



Volume 1, Issue 3
September 2000

On The Horizon

Horizon 2000 Conference Report

Horizon Conference is over for another year. What a great summer!! Through skits, songs, Bible lessons and verse memorization (Eph. 6:11) the guests were able to learn the importance of putting on the whole armor of God. The Lord provided all of our staff needs. The week conference began our need for a lifeguard was supplied. 115 guests were able to enjoy conference this summer; 35 were first time attendees. 36 staff, 22 of them also first timers, were available to help meet the needs of

the guests and help them have an enjoyable week. The guests had opportunities to make new friends and develop new skills. This summer we offered a new activity, cooking class. Each day we tried a new recipe, including Chex Mix and peanut butter playdough. The big hit was ice cream in a ziploc bag. Each person was able to make their own serving of ice cream and then enjoy it. Our prayer is that everyone left with a deeper relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ and great memories to last a lifetime.

Windmill Hydroponics

"Great is the Lord and mighty in power. His understanding has no limit." Psalm 147:5

We praise the Lord for His greatness and power. We also praise Him for His unlimited understanding and desire to give us His best. In our May communications we made you aware of some of the challenges being faced by the greenhouse. We stated that \$20,000 was needed by July 1 or we would need to sell the greenhouse. The goal was not reached and efforts are now being made to sell the greenhouse. We do not know exactly what God's plan is, but we believe the greenhouse is a valuable ministry.

We are growing a few tomatoes and strawberries on a small scale. The produce is being sold to people in the community. Volunteers are doing the work. 8 people with developmental disabilities are involved, some working on job training and some enjoying horticultural activity. There is a possibility of 4-5 more people to join the program this fall. Community Mental Health and Michigan Rehab are involved with several of the individuals that are in these programs. It adds meaningful purpose to life to get up in the morning; go sweep and clean in the greenhouse; pick tomatoes and get them ready to go to market; and enjoy eating the delicious fruit that we realize is provided by our Master Gardener. There is GREAT joy in being His tools!

If the Lord does not provide the monies to purchase the present greenhouse outright, the plans are to sell the present structure and build a smaller structure to carry on the present program. Thank you very much to those who were able to give and to those who are praying with us. The money that was received is being used for the current greenhouse operating expenses. We are praying for God's direction and wisdom for the future. Please continue to pray with us and to give financially as the Lord leads.

Meet the Board of Directors

We would like to introduce Reverend James (Jim) Elzerman. He lives in Grand Rapids with his wife, Tracie. They have been married for 26 years and have four children. Jim is Associate Pastor at the First Free Methodist Church and a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in the State of Michigan. He received his bachelor's degree from Spring Arbor College and his master's in clinical psychology from Wheaton College Graduate School. Jim enjoys photography, reading and biking. Jim became involved with CHI 15 years ago through his

friendship with Larry Avery, a former director of CHI and the conference. Jim has served on the board two separate times. The first time was several years ago for a three-year term and now he has been involved for the last two years. His favorite part about working with CHI is the focus it has on God. Jim's favorite Bible character and lesson is Ruth. His favorite Bible verse is, *"I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name."* Revelation 3:8 (NIV).

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting is September 23, 2000 in Williamston at 9:30 am. All members and those with an interest in CHI are welcome to attend. RSVP to 616-956-7063.

Prayer Requests

- ✓ That we will have opportunities to speak and share with different churches and groups about the ministries of CHI.
- ✓ That God will provide wisdom and direction concerning the greenhouse and the finances.



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Fundraising Ideas

The conference committee held a garage sale in July to help raise money for the sponsorship fund. Over \$300.00 was raised. You can do this, too. The money you raise can go toward a specific person's financial needs or toward the general sponsorship fund. Here are a few pointers:

- ✓ Pick a day or two to host the sale.
- ✓ Have several people contribute their unwanted belongings.
- ✓ Make a sign telling customers that the proceeds and donations are going to help cover the cost of sending an adult with developmental disabilities to camp.
- ✓ Have fun telling people about the conference ministry of CHI.

Another idea is to talk to your local bank and see if they will host a bake sale for a day. Again, have friends and family donate the baked goods. People enjoy giving when the proceeds are going to be helping someone have a great time at conference.

Your Turn to Serve?

We would like to give you an opportunity to join us in serving our special friends. Won't you prayerfully consider making a generous gift to further the ministries of Christian Horizons? All gifts are tax-deductible and will be receipted. Please complete the attached response card and indicate the area of ministry to which you would like to apply your gift. God is faithful in providing through committed people like you. We wish you God's blessing as you partner with us in the ministry of Christian Horizons.

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It's my turn to serve...

Here is my gift of: \$500 _____ \$100 _____ \$20 _____ Other _____

Apply my gift toward: _____ Horizon Conference _____ Windmill Hydroponics _____ General Fund

Please make checks payable to "Christian Horizons"

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Thank you for your generous gift!