



# RCA Missionary Update

## from the Van Hoeses

Soon after they married, Frank and Darlene Van Hoeve decided to commit their lives to Christ and joined Guelph Reformed Church in Ontario. While they were at Guelph Reformed, they hosted several missionaries, who encouraged the Van Hoeses to consider mission work. Since 1999, Frank and Darlene have served with Jackson County Ministries (JCM), which serves people in the Annville, Kentucky, area of Appalachia. Frank coordinates volunteer work groups and helps oversee JCM's outreach, leadership development, and thrift store programs. They have four children: Leah, Reuben, Abigail, and Nathan.

### *Kentucky facts:*

- Population: 4,173,405
- Size: 40,411 square miles



#### MINISTRY

Program Evaluation and Coordination

#### LOCATION

Annville, Kentucky

#### PARTNER

Jackson County Ministries

#### CONTACT

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Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory and dominion forever and ever.

August 2009

Thus far our summer has been cooler with much precipitation, though that has not dampened the activity level at our Annville campus. Week long overnight youth camps lead by several Lexington, KY churches arrived earlier this summer. Our partnership with them began three years ago and continues to flourish. The JCM facilities offers children from the inner city a chance to escape for a week and experience the beauty of God's creation in a great setting. Also, Jake Moss, the JCM Director, has organized a number of day camps for local children.

The Art camp is based in a classroom in Lincoln Hall – the original school building. Children are learning the intricate details of acrylic painting on canvas. Students are presenting their artistic views by depicting each day of creation with the help of an local accomplished artist, Debbie Wagers, who is leading the class.

Simultaneously, the Housing Ministry is hosting mission groups who are serving through Word and Deed. I quote the author George Eliot from his book *Middlemarch*, which describes our volunteers well:

“For the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts; and that things are not so ill with you

and me as they might have been, is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs.”

It is through unselfish acts that the world becomes a better place. The volunteers who spend a week of their own vacation time don't expect or want the praise of men. They simple full fill God's command to love their brother as they love themselves and also using the gifts He has given them (1 Peter 4:10). Though challenging and difficult, volunteers find a time where they can bond with fellow believers and accomplish tasks they would usually never otherwise be involved with.

This summer also marked the 100th anniversary of the Annville Institute (1909). We celebrated this historic event on June 11 with a three-part focus - JCM hosted its annual “block party,” the Annville Institute Alumni held its annual banquet, and the JCM board of directors met for their semi-annual meeting on this weekend. At the banquet, we enjoyed listening to stories and having conversation with former teachers about the “good old days” of the Institute.

The Van Hoeve family has been busy as always this summer. The kids harvested a record-breaking volume of

strawberries this spring, even though it was wet and cool. They enjoy the opportunity to earn some income and eating the jam and strawberry pie mom makes!

As usual, our van has become the local "swim taxi" for the summer, making 50 minute trips (one-way) to shuttle the kids back and forth to swim practice and summer time meets. Unfortunately, on Memorial Day, Abigail decided to practice bungee jumping out of a tree... without the bungee... and broke her wrist. Actually, she wants it made clear to everyone that THE BRANCH BROKE, she didn't clumsily slip out. We are thankful that the break wasn't worse than it was, as it was near the growth plate in her wrist. She had her cast removed after four weeks and is wearing a brace for another four weeks to ensure no further injury occurs. Of course, she had to stop playing softball and swimming for this time. It was not easy for her... but she's back in the pool now.

Leah participated in swim camp at University Tennessee in Knoxville in June. She said it was a lot of fun... the highlight being meeting Christine Magnuson, olympic



*Family canoe trip down the Rockcastle River.*



*Trip to the zoo in Cincinnati with friends.*

silver medalist. Reuben is currently involved in the art camp hosted by JCM. He is the artist in the family, always drawing cartoons, or animating with Legos. Nathan has been busy learning to swim this summer. He is able to jump off the diving board now and swim without any supports.

We are planning to have some vacation time this August. The Lord willing, we will travel north and do some camping with Darlene's parents in Canada. Then we will also spend time with Frank's family before heading back to Kentucky.

**Prayer requests:**

- Safe travel as we go on vacation in August;
- continued good health for the family; and
- work groups that will be coming this fall and the preparations being made by them and by Frank.

Yours in Christ,

Frank, Darlene and family

*To access extensive information about the Van Hoeses, or to make a financial gift for this ministry, simply go to [www.rca.org/vanhoeve](http://www.rca.org/vanhoeve).*

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