

## Encouraging signs

Seasonal change happens early at The Haft. It seems as if this entire year has been a season of unanticipated change. While the calendar says we're on the verge of winter, we are actually entering a season of Spring. We hope you will enjoy signs of what is springing forth at The Haft as you read on. We appreciate your interest, prayers, and partnership during these Elijah-like days.

## Strategic Planning: where we are headed; how we will get there

At our October 31 Board meeting Haft trustees unanimously reaffirmed our sense of God's calling The Haft to be a place where His leaders are developed, healed, and restored for Kingdom service. This was a key element of the original reorganization proposal of September 2007. It motivated our activities and plans throughout 2008, The Haft's Jubilee Year. It was woven into the fabric of our October 11, 2008 Jubilee Convocation. The joining of inter-generational hands across the bridge was a declaration of our faith and corporate intent. The need is great and increasing. The call is clear.

We are in the process of actively developing relationships that we trust will lead to strategic partnerships, such as one with Pastor-in-Residence. Check out: [www.pastorinresidence.org](http://www.pastorinresidence.org). We are also trusting God to bring to us people

*Continued on page 2*

## Welcome the Braun Family



By the time you receive this newsletter we expect to be welcoming Gregg and Betsy Braun and their children Alexander (15), Elisabeth (14), Martha (8), and Benjamin (almost 5) to our on-site ministry team as they move to The Haft from the Rochester, NY area. They will be settling into their new environment, continuing homeschooling, building relationships in the community, and doing basic caretaking tasks. They have a wide range of vocational and ministry experience and many competencies that can contribute to our mission. We will be working together to discern more specifically the emerging nature of their roles and responsibilities. We are grateful that God has brought us together and are full of anticipation for what they will bring to The Haft and the people we are called to serve. Stay tuned for more information and keep them in your prayers as they make this major transition in their lives.

## Welcome Ruth Ann Stauffer

Ruth Ann Stauffer of Lititz, PA, is the newest member of The Haft Board of Trustees. With her husband, Al, Ruth Ann has been serving as part of our intercessory ministry team since the Spring of 2008, often making trips on-site to participate in meetings, do personal prayer ministry, and serve in a hospitality role.



From 1994 through 2007, Ruth Ann served as Prayer Coordinator at The Worship Center in Lancaster, PA and Teaching The Word Ministries in Leola. She also is gifted as a teacher and lay counselor, helping individuals and groups to grow spiritually by bringing insight and encouragement as they face opportunities and challenges.

A mature person of faith who is seasoned in service, she has the spirit of an eager learner and team player. Her values and vision are well aligned with The Haft. We are blessed to have her come on board at this strategic time in the life of The Haft.

## Strategic Planning (continued)

called to serve as part of our on-site and adjunct ministry team to serve leaders ready to move through healing and restoration.

We have committed to engage in a 4-5 month strategic planning process, building on the strategic foundation that was laid in the Spring of 2008. Our intention is not only to establish an overall framework within which our mission can move forward, but also the detailed development plans and funding sources necessary to transform plans into reality. You will be hearing more as these plans are clarified and ready to be shared. If you are interested in participating in the planning process, let us know.

## He is the God of Hope

- Dave Wiedis -

As I counsel with pastors, sometimes I see the pain, shame and lack of hope in their eyes. I watch them cry tears of regret and repentance. They long to undo mistakes and moral failures. They feel hopeless. My perspective is different. They see failure; I see opportunity for redemption. They see weakness; I see God's grace perfected in weakness. They see loss; through His spirit, I see great gain – gain to their families, gain to the church and gain to the kingdom of God. My hope for them lies in the God of hope, and I encourage them to pray, as David did, "Put your hope in God." (Psalm 42:11) I think to myself about the possibilities in the next five to ten years. With restoration, how many people will this pastor touch? How many people will be led to Christ? How many people will he strengthen through his preaching and teaching? God is a God of redemption and restoration. He is the God of hope!

*Dave Wiedis is the executive director of Serving Leaders Ministries in West Chester, PA, which serves struggling and broken pastors. This article appeared on November 8 in God Stories 4 and is included in this newsletter with his permission. Check their website at <http://servingleaders.org/>*

"Inwardness, fatherlessness and convulsiveness – these three characteristics of today's young people draw the first lines on the face of the coming generation. Now we are ready to ask what is expected of him who aspires to be a Christian leader in the world of tomorrow."

Henri Nouwen - *Wounded Healer*

## Refresh, Retool, Rebuild

- Joan Boydell -

These words capture the essence of what The Haft desires to see happen to those who find respite on the property. Caregivers and spiritual leaders are themselves one of the groups most in need because of their tendency to “keep on keeping on” for the sake of others. God calls us to sacrificial service, but he also calls us to rest in Him. He calls us to come to Him when we are burdened and weighed down with our work. How is that done when we are constantly surrounded with more demands for care and counsel?

In the old cowboy westerns, it seems that someone was always trying to “head the bad guys off at the pass.” Burnout and fatigue need to be stopped before they are breaking into the corral. Good preparation and training is often wasted when overburdened pastors, missionaries, and lay workers are stretched beyond physical, emotional, or spiritual capacity. Some regular time in the pasture, away from the incessant demands of ministry, would help many of them gain renewed strength and clarified vision. Focused attention on their own needs and those of family members, given before a crisis of faith or a relational breakup occur, will keep those servant leaders ready to hear and respond to the call of the Master long into the future.

A number of months ago, I retired from leadership of a very demanding ministry job after almost twenty years. As I write this, I am aware of how refreshed I feel all these months later. I was more deeply tired than I had ever realized, and it took time and rest to get me back into a productive place again. I have a deepened desire to see others find that rest before it is too late for them to come back into the place of leadership to which they have been called in Christ.

## The Plan that Saved the Planet

The 11/9/09 issue of *Newsweek* contained an interesting extract from Al Gore’s just published book: *Our Choice: A Plan to Solve the Climate Crisis*. He asks which of two questions we would like to have a future generation look back and ask us as

### Plan that Saved the Planet (continued)

they reflect on what we did in the face of such a crisis. Taking some literary liberties with Mr. Gore’s text, choose either of the following questions as it relates to our current culture crisis and the Great Commission:

1. “What were you thinking? Didn’t you see the whole world perishing? Did you not care?” OR

2. “How did you find the moral courage and faith to rise up and solve a crisis that seemed to be overwhelming and impossible to solve?”

If we know God’s plan to save the people on the planet, let us act on that plan, so our children and grandchildren ask us the question we want to hear them ask.

## Honoring Founders

A year ago we honored Haft founders, Glenn and Jean Hart, and cast fresh vision for The Haft’s future. Shortly after the Jubilee, Glenn’s sister, Sue McHolme, passed away. Sue and her husband, Duncan, and their family were involved in the Haft’s early building years and continue to be friends and supporters. Sue’s family and friends have made some funds available to seed the design and building of a sheltered overlook of the pond, which will not only honor the Hart’s vision and sacrificial service over the years, but will also serve others. Working with Jean and members of the Hart extended family, we hope to have design plans drawn up and construction completed in 2010.

“Yes, there’s a profound sense in which God’s truth, even when sweetly portrayed, is an offense to many. And that recognition leaves us inching with great care across a very high tight wire – “speaking the truth in love.” Sadly, the history of God’s people is that we find ourselves constantly falling off not just on one side, but both. We get so carried away with speaking God’s truth that we forget the love assignment. Or we get so enamored of loving people—even including our enemies—that we forget the truth assignment. We have a hard, hard time doing both at once.”

Joel Belz – “A High Tight Wire” - *World* magazine, 11/7/09

... spending more  
quality time with the  
Lord alone: my story

- Heidi Eisenhard -

As the Administrative Assistant for The Haft, I have heard several testimonies of folks who have stayed at The Haft for a day or overnight visit. It wasn't until I spent a weekend with my sisters in Christ from Living Hope Fellowship for our 2009 Women's Retreat that I experienced this myself. As you drive down the gravel lane to the Barn you experience a spiritual sense of peace all around. The beauty of the mountains where The Haft is situated makes you aware of God's creative hand in the landscape that surrounds you. In the rustic Barn, I sensed the Holy Spirit's peace even during the intense times of prayer ministry. I was impressed by the potential for all the buildings to provide a place of refreshment, renewal and restoration. I experienced first hand the ministry of the Holy Spirit through our speaker, the prayer times and the peaceful surroundings of The Haft. I left refreshed to carry on the ministry that the Lord has called me to encouraging others in their own walks with the Lord.

On trips to The Haft as part of my ministry responsibilities, I'm blessed by this same peaceful spirit and the desire to just spend quality time with the Lord. It hits me every time I enter that stone driveway past the impressive sign that marks The Haft entrance. I look forward to spending more quality time with the Lord alone and with others at this special spot God created for His people.

Reflections on a road well traveled

- Bruce Boydell -

The road of suffering is well traveled. An unplanned, unsought, and necessary road it is for those who desire to succeed in life, at least success by God's measuring stick – especially those called to lead. It comes in a variety of forms, but always delivered by the hand of a loving and merciful Father. I have known that road, though not to the intensity or extent that others have. I have many traveling companions. That very same road is also one of joy and accomplishment. The Haft has been and continues to be such a road for me. In barely a twelve month period, it has been a road of jubilation and grief, hope and discouragement. Same road! Same word! My Father's voice speaks louder than my anxious fears and doubting thoughts. "Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God." (Psalm 42:11)

Christ-centered Community

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

Not just words on paper or a new Haft slogan – Christ-centered Community is the context in which we express our love of God and one another and translate that love into a lifestyle of service to others. It includes not just those who are part of the on-site ministry team, but the entire network of individuals, churches, and organizations that are part of the living organism that Christ is building to proclaim in word and action the redemptive and transformative power of the gospel. We invite you to grow with us in experiencing that community and discovering how we can collaborate in the work we are called together to do. We love to hear from you and welcome the opportunity to build a real partnership relationship. Perhaps you have something that you would like to contribute to an upcoming newsletter. Community involves communication, communion, and commitment. Thank you for all you do to honor Christ, encourage us, and bear witness to His love, truth, and power in our world. Press on to finish well all He has called you to be and do.

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