

the WORKDAY

building relationships ■ rebuilding saint louis

A Newsletter of Workday, a ministry of Restore St. Louis

December, 2015

Widow is able to leave home easily for first time in years

When I started working with Workday, I had no idea how much joy I would have serving others and being used by God to meet basic needs like getting out of one's house. Every widow we go to glorifies God and says how much Workday has been a blessing to them.

My first week I met Mrs. Dickerson, a wonderful Christian lady who is wheelchair bound. She asked us to fix a gaping hole in her bathroom floor so it would be safe for her to use. We got to talking and I discovered that she hadn't been able to go outside easily for five years. Can you imagine that?

For five years, she's been unable to go shopping, unable to go to church, unable to go outside, or unable to visit friends (unless someone helped her down).

As soon as I left I called Paul, my coworker, and told him the need. By God's grace we had just enough money from a grant to build one more wheelchair ramp, and the money needed to be spent that day. We were able to get started on it almost immediately. At the same time we got



Mrs. Dickerson is shown above on the new ramp built by Workday volunteers. Before

Mrs. Dickerson involved with Health Connection, another ministry of Restore St Louis, to see if we could help her work through the health care system and find an affordable plan. On our November Workday we finished the ramp and the following week Paul and I took her out to eat, a treat she had not experienced in a long time. Praise God for His wonderful care!

I have very little experience organizing projects, enlist-

ing volunteers, or pursuing avenues of ministry. Yet, I stand amazed because it's not me doing much at all, it is God working in and through the supporters, volunteers and prayer warriors who are constantly lending their aid. I'm humbled because while I am panicking and trying to make sure every last detail gets covered, God is quietly at work preparing the groundwork for his kingdom to be enacted.

By Trevin Hoot

Lumber theft reveals how God provides

Perhaps for the first time in Workday's history, someone stole about \$300 worth of lumber from one of our Workday construction sites. Although the incident was extremely frustrating, the ensuing events show how God provides.

After the theft, the team went to the hardware store and bought more lumber. The following Monday, Trevin Hoot, our South City Coordinator, came into our staff meeting with an unmarked envelope. I was surprised to find \$100 bills inside with other cash totaling \$309 dollars...enough to cover the lumber that was stolen!

The surprise gift came from a volunteer who had been talking to his landlord about the Workday Ministry and what we do. After the conversation, the landlord handed the volunteer an envelope loaded with cash. The landlord said the money had been turned in to him by someone who had found it on the property. Unable to find out who it belonged to, the manager decided to give the money to Workday.

There are many challenges in building ramps...from obtaining financing, permits and tools, to organizing volunteers, and then building the structure! The story of Christmas is that God supplies our needs!

Our Father provides for our sins in Jesus Christ. Our



God used the unfortunate theft of lumber from the Workday wheelchair construction site shown above to show how He provides!

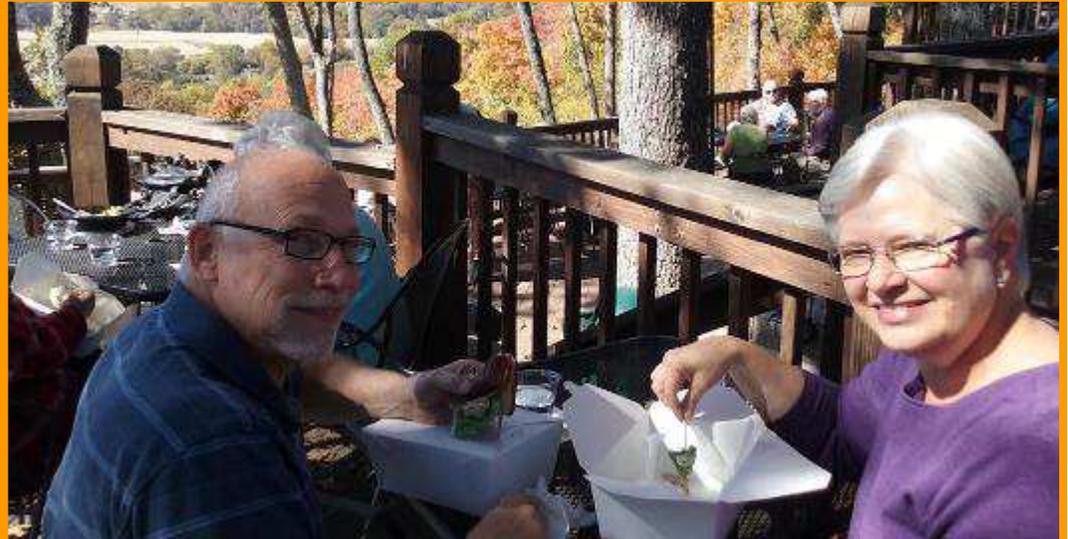
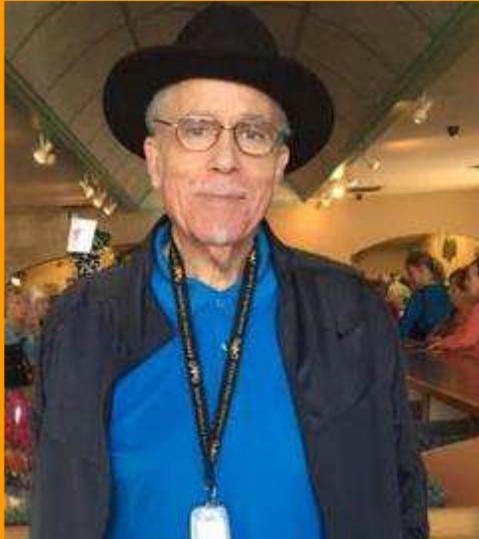


Savior is the only remedy for our stolen lumber, our fights, the racism that divides us, the greed that consumes us, and the lust that corrupts us. Only Jesus can

forgive our sins, heal what has been broken, and provide for what has been stolen. Merry Christmas from the Workday team!

By Andrew Stern

JOY Group sojourns to Augusta view Fall foliage



Jesus calls us to work among the poor

Jesus spent most of his time among the poor and neglected of society, and he challenges us to follow his lead. At one point we see Jesus interacting with a demon-possessed man. No one in his town wanted the yelling and uncontrollable man nearby. He was a crazy mess who lived among the tombs. It is likely that the poor lived nearby, relegated to the undesirable parts on the outside of town. As in Jesus' day, our society wants to keep those with "problems" out of the way. "It is better for everyone!"

Jesus is constantly challenging our notions of what is best. According to our Savior, best is actually for those who are diseased, downtrodden and needy to be welcomed by those with resources. Why? The rich need the poor and the poor need the rich. This is the way the Kingdom of God is expressed and built up.

Recently, I was amazed by a man in his seventies who comes repeatedly to bless a woman who needs a wheelchair ramp. The gentleman worked a full day making the wooden frames for the ramp and then mixed and poured concrete for the piers of the ramp. He has been very successful in life and has been rewarded well for his work. Most in our society (if they were honest), would even say he is wasting his time by building a ramp for this poor widow. "She may die tomorrow! What use is that ramp?! You have valuable skills. It would be more effective if you used your managerial skills to bless the poor rather than mix concrete. Isn't it her own fault she's in such bad health?"

The widow lives "among the tombs" of St. Louis. When I was there, tires squealed nearby as gang members probably chased after each other or ran

away from police. Still, my friend quietly, faithfully kept on working. When he talks about the widows he helps, he tearfully thanks God for the blessing they are to him.

Jesus challenges us to faithfully work among the poor. We are to share the Good News that Jesus has come to save us from our sin and to release us from the bonds of injustice. Jesus approaches the poor and he heals them, he blesses them, he feeds them, he raises them from the dead, he sits their children on his lap, he opens their blind eyes, he makes them walk, he pays their debts... In God's righteousness and power, Jesus invites us to do the same!

By Andrew Stern

Please pray about giving to Workday

Workday needs to raise \$20,000 by the end of the year. We need the funds to continue to build wheelchair ramps, repair widows' homes, reach out to refugees and much more. **Please consider giving a tax-deductible donation to the Workday ministry.**

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