

Newsletter from the House family
Owensboro, KY

July 5th, 2007

Dear Brethren:

The House family wants to say hello to everyone, and thank you for your continual support for us and the work at the Parrish Avenue Church of Christ in Owensboro, KY. July 22nd, 07 will make six years that we have been with the congregation here. In this report I want to update and give a few highlights of the Lord's work here since April of 2007.

Congregational Update

The attendance has improved some the last few weeks as we have been having about 50 on Sunday mornings. The giving has also improved as members are attending more faithfully. Sunday and Wednesday nights are usually in the 20's.

We have lost some strong members in the past few months (due to moving out of the area), sickness, and death. The good news is that we have gained three new ones as a result of one being restored and two being baptized.

One Restoration and Two baptized in

May

Donna Lee, daughter of Neva Westerfield was restored to the Lord and His church on May 6th, 07. Donna, age 48 had been unfaithful for many years. Her mother Neva, a faithful member at Parrish Avenue, and me made a lot of effort to encourage her to come back to the church. It was a happy day on May 6th, (Mother's day). Donna has been attending faithfully since being restored.

Ulysses and June Embry were baptized into Christ on a Tuesday morning on May 31st, 2007. The Embry's have been married for about 56 years. Ulysses is 78 years old, and June is 73 years old. Mr. Embry is the former Police Chief of Owensboro, Kentucky where he served for many years before retiring about 13 years ago.

The interesting thing about the Embry's conversion is that they have lived beside the church building at Parrish Avenue for over 30 years. They never attended services until about three months ago when Ulysses started coming for Sunday morning worship. After about the third Sunday he attended he shook my hand after the worship service, and said to me, "please pray for my wife, she has lung cancer." I told him that I would, and would like to come over the next morning to also have personal prayer with them. Mr. Embry said with tears in this eyes that he would like for me to.

The next morning (Monday), I went to their house about 10 am and had prayer with them. We got to talking and I asked him if he had been baptized by the late Hudson Nichols who preached at Parrish Avenue in the 80's. He told me that they were good friends, but that he was never baptized. I then asked his wife June about her religious background. She told me that she was sprinkled when she was 12 years old. That opened the door for me as I talked to them about the gospel and the importance of being baptized into the death

of Jesus. The amazing thing about my visit is that we had lived by them for about six years, and they showed no interest in the church. God opened the door for me to help reach the Embry's.

They were not baptized that day, but understood as I stressed from the scriptures the importance of salvation. I continued to go and visit them once a week for several weeks, and getting to know them better. Mrs. Embry was taking chemo daily and not feeling well. I then went back one day and June said to me, when I first came into their house, "Bruce, we need to be baptized!" I then baptized them both into Christ on May 31st, 2007. Their conversion reminds me of I Corinthians 3:6 - I planted, Apollo watered, but God gave the increase. Many preachers lived by the Embry's at Parrish Avenue in the last 30 years, and played a big part in the Embry's now being our brother and sister in Christ as God gave the increase. It is very encouraging having the Embry's worship with us on Sunday mornings. Please, pray for June Embry's health condition.

Other News

Parrish Avenue will be having a Vacation Bible School on July 29th - August 1st. We presently do not have many children attending Sunday school. We are hoping that the VBS will be a success, and that we can grow by winning more families with children.

The ladies will have a "Ladies day" on September 8th, 2007. Cyndi Murphy, wife of Dan Murphy from the Rolling Hills Church of Christ in Mount Sterling, Kentucky will be the speaker. I have known the Murphy's since 1986 when we attended Bible College in Florence, Alabama.

Please, pray for these efforts as we strive to grow spiritually and in numbers at Parrish Avenue.

Thank You Brethren

God bless you brethren. Thanks again for your continual support in the Lord's work here. Donna Lee, Ulysses and June Embry are fruits of labor in the work of the Lord that are made possible by your support, encouragement, and prayers. Thank you for being co-workers with us. You are a great example in soul winning in that you are not only involved in bringing souls to Jesus in your congregation, but also play a big part by supporting other good works. We love and appreciate all of you in helping us.

In Christ
Bruce House

A Few Lines from Naiome

Dear Friends:

Hope everyone had a good July 4th holiday. We went over to Bruce's mom for the 4th. She grilled out and we just kind of hung out for the day. The boys had a great time as they swam all the time we were there. They are both like fishes; they love the water.

A lot has happened since our last newsletter. Here are few things that have been going on in our lives in the past few months.

We bought our first home at the end of February and moved in the middle of March. We took out a mortgage at US Bank where I work. It is a three-bedroom house with kitchen, living room and dining room. The boys now have their own rooms. It is so funny to see Nathan lock his brother out of his room. Daniel is forever bugging his brother; he is a typical little brother. One of the ladies from church, Keenah, came over and painted a painting of the Indianapolis Colts on one of walls in Daniel's room for his birthday in April. That was her present to him and he was so excited when he got home from school that day and saw his room. He loves the Colts, especially Payton Manning. I bought him a Colts poster from Wal-Mart to put on his bedroom door. I think for Christmas she is going to paint something from "the Atlanta braves" on the other wall. Daniel loves the Colts in football and the Braves in baseball. He said that when he grows up he is going to pitch for the Braves baseball team. He loves John Smoltz.

We took a week off in June and went to Atlanta for four day to watch the Braves play. We got free tickets to go to three ball games while we were there. It was the first time that the boys had ever been to a Major League game. They had a wonderful time.

Another big event was Nathan graduating from Elementary school to Middle school. He graduated with all "A"s. Nathan is a good boy and he works very hard. He studies no less than three hours every night when school is in. He works very hard for his academic grades. He got five awards - one was the golden presidential award that came with a letter from President Bush.

Daniel is getting ready to go into third grade. Daniel is very smart and it all seems to come so easy for him; however he does not have the discipline that Nathan has. His attention span is very little. He does enough to get by. He is already reading at a fifth grade level and is working academic wise already at a fourth to fifth grade level. Sometimes I think it is just not fair that Nathan has to work so hard to get his grades and Daniel just gets it naturally but he is lazy when it comes to studying. Hopefully he will get better at studying, as he gets older. Daniel is such a mess; you never know what he will say. He is our little comedian. He keeps things lively around the house. It is amazing to see how different the boys are in some ways and yet so much alike in some ways. I guess Nathan is a lot like his dad and Daniel is more like me (always putting his foot in his mouth).

The boys are sure growing up so fast. It seems like it was just yesterday that we were bringing Nathan home from the hospital and now he is almost twelve years old, getting ready for middle school. I think I will be a nervous wreck by the time he gets ready for high school. We are so proud of the boys and thank God daily for them. We pray that God will give us the knowledge to be able to mold them to be servants for him and to be good husbands and men as they grow up.

They have both been playing baseball during the summer. Nathan did not have a good team this year; they struggled a lot. We won like one game in the entire season. Hopefully next year will be a better year for him. He played in the Major division this year. Daniel's team is still playing; Daniel is in the Rookie league. His team got 5th seat overall and they start playing in the tournament this Saturday. Daniel is a pretty good hitter. He plays outfield

mostly. Next year he will move up to the Minor League and he wants to be a pitcher. He has a pretty good arm and Bruce will work with him on pitching. Bruce used to be a pitcher when he played ball in school (in his much, much, much younger years:-)) Bruce had his 53rd birthday last month and we have been kidding him that he just have two more years before he gets Senior Citizen discount.

We are pretty excited about our VBS and Ladies day coming up. We have been working on the VBS and it will be here before you know it. We did not have one last year. We hope to have lots of the children we had the year before and some new ones also.

Well, that is about all that has been going on with us. My family in Guyana continues to do well. We talked to them on Father's day and everyone seems to be doing well.

Thank you so much for all your support. Please continue to keep us in your prayers daily. Thanks for the cards we got from some of you and also for your emails. We sure do appreciate when we hear from you. Take care and God bless you all.

Your sister in Christ
Naiome