



November 2006

Dear Friends:

Thanksgiving is past, but we continue to be thankful for the opportunity to minister to the at-risk youth and juvenile offenders we serve here in Maine. As we get to know them, we begin to see them through the eyes of God and come to love them. We are often the first to present them with the Gospel message of forgiveness and the love of Christ. And many respond.

Their questions are often deep, personal and refreshing. We sometimes have to come back with answers the following week. They're considerably different from youth in local churches. Most have addictions. Nearly all are sexually active and many are parents. Nearly all have been emotionally, physically and/or sexually abused. Most struggle academically. Most are from broken and dysfunctional homes in which parents share the same demons as theirs. Very few have ever attended church or read the Bible.

We don't ask, but we often become aware of the wide variety of crimes these young people have committed. Many are property crimes committed to support a drug or alcohol habit. Many are committed under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Some have committed sexual or violent crimes or even murder.

Many come believing they cannot be forgiven. When they mention this, we often point to David - the man after God's own heart. He committed adultery and murder, but God still loved, forgave and used him for His purposes. We explain that, like David, their actions have consequences, but God can still love, forgive and use them. All are amazed by the grace and forgiveness that God offers them through His Son.

We're also thankful to be working with wonderfully dedicated volunteers that serve with us in this ministry. Each volunteer serves in a juvenile residential facility near his or her home. Each spends time preparing a weekly study, meeting with the young people, driving to and from the facility and e-mailing the weekly prayer requests to our prayer coordinator to distribute to prayer partners. Many count their time with these young people as a highlight of their week.

We're thankful also for the willingness of those we work with within facilities and programs to allow us to serve them. Chaplains, program directors and others are often highly supportive and appreciative of our efforts and our volunteers. They are dedicated men and women committed to the youth for whom they

have been made responsible.

Finally, we are thankful to all of you that enable us to carry out this ministry. Many of you provide necessary prayer and financial support. Thank you for being a ministry partner in this work. We appreciate you greatly.

In Christ,

**Dan Hatch**

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***Dan & Carol Hatch-November '06***

***Praise and Prayer Requests***

***Ministry***

- Praise for two recently trained volunteers for studies at Mountain View in Charleston.
- Please pray that they will move quickly through the volunteer process at Mt. View and be pressed into serve soon.
- Please pray for three volunteers for Long Creek in South Portland. We need one for the girl's unit and two for an additional boy's study.
- Please pray for two volunteers for Stepping Stones in Houlton. We have several that have expressed an interest in serving there. We are following-up with them.
- Praise for an opportunity to further serve Good Will-Hinckley in November. Our home church has a weekly teen service and that ministry team and band provided this chapel service. All were blessed.
- Please pray for added volunteers for Good Will Hinckley for programs open to added studies.

***Personal***

- Praise for the healthy delivery of Caydence Riley Hatch to our son Matt and daughter-in-law Danielle on October 12. All are well
- Praise for a good vacation with our son Matt and family in NH. They purchased a fixer-upper home in Milford and moved over Thanksgiving weekend. Carol and I served on the cleaning and moving crews.

***Financial Report (Fiscal Year is Apr to Mar)***

	<u>Oct '06</u>		<u>Year-To-Date</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Receipts	\$24,558	\$6,333	\$56,753	\$44,333
Expenses	\$15,560	\$6,333	\$48,769	\$44,333

Donations are welcomed and can be sent to Straight Ahead Ministry, 100 Grove Street, Worcester, MA 01605. Please designate "Maine" on check memo line.