

Homeworkers Organized for More Employment

This Time

VOL. XXXIX, NO. 2

Orland, Maine 04472

FALL 2013

Volunteer Time Is A Gift

- Jackie Burpee
Volunteer Coordinator

"Volunteers are not paid. Not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless." - Unknown

There aren't many better descriptions than this. Though most might disagree with being called priceless, for H.O.M.E., which relies on the efforts of volunteers to fulfill its mission, volunteers are exactly that: priceless.

In 2013, H.O.M.E. welcomed 557 volunteers. They performed tasks ranging from food distribution and stacking and splitting firewood to building homes for low-income families. By the end of our construction season, volunteers had generously donated a total of 17, 824 hours to H.O.M.E.

Priceless, because without them, we would have no programs at all. Many of our tutors have been volunteers. All of our board members are volunteers. Most of our houses were built by volunteers, and the lady who delivers our bread and produce one morning a week is also a volunteer. We simply would not have a mission without volunteers giving their time, their gifts and their resources.

As we approach the holiday season and home construction slows to a crawl, I am reminded how the holiday season has become too commercialized, focusing on retail rather than human beings. Too often we become desensitized to its true meaning. The retail marketplace starts putting up holiday decorations after Halloween and soon we will be concerned with making sure we have everyone checked off our gift list, sending back party RSVPs, and mailing holiday greetings to friends and family.

This Holiday season however, offers one the opportunity to give an incredible gift that will leave a lasting impression long after the presents have been opened, the parties visited and greetings exchanged – one has the opportunity to give of one's time and effort. No one is more needed in this time than someone who donates their time with the goal of lightening the burden of another.

A volunteer who visited home last summer said, "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

This is the mantra of most volunteers. Whether it's a charitable organization, trade or professional association, or place of worship, we all sincerely appreciate any time one has to spare. Though balancing one's personal and professional schedules is an ever-growing challenge, supporting a volunteer effort leaves one fulfilled beyond belief and with a strong desire to give even more of oneself. No one volunteers hoping to receive accolades or credit.

While it is true that all charities need financial support, most need volunteer support just as much, if not more. Meals aren't delivered to the needy on their own; shelters cannot clothe those less fortunate without assistance; society does not improve as a whole without true, honest, good-hearted help.

This holiday season, I urge you to give your time and energy as a gift. Make a difference. There is nothing stronger than the heart and willingness of a volunteer. For more information, or to volunteer at H.O.M.E. please contact Volunteer Coordinator Jackie Burpee at (207) 469-7961.

Volunteering At H.O.M.E.

-Kirsten Hunter -South Church

"What is stunning, is that it is run by the people who it is helping."



On Friday, November 16th, 13 of our Senior Youth at South Church found their way to Kanan house, loaded into cars and headed up to Orland, ME, to volunteer for H.O.M.E Inc. They did not know what to expect when they got there, but they jammed their sleeping bags and backpacks into trunks and headed out.

We arrived on Friday night around 9:30 pm. The non-profit was a sleepy sprawling series of buildings and open spaces, two old school buses parked near our bunk house had been transformed into small apartments. The smell of wood fire was in the air. The stars were brilliant, and the kids were buzzing with excitement, nervousness, giddiness and uncertainty.

We climbed a staircase to the bunkhouse and opened the door to a wildly slapped together collection of bunk beds made by 2x4s and plywood. Some were complete with a mattress, some just a box spring. Nearly every surface was scrawled with messages from both kids, and adults, who had come before us to volunteer. Inspirational messages like, *"Don't ever feel like you are less than perfect"*, and *"a simple act of kindness can change the course of a lifetime"* mixed in with names of groups, kids, towns, schools, and churches. There were a few chalices, and certainly a few more by the time we left.

The kids scouted out beds, dragged mattresses around, set up camp and pulled out radios and guitars as they talked, sang, laughed and finally settled in for the night. It was very warm, there was no thermostat as it was heated by a wood furnace out back, and so doors were cracked, fans were pulled out, and eventually some semblance of comfort was reached.

At 8:00, after having breakfast, we headed to the main kitchen to be oriented. Some of us unloaded our station-wagon-load of food and toiletries into what was a fairly empty food pantry. Then we all headed to the workshop to start assembling wreaths. A small group of kids started outside counting and grouping unadorned wreaths for pending orders. The rest of the crew got started inside.

For about 4 hours, they played music, talked, and transformed wreath after wreath into a holiday ready decoration. Some added ribbons and hooks for hanging, some added pine cones and berries. A few were set to moving the finished wreaths into cold storage and stacking them in counted piles. Gradually, all of our hands developed a thick layer of pine resin and dirt. When lunch time arrived we had completed nearly 600 wreaths. The folks at H.O.M.E were so very happy!

After a break for lunch of soup and sandwiches, we spent the early afternoon stacking two big piles of wood that would be used for heat for the next few weeks. We then packed up our things and took some time to do a little shopping in the community craft shop before it was time to leave. The shop was filled with hand knit hats and mittens, pottery, weaving, wood carvings, jewelry, jams and honeys, and so much more, all made by local community members and sold in cooperative style. From the \$30 that each of the kids brought with them to cover food and fuel expenses on the trip, we tasked each of them to spend \$10 at the shop, allowing us to infuse a little more life into this wonderful, and clearly struggling, non-profit.

Throughout the day, we worked with wonderful folks from H.O.M.E who were so welcoming, and also so clearly working against a tide of needs that seem to continually overwhelm their capacity.

They have working shelters, which regularly house twice the number of people that the state of Maine is willing to fund them for. They have a resource library that is sorely in need of time and attention, classrooms for parenting courses, skill training, and community gathering. They run a day care for parents of small children so the parents can find employment, and house artists in residence on site. There is a small chapel and a farm that raises draft horses. They do a little bit of everything.

What is stunning, is that it is run by the people who it is helping. This is not a staff of comfortable middle class folks with a background in non-profit work. The people that work at H.O.M.E also struggle to make ends meet. Many of them have hard histories, families that face issues of poverty themselves included drug addiction, prison, homelessness.

The organization's struggles directly affect their staff in loss of pay, and resources. If they can't cover utilities, they work without them. They work in buildings that have been pieced together over many decades. Efficiency is not a word that strikes you as you walk the grounds, but certainly, heart is everywhere. This is a place that has evolved out of need and passion, and it is holding up the town around it as clearly as the town is holding up H.O.M.E. I am glad we have found these folks, I look forward to going H.O.M.E again.



Senior Youth at South Church

H.O.M.E./Emmaus is a nonprofit organization dedicated to keeping and enhancing the quality of life for low-income and homeless families. Through services, stewardship of resources, and shared responsibility, we aim to bring forth new possibilities for food, jobs, shelter, low-income housing, education and self sufficiency.



Letters

Please send letters to:
This Time
PO Box 10
Orland, ME 04472
newsletter@homecoop.net

The following are excerpts from letters we've received since our last issue of *This Time*:

Dear H.O.M.E.,

I must tell you how much I appreciated Twila Greene's poem "Immigration" which appeared in the Spring issue of "This Time".

Unlike the efforts of post modern poetry, hers rhymes and has a message. She is in the tradition of another Maine poetess, Edna St Vincent Millay.

Thank you for publishing it and keep up your wonderful work to which I make a modest annual contribution.

Sincerely yours,
Mr Arnold Messner.

Dear Lucy,

Though miles have come between us, our hearts are still close to each other. When I come anywhere I come near to your area. I won't leave I pay home a visit where I spent quite a time in my life. I won't go back without paying you a visit. It is like coming home.

It was good to see you.

good luck,
love Velma.

Dear Readers,

I heard the other day about a dear friend of H.O.M.E. that had passed away.

She and her husband took in foster children besides their own. She worked in Daycare and the Bargain Barn for years. When she retired she and her son Barry who was disabled sold the place and bought a trailer.

Arline Locke was my friend and she was the best. God Bless.

Claudia Gilbert

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is published by H. O. M. E. Inc.
Part of the World Emmaus Movement
Editors: Tracey Hair
Lawrence Reichard
Save a tree, please visit our web-site for an electronic version of this Newsletter.
www.homecoop.net

Dear H.O.M.E.

Thank you for all your incredible work in sorting the clothing for migrant farmworkers in the downeast and midcoast regions. Your contributions and enthusiasm to help have been invaluable. It's not every day you find people who are sensitive to and wish to assist migrant farmworkers in their frequent transitions to different harvests, climates and communities. Thank you for your help in demonstrating our shared support and gratitude for the work they do and the people they are! A million thanks.

The Maine Migrant Health Program.

This story came to us by mail and is dedicated to the Hammer and Nail volunteer group. This story is inspired by Timothy 4:12.

Our Story,

This isn't much of a story; it doesn't have a plot, protagonists, antagonists, fancy literary devices or even characters; it's just a story. But a story, however uneventful or short it may be, is a story worth telling. It goes like this:

A girl who had done many mission trips in her past was telling her friends about them during school one day. She was talking about a house she had worked on in New Jersey when a boy overheard and joined the conversation. He asked if the family was poor, and she responded that it did not seem that way because they had electricity, running water, a car in the driveway and the house was a normal size. The boy asked whether she knew the family, the girl said she didn't. The boy laughed and said how lame it was that she spent a week working on the house of people who weren't poor, had luxuries that others didn't, and that she had never even met the people. "But at least I was rewarded," the girl said. "What was the reward," the boy asked. She said to him, "I made a difference."

The boy laughed again at how ridiculous her story was, and walked away. What he didn't know, and she did not find out until after she went home, was that there were eight people, four separate families, living there, and all of them had lost their homes to Hurricane Sandy.

One of the women there had given up her own home to be used as a hostel for volunteer workers to stay in while they helped others in desperate need after the storm.

And that's the story. Nothing dramatic or exciting, it's barely even a page long. But there's a moral to this story. One that we all share here. You don't always get to know the story of the people you're helping, or even get to meet them. You don't always get to see the impact you've made and you don't always get a thank you. It can be disappointing.

Sometimes you feel like maybe you, yourself, haven't made an impact because you're not as old or knowledgeable or skilled as others. You may wonder whether the people you're helping will appreciate it or even deserve it; because you look at the things they do have (rather than what they don't have) and it doesn't seem like they have it that bad. We are all quick to judge. And you may wonder why you're giving up a week of cell phones, television, working showers, and comfortable beds...

But the moral of this story, our story, is that while you don't always get a pat on the back for the work you've done, and while you are only one person, and despite the fact you may never know the story behind the jobs you're doing or meet the people you're helping -- you are one person making a difference. You could be making a difference in the life of one person or the lives of many people. But no matter the circumstances, you are making a difference. And that is why we do what we do.

We, the Hammer and Nail conference, whether it be youth or adult, are making a difference. And that is the story - no protagonists or antagonists, no adventures, no literary devices or even a plot. We make a difference - that is our story.

Marisa M Mucha.

Dear Sister Lucy,

Sorry so late with donation - I'll be 100 in February - my eyes are the worst problem.

Do you have a record of when I started with you, I'll bet it's over twenty years. Wonderful work you all do. I once visited. I'm blessed with a dear, wonderful daughter. Hope you can read this.

Vera Weiss.

H. O. M. E. /Emmaus Fall Appeal 2013



"Serve First Those Who Suffer Most"

"The purpose of life is to learn to love"
- Abbé Pierre

Fall Appeal 2013

Dear Friends,

It is our 43rd year and it has never been more difficult to make ends meet. What does God want from us?

There are more and more people in need of housing, food, transportation, medical and dental help and less money to do it with. Some people who help us want us to cut back but usually it's the poorest who suffer. The people who are cut back are on minimum wage...It brings me to tears as I fall in love with everyone I get to know. People are so good and beautiful.

We work very hard here helping each other and all who are in need. Soon we will do Christmas Wreaths to sell and we will travel to churches for craft sales. Churches in Wellesley Massachusetts, Old Greenwich, Ridgefield and Litchfield Connecticut. This earned income helps us and so do donations and foundation grants.

Please help if you can, you are our silent partners.
Please pray for us.

God Bless,

Lucy Poulin

Lucy Poulin



Lucy and Velma

"Green Thumbs"

- Millie Grimes

As I write this in late October, the sun is incredibly warm and although the foliage is fading, the yellow, orange and even the brown colors are still striking.

In Sr. Marie's Memorial Garden the red and salmon pink dahlias are brilliant, and the variety and color of other flowers there have been enjoyed by all of us, including some visitors to H.O.M.E. who took several pictures. Many people contributed to make the garden beautiful; it was a real community effort.

In the spring as we were preparing the bed the soil seemed rocky, sandy and not fertile - lots of rainy, cold weather - but the garden quickly burst into glorious bloom. Marie's influence perhaps? We all miss her every day.

Our farmers' markets in Bucksport have been financially successful and a lot of fun, with six to eight vendors and a variety of items for sale, including cheese and smoked meats, pottery and jewelry. Lots of good visiting with customers, especially senior citizens, and warm, sunny weather, even musical entertainment. Both the Ellsworth and Bucksport markets will be moving inside for the winter.

Karen, who had worked with me in the gardens here for several years reluctantly decided to leave H.O.M.E. in early fall. We had many good times and worked well together. Roxanne from our stained glass shop has volunteered to take her place at the farmers' markets and has been great! We've made a lot of jams, jellies, pickles and relishes - including tomato jam and apple jelly from the cores and peelings - in her fully-licensed kitchen. I hope your fall harvest is abundant!

Here's a poem I found amusing from the Belfast Co-op Cookbook:

**My sweet potato
do you carrot at all for me?
You are the apple of my eye,
with radish hair and turnip nose.
My heart beets for you,
My love for you is as strong as
onions.
If we cantaloupe, lettuce marry
and we will be a happy pear.**



Jams and Jellies for sale at the Marketstand



Share with the poor

- Published: Monday, September 23, 2013
Pope Francis

Our human family is presently experiencing something of a turning point in its own history, if we consider the advances made in various areas. We can only praise the positive achievements which contribute to the authentic welfare of mankind, in fields such as those of health, education, and communications. At the same time, we must also acknowledge that the majority of the men and women of our time continue to live daily in situations of insecurity, with dire consequences. Certain pathologies are increasing, with their psychological consequences; fear and desperation grip the hearts of many people, even in the so-called rich countries; the joy of life is diminishing; indecency and violence are on the rise; poverty is becoming more and more evident. People have to struggle to live and, frequently, to live in an undignified way. One cause of this situation, in my opinion, is in our relationship with money, and our acceptance of its power over ourselves and our society. Consequently the financial crisis which we are experiencing makes us forget that its ultimate origin is to be found in a profound human crisis. In the denial of the primacy of human beings! We have created new idols. The worship of the golden calf of old (cf. Ex 32:15-34) has found a new and heartless image in the cult of money and the dictatorship of an economy which is faceless and lacking any truly humane goal.

The worldwide financial and economic crisis seems to highlight their distortions and above all the gravely deficient human perspective, which reduces man to one of his needs alone, namely, consumption. Worse yet, human beings themselves are nowadays considered as consumer goods which can be used and thrown away. We have started a throw-away culture. This tendency is seen on the level of individuals and whole societies; and it is being promoted! In circumstances like these, solidarity, which is the treasure of the poor, is often considered counterproductive, opposed to the logic of finance and the economy. While the income of a minority is increasing exponentially, that of the majority is crumbling. This imbalance results from ideologies which uphold the absolute autonomy of markets and financial speculation, and thus deny the right of control to States, which are themselves charged with providing for the common good. A new, invisible, and at times virtual tyranny is established, one which unilaterally and irremediably imposes its own laws and rules. Moreover, indebtedness and credit distance countries from their real economy and citizens from their real buying power. Added to this, as if it were needed, is widespread corruption and selfish fiscal evasion which have taken on worldwide dimensions. The will to power and of possession has become limitless.

Concealed behind this attitude is a rejection of ethics, a rejection of God. Ethics, like solidarity, is a nuisance! It is regarded as counterproductive: as something too human, because it relativizes money and power; as a threat, because it rejects manipulation and subjection of people: because ethics leads to God, who is situated outside the categories of the market. God is thought to be unmanageable by these financiers, economists, and politicians; God is unmanageable, even dangerous, because he calls man to his full realization and to independence from any kind of slavery.

In loving memory of long time volunteer, Robert Arthur.

Robert Alan Arthur, 63, beloved husband and father, of Danbury, formerly of Ridgefield, husband of Linda Raftery died peacefully at his home on Monday morning, August 19, 2013.

Robert was born in Norwalk, June 8, 1950 and resided in West Hartford where he attended and graduated from local schools. Upon graduation from high school, he attended the University of Connecticut.

An arborist, Mr. Arthur owned and operated Robert Arthur & Son of Ridgefield for the past forty-two years.

A resident of Ridgefield and Danbury for the past forty-two years, he was a member of the First Congregational Church of Ridgefield where he served on the Mission Board and Board of Trustees. For many years he also participated in the H.O.M.E. mission trip to Maine, and international Habitat for Humanity.

Robert enjoyed golfing, reading, gardening and was an avid NY Yankees and NY Giants fan.



Sr Marie, Dan Reidy, Robert Arthur and Lucy Poulin

The h.o.m.e. Craft Store Catalogue

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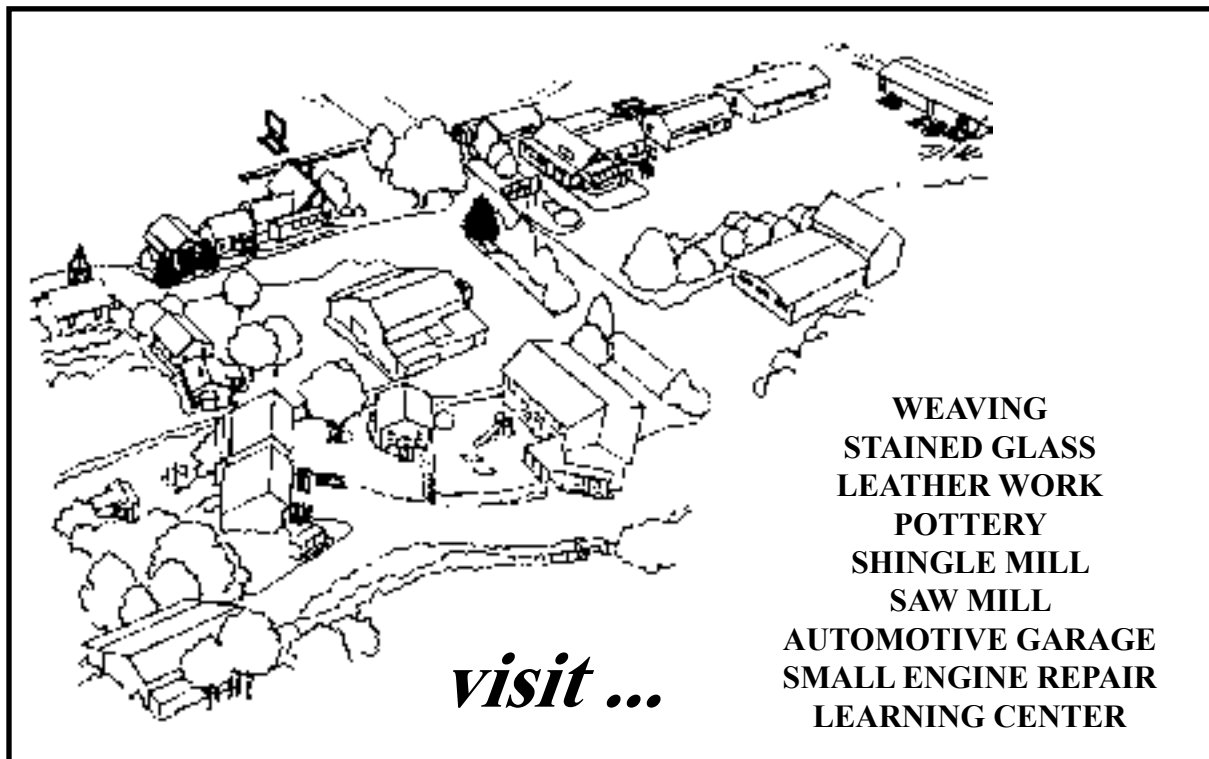
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h.o.m.e. Craft Village



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We are now collecting donations of great things to put in
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Please call us at 469-7961 if you have some valuable stuff to donate that we can pick up.
We also have on-going bottle and scrap metal drives and need your continued support and donations.

h.o.m.e.'s Wish List

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 Any Tools
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 Cotton Fabric Pieces for Quilts
 & Large Pieces for Quilt backing
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 Stocks
 Money

Waterfront Property for Sale

Dedham - Hancock County - 1+ acre.
 A beautiful piece that has already passed an initial soil test with a buildable spot overlooking Harriman's Pond. There is 50 feet of water frontage (one of the last parcels available for sale on Harriman's Pond) with year round road access to the lot. Reasonably priced at: \$55,000.00 or best offer. For more information contact Beth @ 207/469-7961, ext. 25.



Land for Sale

Argyle - Penobscot County - 42+ acres. This is a great recreational piece of property or can be used for wood harvesting. This would be a wonderful piece of property for anyone who loves to snowmobile in the winter or camp in the summer. The price is very affordable at only \$750.00 per acre or best offer. For more information contact Beth @ 207/469-7961, ext. 25.

h.o.m.e. Shingle Mill

#1 Cedar Shingles: \$75.00 per square
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(4 bundles per square)



Emmaus International

“Serve First Those Who Suffer Most”



- Tracey Hair

BOOK REVIEW

WHY, OH WHY, MY GOD?: Meditations on Christian Faith and the Meaning of Life by Frederic Lenoir, Abbé Pierre. Publisher: World Council Of Churches (June 1, 2007).

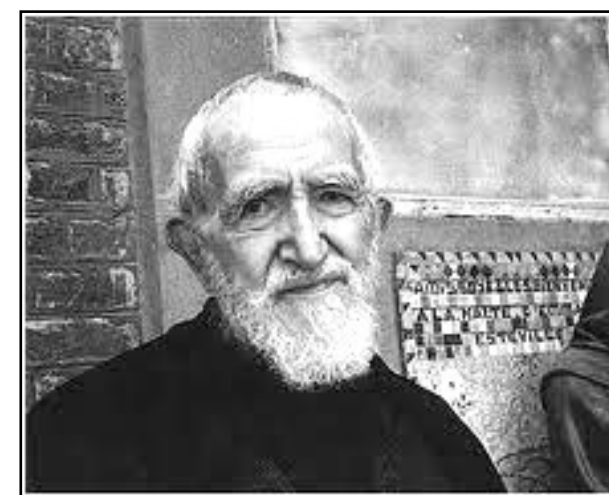
Why, Oh Why, My God? is a collection of reflections upon Christianity by Abbe Pierre (1912-2007), founder of the International Emmaus Movement. Abbé Pierre was born Henri Grouse in 1912 to a middle class family in Lyon. During the Second World War he was a resistance fighter and took the name Abbé Pierre – Abbé, a traditional French title for a priest. After the war, he created the Emmaus International movement for the homeless, a movement which now stretches across 50 countries worldwide.

Abbé Pierre became a household name to many French people with his black beret and white beard, and was frequently voted France's most popular man. An unpretentious man, he used his fame to challenge political leaders about homelessness. The book, whose French title is “Mon Dieu ... Pourquoi?”, is a series of reflections on his faith as recorded by French journalist Frederic Lenoir.

In the book, Abbé Pierre reflects on his life, faith, vocation, and continuing commitment to serving the world's poor. He also offers insights into today's most pressing religious and social issues. The topics he presents his views on, range from different attitudes between Buddhism and Christianity (“The Christian does not try to eliminate suffering by avoiding desire but rather tries to react to personal desire through sharing and giving.”) to questions of whether gays should be allowed to marry or parent, whether women should be allowed to serve as priests. The book also shares his view on the Iraq War and much more. He asks, “Should we have responded to the terrible provocation of Al Qaeda with a new crusade? Can we cure evil with evil?”

Abbé Pierre, who died in 2007 at the age of 94 was a recipient of France's highest civilian honor, a former participant of underground resistance against the Nazi occupation during World War II, and a tireless champion of the poor and the homeless. Why, Oh Why, My God? , now available in English was published by World Council of Churches Publications and was translated by the Rev. William McComish, the former dean of the Protestant St Pierre Cathedral in Geneva. The book can be purchased online at www.amazon.com.

Far from being religious propaganda, these reflections represent the essential spiritual and theological thoughts of the founder of Emmaus International. Why, Oh Why, My God? Is not a statement, but rather a series of brief meditations on Christian faith and the sense of human life. His simple, honest words reveal the life and perspective of a man who dedicated his life to serving his fellow men and women in God's name. It is a short yet profoundly honest, faithful, and powerful spiritual testament.



Abbé Pierre



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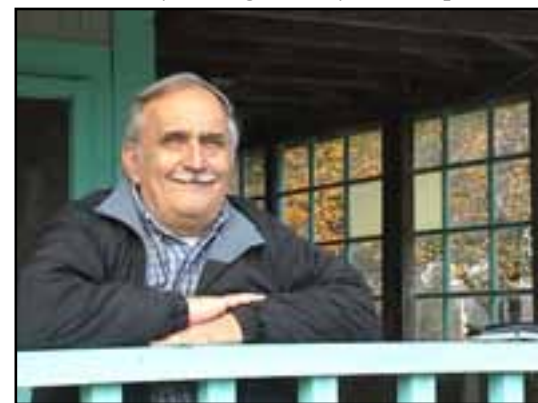
Emmaus Headquarters in France

Howdy Folks!

When visiting H.O.M.E. Don't forget to visit our Gift Shop/Craft Store! We have a lot of nice things to choose from, such as quilts, pottery, leather goods, Maine made jams and syrup, potholders, jewelry, woodcrafts, baby blankets, clothing, mittens and sweaters. Remember, Maine crafters depend on your purchases.

H.O.M.E. Craft Store is dog friendly!
Please stop in to see if there's anything for you here.

Craft Store hours:
Monday through Friday 8am - 4pm.



Jim McCarrison

“Serve First Those Who Suffer Most”



Christmas Wreaths and Centerpieces

We offer several choices of wreaths and centerpieces. Our wreaths are first quality 22" double-faced wreaths made of fresh balsam fir. They are available either undecorated or fully decorated with red velvet ribbons, pine cones, and berries. Our centerpieces are hand crafted at H.O.M.E., using fresh greens: Balsam, Cedar, and Pine. The centerpieces are available either as a single (one candle) or as a triple (three candles) with cones, berries and ribbons to complement the arrangement. The single and triple centerpieces are available with either the traditional red berries, candles and ribbon, or our winter feature which includes; white ribbon, frosted cones and white candles. Enclosed is our new order form for this year's wreaths and centerpieces. We hope that you may be interested in ordering one for yourself and/or giving one or more as gifts to friends or family members. If so, we would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible as we prepare for this year's wreath project. **Orders are processed and shipped in the order in which they are received.** Shipping begins on Monday, November 25th. (Orders are often sent to us during September and October.)

We must collect the 5.5% sales tax from Maine residents. Please add this to your order total. Thank you.



To Purchase Wreaths:

- Fill out the order form. Orders must be received by Dec. 2nd. (Or get this form on-line at www.homecoop.net)
- Be sure to include a street address for delivery.
- If you are interested in wholesale orders (\$10.00 per undecorated wreath for 100 wreaths or more, plus shipping charges) please contact us.
- Mail this form (or call/fax) along with your payment in U.S. funds to the address above.

2013 Retail Order Form

Send to:

h.o.m.e. Wreaths
P.O. Box 10
Orland, ME 04472
Phone: (207) 469-7961
Fax: (207) 469-1023
(call to confirm receipt of fax)

We are unable to deliver to Hawaii or Alaska.
Please include all information below
for ALL ORDERS.

Your Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone #: _____
E-mail address: _____
(In case we have questions)

My Order

Ship me:
____ Decorated Wreath(s)
____ Undec. Wreath(s)

Centerpiece(s) - (Circle color)
____ Single - Red / White
____ Triple - Red / White

Refer to price lists and include in the totals at right.

Gift Order:

Ship: _____ Decorated Wreath(s)
_____ Undec. Wreath(s)
Centerpiece(s) — (circle color)
____ Single - Red / White
____ Triple - Red / White
to Name: _____
Street Address: (not P.O. Box) _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone #: _____

Greeting:
____ Happy Holidays
____ Merry Christmas

Gift Order:

Ship: _____ Decorated Wreath(s)
_____ Undec. Wreath(s)
Centerpiece(s) — (circle color)
____ Single - Red / White
____ Triple - Red / White
to Name: _____
Street Address: (not P.O. Box) _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone #: _____
____ Happy Holidays
____ Merry Christmas

Please include phone numbers!
We cannot send refunds for any undeliverable orders

Please enter the total charges
Order Summary and Total

Number of items	Total of Prices
Dec. Wreaths: ____ @ 32.95	\$ _____
Undec. Wreaths: ____ @ 24.95	\$ _____
Single Centerpieces: ____ @ 28.95	\$ _____
Triple Centerpieces: ____ @ 37.95	\$ _____
Subtotal:	\$ _____

Maine residents please add
5.5% Sales Tax : \$ _____

Total of Order: \$ _____

Check, Money Order,
Visa, Discover or Mastercard
Make checks payable to "h.o.m.e."

Card# _____
Exp. Date: ____/____
Security code: ____
Signature: _____

Send to: h.o.m.e. Wreaths
PO Box 10
Orland ME 04472
Phone: 207-469-7961
Fax: 207-469-1023
www.homecoop.net/wreaths

Pedalin Home Spring/ Summer 2013
- Cary Huggins

Over Fathers' Day weekend, The H.O.M.E. bicycle team rode its 3rd annual bicycle "Trek Across Maine". The eight team members, some riding, some providing volunteer support for the mission, raised \$1700 for the American Lung Association.

Team members had some thoughtful comments on the experience:

"I was really scared when I started, but it was so great all the people laughing, smiling and cheering me up the big hills. It felt like a big family working together."

"When he rode off without me, I was sad. Next thing I knew, I was talking with another rider and making a new friend. When we caught up again, we had great stories to tell each other."

"It isn't a race. It's a chance to really be present with yourself and the world around you that you usually pass by disengaged in a car. I am so grateful for these three days!"

"I didn't ride but I saw how happy people were when they came in to the rest stop where I was working. I felt great helping, people were so nice. I think I will ride next year."

The kids worked hard fundraising, planning, organizing and taking care of themselves and each other before and during the ride. They were an incredible team!



H.O.M.E. kids gear up for a bike ride.

Over the summer months, Pedalin' HOME went on several group rides. We were even interviewed by the local newspaper, on route to the Craig Brook fish hatchery in East Orland, about our new relationship with Trips For Kids, an organization in Marin County California that promotes mountain biking. Trips For Kids has helped tens of thousands of kids experience bicycling as a means to greater self-esteem, relationship and skill building, and fostering a new appreciation for the outdoors. This fall we have explored trails in Acadia National Park, Bradbury Mountain State Park, and Camden as a result of this new support. Two of us entered our first mountain bike races and here's what some of the kids had to say:

"I was scared when I took off. When I saw the other rider in front of me going over tree roots, rocks and then a bridge, something kicked in and I gassed on it, right over them all. I was so excited and proud of myself. I couldn't wait to tell my friends at home!"

"I went into it thinking, if it gets too hard, I'll just leave the course. As it got harder, I got more determined and looked forward to the next challenge. I still relive that thrill. It reminds me that when I challenge myself, I really feel alive."

We continued to get people on bikes for fun and transportation. We repaired and replaced malfunctioning bike parts, and the kids continued to engage in spontaneous conversation as new and deeper personal connections developed. And we kept track of all our accomplishments and goals.



Learning Center Activities

Summer and Fall 2013
- Cary Huggins

This summer and fall I have been working on organizing activities for those who live and or work here at H.O.M.E. Co-op. I talked to people in the Dorr House (our men's shelter at the co-op) and at St. Francis Inn (our East Orland shelter for women and children). I asked what they would like to do, and what they might like to teach and share. With so many talented people at H.O.M.E with diverse experiences, skills and interests, we have offered a variety of classes and activities. Some of the things we did this summer include bowling, pick-up soccer games, an overnight trip to a Sea Dogs game, and a trip to Funtown Splashtown in Southern Maine. Ironically, torrential rains put off the Splashtown event until next year, but the overnight in the Midcoast area was fun! There was also a "Healthy Shopping" field trip led by Healthy Acadia in Ellsworth, and a series of talks with Josh Prochaska about our affiliation with Emmaus International.

Other activities included:

- Workshop on making yogurt
- Community garden started and maintained by HOME kids
- Group Hike on Great Pond Mountain
- A workshop on making fermented vegetables
- Making healthy dried snacks (kale chips, sprouted almonds, dried fruit)
- An ongoing knitting group for all levels, especially beginners
- A poetry writing workshop
- A monthly Open Mic at the chapel at HOME, which is well attended and growing
- Support for kids to get to Bucksports Parks and Rec soccer practices and games
- Board game night on Wednesday
- Shadowing a local DJ at WERU Community Radio
- A mushroom walk
- "Kids in the Kitchen" harvesting veggies and lunch prep for the community



Cary and Eunice enjoying game night. Below: Sheila Holtz performing at Open Mic.



Things that we are hoping to see in the near future:

- Continued work with Bill Cumming on relationship building and self development
- Halloween costume brainstorming and a trip to a local costume shop
- Talk with a local veterinarian
- Basket making
- Handwriting Analysis
- Enneagram of Personality
- Jewelry making
- Series on stress reduction techniques
- Health talk by a local chiropractor
- Visit Ellsworth Library
- How to support your local farmers
- Part two of "Healthy Shopping"
- A Women's Retreat/ A Men's Retreat
- Cross Country Skiing at the co-op

We are in need of supplies and sponsorship for most of our programs. Please come to me with your ideas. I would love to hear them and make them happen!



Daline and Joe making a scarecrow.



Jim, Sanley and Andre watching a Baseball game.

THANK YOU!

Staff, residents and volunteers at H.O.M.E. Inc, would like to thank the Boston Red Sox Foundation for their generous support of our programs.



Housing Update
- Beth Taylor

We had a meeting with Camden National Bank representatives in an attempt to straighten out some of the housing problems we are encountering. We currently have a home that has been foreclosed on, and another home that has seen its note called in by the bank.

In the Sedgwick land trust community we are dealing with a difficult and thorny problem of low and very low income families that are behind in their property taxes. The bank, which collects these taxes, feels that this problem of delinquent taxes should have been resolved by now, as it has been several years in the making. As a result of this stance on the part of the bank, our work with bank officials has become somewhat strained, making the work difficult, and making it hard to get full cooperation from the bank on this matter.

After discussing these issues and concerns with the bank we were able to negotiate new terms and receive an extension on one of the homes; but we still need to raise more than \$35,000 to rescue the foreclosed home and try to procure a mortgage for another home that is located on Patton Pond. We are also working with the Covenant Community Land Trust (CCLT) to raise money to pay the overdue Sedgwick Community taxes.

We reached out to one of H.O.M.E.'s board members, and she provided a temporary fix to the situation, but we have only eight more months to procure a minimum of \$8,300 or this board member may lose her funds. CCLT is in dire need of the funds to help the families of Sedgwick pay their taxes so the H.O.M.E. Board member doesn't lose her funds. The CCLT Board of Directors and H.O.M.E.'s board are working together and have formed a committee to work on this issue, as a minimum of \$3,000 must be paid by the middle of November.

We have also been able to get full backing for mortgages for individuals with fair-to-good credit standing, and several such mortgages have been approved through TD Bank in Ellsworth. The problem still remains though: most low-income families do not have enough funds for closing costs and the kind of down payment that would enable them to get a mortgage with a lower interest rate. Ironically, and sadly, their mortgage is more expensive precisely because they have less money. We are meeting with a local financing organization that we hope will be able to help these families with their down payments and closing fees. I am very optimistic that the families will own their homes within the next few months.

We currently have families that are receiving federal Section 8 housing assistance vouchers. These families will become eligible for Housing Choice Vouchers and will be able to purchase their homes within 1-2 years. The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program for first-time homebuyers also provides additional funds to lessen the burden of down payments and closing costs.

These families have children with health issues and learning disabilities such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), epilepsy, asthma, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, and social phobias. These same children are now excelling in their new school and one young man has actually been placed in the "gifted" program at his new school. We all deserve a home to provide stability, safety, and hope for our children. These children are proof of how amazing and wonderful the lives of children can become with a simple change of home.

We feel strongly that the Housing Department has a good future, and though we still have several hurdles to jump over, we are nearing the finish line. With continued hard work, faith, and diligence with the banks, we will be able to cross the finish line within a couple of years, and the Housing Department will become an even greater asset to the greater H.O.M.E. Co-op community.

There's no place like H.O.M.E.

SNAPSHOT:

FOOD PANTRY:

Goodness Sake Food Pantry in Orland - serving an average of 280 individuals each month.

BREAD AND PRODUCE:

Each Thursday, bread is provided by Country Kitchen bread store. On Thursdays (the day the bread arrives) 30 individuals receive free bread.

Friday through Wednesday 10 individuals receive free bread each day.

Each day produce is donated from area grocery stores.

Approximately 15 families receive produce each day from this service.

THE MOBILE FOOD TRUCK:

321 individuals received food boxes from the Mobile Food Truck.

SOUP KITCHEN:

The soup kitchen served 10,950 hot lunches.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM NUMBERS:

72 children received back packs filled with school supplies in 2013.

285 individuals received Christmas Gifts in 2012.

12 Daycare Children year round

20 Children enrolled in Summer Camp for the 2013 season.

Guatemala Mission Trips

Join us for a Mission Trip To Guatemala

" Helping others help themselves "

Please send me an application for the Cultural Exchange and Language Immersion Program

Please send me more brochures to pass along to my community

Enclosed is my donation to the Guatemala Relief Fund (Amount: \$ _____)

Enclosed is my donation to the Guatemala Travel Fund (Amount: \$ _____)

I would like to volunteer to educate others about Emmaus San Juan

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State & Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

e-mail Address: _____

I would prefer being contacted via:

mail: _____

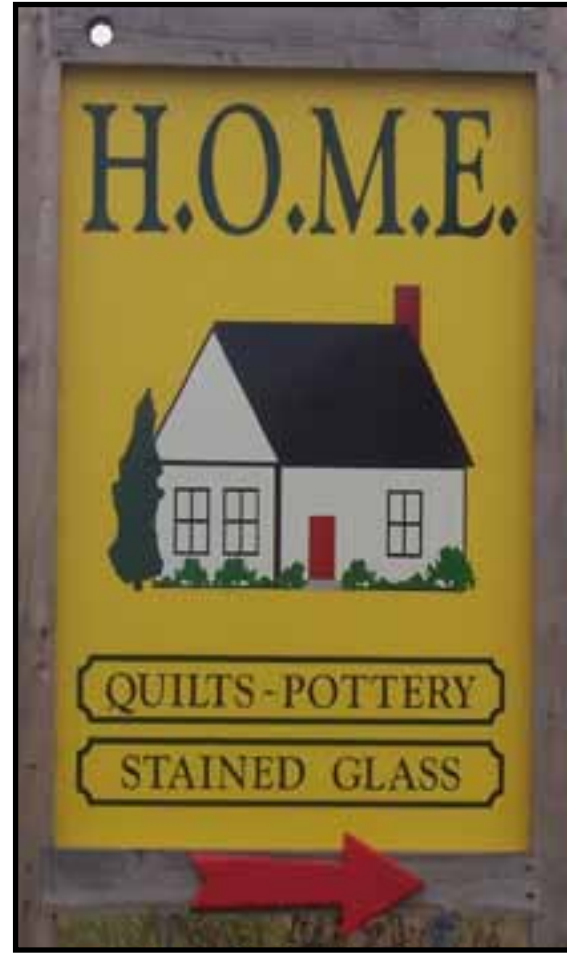
phone: _____



The container of bicycles being unloaded in San Juan, Comalapa.



If you are interested in helping the mission of Emmaus San Juan, or if you would like to attend the Cultural Exchange and Language Immersion Program, please check the appropriate box and return to h.o.m.e., inc.



Reflections

So I Built A Wall -Barry Locke

I stood in the center of my own little space and looked out, and was disturbed to see what the world had to offer.

I saw people who looked different than me. Some were taller than I, and some were too short. Some were fatter than people should be, and some were bent with age. And some had even chosen a different color skin. I just could not stand for this, so I built a wall. And I named it Intolerance.

I saw people who acted different than me. Some wore clothes that were not like mine, and some had traditions that seemed so wrong. Some danced to music I did not like, and some played games that were just not right. And some even spoke with words I could not understand. I was frightened by all this, so I built a wall. And I named it Fear.

I saw people who thought different than me. Some had opinions I did not share, and some had strange ideas. Some had beliefs that were not like mine, and some told stories that could not be true. And some even taught things I could not comprehend. I was confused by these things, so I built a wall. And I named it Ignorance.

I saw people who were not as lucky as me. Some were not as healthy as I, and some had too little to eat. Some had minds that did not work quite right, and some were abused. And some even had to live in the streets. I could not bear to look at such things, so I built a wall. And I named it Apathy.

When the cold winds blew and tore away all my accomplishments, I turned to the world for shelter. But Intolerance stood in my way. I tried to break through, but I had built the wall too strong.

When the hard rains fell and washed away all my hopes and dreams, I turned to the world for fellowship. But Fear held me back. I tried to dig under, but I had built the wall too deep.

When the earth shook and shattered the foundations of all I held true, I turned to the world for guidance. But Ignorance blocked my path. I tried to go around, but I had built the wall too wide.

When the fires raged and all I held dear turned to ashes, I turned to the world for comfort. But Apathy was all I found. I tried to climb over, but I had built the wall too high.

And when I knelt defeated in the ruins of my life, and trapped in the prison of my own creation, I turned to God for forgiveness. And the walls crumbled to dust.

I stood in the center of my own little space and wept tears of joy at all the world had to offer.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."
- Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

THE EXTRAORDINARY LOVE OF GOD.

Sermon preached by Fr. Antony Hughes on
Sunday, September 29, 2013
- Luke 6:31-36 (2nd Sunday of Luke)

Again we are reminded that God is merciful and compassionate and that we are to follow his example, but this is more than mere imitation. The imitation of God is one thing, but we are called to do more than that; we are called to become divine, not just to be merciful, but to become Mercy. The transformation of the human person is an ontological transformation. If we are to obey the commandments, which over and over again we are told we must do, that is, to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, then there must be in us no mental or physical hindrance to loving our neighbors as ourselves. That means we must change on the deepest levels and this change can happen even (if you believe some of the newest scientific research) on the level of our genes!

Neuroscience has shown how spiritual practice can literally effect positive change on the levels of the tiniest cells and neurons in the brain. New neural pathways are opened through the practice of meditation and prayer that alter the brain in amazing ways. St. Paul's admonition to think only on beautiful things intuitively what modern science has discovered. It is healthy to dwell on good things and unhealthy to dwell on ugly things. Fear produces fear. Anger produces anger. Prejudice produces more prejudice. Violence begets violence. War produces more war. Who doesn't know this at least in theory?

As a man thinks in his heart, so he is, we read in Deuteronomy. When we feed on negativity and fear what happens? We become negative and fearful. Our little old amygdala (that part of the brain that warns us when we are in danger) gets irritated and we find ourselves in "fight or flight" mode. The problem is that in many of us the amygdala is irritated even when there is no threat. Do you remember what Mark Twain said, "I am an old man who has known a great many troubles, but most of them never happened." Fear comes at us most often when there is nothing to fear and particularly from the future. We fear what may happen. We create our own fear! I suspect it may be that we are so used to having an irritated amygdala, that we keep creating fear to keep it that way! Peace would seem so strange after years of panic. But Christ came to bring us peace. How do we calm the amygdala? One of the most effective ways is spiritual practice - prayer and meditation are best.

And remember when Jesus speaks about neighbors his definition is so much more expansive than ours. Not just family and friends. He means everyone, every person, even our enemies. One of the Desert Fathers said that the only true test of love is whether or not we love our enemies. Our Gospel reading puts it plainly. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? In other words, so what? Who cares? Most of us do pretty well with that anyway. But what about those people we do not like?

You have heard me say it before, but it bears repeating. You only love God as much as you love the person you hate the most. Why? Because that person is Christ. Every person is Christ. Not only might we be entertaining angels unaware when we greet strangers (as the writer of Hebrews suggests) we are always entertaining Christ and to be aware of that is to be Enlightened. That is exactly why at this parish everyone is welcome. Everyone is embraced. There are no litmus tests or entrance exams.

Put this way, with all the commandments rolled into one, or maybe two, about loving God and one another, then the whole of the spiritual life boils down to learning to love well. Rumi says something interesting about this when he writes,

Your task is not to seek for love, but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it. Why do we not need to seek for love? Because love is who we truly are. Here is Thomas Merton on the subject: "To say that I am made in the image of God is to say that love is the reason for my existence, for God is love. Love is my true identity. Selflessness is my true self. Love is my true character. Love is my name."

Instead of seeking for love, we simply need to recognize our true identity and set it free from all the hindrances to expressing love that we have allowed to grow in us, to tear down all the walls we have erected within that keep us doing anything but loving everyone, all the time no matter what the circumstance, no matter who they are or what they do. Those walls are in our brains. We cannot tear down physical walls until we tear down our mental walls. If spirituality is anything, it is about deconstructing our mental fortresses. For Christians there is no justification for hatred in any form whatsoever, nor can there ever be.

In my time at the prison I have seen over and over again that the simplest expression of compassion brings the greatest possible results. As I tell everyone who joins us there, we are not there to teach, to convert, to argue, or convince. Our only job is to love and when we do that it changes hearts, both of the men we meet and our own.

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Here is one more from Thomas Merton. "Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy."

"Be merciful even as your Father is merciful." Jesus says, "and your reward will be great," for then it is mercy you will receive.

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The beginning of love is to let those we love be perfectly themselves, and not to twist them to fit our own image. Otherwise we love only the reflection of ourselves we find in them.
-Thomas Merton

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*Homeworkers Organized for
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This Time



H.O.M.E. grown Squash wins first prize at the Common Ground Fair.