

## God's Goodness

09...2010 by Jared Marcus

As I reflect, but only for a bit, 2009 was nothing shy of an amazing year. Special events were more successful then the year before, our leadership team grew in every capacity and the lives of our students were changed! I share that with you as a testimony of God's goodness and faithfulness. I want to thank all of you reading this letter that made a commitment to pray for The Post in 2009. James 5:16 says, "...the effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." We couldn't have done it without you!

I am very anxious to see what God has in store for 2010 and now is the time to rally the troops. If committed to praying for The Post in 2009, I'm asking you to recommit for 2010. If you financially supported The Post in 2009, I'm asking you to recommit and consider giving a little bit more. If you helped sponsor an event that The Post hosted, please plan to join us again this year. Ladies and gents, we CAN NOT do this without you. It is a very humbling experience to be a leader in this ministry and watch first-hand how far your support goes and how much it impacts our students.

One of the most moving stories I can share is of a young man who has overcome so

much to be 'who' he is. When I first met this young man he was very mouthy, apathetic about his education, he drew his identity from what others thought and said about him and wouldn't stick with anything. If he felt like quitting or it got too hard or he just didn't like it anymore he quit.

Not today! With a slight nod on the basketball court he controls his tongue and shuts it down, is now passing all his classes and even served as an aid at Goshen High School. He understands now that his talent on an athletic field does not define him and putting others down to make someone laugh is not the way to attract friends. And lastly, even though he is an amazing athlete, he stood the sidelines of his sophomore year on JV football. Good enough to play, but needing to put his time in because it was his first year on the team. Knowing how hard football players practice before and during the season, that was the epitome of commitment.

Again, that life change was possible because of individuals like you committing to The Post in anyway possible. Thanks.

Tuesday nights, in The Post kitchen, a crew of 10 to 15 kids gather around the cutting board and prepare a meal with "Mama", Susan Hepler Yoder (GHS Art and English teacher). Within the next two hours, the meal consisting of meat, vegetable, fruit and dessert (of course) is prepared, consumed and cleaned up by eager students of the culinary arts...

"They have learned so much, not only to prepare food but to trust things that I teach them. For example, onions smell and taste *yucky* as they are freshly cut; but once they are cooked in the pot, that entire strong flavor disappears into the food. Green onions, however, are supposed to be used fresh as in taco salad or asian salad where the flavor and texture is enjoyed as is," Mama shares.

Many of the kids at the Post are Goshen students, so the connection from seeing each other in the halls and in classes is a good one.

"The reverse blessing is also true. I have learned much, too, like ketchup will cover any taste they don't like. Humbly, I am just thankful they are getting the nutrients in the food prepared, they have found a way to at least try something new, and they have no idea the *planner* (I) might be offended by their adding such a thing as ketchup."

The kids are hungry but wait expectantly and patiently for the food to be prepared, served and prayed over before they eat. The majority of the kids preparing and eating the food are guys. They sometimes will eat up to three helpings of the dinner. Once the cooks have eaten, the rest of the food is opened up to anyone at The Post to enjoy. "They have enjoyed the *raves* over their cooking from the other hungry kids."

"While I preplan, keep things simple, and store leftover products, the budget does not cover the expense of the food needed."

The Post Board is asking for donations of money or gift cards to offset the cost.



## ***The Fatherless...Pure and Simple!*** ***by Erica Jenkins***

“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” -James 1:27 (KJV)

We open our doors every night to many teens that are fatherless. Of course they all have a father. Everyone has to have a father, but many of them have either never seen their fathers or have not spoken to them in months or years. Those that are fortunate to live with a mother, experience the loneliness and stress that only the child of a single-parent family would know. God keeps our doors open so He can show His love to His hurting children and be a father to the fatherless. The students we serve come in not just to play games, but they also come in to connect with somebody! They come in to feel loved. They come in to feel safe. They come in to be prayed for. They come in to share their struggles. They come in to be listened to.

A growing mission field includes high school mothers that come to the Post every night and bring their baby with them. These young ladies have their whole lives ahead of them, a child, and no father that is present in the child's life. It tears me up to think of the heartaches they have ahead of them with the pressures of being a single mom, but what tears me up even more is that there are no mentors to step into these young ladies' lives and introduce them to the father of all fathers, our Lord God. We have such a real need for mentors and for volunteers who are willing to come to the Post and spend time teaching them what it means to be the man or woman God has called them to be, after a relationship of trust has been built. Without real life change, the cycle will continue and they will

**7th Annual  
Pancake and Sausage Breakfast  
Saturday, March 6  
7:00 am to Noon  
301 E Lincoln Ave, Goshen  
tickets \$5  
all monies raised will be used to fund  
the operations of The Post**

Please send financial contributions to:

***The Post  
PO Box 124  
Goshen, IN 46527***

For more information, please call:  
**574-534-7678**

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be raising children with no father as they were raised themselves. We don't have enough mentors, but by God's grace we hope to one day. The most disturbing thing I take home with me at night is if a student came in to connect and had to leave

without it because there weren't enough workers for the harvest that evening! God outlines pure religion in His word - visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction!

If you would like to start coming, but just "hanging out" sounds a bit scary, we still have a need for tutors on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 4-5:30 pm to help our students with homework. We could also use a person to take a couple students and just clean the building on a regular basis with them. We could use help with our cooking class on Tuesdays and Bible Study on Fridays. We are also open to any other job ideas that bring volunteers in the door and allow them to connect with students.



### **Needs List**

#### **Time/ Talents**

- Program Director
- Part-time position
- After school tutors!!!
- Mentors
- Community Service Coordinator
- Electricians

#### **Treasures**

- Gift cards to grocery stores
- Bean bag chairs
- Bibles
- Dumbbells
- iPod dock stereo
- Educational games
- Foods
  - Chicken, ground beef and hot dogs
  - Breads and pasta