

## Appalachia Mission Trip Update-2011

Thirty-five ladies and a Golden Retriever named Truth travelled to eastern Kentucky in October, while many others supported us through prayer, donations and volunteer time. We worked primarily with Missions Service Corps missionary Robin Reeves and her *Christians by Choice* ministry. Because this was the third or fourth trip for some of our ladies, we had a great time catching up with folks we met on previous trips. We also made lots of new friends. Here are some highlights:



Our School Team performed a Christian music and puppet show at five elementary schools and one church. We estimate that over 2,000 children and adults saw the program. Truth charmed many children, who had the opportunity to pet her on their way out. The team was able to pray with Matt, a First Priority leader for one school. He observed that the freedom to do this type of presentation in the schools may not always exist, so we were thrilled to still have such an opportunity to plant many seeds.

The Shelter Team served meals to approximately 20-22 residents of *Emergency Christian Ministries*. One team member provided haircuts to the residents. The final night included a worship and devotional time. We gave each resident a handmade quilt or fleece blanket as a gift, and we gave Bibles to the residents who requested one. We are also providing a Bible on CD for a woman who can't read.

The team had the privilege of ministering to a woman named Renae, whose car broke down on her way to Virginia on personal business. The team purchased a bus ticket for her, and she is looking forward to a fresh start, promising to keep in touch. They also ministered to a mom and her three children. The oldest, Hosanna, was very disappointed that her pajamas were not suitable to wear to "Pajama Day" at school. Team members purchased new pajamas for Hosanna and her siblings that day. On the final night, following a presentation of the EvangeCube, Hosanna made a profession of faith. Hosanna and her family presented the team with a handmade card with the children's handprints made in lip gloss, the only "paint" available to them.



The Nursing Home Team led Gospel singings at four nursing homes. One team member accompanied them on the piano and another played violin. Two team members sang solos and two others led a devotional/prayer time. Over 80 handmade quilts (made by the Hebron Cut-Ups and others) were given to the residents at one of the homes. Prayer Squares were given to nursing home workers and others in the community. One lady made a profession of faith while our team members were distributing quilts to residents in their rooms.

Six team members served one day at the Manger Ministry of Central Baptist Church in Corbin, KY, which serves children from birth to age four. These ladies assisted the ministry team in sorting and organizing donations. Two team members also assisted their Matthew Ministry, which provides clothing for families in need.



Many of our team members were involved with delivering food boxes to some of the poorest areas. We took 94 large boxes of food essentials along with boxes of additional food items. A man named Ralph prayed to receive Christ during his food delivery. Another lady told the team members that she was “down to her last potato” that day and “didn’t know what she was going to do” about food. Putting our faith into practice, we were able to see God’s love for these people who feel forgotten—but are not forgotten by God.

Others in our team delivered food to Corn Creek Community Center in Corbin to help stock their pantry. One of their volunteers introduced himself as “the smart one, because I can read.” We so take for granted our opportunities and support in basic skills that we forget to thank God for such a blessing as reading!

Many of our team also assisted with sorting donations for a clothing giveaway at Cedaridge Ministry in Williamsburg. Two of our ladies appeared on the front page of the local newspaper participating in this work, though our goal was service, not notoriety.



Robin Reeves’ Dolls On Mission ministry held an ice cream social for our team at Frankfort Missionary Baptist Church and told us about their work, showing us maps of the locations where they have sent dolls.

A lady named Tammy, who we met on our first trip and who the Lord allowed us to aid in getting dentures, came out to the camp to have dinner with us on Sunday night. She shared part of her testimony with us. She has received yet another promotion at her work. It was great to see her!

Thank you to everyone who prayed for us and/or gave donations of food, hygiene items, school supplies, handmade hats, blankets and baby items, money, etc. We could not have done it without you! The Lord is still doing “exceedingly, abundantly above” (Ephesians 3:20) in Kentucky and we are thankful HE is letting us see Him at work!

Many blessings!

Tammy