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# MISSIONMATTERS

Allegany Region Missions provides a multi-denominational Christian mission ministry to the needy of the world, through a focus on mission projects and programs in medical care, surgery, construction and education.



## In Memory of Sam Huffman

On February 25, 2006, Sam Huffman was called Home. The founder of The Depot ministry of ARM, the suddenness of his departure was felt deeply by his family and friends. Sam's dedication to serving others in the name of Jesus Christ was well known locally and internationally. Pastor Bernato in Gallette, Haiti, sums up the thoughts of many of us, "Sam charmed us by his love, his way, his generosity and his courage. Alas! We lost a friend and a brother."

## The ARM Depot Store

To follow Christ's lead by providing hope to people in their time of physical and spiritual need through ministries of immediate care and programs providing life and job skill foundational development. *The Depot Mission Statement*

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.* *Matthew 25:35-36*

God's plans keep us humbled and amazed—He is in control at all times. This thought arose from the unexpected death of Sam Huffman (who began The Depot ministry), when thoughts of "who will take Sam's place" began to surface. Obviously, no one will ever replace Sam, but our Lord was keeping His eye on ARM and on The Depot ministry even before our sorrow began. Looking back with ever-strong 20/20 hindsight, God was preparing volunteers (and still is) to take up the ministry where Sam left off.

The Depot is now operating with a team approach using a growing number of volunteers. The Falconer Depot Store is coordinated by Linda Jackson and the Randolph Depot Store is coordinated by Chuck Lindberg with additional volunteer support from Mary Jo Lindberg and Peggy Wilsie. Linda worked alongside Sam and now welcomes the challenge and joy of serving in an expanded role. Her heart for ministry has helped the Falconer Depot continue to flourish and grow. The Lindberg family has been an active part of the Depot ministry since its inception. We are grateful that Chuck has stepped out in faith and has taken a leadership role in the Randolph Depot ministry.

As the Mission Statement indicates, the ARM Depot Store is evolving from a clothing ministry to a broader "people focused ministry." Our current Depot work staff is involved with the social service organizations and these individuals have opened our eyes to areas of need in their lives. Clothing, which provides immediate help, will continue to be an important focus of the Depot, however, the bigger mission vision is to assist with spiritual support as well as life skill and job skill education and development that will help to permanently improve their lives. We also hope to refer those requiring care beyond what the Depot can offer to other partnering faith based or community agencies. ARM's prayer is to help meet needs by using volunteers to make a lasting, life-changing difference. If you feel God pulling at your heart to give some of your time and resources, let Him use you to provide hope in the lives of others.

### The Depot VISION

As Jesus Christ calls us to care for one another in Matthew 25:35-40, the ARM Depot desires to show His love in our actions as we join His call to care and serve in the following areas and wherever our Lord will lead:

- 1). Operation of a Depot Store for supplying the immediate local needs for clothing, household items and bicycles.
  - a). at low cost to shoppers, in care to our local community.
  - b). at no cost through a referral system, in cooperation with community agencies, churches and ministries as they refer individuals and families for care.
  - c). coordinate with other faith based organizations to provide for additional assistance.
- 2). With ARM volunteers and a collaboration with other faith based and community agencies, provide a broad range of support solutions including spiritual, life and job skill development to those in need in our community.
- 3). Provide a site for individuals to perform community service work while also providing hope for an improved life.
- 4). Establish an organization to involve individuals, churches and organizations in Christian service through volunteering of their time and resources in assisting those in need in our area.

### ACCOMPLISHING THE VISION

To accomplish the vision set before us, volunteers in Depot ministry:

- 1). Share the love and compassion of our Lord in word and deed.
- 2). Develop meaningful life skill and job skill development programs through cooperation with EECB, Chautauqua One Stop and other appropriate social service agencies.
- 3). Collaborate with St. Susan's, Helping Hands, other faith based organizations and local churches to provide a broad foundation of faith based support.
- 4). Operate the ARM Depot as a retail training lab for purposes of job skill development in retail operations.
- 5). Develop a bicycle ministry that can be used as a training lab for bicycle repair and mechanical skill development.
- 6). Coordinate the delivery of bicycles to local, national and international ministries.

## ☆ *The Depot Ministry Needs YOU* ☆

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Call ARM at 716-358-9126

- Drivers of vans or covered pick-ups to be on a call list for picking up cloths at regular and intermittent times and locations
- **Job skill trainers**—retail operation, interview skills, etc.
- **Life-skill trainers**—budgeting, parenting, dietetics, etc.
- **Support volunteers**—set up collaboration with area churches, etc.
- **Spiritual-growth volunteers**—Bible study, story time, etc.
- **A Fix-it**—to work with donated computers, fax machine, copier, etc.

**RESOURCES NEEDED:** Call ARM at 716-358-9126

- Coffee, creamer, sugar (a hot pot is always available at the Depot)
- Plastic grocery/shopping bags (clean please)
- Magic mending tape, clear package tape, paper
- A bicycle tire pump (electric) & socket set—Metric and English

## The Depot moves to a new location

In May, the Falconer Depot Store will be moving to its new location in the Gateway Center at the corner of Foote & Water Streets (in the old Chautauqua Hardware building) in Jamestown. The Depot will be joining other ministries, including St. Susan's Kitchen and Helping Hands, as together we serve in Jesus' name.

Come and shop in The Depot Store and help support your ministry. Come and volunteer your time in helping shape the future of Depot workers. Questions? Call ARM at 716-358-9126



## Faith Academy Ready to Open This Fall

Affectionately known as "Fan Fan's school," Faith Academy's construction in Haiti is coming to completion and enrollment for Fall classes, kindergarten through 6th grade, has begun.

To hire top-quality teachers, sponsors are needed. For \$1500/year, a teacher can teach 30 students tuition-free, providing quality education and a bright future for each student.



For more information on the Teacher Sponsorship Program, contact ARM at 716-358-9126 or [info@armissions.org](mailto:info@armissions.org).

## Updates on Mission Teams and Fundraising

February 2006—ARM held its second annual Dessert-Music-Auction event. Thank you to all who donated items, helped the evening go so smooth and to all who purchased items for this fundraiser. ARM was able to raise \$5,751, 100% of which goes toward ministry endeavors.



January 2006—teams with multiple focuses went to Haiti with many blessings to share. The Women's

Health Clinics brought wonderful care to some Haitian women. The Mobile Medical team saw over 748 patients in 4½ days of clinics. The VBS team had great stories of fun and laughter with Jesus as the center. Two team members spent time on special projects, including flannel graph Bible teaching and a study on utilizing a methane digester to generate electricity for Galette.



April 2006—teams just returned with Jesus-blessed stories of their time in Haiti. The VBS team had a grand time sharing the love of Christ through skits and other fun. The Mobile Medical team saw over 634 patients in 4 days of clinics. The construction team completed 75 school desks for Fan Fan's Faith Academy.



May 2006—a team just left for Waveland, Mississippi to help in the continuing hurricane relief through rebuilding, plumbing, electrical work, painting and more. Keep this team in your prayers; they return May 7th.



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How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! 1 John 3:1a