



SKILTON HOUSE MINISTRIES

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The President's Corner ~Durwin Parks, President

Greetings everyone,

As I write, we are enjoying the summer season. We had an excellent Spring with beautiful crops. Praise the Lord.

Here at SHM, we have been reviewing our policies and procedures for Operation Brotherhood. On Tuesday, May 23, we had our first ever Spring Organizational Meeting for Operation Brotherhood in order to roll out the new policies. It was good to see many of you there. We had a sense that many of our partner churches are with us on the proposed changes. These are not changes to the mission or vision, just logistical and operational changes.

We also rolled out a packet outlining the new strategy that will help to ground Operation Brotherhood in the original vision of Dr. John Skilton. We are using the story of Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the destroyed walls of Jerusalem to develop our "Wall-Building Strategy." I would encourage you to read the details of the wall rebuilding in the book of Nehemiah.

Our strategy looks like this:

- A. Information
- B. Material
- C. Resources
- D. Funds
- E. Labor

See the following section for more details.

May God continue to bless all of you.

WALL-BUILDING STRATEGY

As we look back over the years of Operation Brotherhood, we see the need to return to the original mission of this Thanksgiving ministry. Pastor Henry Cooper was always fond of saying, "It's not about the turkeys." This reflects Dr. John Skilton's original vision as well. Operation Brotherhood is not about distributing turkeys; it is a ministry to save souls by reaching out with the Gospel and the love of Christ. So, as we seek to "re-build" Operation Brotherhood to the original vision, we have laid out a simple strategy. A full

version of this summarized information can be found in a packet generated by Cedrick and Ruthy Blakney, our directors of Operation Brotherhood. Please contact them at 267-973-8803 to request a copy or if you have questions.

A) Information – it's important to know the purpose of Operation Brotherhood and to communicate that to the volunteers in your church who are involved. This includes the following points:

- The turkeys are to give your church an opportunity to reach out to an unchurched family with the Gospel.
- Invite the receiving family to your church. This gives you a chance to connect further with them, instead of the turkey being a one-time interaction. More importantly, it is another way for them to hear the Gospel, besides the tract included in the food basket.

B) Material – request a copy of this packet. It lays out the mis-

sion of SHM and Operation Brotherhood, as well as more detail in how to use Operation Brotherhood.

C) Resources – the packet also contains helpful forms for purposefully planning financial support for Operation Brotherhood and to record testimonies that, we trust, will come from your faithful discipling of the families who receive turkeys.

D) Funds – one of the forms in the packet makes it easy for you and your church to set aside funds each month leading up to Operation Brotherhood. Even \$10 a month, or ten people giving a couple dollars a month will add up!

E) Labor – once we understand our mission and direction, it's time to put it into practice! Use the forms to easily set aside donations for Operation Brother-

hood 2023. Use the packet to keep you grounded in the mission and to inspire you as you compile your list of families to reach.

On a final note, please make sure we have your complete and correct contact information. This is important so we can keep you informed and also so SHM can prove that the turkeys and donations are, in fact, used to help real people.

Operation Brotherhood 2022 ~Jan Comanda

Operation Brotherhood 2022

Last year's Pastor Henry Cooper Memorial Picnic was held in early September at Mason's Mill Park. The organizational meeting for Operation Brotherhood was held at the picnic followed by food and games. Pastor Cedrick Blakney (Director, Operation Brotherhood) went over the new forms that we'll be using along with the schedule of deadlines.

The Operation Brotherhood Rally is held in different neighborhoods of Philadelphia each year. In 2022 the rally was held at Revival Christian Church in the Lawncrest section of Philadelphia. This is an opportunity for the churches to get some visibility in their neighborhoods. Let us know if your church would like to host the rally in the future.

On Thursday, November 17th,

we had the first of two packing nights at the Korean United Church. Schools and churches who collected canned goods brought them to be sorted and counted. We had supper together and then big bags of onions and potatoes arrived and were divided into family-sized bags. Chatting with old friends and meeting new friends made the work go quickly.

On Friday, November 18th, the second packing night was held. The worship service featured a welcome from Pastor Jin Kyu Park (Korean United Church), followed by brief messages from Sister Ruthy Blakney (Director, Operation Brotherhood), and Durwin Parks (President, Skilton House Ministries). The special music was provided by Charles Langley (El Shaddai Church). Pastor Cedrick Blakney gave the message. After closing prayer by Pastor Kevin Chapman (The Word

Church of Philadelphia), everyone trooped downstairs to begin packing the bags. With singing, snacking and chatting, the work was quickly accomplished.

Tuesday morning, November 22nd was a beautiful day, sunny and not too cold. The turkeys arrived at the Korean United Church parking lot. They were quickly unloaded from the truck, prayed over and divided up among the churches.

Here are the numbers for 2022: more than 50 churches and individuals donated money, 30 churches and 2 schools collected canned goods, more than 300 volunteers worked together packing bags, 27 churches distributed bags in their neighborhoods, 1,020 Philadelphia families received Thanksgiving meals along with a gospel tract (Philadelphia Bible Society) and an invitation to be a part of a local church.