



Siloam Missionary Homes

"providing housing to missionaries for a lifetime..."

P.O. BOX 705 • SNOW CAMP, NC 27349 • (336) 376-8200 • E-MAIL: joyce@siloamhomes.org

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FALL 2014

Dreams Really Do Come True...Catching the True Spirit Of Christmas

By Larry George, President & Co-Founder

It's been 50 years since I stood under the Merry Christmas signs in my hometown of Mendon, Michigan. But this year I will once again stand under them — only this time at Siloam Missionary Homes in Snow Camp, North Carolina.

I grew up in a small town in central lower Michigan, along the gently flowing St. Joseph River. Mendon is known for High School football, but for me it is best remembered through the eyes of a little boy who loved Christmas and loved the people on his paper route. It was an innocent time in the late 60's where you could go down the streets delivering newspapers by riding a bike or when it was snowing, on foot, and my customers would invite me in to warm myself by the fire and have a cup of warm milk and cookies. Mendon was a place where people looked out for each other. My mom could call people on my route if I was running late to know where I was. Being from a family of nine children, most of my brothers and sisters delivered the *Sturgis Daily Journal* and made 2 cents a copy. But then 25 cents would buy you a Pepsi and a donut. Or for \$1.50 you could get a hamburger,

fries and a coke from Woody's at the Midway Cafe.

Every December we would go beyond the normal and make sure the paper was put between the storm door and main front door because Christmas was just a few weeks away. Looking through the eyes of a little boy, Mendon was Bedford Falls from the movie, "It's a Wonderful Life". The downtown area was just a few blocks. It started at the Feed Mill next to the railroad tracks and ended just past the Miller's house, going east out of town. Main Street is M60, a highway, and Mendon is considered a half way point between Detroit and Chicago. In those days we would collect our paper route money every Friday and Saturday afternoon. We delivered our papers after school, so I would usually meet one of my brothers downtown for something to eat. Either at Archie's, The Midway Cafe or at Ken's Foodland. Then we would go into Flint's Dime store to buy

some candy at the candy counter and put presents on layaway for our family for Christmas. One year, Mrs. Flint helped me pick out a three-candle centerpiece with lots of glitter on it for my mom. It cost \$3.00 and I had to deliver a lot of papers for that. My oldest brother, JR, would go into Ken's Foodland and have Marty set aside a turkey for our family Christmas dinner.

Christmas would officially begin for me the day after Thanksgiving. I lived at the end of North Railroad Street in the old Hoover house, the last street light going out of town. Counting my newspapers and putting them into my bright orange canvas *Sturgis Journal* bag, I would loop it over my shoulder and wade through the snow covered streets delivering my papers. With great anticipation as I walked up town, I would make sure not to look up at the Christmas lights until I was just in front of the most beautiful sparkly Merry Christmas that draped across main street. So, I would stand in the middle of the road with the snow blowing and see *Merry Christmas* with red lights and colored lights strung back and forth across the street and *catch the Spirit of Christmas*. While standing in the middle



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Christmas *(continued from page 1)*

of Main Street, I could look over to the right and see the bright string of light bulbs at Mrs. Millard's House (my piano teacher) who was selling Christmas trees and pick out our family tree.

I have told this story to my family and friends over the years and since that time my family has moved away from Mendon to other parts of the country. But Christmas, well it's just not Christmas like it was back then. Mendon, Michigan was a special place, a place we called home. So now 50 years have passed and I live in North Carolina. My wife, Joyce a missionary kid from Brazil, along with my two daughters started Siloam Missionary Homes back in 1992 in a village setting for missionaries to call home. With 14 houses, we re-created a small town with a Family Center, a barbershop, a general store, wreck center and a chapel. It has taken lots of donations and volunteer labor to make this dream come true. My heart's desire is that missionary children from all over the world who come to stay here for a short time are able to have Christmas the way I had Christmas. You know, the ribbons and lights, the sounds and smells of Christmas. Just maybe it can be a treasured memory for them, too.

About three years ago I began writing this story to remind all of you to treasure your Christmas, and while surfing the internet for pictures of small towns I looked up Mendon, Michigan and thought to myself, "What ever happened to the big Merry Christmas signs that hung across Main Street?" So I wrote a letter to the town and inquired about the old Merry Christmas signs, thinking maybe they were in storage or sold because they were, after all, over 50 years old. Time passed and I figured they must have discarded my letter and I thought this was a passing childhood memory. Two years went by and I had forgotten about this when I received an email from Betty Wilds Steinburger who worked for Mendon's city manager, John Hayden. Joyce and I were traveling to Michigan to visit friends and supporting churches when I got the email. "Dear Larry," the email said, "I am sorry it has taken me so long to respond, but your letter had been tucked away in an old file and while cleaning the files out I found your letter. I gave your information to our town manager and, yes, we have the signs in the old city storage barn. Yes, you can have them for your little town!!!" I was so



excited I could hardly breathe.

In late October, Chris Lail, a trucker, along with Tom Johns, a board member of SMH from Maple Grove Church, Topeka Indiana, loaded the two signs and Chris drove them to their final destination -Siloam Missionary Homes. Yesterday we brought them into our shop to begin the process of restoring them. As I touched the letters, joy filled my heart. We decided to plug them in and yes they work.

I would like to invite you to come and drive through our missionary campus and "Catch the Spirit of Christmas" the first weekend in December and hopefully these signs will be up. At last, Christmas has come home, fifty years later.... Dreams really do come true and this will be the best Christmas ever. I wonder what ever happened to the large Candy Canes that hung on the electric poles?

Thankful as We Serve at Siloam By H. Milton Wilder, Missionary Pastoral Care

The Psalmist wrote, "Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name" *(Psalm 100:4)*.

In his letter to the Colossians, Paul said, "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father" *(Col 3:17)*.

How could we ever praise and thank our triune God enough for the multitude of ways He has blessed and continues to bless us! We must approach Him with thanksgiving and live everyday serving Him in word and deed with an attitude of praise and thanks.

At this "season of thanksgiving," I want to share with you a few of the blessings for which Betty and I are thankful as we serve as part of the team at Siloam.

We Are Thankful For:

- God providing us with a continuing ministry where we can serve Him in Missionary Pastoral Care and help provide "a place missionaries call home"
- those of you who partner with us in prayer and giving to enable us to minister to missionaries
- those who understand the need and importance of providing homes for missionaries
- having missionary friends who are serving in so many places around the world
- the dedication and sacrifice we see in so many missionary families
- the courage and boldness of the missionaries in taking the Gospel of Christ to the difficult and dangerous areas of the world
- the blessing of working with others who are dedicated to caring for missionaries
- those young and old who volunteer their time and effort to help maintain the SMH ministry

And, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" *(2 Corinthians 9:15)*

From the Mailbag



Thank you for all you do for us. We are most grateful and we pray for you all lots!

— *Lew & Jan Beeler, missionaries to Ecuador*



"We feel as though we cannot adequately express to you how much we appreciate our stay at Siloam this past year. No doubt, it has been a very significant part of the Lord's wonderful provision for us during this time of transition. We are very grateful to God and to you for serving us and for laying down your lives so that there could be such a place as this where the Kingdom of God is demonstrated. May the Lord bless you, guide you, keep you and provide for you always.

— *Len & Jennifer Lacroix, missionaries to Hungary*



Christmas Wish List

We would like to put flat screen TV's in all the houses. What we have are 19" tube types and it would be wonderful for each home to have a 40" flat screen to watch the holiday games and movies. The other thing is new twin mattresses for the whole property and the farm. Our mattresses are worn out and we need about 40 twin mattresses. We have found TV's online for \$249, and mattresses for \$119. One other item we need is for maintaining the property – a new riding lawn mower.

Mark Your Calendar!!

On December 5th & 6th, we will open our campus so that you can drive through and see the beautiful Christmas decorations on Siloam's campus. Enjoy the lights with your kids and celebrate! Come and "Catch the Spirit of Christmas!"



Mebane Presbyterian Church spent several days doing various projects – organizing food in Dad's Country Store; building a shelter for the animals at Camp Glory Farm; cleaning equipment and painting the floor in the exercise room; and weeding around the Family Center and parking lot.



Faith Christian School teens cleaned up around the shop and put bunk beds in the yurt.



Graham Presbyterian Church youth volunteered a day to weed Mother's Garden and the strawberry patch in our lasagna garden.



Harvest Baptist Church men put the metal roof on the Bath House.



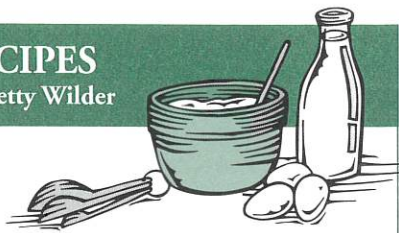
One of the guest speakers for our summer work teams was Cameron Horner



Beulah Baptist Church worked on and around both of our yurts. They ran electrical wiring, did landscaping, cleaned up brush, and built the new yurt. Even the little ones got involved in clean up. One of the highlights of the week was the "I ate a cricket at Siloam Missionary Homes" challenge.

RECIPES

By Betty Wilder



I use my Crockpot at least once a week during the winter months. This past month I came across this potato Soup recipe and used it for one of our Lunch and Tour Groups at SMH. It was a hit. Hope you enjoy it. It is rich, creamy and filling —perfect for a cold winter evening.

Easy Crockpot Potato Soup

- 1 30oz. bag of frozen diced hash browns
- 1 32 oz box of chicken broth
- 1 can of cream of chicken soup (10 oz)
- 1 pkg. cream cheese (8 oz, not fat free)
- 3 oz. bacon bits
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions: Put the potatoes in the Crockpot. Add in the chicken broth, cream of chicken soup and half of the bacon bits. Add a pinch of salt and pepper. Cook on low for 7-8 hours or until potatoes are tender. An hour before serving, cut the cream cheese into small cubes. Place the cubes in the Crockpot. Mix a few times throughout the hour before serving. Once the cream cheese is completely mixed in, it's ready to serve.

Top with cheddar cheese and some additional bacon bits.

Donations made in Honor and Memory of

In memory of
Joyce Williams
by *Milton & Betty Wilder*

In memory of
Richard & Theresa Apple and
Rev. Lester Stanley
by *Richard & Janice Kennedy*

In honor of
Paul & Nancy Leonesio
by *Mildred Tucker*

In honor of *Debra Jones*
by *Glenda Alcock*

Dear Coffee Club Members,



As we have new families who arrive at Siloam Missionary Homes for the first time, we never really know how different their surroundings are compared to what they are used to. Recently, we had a family who moved in with four children. Their oldest son was about 10 years old. Shortly after they arrived, their dad took the kids outside and was showing them how to play in the playground and how to simply "play outside." You see, in the country where they serve as missionaries, the children never have the opportunity to play outside, so this was something new to them.

One day, we were showing a group of visitors around the missionary campus. The oldest son of the missionary was following us around. When one of the visitors picked up a walking stick from the ground, the missionary kid quickly informed him that he could not have that stick. That was his special stick!

This story always brings a smile to my face, but it is also a reminder that we need to pray for our missionary families who are coming on home assignment (furlough), because there are a lot of new things that they experience as they come to the States.

Thank you to all who so faithfully support Siloam Missionary Homes each month. If you don't support us on a regular basis, would you pray and ask the Lord if He would have you partner with us – to help us give missionaries "a place to call home?"

Your "Coffeemate,"

Joyce George, *Office Manager and Co-founder*
joyce@siloamhomes.org

MY LOVE GIFT: I would like to join the Coffee Club with a monthly pledge of

☐ \$15 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other \$ (Please send my Coffee Club cup.)

One Time Gift \$ _____

Please designate my one time gift for:

DONATION FOR (check appropriate box):

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|---|--|--|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Larry & Joyce George | <input type="checkbox"/> Milton & Betty Wilder | |

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