ourselves sometimes, is more than the distance between the stars. By the fragile bridge of the Servant's bow, we take up the basin and the towel. And the call is to community, the impoverished power that sets the soul free. In humility, to take the vow, that day after day we must take up the basin and the towel."

Serving can happen every day, in ordinary ways. As Michael Card says, "Day after day we must take up the basin and towel". This month find ways you can "pick up the basin and the towel" and serve others. (Listen to Michael Card's song at, <http://www.releaselyrics.com/45cd/michael-card-the-basin-and-the-towel/>)

"Equipping the people of NEC to show compassion, mend injustice and deepen partnerships as God guides our part in restoring his world." - Restoration Mission



Mend, Repair, Restore

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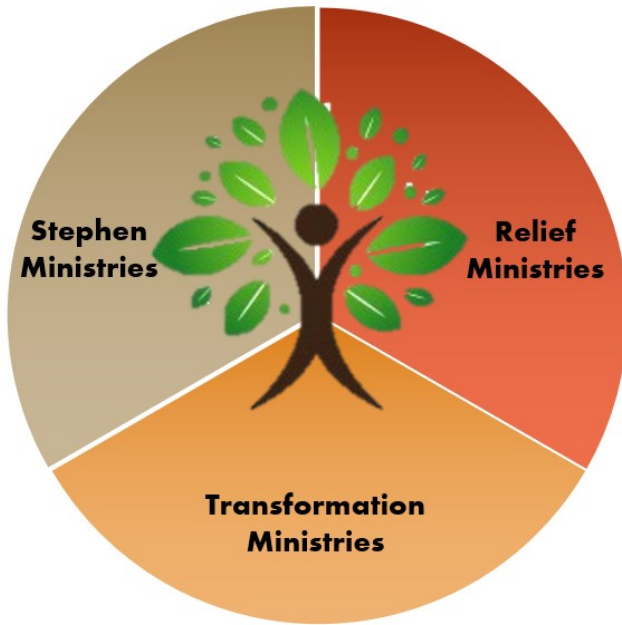
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Transformation Ministries:

Financial Peace: Paying for tires with cash!

When you go through Financial Peace University, you won't believe the hope and peace you'll have when you start learning God's ways of managing money.

Carl Rubin, who leads Financial Peace at NEC recalls the transformation for one couple who completed the course: "A married couple struggled tremendously with financial issues for nearly all of their 30 year marriage which caused a lot of family problems and stress. They never had any money and were always in credit card debt. They stayed with the FPU course and did the hard work. I'll never forget them coming up to me a year or two after they took the course, at church one Sunday, and they were so excited, almost like little kids. They told me of the great progress they had made and gave me a great practical example where they just needed to put four new tires on one of their cars and had saved the money to do so instead of charging it on their credit cards." The Financial Peace class begins March 2nd at NEC, 6:00—8:00. Online registration is available. *Questions? Contact Carl Rubin at CRubin@webindustries.com or Amy Cornwell at amy@newenglandchapel.org.*

Relief Ministries:

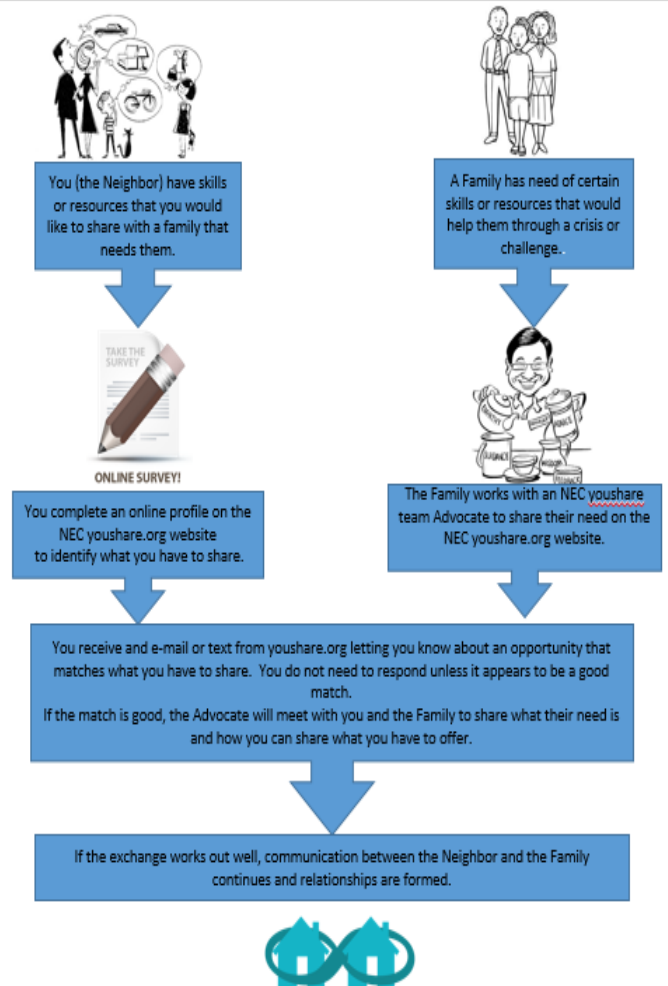
Youshare.org at NEC

By Amy Cornwell

A local mattress distributor called NEC just after Christmas to let us know that they had a brand new mattress (returned by a customer). The high-end mattress, with the permission of the customer, was available to a person or family in need. That started a chain of e-mails and calls from NEC to one of our partners, Safe Families. Safe Families knew of a single mom with two children who had recently moved and didn't have a mattress for herself. A match! A few more phone calls, then transportation was arranged and the mattress was delivered to the family.

This story is played out over and over at NEC. We hear of a need, or someone offers a tangible item or service to help someone, and NEC staff or volunteers spend a lot of time trying to make these connections.

Youshare.org is a website that will help streamline this process. Imagine a NEC Youshare team member being contacted about a need and then being able to immediately access information on what people have offered to share in our church community. They can then match the need with the resource....but Youshare takes this process a step further. The Youshare team member also facilitates a relationship between the giver and receiver. The relationship may begin with that tangible item (couch, refrigerator) or service (babysitting, light yard work) but can then develop into something more – mentoring, encouragement, In the next couple of weeks you will be able to fill out a survey/profile available through a link on the newenglandchapel.org website. It will ask you about different things you might have to offer: rides to church or doctor appointments, babysitting, doing light yard work, home furnishings. Please take this survey and stay tuned for more information in the next month – for more information contact Amy Cornwell at amy@newenglandchapel.org or Jodi Koeman at jodi@newenglandchapel.org.



Restoration: Local & Serving Opportunities



Cooking Matters...In Franklin

By Nicole Harter

New England Chapel is excited to take the lead in providing *Cooking Matters* to Franklin families. Through our Healthy Futures Franklin, NEC has agreed to spearhead this program. Healthy Futures Franklin is a group of key community stakeholders that are passionate about creating a healthier Franklin by increasing physical activity and improving nutrition. Work involves programs, projects and policies with a focus on sustainable changes. New England Chapel has been part of this coalition since 2009 along with the YMCA, Franklin Food Pantry, Franklin Schools, and others.

Cooking Matters is a non-profit organization that is part of the No Kid Hungry campaign to end childhood hunger in America. Since it was founded in 1993, *Cooking Matters* and thousands of volunteer instructors have helped more than 120,000 low-income families in communities across the country learn how to eat better for less. (www.cookingmatters.org)

On Wednesday evenings, beginning March 5th—April 9th, *Cooking Matters* will be offering a 6-week course to local families to teach participants how to shop smarter, use nutrition information to make healthier choices and cook delicious, affordable meals.

If you are looking for a way to get involved with serving locally and are interested in hearing more about *Cooking Matters*, please contact Jodi Koeman at Jodi@newenglandchapel.org or Nicole Harter at nicole.harter@gmail.com. We are in need of drivers to help with transportation. Please contact us if you would be available for this volunteer opportunity!



Serving With Restoration



Dominican Republic Medicine Collection

NEC medical mission team is heading to the Dominican Republic in June to provide medical treatment for adults and children in the area. Even if you aren't going on the trip, there is a way you can help and support this team. They will be collecting medical supplies until Feb. 23. The list of supplies is on the Restoration website, <http://necrestoration.weebly.com/news--updates.html>. Please stop by our display in the NEC café for more information and/or drop off any medical supplies you are able to contribute to this important mission.

Equipping Seminar

Restoration will be hosting an Equipping Seminar on *March 1st*. Speakers Scott Long and Scott Larson will be teaching the Restoration team and pastors from NEC and other local churches about best practices for poverty alleviation when working globally and locally. Help is needed for hosting in the following areas: Set-up—Friday, 2/28; Clean-up—Saturday, 3/1; Help with hospitality and food service, 3/1.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Dena Gauthier at denadg@yahoo.com.

Save the Date! NEC Missions Market is coming in March!

The annual NEC Restoration Global Market & Cafe will take place on March 29th from 6-9PM. There will be food, music, games, crafts, a silent auction and more!

All the proceeds from the evening will benefit our NEC Restoration team in partnership with World Renew, Mission E4, and members of 2014 mission trips to Haiti, New Jersey, Ajulu, Uganda and the Dominican Republic. Come show your support and night with NEC community!

If you are interested in volunteering with set-up, clean-up, or volunteering in games, please contact Nicole Harter at nicole.guad@gmail.com.

If you have donations for the Silent Auction, please contact Dena Gauthier at denadg@yahoo.com.

Restoration: Global

Global Partnership Update: Uganda

By Joseph Mutembi, *World Renew Country Consultant, Uganda*

World Renew's focus on "living justice, loving mercy and serving Christ" was clearly visible recently in a response to refugees arriving in Uganda from war-torn neighboring countries. In it, the love of God was both expressed and received.

"I appreciate the cooking pots provided by World Renew," one refugee committee leader said. "The refugee families in our community are now able to prepare and eat their meals more regularly. We also received supplies for building a good latrine. World Renew and its partners have cared for us. This is the way to bear one another's burdens."

The influx of refugees into Koboko, Uganda, started in November 2013. At that time, more than 10,000 refugees fled to safety from attacks by the M-23 rebel group in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo. World Renew responded to the refugee's situation when they were contacted by the office of Uganda's Prime Minister with a request for humanitarian assistance. Through your generous support, World Renew improved lives in three ways. First, it provided the refugees in Koboko with five 300-liter cooking pots with lids for the preparation of hot meals. Today, the refugees prepare three, good, hot meals each day. Second, over 40 pit latrines were built. Despite the poor water and sanitation conditions in the camps, these latrines improved hygiene and created a significant drop in diarrhea-related conditions. Third, a committee of local leaders were selected to oversee the resettlement of the refugees.



Pray for the protection of Joseph and his partners, that God will bless the generosity of the Ugandan people who welcomed the refugees, and that peace will come to South Sudan and the DR of Congo.



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Live it out...

PRAY: For Joseph Mutembi and the Ugandan refugees

GIVE: Contribute to the Dominican Republic Medicine collection

ACT: Sign up to be an NEC neighbor on Youshare.org

Faith in Action: Youth Adventure Trip to Haiti

By Lynn Duquette

This Christmas break, Mission E4 organized its first "Youth Adventure Trip" to Haiti. Those participating from NEC were Diane and Elena Wassenaar, Mickey Mitchell, and Lynn Duquette. One of the unique and exciting aspects of this trip was that a dozen Haitian teens/young adults joined our group of 18 Americans. Together, we worked on building the security wall at the boys orphanage in Fauche, created and presented dramas, games, and music as part of a village ministry, swam and climbed mountains, and made a special trip to Basen Ble in Jacmel. The team stayed in tents at the girls orphanage in Leogane and enjoyed a variety of Haitian food prepared by Mme. Bazile. God was tangibly in our midst, building relationships, as the eyes of all were opened to our similarities and our differences.

Mission E4 also brought a team to Haiti in January, including Wayne and Chelle Pitts, Claudia Wieggers, and Lynn Duquette from NEC. The team of nearly 50 participated in a variety of projects including additional work on the security wall in Fauche, spreading gravel for the foundation of the new school in Lafferonnay, presenting dramas, games, and music at the five elementary schools, registering new children to begin kindergarten this summer – and more. It is always amazing to see God bring together people from different churches around the country to accomplish big things!

Mission E4's May trip to Haiti will include a group from Straight Ahead Ministries. There are also trips planned for July and October this year. Contact Mission E4 at missione4.com or [978-820-1190](tel:978-820-1190) for more information or connect with Global Restoration team member, Lynn Duquette, at [508-254-1182](tel:508-254-1182)/lynnd51@aol.com.