



New sign, same welcome !

November 2008

Jubilee Convocation Honors 50 Years of History Casts Vision for the Future

*"Behold, I AM, doing a new thing;
now it sprinas forth." Isaiah 43:19*

What a day it was! Over 200 people attended the Jubilee Convocation on October 11. It was testimony to the grace and provision that God is pouring out as we move forward to refresh, retool, and rebuild.



Attendees included first-timers, old-timers, current and former leaders and staff, former students, and four generations of the Glenn and Jean Hart family. The presence and pleasure of God was experienced.



A rich and varied program and displays — centered on Christ, honoring the past, casting a fresh vision of the future, declaring inter-generational covenant and blessing, building new bridges



The formal program closed as attendees moved to the bridge to declare and affirm a commitment to faithfulness to God and future generations as we carry out The Haft's mission.



A delicious well-served chicken BBQ meal, beautifully designed cakes, joyous fellowship and reunions, guided tours, and personal prayer ministry was our gift of hospitality to all.



THEN and NOW



The Haft's 50 year history and service was honored with a special citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives by District Representative Tina Pickett, shown here with the Haft leadership team and Tricia Hall of the Talus Design Group.

Progress and Plans

Report from Haft Director of Ministry
Kevin Garman



On-site Projects and Happenings

September and October were very busy months for the Haft staff. We hosted a family reunion picnic, a men's retreat for a church group from Everett, PA, and a Bradford-Sullivan County Youth Fellowship event. The on-site staff worked day and night for weeks in preparation for the Jubilee event, but the day would not have been as successful if it were not for the help of a team of volunteers from Living Hope Fellowship in Estella and a service group from Messiah College that worked many hours with us from Thursday through Sunday. What a fine group of students!

Liberty Bible Fellowship, Liberty, PA, brought a group of volunteers for a late summer work day. They came with a large donation of food and other items, including a heavy duty professional chain saw which was given to the Haft. They cut and transported 19 pickup truck loads of firewood in one day! The firewood is being put to use already in our brand new outdoor boilers which now provide heat and domestic hot water to the Barn, Shepherd's Cottage and Gardener's Cottage. Thanks to Unique Building Systems of Springville, PA, for making sure these units were installed by the Jubilee Convocation. Also thank you to Binkley and Hurst Brothers of Lititz, PA for the use of a very valuable piece of equipment enabling us to prepare the trenches needed for the boiler lines.

The Deiter family has now taken up residence in the Gardener's Cottage. A new roadway has been

built above the Barn that will provide access to the upper garden area. October ended with the replacement of the well pump and water system that have served us for decades.

We need and welcome the help of individuals and groups who can volunteer time, energy, and skills on many projects and operational tasks. We especially need help during December and January with cutting and hauling firewood.

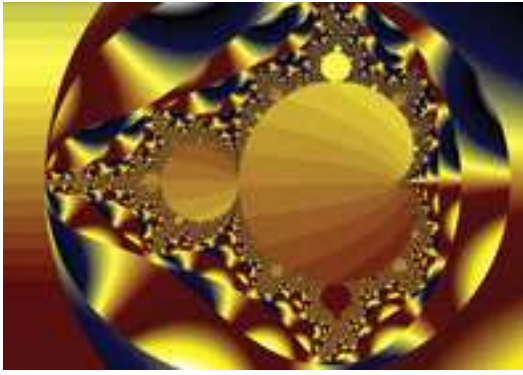
Off-site Outreach and Ministry

Since our last newsletter, Kevin has represented the Haft at six different preaching events. Our purpose in visiting churches is not only to tell about The Haft and Shepherd's Staff Ministry, but also to help local churches understand how to better minister to those who minister to them. Recently we received calls from two different churches that are currently without pastors, requesting us to come and minister. At one of the churches, the pastor had resigned suddenly and the people at this church expressed how much our teaching and ministry meant to them.

Many pastors are dealing now with the added pressure of the uncertain financial times our nation finds itself in. As believers, it is important to understand that now is one of the greatest times to sow or invest in the Kingdom of God's various ministries. This is true because God's Word promises that our investment with Him will never return a loss (Luke 6:38). Rarely in this world can you find a promise to compare with this promise. From the Bible we have been challenged to walk by faith and not by fear. By faith, we are taking steps to develop a site master plan that will build upon God's faithfulness over the past fifty years to this ministry and prepare us to be faithful to the work God has called The Haft to for the coming generations. This includes trusting the Lord to provide the way for us to construct additional cottages that will serve as temporary housing for ministers and their families who are in crisis. An artist's concept of the interior of the cottages was displayed at the Jubilee in October.

How can we serve you?

Let us know if we can be of service to your church, ministry group, or organization by providing teaching, pulpit supply, presentations, or facilities for retreats and meetings.



"Clouds are not spheres, mountains are not cones, coastlines are not circles, and bark is not smooth, nor does lightning travel in a straight line." So writes acclaimed mathematician Benoit Mandelbrot in his path-breaking book *The Fractal Geometry of Nature*. Instead, such natural forms, and many man-made creations as well, are "rough," he says.

Stretching Mind and Heart

From its inception, The Haft has been a place where thinking has been stretched and hearts challenged. "Just love" has called people to move beyond their problems and toward the design and call of their Creator. We want to continue that tradition by including some "stretching exercise" in our newsletter.

Benoit Mandelbrot is a Polish-born modern mathematician and natural philosopher. He is considered the father of fractal geometry and coined the term *fractal* to describe the roughness that constitutes most shapes in the universe. Fractal geometry is radically different from the smooth lines and curves of Euclidean geometry's triangles, squares, and circles that we learned about in school. It has sparked discoveries in many different fields, from finance to metallurgy, cosmology to medicine, computer technology to digital imaging.

So what does this have to do with The Haft and you? We all know that life is often not smooth; it has some rough places that are troublesome, confusing, and challenging. Yet these rough places, when viewed with hindsight and through the lenses of God's truth, are precisely what give beauty, texture, and meaning to life. Rough places also can change our direction and velocity while on a course of danger and destruction. The language of theology uses words like mercy and grace to describe the ends to which God will go to rescue and restore individuals, families, communities, and nations. He not only designs and plans

such discontinuities, but also invests Himself in the implementation of these plans. That's what the Gospel is all about.

As a "radical thinker," Mandelbrot allowed his imagination and mind to explore new territory. He got outside the boundaries of traditional thinking and actions. In doing so he opened up a vast array of opportunities that have yielded amazing benefits to countless people in recent decades. The Bible says that the rough places will be made plain — or is it "plane?" However, God has bigger plans than making us comfortable and putting us on easy street. He is committed to **refreshing, retooling, and rebuilding** our lives, our relationships, and this entire earth—actually the whole universe—to reflect his nature and manifest His glory. To do that He presents disturbances and "rough places" that arrest our attention, divert us from patterns of selfish preoccupation, and cause us to look for answers and solutions beyond ourselves. The outcome of this redemptive and restorative process is far more beautiful and fruitful than we could have imagined. Its simplicity and elegance runs from the infinitesimally small to the infinitely great. Such is the heritage and inheritance of those who live by faith. So great is His love. So now that you've been stretched—relax, think about it, and ask God to speak to your mind and heart from His heart and mind.

If you want to know more about Mandelbrot or fractal geometry, check the internet or your local library. As you view these pictures and read these words, consider how fractal geometry relates to your life and the mission and vision of The Haft. Let us know what you discover and what you're doing with your discovery.



"How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them. Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you." Psalm 139

Jean's Jottings

Jean Hart — Haft founder and resident

October 11, 2008 – a Jubilee Day for blessing and being blessed. A prominent bible teacher suggests that we try to talk about blessings in any way possible without using the word “BLESSING.” It just can’t be done.

Jubilation Day for the Haft arrived with perfect October weather and the foliage on the hills round about proclaiming glorious praise of their own. Friends and relatives from far and near began arriving soon after breakfast. The greeting of the day was a joyous, “It is so good to see you.”

At 11:00 AM, all met in the big tent overlooking the hills and pond near the barn for the convocation program; remembering the past, considering the present, and looking with strong vision to the future. A special citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives was presented in person by our District Representative Tina Pickett.

A delicious B-B-Q chicken dinner was served to nearly 200 people. Guests included old friends, new friends, former students and staff, former and current Board members. Every activity of the day was beautiful, carefully and thoughtfully planned, graciously organized and a real blessing to all.

I am now back in Connecticut with Marelda, settling in for the winter. I am quite well. On a personal note we were so glad to have with us for the Jubilee, Glenn’s sister, Sue McHolme and her husband Duncan, and their two children and their spouses from Michigan and Illinois. My family and I enjoyed a joyful reunion time with them the day before the Jubilee. It has been quickly overshadowed by our keen realization of how transitory life truly is. Just ten days later, Sue died in Michigan. We are grieving greatly for this dear one of our family. We are thankful to know she is with the Lord and free from any further pain and suffering.

With much pondering of time so quickly passed by, I want to share the words from a song I recently heard which spoke to me deeply. (Sorry I do not have the information to give proper credit.)

JESUS DRAW ME EVER NEARER

May this journey bring a blessing
May I rise on wings of faith,
At the end of my heart’s testing,
With your likeness let me wake.
Jesus draw me ever nearer,
As I labor thro’ the storm,
You have called me to this passage,
And I’ll follow tho’ I’m worn.
Jesus guide me thro’ the tempest,
Keep my spirit staid and sure,
When the midnight meets the morning,
Let me love you even more.
May this journey be a blessing,
May I rise on wings of faith,
At the end of my heart’s testing,
With your likeness let me wake
Let the treasures of the trial
Form within me as I go.
At the end of this long passage
Let me leave them at your throne.

Love and BLESSINGS,
Jean



HAFT JUBILEE DVD
Are you interested in having a DVD documentary of The Haft Jubilee? Would you be interested in helping us financially or technically with its production? Please use the enclosed response card to let us know.

Special HAFT Jubilee Message

Mike Carver

Jo-Anne and I wish to extend sincere and profound respect and admiration to all of you who have served in any capacity here at the Haft over the past 50 years. Our involvement in one capacity or another here at the Haft extended from December of 1970 to December of 2001—a total of 31 years. Our memories of each one of you that we personally served with here at the Haft are special and memorable, along with an awareness of all those who have served that we never met. Whether it was for a day as a volunteer worker, a week in a service project, or many months or even years as a staff member, you served and God has noticed and noted.

Service as a Christian in God's work involves a number of criteria that God has ordained. **FIRST**—God called you. In your personal relationship with the Lord you knew that you were called—and you responded. The fact that God called you is an indication of God's personal love relationship with you and proof that he knows you by name. **SECOND**—You responded not with lip service, but you responded with total commitment. You came here to serve human beings who came with varied needs and struggles—human beings who came without knowledge of a personal savior, individuals without hope, individuals that most had given up on and said that they were not worth the effort. **THIRD**—You served and gave sacrificially—maybe even grudgingly, but you gave—of your time, energy, finances, and emotions. Jesus set the example through his serving the needy and lost. All Christians are called to serve, but few have given themselves in service to the degree that you have. God was there in the midst of it all and knew what was in your heart and how you gave all that you could give...and sometimes more than you thought you could give.

Jo-Anne and I were there and witnessed first hand what you sacrificed and we testify to how you gave unselfishly of yourselves. I personally have nothing but praise and admiration for each of you. Jo-Anne and I remain in awe of each and every one for your desire to be obedient to God's calling. I believe many, many hundreds, if not thousands, have come to know Christ because of your

faithful serving here at the Haft.

I believe on the judgment day that each one of you will stand before the Lord and hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant." I also believe that you are going to see the lives of each one whom you had a part in bringing to the Lord come up and say, "Thank you for being there when no one else was responding to God's call to serve. Thank you for being one of those few that God referred to when he recorded in scripture, 'The fields are ripe for harvest, but the laborers are few.' Thank you for being there to help clean up the mess that was my life, so that I can now stand spotless and white before the Lord!"

Editor's Note: Mike's message contains extracts from a warm and gracious letter delivered to us at the Jubilee Convocation. We honor their years of faithful service at The Haft and appreciated their presence at the Jubilee Convocation and commitment to partner with us in prayer as we move forward in God's call. Mike and Jo-Anne's years of experience at The Haft have uniquely prepared them as they now bring "just love" to special needs children in public school systems near Lancaster, PA. If you would like a complete copy of Mike's letter, please let me know.

Jubilee Signs, Bridges, and Plans

Through a donor's gift and Ken Leaman of Leaman Signs in Lancaster, PA, we now have a beautiful new entry sign at the head of Haft Lane.

The Bridge has long been a symbol of transition and crossing over at The Haft. A new bridge served as the stage for the Jubilee and will become part of a new walking trail around the pond — thanks to the donated craftsmanship of a new Haft friend, David Hall. There's more!

As mentioned earlier, at the Jubilee, Tricia Hall, David's wife and a project designer with the Talus Design Group in Dillsburg, PA, presented The Haft with an artist's concept of the new cottages we plan to build. We appreciate the investment that the Halls and the Talus Group are making in The Haft's future. We look forward to working with them as we develop a comprehensive site plan and expand our capacity to serve..

Thank you for partnering with us to face the present and build the future

In the midst of the turbulence and unsettling times we face, comes the clear and compelling word of the Lord: “You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal.” (Isaiah 26:3-4) The kind of peace God gives us is not a call to passivity and retreat. It is an invitation to bold ventures of faith, based on the steadfast love and faithfulness of God, whose Kingdom is advancing even as the kingdoms of this earth are being shaken. With humility and courage, we at The Haft believe we have a mission to accomplish and a vision to reach toward. Fifty years have now passed at The Haft. They were preparation for what lies ahead. The Haft is being refreshed, retooled, and rebuilt to serve others in such a time as this. Fresh interest in and financial support of The Haft has begun to grow after a period of decline. As a result, much has been accomplished already this year, but we have only begun. We invite you to join us with your prayers, your help, and your financial support. Here are some specific ways to be engaged. **Please use the response card accompanying this newsletter. Let us know if you are still interested in knowing what is going on. Tell us how you would like to be involved. Update contact information.**

Donate your prayers to the Haft!

We are grateful for the faithful prayers of many people over the years. As we move forward we are looking for those called to the specific ministry of intercession for The Haft. As you open your heart to the direction of the Holy Spirit and pray for the mission, mentors, and ministers of the Haft, you will participate in moving the work forward in a mighty way. We are trusting God to direct all the decisions, supply strength and safety to those who serve, and provide needed resources.

We are pruning our mailing list

We want to correct and update our mailing list and avoid sending mail to those who are no longer interested. Early in 2009, we will be pruning our mailing and moving to inactive status people and groups we have not heard from since late 2007. Use the enclosed Response Card to tell us that you want to stay connected.

Current Needs List

In addition to on-going and increasing operating expenses, we would like to make you aware of the following ways in which you can help:

- ◆ Volunteer teams to cut and stack firewood
- ◆ ATV or utility vehicle
- ◆ Folding tables & chairs
- ◆ Construction lumber
- ◆ Dump truck or trailer
- ◆ New windows
- ◆ Paper plates, napkins, towels, toilet paper
- ◆ Canned foods
- ◆ Ping-pong table
- ◆ Metal roofing
- ◆ Full size beds
- ◆ Wheelbarrow/garden Cart
- ◆ Hand tools, sledge hammer, pipe wrenches

Major Projects and Growth Initiatives

We will move forward on the following projects as resources are available. Let us know if you would like know more about any of these.

- ◆ Backup electrical power for critical loads
- ◆ Development of a comprehensive site plan
- ◆ Driveway improvements
- ◆ Improved heat distribution ductwork in Barn
- ◆ Fix-up the fenced-off area at the rear of Barn
- ◆ Conversion of Paideia to meet current needs
- ◆ Acquire backhoe and dump truck
- ◆ Re-side Barn
- ◆ Replace Gardener’s Cottage roof
- ◆ Replace Shepherd’s Cottage chimney
- ◆ Drill new well and upgrade water system
- ◆ Repair bridge
- ◆ Build new cottages and infrastructure

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Besides those whose names appear as writers, we thank others who helped prepare and send this edition — Katie Deiter (photography); Heidi Eisenhard and Living Hope Fellowship volunteers. Thanks to all who partner with us to help make the news we are privileged to share with you.

Bruce Boydell — Editor