



SKILTON HOUSE MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

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CHRISTIAN RELEASED TIME

On June 3, 2011, Mr. Tomás Hanna, Associate Superintendent of the School District of Philadelphia, sent this communication to all Principals, School Police, and Key Support Staff. The subject: Faith-based Partnerships/Religious Release Time.

Congratulations and thank you to the 170 schools that are now supported by a faith-based partner. As many of you have experienced, these partnerships can add great value and assistance to your schools in numerous ways. While we are grateful for the many faith-based partners serving our schools (and are working to attain more) there is one area of faith partnerships where I feel the need to share some additional insight. The area to which I am referring is Religious Release Time.

Reports from the field tell me that this area is often confusing and in some cases misunderstood. I hope the following explanation will help you to manage the requests when they arise in your schools. First, we must all acknowledge that "Religious Release Time" is the law. Thereby, it becomes incumbent upon all school leadership to ensure that we remain in compliance with regard to the mandates of this provision of Pennsylvania State Law. The provisions are as follows:

1. With written parental permission students are allowed to leave school for up to thirty-six hours per school year (normally one hour per week) for religious

training.

2. The school district and its representatives are to remain neutral with regard to the program. District officials are not to endorse or resist requests for release time. However, all must comply with submitted requests.
3. Students must be escorted by an adult when leaving the building for release time.
4. Religious Groups who offer release time services must be afforded the same opportunity to distribute information at school events (community nights, back to school, etc.) as other community organizations (Home & School, Boy Scouts, others).
5. Groups are allowed to hand flyers to students on the sidewalk outside of the school building (not within the school or on school grounds).

6. Photographs are allowed to be taken of the school and the students while outside of the school on the sidewalks (public property).

I hope that this brief memo is helpful to you in understanding this legal provision. Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Jim Scott, etc., etc.

We praise God for this communication from the Administration. God is working in our schools in Philadelphia through Christian Released Time and we encourage all schools to take advantage of this valuable opportunity.

Skilton House Ministries is ready to assist your church in getting involved with Christian Released Time. Please check our website www.skiltonhouseministries.org and call 215-646-1774 for an appointment.



OPERATION BROTHERHOOD 2011

As we look towards Operation Brotherhood 2011, we can't help but think of the many families that have been touched in the past twenty years through receiving food baskets and, most of all, the Word of God. We know that God is working in their lives in a mighty way and we praise Him and thank Him for what He is doing and what He will be doing in the lives of those we will touch in Operation Brotherhood 2011.

You Can Become Part of this Ministry by:

Praying for the funds to purchase turkeys and praying that donations of groceries will be ample to supply the requests.

Praying that churches will

become involved and assist in all ways in order to make this year's Operation Brotherhood a great success.

Praying for the families who have been identified so they will come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Then Take Action:

Place Operation Brotherhood 2011 dates on your church calendar. See the calendar on the Operation Brotherhood 2011 Flyer.

Send a representative to the planning meeting on Thursday, September 15, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at the Korean United Church of Philadelphia, 12th and Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia, PA.

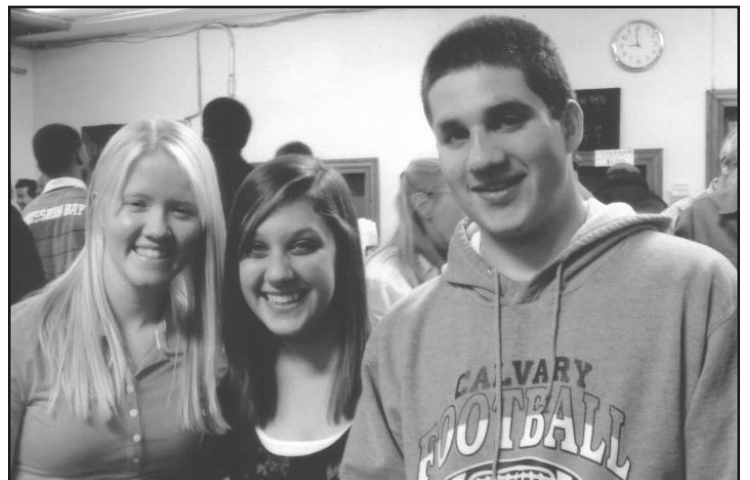
Copy and distribute flyers and invite your congregation to attend

the Rally. Set up carpools and get your youth involved.

Start collecting canned goods of green beans, corn, fruit, and stuffing. Contact your members, friends, merchants, and schools.

This year our emphasis is The Great Commission: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age." "All nations" includes your neighborhood in Philadelphia and the Suburbs.

May you and yours be blessed as we serve our Lord through Operation Brotherhood 2011.



Conestoga Bible Camp

This year, Skilton House Ministries will be partnering with the Conestoga Bible Camp to send 10 students who have attended Christian Released Time classes to camp for one week in August.

Conestoga Bible Camp is located in the rolling hills of Lancaster County and is just the perfect spot to learn about how God truly loves us. The camp offers a variety of activities along with Bible Study. They include horseback riding, rope course,

hiking, canoeing, archery, an on-site pool and gymnasium, and campfires at night where groups sing praises to God.

The camp theme this summer is "Amazing Grace" and the Bible verse is: "Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (Ephesians 6:1)

Please pray for our students to have a fantastic experience surrounded by the love of Jesus.



The President's Corner

By Mr. Durwin Parks

By the time you read this newsletter, the school year has come to an end. The summer break provides ministry opportunities such as attending a Christian camp. For many young people and adults, camp is a life-changing experience. We at Skilton House Ministries are delighted to sponsor approximately ten youths for Bible camp. These youths have attended the Christian Released Time during the school year. Can you imagine the thought of sponsoring future leaders in Philadelphia? Wow. We need your financial help to send even more youth to camp.

Plans for our upcoming Operation Brotherhood are well underway. The purpose of this Thanksgiving event is to share a meal and the good news that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. We will also partner with our good friends at the Philadelphia Bible Society to distribute portions of Scripture with the food baskets. Please pray for us. If you can help with time or talent, please contact us at –

director@skiltonhouse.org.

*Train up a child
in the way he should go,
and when he is old
he will not depart from it.*

PROVERBS 22:6



How to Start a CRT

- Establish interest in CRT in a local church
- Contact Skilton House Ministries
- Form a committee of interested church volunteers
- Select CRT curriculum
- Approach local school/district
- Establish the time and place for CRT
- Distribute permission slips
- Begin classes
- Keep attendance records and report these to school
- Hold special classes for holidays
- Hold a graduation ceremony at end of year
- Conduct annual evaluation of CRT
- Participate in teacher/volunteer training

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