

**December 2012 Newsletter**  
**Isaiah 61 Ministries**

*"I used to pray that God would feed the hungry, or do this or that, but now I pray that he will guide me to do whatever I'm supposed to do, what I can do. I used to pray for answers, but now I'm praying for strength. I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us and we change things." Mother Teresa*

*"This is the kind of fast day I'm after: to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, cancel debts. What I'm interested in seeing you do is: sharing your food with the hungry, inviting the homeless poor into your homes, putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad, being available to your own families. Do this and the lights will turn on, and your lives will turn around at once. Your righteousness will pave your way. The God of glory will secure your passage. Then when you pray, God will answer. You'll call out for help and I'll say 'Here I am.' " Isaiah 58: 6-12*

The Thanksgiving event at Howard Motors was a blessing to many! We were able to feed many in need in our community. About 100 people showed up to be served with love and tons of food! Also, many many thanks to the almost 50 volunteers who made this event happen, including musicians and four Work Release participants from the Dauphin County Work Release Program. We were also blessed to have enough leftovers to send meals to the entire women's Work Release Program and provide a good amount of food to the Men's Program as well. Tons of coats were distributed thanks to Merle Kimball and the coats he brought back from New Jersey. Thank you to all of our volunteers and Howard Motors for working so hard to pull the meal and clothing room together! You all were awesome!!!

74 people from our ministry went to see "The Gospel According to Scrooge" at Christian Life Assembly in late November. Tickets were generously donated by C.L.A. to our group, and their Celebrate Recovery group provided a lasagna dinner, bottled water at intermission, and opportunities for us to leave prayer requests to be prayed over. We experienced at least two professions of faith during this event!

Angel and April recently participated in a Faith Based Summit for Northern Dauphin County to discuss key issues such as Transportation, Hunger, and Homelessness. Isaiah 61 will continue to be a part of discussions searching for a solution to these problems. If anyone living in the up-county area is interested in being a part of individual sub-committees for these issues, contact Bonnie Kent 905-2700.

This month we have been blessed to have several businesses come alongside our volunteers to help provide a few of our meals. We would like to say a special thank you to Market Place in Grantville for their donation of hot dogs and lunchmeats. Chick-Fil-A provided chicken sandwiches, sweet tea, and salad for 110 people on December 12th. Mohammed also blessed us with 3 cases of corned beef from his business. The corned beef was a special treat as we don't serve it very often, and our clients were raving about it. We are very grateful to all of these businesses for their kind donations.

Our annual Christmas Dinner at Swatara Church of God is coming up quickly! Mark your calendars for Friday, December 28, and call April if you are interested in helping or contributing food. Areas in which we need help include kitchen, serving, set-up (from about 9am-noon), clean-up (from about 2:30-done), and decorating. We still need vans and drivers to transport our clients to and from Harrisburg throughout the day. We also need donations of Subway and Arby's \$5 gift cards which we will give to all our clients who attend. The Christmas wish list has been compiled, and if anyone wants to take a name and purchase 2 gifts for them for Christmas please contact us. We still have some names to distribute. All gift requests are clothing items. Gifts must be new, and unwrapped. We'll wrap them for you.

Food items needed for the Christmas Dinner are: 2 turkeys (cooked is preferred), ham, corn, green beans, fruit or veggie trays, raw potatoes, cranberry sauce, desserts, and covered dishes (bring your favorite). Contact April to donate.

Our numbers on Tuesday and Wednesday nights continue to be high. Lately we've been serving about 80 people per night, which is actually double the number of people we served this time last year. The need is still great!

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Francis Bacon, who recently passed away. Memorial services were held at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Harrisburg on Friday, Dec. 14.

We have several groups, churches and individuals who have shown great dedication to the ministry over the past year by giving of your time, talents and also financially. We are very grateful for everyone who has been involved in making all outreaches of this ministry possible. We pray for God's blessings on you all as you continue to give to those whom God calls you to serve.

Please join us in prayer as we explore some awesome opportunities for the future of our ministry.



*Cakes at the Thanksgiving Dinner*

*We had a good crowd at the Dinner*

*Howard, April, and Monique open with prayer*



*Santa came to visit the Thanksgiving Dinner*

*Many hands make light work at the Dinner!*

*Good food and good friends at the Dinner*



*Some of the group who attended "The Gospel According to Scrooge" field trip in late November*

### My Christmas Wish

By: Marlin Roth

My Christmas Wish I Want This Year  
Spreading Joy and Holiday Cheers  
To Bring Smiles on People Faces  
That's What we Should Do  
No Matter Where They're At  
Remember God Loves Them Too  
How Can We Be Grateful  
If Life's not Worth The Living  
Instead of Always Taking  
When Do We Start Giving  
If Life's So Precious  
And Comes From Our Heart  
How Many Broken Relationships  
Have Fallen Apart  
We Must Start Taking Action  
Before It's Too Late  
The Choice Is Yours To Answer  
How Strong Is Your Faith

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL OF US AT ISAIAH 61 MINISTRIES!**