

Church Beyond Walls

By Justin Stovell



One day, I was walking down Simpson Avenue. I had no work because I was on my two days off from Firestone. I was bored and kicking a can off the street. I saw a sign of a fish symbol on a van delivering to Friends of the Carpenter. This made me think it might be a church. Seeing a number of people hanging outside, I realized it was open.

“Maybe I should go.”

“You happened to turn up on a cool day.” One of them encouraged me to stay. “Free haircuts, \$5 gift certificate, food to eat, and nice people!”

On that day, I met Andre who

invited me to Bible study. Ever since, I have been coming here, enjoying the camaraderie and the Spirit of God which illuminates this place and gives off awesome vibes. The *Purple Book* studies have been uplifting to my spirit as well as my morale. It helps me stay out of trouble due to boredom. It is a help to anyone who needs a new outlook to life and a purpose. I also found my purpose here making WAPI’s (water pasteurization indicators) which are used to help to those who do not have a source of clean water.

Before I came to the Center, my walk with God was on a slippery slope. I was losing focus in the matters of Christ. In my heart, I was mixed up.

My outlook on life was that I needed to go to a church to find camaraderie with brothers and sisters. This place is not really known to the public. It is hidden. It gave me everything I needed to get a boost in growing again. My limbs were dry and my heart was thirsty. The Friends of the Carpenter is what I need today. Thank you, brothers and sisters, for your support in blessing those of us who need grounding and stability both spiritual and physical. Without further ado, may the grace of the Lord and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen

A Weekend of Firsts

By Jennifer Klein

Throughout life we celebrate many “firsts”, like having a baby, starting a new job, or that first kiss. The weekend of June 19th, members of Friends of the Carpenter’s C.A.R.E. Committee and some volunteers enjoyed a much needed break in Seaside and Cannon Beach for the Annual Sand Castle Competition.

Our road trip began Friday morning after Devotions. The 13 of us piled into 3 cars, and set out with daydreams of the beach running through our minds. We had lunch at Fort Stevens, then checked out the Peter Iredale shipwreck at Seaside, and stopped at the mouth of the Columbia River. Another first was Esteban and Arnold seeing the ocean for the first time. We had to keep a close watch on Arnold because he loved it so much he said he wanted to stay there.

“The Pacific Ocean was our backyard” stated Ryan, who told me that it had been at least 10 years since he had been to the beach. Ryan also commented, “I am one who doesn’t like big

groups of people, but this was an exception. We all got along and enjoyed each other’s company.”

Before dinner and Devotions at 7:30, we took some free time to frolic in the sand and surf. Danny, Ryan, and Brian played a little football in the sand, Arnold went exploring, Andre went for a jog, and I went to take some gorgeous pictures of the sunset.

Devotions held a special place for Lynnette who shared her testimony about Seaside. She first became homeless there. Demons surround that time in her life, and still had been haunting her. One of those demons was going back into the bathroom where she slept. “I haven’t been there since I left and I plan to go back in there on this trip and face it” she stated. The next day I asked her if she was able to face her fears, and with a big smile she said yes, “I now have closure.” This was a special devotion for all of us and you know I think it was



the loudest I have ever heard us sing in all my time at F.O.C.

The pool and Jacuzzi are where we spent the rest of the evening. Arnold was the only one not joining us. He had forgotten his swim trunks and was a little apprehensive about getting in the water. Danny lent him some shorts and it was the like his shell shattered and he found out that he enjoyed being in the water as much as everyone else. More swimming and s'mores finished off the evening.

Saturday was the car show and Sand Castle Competition in Cannon Beach. The sandcastles were amazing,



especially since for most of us, it was our first time. There my favorite was the "Game of Life". It even had a

dial you would use to spin. We were all in awe.

On the way home, our group decided to stop at Camp 18 for lunch. We didn't expect anyone else would be joining us for but, much to our excitement, André' and his group decided to stop as well. We ate lunch and were off once again, home.

For some of us it was the first time we saw the ocean, the first time seeing the Sandcastles, and for all it was the cementing of long-lasting friendships. I want to thank everyone for the memories and laughs that we all shared. An extra special than you to Bernie, for without her none of this would have been possible. The weather was perfect. The 13 Friends of the Carpenter treated each other like family. They were gracious in their interactions with each other. Whenever there was a need, someone stepped up to the plate and gave the necessary support. Collectively, the 13 Friends were a visible sign of the "Body of Christ" and the entire weekend was a "slice of heaven" here on earth.

CARE Committee Fundraiser Recipes from Friends Cookbook—
submit recipes by July 31st to lynnlus2smile@yahoo.com, or

Friends of the Carpenter



Dixieland by the Columbia River

Friends of the Carpenter Annual Auction & Dinner
Saturday, October 17, 2015

"But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness
like a never-failing stream!" Amos 5:24



Spring Concert with Jim
Fischer & Friends

Saturday, May 14, 2016

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