

# SKILTON HOUSE MINISTRIES

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## *The President's Corner* ~Durwin Parks, President

Greetings everyone,

As I write, we are entering the summer season. We had an excellent spring with beautiful crops to enjoy. Praise the Lord.

Recently I heard a sermon on the seven churches in the book of Revelation. I thought, *What would be said of the modern day city here in Pennsylvania called Philadelphia?*

In Rev. 3:7-13, John writes to the angel of the church in Philadelphia. But what does that name mean? Matthew Henry's commentary says it was "its ancient name on account of the love and kindness which the citizens had shown to each other. This was an excellent spirit, and would render them an excellent church, for there is no one fault found with this church."

In verse 7, we find that the letter is signed by Jesus Himself. He alone is holy and true. Holy is His nature and therefore He is true to His word. Jesus opens the door of opportunity to the churches listed in Revelation—and to the churches and ministries of 2025. He also opens the door of the heart, not only to hear the word but to accept it as truth. He is the way, the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6).

So, for the church of Philadelphia to be commended by Him in v. 8 is noteworthy. True grace enables the Christian—weak as we are—to keep the word of Christ. I encourage you to read Revelation for the full context.

So what about us? The lamp has not completely gone out in Philadelphia, Pa. True-to-the-Word churches still preach Christ crucified. The Philadelphia Bible Society still hands out Scripture. Evangelism is still happening. Ministries like SHM still share the love of Christ with those we serve.

The battle is ongoing and tough, but by God's amazing grace, He helps us to keep on keeping on. So my friends, be encouraged.

What do you think? We would love to hear your thoughts. Our partners are responding to our wall-building strategy rolled out in 2023. For more information on our wall-building strategy, reach out to our directors, Cedrick and Ruthy Blakney, using one of the listed ways to contact us.

For the SHM team,  
Durwin Parks, President



## Operation Brotherhood 2024 ~Jan Comanda

When I became involved with Operation Brotherhood more than 20 years ago, I would not have predicted it would still be taking place in 2024 and that I would still be involved. There seemed to be so many things that could go wrong. Over the years, many things *have* gone wrong. But they have not brought an end to Operation Brotherhood.

In the early years, I was always nervous about whether there would be enough money, enough canned goods, the right number of turkeys, the right number of people showing up to help. It turns out that the right number for any of these things is what we have.

I worried about the weather. Would it rain or snow on the packing nights? It has done both. People arrived late but they still showed up. Would it rain or snow or be frigid on the Tuesday morning pickup? It has done all three and we survived with much shivering and joking about the many layers we were all wearing.

I worried about the truck being late. This often happens. Sometimes a traffic jam caused the truck to be late. Sometimes the truck would get lost. One year the truck parked on the other side of Korean United Church and then the driver couldn't get it started again to come into the lot to unload the turkeys.

There have been changes in the routines we use on Packing Night. We used to leave all the bags in the gym on the lower level of Korean United, and then would have to move them again on Saturday. For the last several years we put the bags straight into a trailer so they could be picked up on Tuesday when the turkeys get picked up.

This year we planned to use the trailer again but the truck bringing the trailer to Korean United broke down. Another change in plan. We put the bags in one of the larger rooms at Korean United and asked people to come on Saturday to move them into the trailer. Folks came, the



work got done and everything was ready for Tuesday pickup.

Here is what I have learned over the years working with Operation Brotherhood. God is faithful. I don't have to be anxious. Problems arise but the volunteers who come are flexible and cooperative. We're all here to do God's work and to do it with a good attitude. Praise the Lord!

Operation Brotherhood 2024 reached 1,200 families with a gospel tract, a bag of food, and a turkey.

We would like to personally thank you for your participation in Operation Brotherhood 2024. We appreciate the dedication and sacrifice you all made to make Operation Brotherhood 2024 successful in showing love and a passion for the opportunity to spread the gospel of Jesus. As the late Pastor Henry Cooper would say, "It's not about the turkeys."

We are really excited for this new year, Operation Brotherhood 2025. We believe by the grace of God this will be one of the best years that Operation Brotherhood has ever seen, and it starts with all of you. This year we are combining our first meeting with an "Open House Meeting" on Thursday, Sept. 4, at 7:00 p.m. at the Korean United Church.

We ask all of you to invite your pastors, family, or friends with a church to come to the open house meeting. At this meeting, they will have the opportunity to gain an understanding of the Operation Brotherhood mission and how they can become a part of that mission. We will have literature, and light refreshments will be served. We look forward to serving with you in 2025.

God Bless,  
Pastor Cedrick & Ruthy Blakney

*Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another. —Romans 12:10*