

Something to Pray About

By Cindy Sears – February 2010

"GIVING"

One of the basic and most prominent characteristics of Christians is our willingness to give to others in need. Hospitals were begun first by Christians. We also started orphanages, because of our belief that all human life is sacred. After all, we are made in the image of God, and He calls everyone to repentance. (In the Roman Empire, unwanted infants and children were simply dumped in the wilderness or drowned.) In the Western world, schools and universities were usually begun by Christians. In the early years, the Bible was the only book used in the classroom to teach reading and writing. Despite what you may have heard spouted off by atheists and others, Christians were at the forefront of the fight against slavery, and for broader rights and protections for women and children at home and in the workplace.

Opportunities to give to the needy and to fight for justice and fair play are still available today. As long as people deny God's sovereignty and His moral laws, there will be poor, destitute, and persecuted people who need our help. Are you giving? Your church offers opportunities to give money to worthy causes and you can be assured that the money will be used judiciously and to meet true needs. Your church also has opportunities for you to give your time and effort in helpful ministries. Is it time for you to step up and be counted as a worker and a giver, as well as an attendee at your church?

The earthquake in Haiti has devastated an already poor country. The work there by the Methodist Church and other organizations, such as Samaritan's Purse, is ongoing and will be for months and years to come. You can mail checks to "WNCC Treasurer", office of Mission/Outreach, P. O. Box 18005, Charlotte NC 28218. Put "Haiti quake relief" in the memo line, designate money in our offering envelopes to Haiti Relief Funds, or give online at www.wnccmc.org/vim/haitiresponse.htm

Bethel Colony is a rehabilitation program in Lenoir based on Christian principles to help men overcome their addictions to alcohol and drugs. Men come from all over the U. S. to enter this program. Many of them arrive with only the clothes on their backs. We have recently begun to collect clothing and to buy underwear and socks for these men. Monetary donations are also acceptable to help pay for food and toiletry items. Contact the Pairs and Spares class for more information.

Our own Lord's Supper Ministry continues to provide hot meals for our shut-ins and other members and nonmembers who need a little extra love and attention. We also provide a food pantry to give food to the needy. Fresh canned and boxed food donations are needed for these ministries. We also take monetary donations and need drivers and cooks to help out during the once-a-month meals. Contact Lucas or Sarah Teague to volunteer. May God be glorified in all that we do in Jesus name! *C. Sears*