

TKJ Schematic

news & views for supporters and friends of



Christmas 2006

It's Christmas time again ... already! This year has been a blur. Pregnancy does that. You find out you're pregnant and before you know it you've got a baby in your arms.

No, this is not Cranford Joseph. This is his third daughter, Lydia. God has blessed my husband and I with a beautiful little girl. I wanted to stay at home with her longer than maternity leave allowed, so now I work for my dad from home. I mainly do the paperwork for him. We're figuring things out as we go along. He's been so busy with the production end of the business and trying desperately to finish the barn, that he asked me to write this year's Christmas newsletter. So, here I am.

Extreme Barn Makeover

Many of you recall my dad's call for help in wintering-in of the barn at the back of his yard. We thank the workers that came out to help for the initial work day and again for the occasional Friday or Saturday afternoons or weekday evening. Your help has been greatly appreciated. And I want to thank Terry, Enid, Joël, Karen, Velvet, Mary Anne, Elizabeth and Helen for joining me in lending our men's free time to the effort.. (Behind every great man is a great woman pushing him out the door to go to work.)

The completion of the barn means that my dad can essentially centralize or condense the business. Right now his office is on the second floor of the house in what should be the guest bedroom. His inventory and production area is on the second floor of the barn. Finishing the barn means reducing the amount of sawdust, paint, mud, and piles of papers being tracked into the house, which makes my mom happy. His office has piles that would make Sarah Silvia Cynthia Stout proud.

Success for the business means success for The King's Jubilee. The business allows my dad the time and resources to do what he does for The King's Jubilee, not to mention keeping a roof over his head. Success for the business depends on the finishing of the barn.

So, women, while you are doing the Christmas shopping or baking, give your husband, boyfriend, or son something more constructive to do than holding the ribbon down while you tie a bow or what my Poppop called "quality control" of the cookies. This is a call to all those men of sound body to come out and help my dad. Give him a call and make arrangements to come over and help. It would mean so much to them, and in turn, to The King's Jubilee.

What The King's Jubilee Does

The King's Jubilee serves soup, sandwiches, pasta with meat sauce, hot chocolate, fruit and goodies (if they are to be had) to between 50 and 150 men and a few women in Center City Philadelphia every Thursday night. This is in a park, year-round. We also share toiletries, blankets and season appropriate clothing with the homeless.

We serve in the open air, because some of those we serve are paranoid and will not readily enter a place with which they are unfamiliar. Also, some of those we serve are not homeless, but are on very low, fixed incomes. These people will not go to a soup kitchen to take from a program just for the homeless, but they feel free to eat with The King's Jubilee to stretch their food budget, so they can stay off the street.

The King's Jubilee also try to gather resources for other ministries that serve the poor in Jesus' Name. Our motto is: If we can't do it in Jesus' Name, we don't have the time or the desire to do it.

Coming to Your Area Soon

The King's Jubilee would like to extend its ministry to other cities. Homelessness is not something exclusive to Philadelphia. If you would like to see an effort made to help the homeless and needy in your area, figure out the specific needs. If you don't know what the needs are, go out and talk to the homeless. They can usually tell you what they don't need. You can observe them and figure it out. You may not need a service exactly like what is being done in Philadelphia. You may need something geared toward women and children or education and youth activities. Figure out what the need is, talk to the local ministries already serving there, investigate what the governmental policies and programs are in your area or the area you wish to serve in. Get support from your local parish or community. Formulate a plan and call my dad. He's had a long time to figure out what the need is in Philadelphia. He's made a few mistakes along the way, so he can help you think of things you would not normally think of.

If you don't know where to start, invite my dad to come help you. He can consult over the phone, hold a local seminar, or even go with you to get the lay of the land in your town. TKJ used to have ministries at eight sites in PA and South Carolina. Four of those were handed over to local churches who took ownership and continued them. TKJ doesn't want or need ongoing control. But if we can instigate or catalyze more service to the poor, glory to God!

"Turkeys 'R' Us" Does it Again

Every year around Thanksgiving, St. Philip's Antiochian Orthodox Church parish has a sort of turkey drive. They gather turkeys, along with several full holiday meals, and give them to local needy families. The remaining turkeys are given to a few local ministries and The King's Jubilee. Due to the great number of turkeys donated annually, The King's Jubilee has not had to prepare a meatless soup or dish for nearly ten years.

Thanks to all who donated a turkey this year. Let's keep this record going for next year.

New Faces

There has been an excellent turn out of people to help serve on Thursday nights. Particularly, a large number of young people have been coming out to lend a hand. This is exciting. It is an encouraging thing to see. It gives me hope for the next generation, my generation. Poverty is not a pleasant thing to witness. So to lend a hand and try to make a difference is something extraordinary. God bless the parents and parishes that are raising these young people in His understanding and love. There have been four parishes regularly represented on the streets, which is also very exciting. I like to see parishes working together in Jesus' Name. These parishes are: Holy Ascension Orthodox Mission, St. Steven's Cathedral OCA, St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox, and St. Philip's Antiochian Orthodox Church. The homeless are blessed by so many of God's workers.

What Can You Do?

There are many things you can do to help The King's Jubilee if you can't come out to serve. We can only do what they do, because there are many who share the resources God has given them. Monetary donations are gladly and gratefully received, but there are plenty of other things you can do without getting out your pen and checkbook.

Cookies are needed to give away on the street for Christmas. When I say cookies, I mean homemade cookies with the love baked into them. My dad would like to serve them on December 28th. I know I always make more than my husband and I can eat before they start to go stale. I hate throwing out a container full at the end of the season, especially when I know how much work was put into them. If this is a problem you can relate to, put together an assortment of your homemade goodies for the guys on the street. A taste of home goes a long way to share the love of God.

My dad would also like to be able to give out socks and underwear to the men on the street for Christmas. Men's new white tube socks are best and various sizes in men's underwear: briefs, boxers, and T-shirts. You may drop them by my dad's house or call and arrange an appropriate way to get them to him.

This time of year brings with it a lot of traveling and cleaning. While on your trips to the relatives, collect those complimentary personal size shampoos, soaps, and lotions the hotels and motels leave in your room every day. Throw them in a bag and send them to the street. If the relatives are coming to you this holiday season, there is bound to be serious cleaning happening. While cleaning out the guest room or attic, gather your old blankets, men's sweaters, sweatshirts, dress shirts, T-shirts, pants, boots, and shoes. These things are very much needed and welcome on the street this time of year.

One aspect of the ministry is to help other front line ministries who are serving the poor in Jesus' Name. This Christmas, The King's Jubilee would like to be able to assist The Word in Action International Ministries in their ministry to the poor in North Philadelphia, especially to those families transitioning off of the street. They operate a food bank and clothing closet, as well as tutoring, Bible studies and homeless outreach. No one who comes to Rev. Joses & Chantal St. Phard goes away hungry. We would also like to encourage The Marquita Dennis Foundation. They provide personal care kits, towels and other items, as well as take

along meals to people on the street once a month. They would like to do more. We would like to help them do more.

Checks can be mailed to:



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Souderton, PA 18964-1148

phone: 267-497-0267

email: TKJ@shoutforjoy.net

Thank you. May the Lord bless you as you bless the poor in Jesus' Name. Have a Blessed Nativity Season!

Peace,

Lydia R. Kaufmann

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

P.S. This newsletter as well as past ones are available for viewing and printing in PDF format from our website at: www.shoutforjoy.net