



BICC NETWORK

BICC exists to unite churches along with community organizations, in Cleveland/ Bradley County to address the root/systemic causes of the social, cultural/ethnic and economic issues in this area.

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Summer 2009

“NOW FAITH”

by Brenda Hughes

In the New Testament letter to the Hebrews, the writer in Chapter 11:1 says, “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of things we do not see.” (NIV)

We know that the writer used the word “now” as an opening conjunction, a transition to introduce the subject of faith in greater detail.

But I believe we can also think of “now” as a descriptor of faith as in “Now Faith”—or present faith in that faith must always be perceived as a present reality. It is “Now Faith” in many ways, faith for present needs, for the current situations of life. Faith in the

God of “Today” (Hebrews 4:7) is “Now Faith”.

What implications does this have for the church and community today? In the here and now?

Our world, which is bombarded by media on every hand, is brought together through the common thread of pain and suffering on a magnitude that would threaten to intimidate a faithful response. From personal, family, church and community level needs, to state, national and global crises—on every hand there are real needs, urgent needs that cry out for a



“Now Faith” that is able to respond through God’s grace to intervene in the lives of the lost, sick and suffering.

In Hebrews 10:35 the writer tells us “not to throw away our confidence” — our assurance —

our faith in “God who remains faithful forever” (Psalm 146:6).

Throughout chapter 11 the writer gives an extended list of faithful people who by their faith left examples to those who would come after them—including each of us today. The faith that sustained them is the same faith—the “Now Faith”—that will not only sustain God’s people today but will empower us

through the Spirit to respond in faith.

In the light of present day realities, what are the things we hope for? What are the things we desire to see? “Now Faith” is the substance...is the response. God has given each of us not only a measure of faith, but through that faith access to resources.

Giving in faith does not diminish the source, but expands the source to even greater capacity to give.

May we be found faithfully living out the call of Christ—love of God and love of neighbor—in the legacy of those who have gone before us and for the sake of those who will come after us. ✎

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COMING EVENTS

(See backs for more information)

July 20

BICC Open House

September 12

ITLT Youth Conference

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Inspiring Tomorrow’s Leaders Today (ITLT) is hosting the second major Youth Leadership Conference scheduled for Saturday, September 12 from 12:00 noon until 8:00 pm at the Boys and Girls Club - Tucker Unit.

This year’s theme is “*You say you hear me, but are you listening?*” The Conference will have interactive workshops for teens and adults, a youth talent show, and a keynote motivational speaker (TBA).

There is no cost for attending the Conference, but those wanting to attend must register either on line at <www.bicc-inc.org>, or call Desmond Wellington at 559-1112.

ITLT is a youth leadership program that is preparing today’s teens with leadership skills and opportunities to succeed in life and make an impact on our culture and society.

Special thanks to Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative and the Bradley Memorial Hospital Fund through the United Way for the generous support to make this conference possible.

For more information email dwellington@bellsouth.net or call 559-1112.

ITLT members discuss youth challenges, and ways to stay focused and pursue excellence at a 2008 Youth Leadership Conference



YOU ARE INVITED TO OPEN HOUSE!

BICC is having Open House on July 20 at the new offices located at 2810 Westside Drive, Suite E.

You are invited to come and bring your family and friends for a drop-in time to meet members of the Board and staff, and enjoy a tour of the new office facility. Open House hours will be between 11:30 and 1:30. Lite refreshments will be served.

Special thanks to SkyRidge Medical Center for their generous hospitality for providing the office space to BICC.

We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information call the BICC office at 559-1112 or email 4bicc@bellsouth.net.

A "NOW FAITH" IN ACTION

BRIDGING THE GAP (BTG)

It is off to a retreat for the BTG mentees and mentors due to the wonderful gift of a grant from the Rotary Club of Cleveland. BTG was selected as one of the recipients of the Rotary Club's community grants.

The Mentee/Mentor retreat will be July 31 through August 1 and will be held at Horn's Creek, Ocoee, TN. The Retreat will be two days of fun filled educational activities designed to bond the relationship between the mentees and their mentors.



Daljuania Garner was on hand to witness her mentee, Kayla Hammonds, win 1st place in a recent 4H competition at Ocoee Middle School.

To become a mentor, or enter your child in BTG contact Sonia Calvin at 559-1112 or <scalvin@bellsouth.net>.

STARFISH

Starfish is an in-home parent-education program available to parents with children prenatal to age five. Starfish parent-educators visit with parents and children in the home each month bringing individualized lesson plans and activities from *Parents as Teachers* curriculum. The program offers a comprehensive resource network as well to assist parents with their needs and goals.

Special thanks to the Bradley Memorial Hospital Endowment through United Way, in addition to the United Thank Offering and the Opportunity Grant through the Episcopal Church national and diocesan offices for their support to make Starfish a reality.

For more information call Corinne Freeman at 559-1112 or email corinnefreeman@bellsouth.net



BRADLEY SAVINGS INITIATIVE

Bradley Savings Initiative is an Individual Development Account savings program that offers a dollar-for-dollar match for participants' savings

Your savings can earn 100% as you save toward:

1. Homeownership
2. Post-secondary Education
3. Small business start-up or expansion

Receive 12 weeks of money management classes on a variety of relevant topics at no cost. Open exciting new doors to your future by joining the many others in the program now!

For more information about the program guidelines and how you can join contact Margaret Gilbert at 559-1112 or email gilbert_margaret@bellsouth.net



REACH ADULT HIGH SCHOOL

REACH is a full-fledged high school in the Bradley County School System that offers opportunities for individuals whose education was interrupted to complete their traditional high school diploma.



In May '09 a total of 150 adults have graduated from REACH. For more information call 473-8473.

Special Thanks

to all the churches, businesses, organizations, foundations, individuals and families who support BICC through your time, talent and treasure.

God Bless!

Bradley Initiative Credit Union (BICU)

BICU is a community development credit union that offers a range of financial services including loans, savings accounts, money wires, financial counseling and others.



Visit the credit union at 1075 Blythe Avenue to learn more about how you can become a part of this valuable resource in our community. For more information contact Denis Collins (manager) at 559-1181.

BICC needs your support!

For more information about how to be involved or to donate contact:

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