



February Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the community of Wellston
- Health for the McGarry family
- Wisdom in upcoming decisions
- God's financial provision for MTC and the McGarry's
- Provision for the family apartment

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2007 Was a Year of Great Progress

2007 was an exciting year with several milestones achieved for More Than Carpentry.

The Toolbox was created to communicate with the growing number of volunteers, donors and others interested in the mission of More Than Carpentry. It is usually published monthly and is currently mailed or emailed to over 650 people from coast to coast. It is also published on the website, where archived copies are available for those interested in reading past issues.

Hundreds of volunteers served thousands of hours in 2007 renovating the building in Wellston. All demolition on the top floor was completed. The wood shop on the first floor is nearly complete and ready to build cabinets. The lower level was emptied and reorganized and is almost ready to begin construction on an apartment for the McGarry family.

Our web site was started and developed in 2007. It

is a place where those interested in learning more about the ministry can check us out. Late in the year the web site was updated to include the option of making donations to MTC using PayPal. Several donors are already taking advantage of this opportunity. We strive to keep the web site up-to-date with current information.

The Windows to Wellston Campaign was begun in July of 2007 to raise funds to replace and repair all the windows in the building. With 130 windows in all, this project seemed insurmountable. But God is faithful and His people began to support this ongoing campaign immediately. With the funds raised we were able to replace the broken front entrance to the building.

In September More Than Carpentry hosted its 1st Annual Open House. With building tours, live entertainment, a roasted pig and a little rain, we had a great time with nearly 200 people in attendance. Volunteers,

donors, local politicians, church representatives, friends and family all came to celebrate the progress of the ministry.

In October, More Than Carpentry received non-profit 501(c)(3) status from the IRS. In addition, the State of Missouri has approved non-profit status and the United States Postal Service approved MTC's application for non-profit mailing, which will greatly reduce the mailing cost of the monthly newsletters.

October also saw the launch of the Lumber Club, a fundraising campaign which raises financial support for the McGarry family as they work to develop the ministry of More Than Carpentry. They raised 25% of their support goal by the end of the year.

As you can see, 2007 was a busy year and God has blessed in many ways. Thank you for your participation with us. None of this could have happened without you!

Volunteer Opportunities

2nd Saturday Work Day:

February 9: 9am-2pm

Come to help prepare the basement for a family apartment. Please wear work boots and work gloves. Bring a sack lunch and a willingness to get dirty as you serve the Lord.



“Looking ahead at the mountains yet to climb can be a little intimidating.”



Make MTC a service project for your group:

Do you belong to a Bible Study or community group that wants to participate in a service project? Consider MTC as an option as we work toward completion of the building renovations. All skill levels are welcome. Please contact the office (314.315.7817) for more information or to schedule your group project.

Volunteer Jobs Available:

Data Entry
 Organizing the Office
 Cleaning
 Various Administrative Tasks
 Skilled Construction labor including framing, plumbing and electrical for the construction of the McGarry apartment

What is next for MTC in 2008

While looking back at 2007 and seeing God’s faithfulness is encouraging, looking ahead at the mountains yet to climb can be a little intimidating. Well, to be honest it can be downright discouraging. We always marvel at God’s provision as we continue on this path one step at a time.

We begin this year with a focus on moving our family into Wellston.

We have spent much time discussing and praying about God’s plan for this. At this time it appears that building an apartment in the lower level of the building is the best option available to us. We are making plans and have already begun taking steps toward that goal. It is our desire to minister to the community of Wellston as residents, not outsiders or just business owners.

The lower level has 10’ ceilings and windows which will allow for plenty of natural light. Also, it has several exits for safety. We plan to sell our home in South City and move to Wellston as soon as we can.

You will be hearing more about this plan soon. In the meantime, please pray for God’s provision and wisdom for this next step.

New Database Helps Track Information

With over 650 people on the MTC mailing list, and growing every day, it has become difficult to track the necessary information for contacts, donors and volunteers with our existing software.

Recently, MTC invested in

a program which is designed for non-profit organizations to manage this information. Tammy has begun the process of importing the information to the new program and configuring it for use with email and other communications with you.

We will notify you when this transfer is complete to confirm your information is accurate. Thank you for your patience as we take this necessary step. Pray for Tammy as she learns and uses this new program.

2007 Giving Statements

Many of you have responded to the Windows to Wellston and Lumber Club campaigns. We are so grateful for your willingness to support the mission of More Than Carpentry. It is honoring and humbling that you consider this ministry worthy of your support. In addition, many of you continually send notes of encouragement along with your support. These words of encouragement mean more to us than we can possibly express. They are always received when we need encouragement.

On several occasions we received phone calls from friends letting us know that we are being prayed for. They couldn't have known how desperately we needed to hear those words at the moment they called. Thank you for your continued encouragement and support. We could not keep going on without it.

On January 31, 2008, we mailed statements to those who made donations to More Than Carpentry during 2007. If you made a donation to the ministry but made your check payable to Memorial

Presbyterian Church, your giving statement will come from Memorial. We are only sending giving statements to those who made checks or gave donations directly to More Than Carpentry. If you believe you should receive a statement from MTC and have not, please contact Tammy @ 314.315.7817.

Thank you again for your prayers, support and encouragement. Please continue to pray for More Than Carpentry and the McGarry family.



We covet your prayers!

Please Consider Becoming a Financial Partner in 2008

Yes, Jim and Tammy, I (we) _____ would like to partner with you and More Than Carpentry as you minister to individuals through apprenticeship-training and education in carpentry integrating Christian discipleship and life skills as follows:

___ I would like to make a donation to the **Windows to Wellston Campaign** as follows:
 (These funds are restricted for the purchase or repair of windows.)
 \$ _____

___ I would like to make a pledge at the following **Lumber Club Level**:
 (These funds are for the McGarry's support.)
 2x4 ___ 4x4 ___ 6x6 ___ 1x12 ___ Other _____. (Please check an option below.)

My commitment is for ___ one year ___ two years.

___ Enclosed is my one-time gift as follows:
 (These funds are unrestricted.)
 \$100 ___ \$200 ___ \$500 ___ \$1,000 ___ Other \$ _____

___ I would like this gift/pledge to remain anonymous.

Thank you for your tax deductible donation!

To show your support of MTC, please return this response card along with your contact information to:

More Than Carpentry
 Christian Ministries
 1259 Stephen Jones Ave.
 St. Louis, MO 63133

Rehab of MTC Building Continues

"In addition to the family transition, MTC will see a lot of transition as well."

The current building renovation project consists of constructing a new office space along the front of the building to the right of the entry door. The space which is currently used for the office is being converted to a showroom for customers to view cabinet samples and options.

The showroom will display merchandise of Classic Carpentry Unlimited, Inc. and will eventually showcase the work of apprentice carpenters in the More Than Carpentry training program. In addition the showroom will offer a line of builder-grade cabinets.

The office and showroom renovations are necessary for the success of the business and ministry, providing a clean, organized environment for staff and customers.

2008 Rings in Challenges for the McGarry family

We want to share with you the upcoming challenges we face and humbly ask you to please keep us in your prayers.

The New Year began with a renewed excitement for the work in Wellston, but the first month proved to be a challenge. It began with everyone in the McGarry family coming down with the flu. Even the kids who were home from college and military training became ill. Since then, everyone has been passing around a variety of viruses. We are just now beginning to get back to normal. Because of the time off, the New Year has begun with a sense of being behind. The January newsletter was never written, hence this combined edition. This is a busy time of year. In addition to the year-end administrative work, planning for 2008 is in full swing; i.e. mission trips,

work days, ministry presentations, etc. Please pray that God will help us keep our priorities in order.

In March our son, James, is to graduate from his military training. He and Jessica, our oldest daughter have both been accepted into the Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, CA. They plan to move there in April and share living expenses. Their school begins the first week of May. This is a major transition for the McGarry's, sending two kids out to CA where they will go to school year-round for three years.

This year we expect to sell our home and move our family into an apartment into the building in Wellston. This will significantly lower our family's living expenses. However, this is another

major transition for our family. While we are excited about the adventure ahead we are sad to say goodbye to our home of 13 years in South City.

In addition to the family transition, MTC will see of transition as well. With the office/showroom project and the apartment construction, we strive to manage the many administrative tasks as well as beginning the task of grant writing.

We know God uses these circumstances for our good. We are grateful for the support, prayers and encouragement of our family, friends, volunteers and donors.

Even with so much work to do and the transition 2008 brings, we are excited about the road that lies ahead and we love what we are doing!

"We are excited about the road that lies ahead and we love what we are doing."

Financial Update

Nearly \$48,000 was donated to More Than Carpentry in 2007. Jim continues to operate Classic Carpentry Unlimited, Inc. to help provide for the needs of our family and to pay for operating expenses of the building. However, because of the time invested in More Than Carpentry, Jim was only able to work part-time for Classic Carpentry in 2007, grossing only \$48,000 from sales, down from the average gross sales of \$250,000. It costs \$144,000 annually to pay for operating expenses and wages to support our family. The sale of the

rental property covered the gap this year. Though our living expenses will decrease by moving to Wellston, our operating expenses will increase as we hire staff and apprentices.

Because of this financial short-fall we have had to make the hard decision to host fewer mission trips in 2008. We have been so blessed by volunteers who are willing to come and work along side us and we love hosting the trips, but the cost to our family is just too great. When we host a mission trip, Jim cannot sell and build

cabinetry. Until More Than Carpentry provides enough funding through donations and grants, Jim must continue working to provide for the family.

We have invested ourselves completely in this ministry because we know God has called us to it. But it is really scary for us to not have a financial "cushion" to fall back on if needed. That demands a whole new level of faith that God is growing in us.

God is faithful! He has provided for us miraculously so far and He will continue to do so!

We owe you an apology!

As you may have personally experienced, we have "dropped the ball" so to say, with a very important task that has gone undone. Many of you have donated money and time to support the ministry, the Windows to Wellston campaign, and the McGarry family, but have not received a thank you note acknowledging your gift. Please forgive this downfall. It is not an oversight, for we, Jim and Tammy, constantly said to each other, "We need to get the thank you notes out."

We are very aware of the importance of expressing our gratitude to you, our supporters. However, with the overwhelming amount of work that needs to be done in addition to caring for our family, we just can't get everything done. We realize that acknowledging your gift is important and we should have made time to do so. We sincerely apologize and pray for God's grace to help us make time for what is priority, you, and to let go of the little things that distract us from what is really important.

Please know that you are important to us. Please also forgive our inadequacy. We still can't figure out why God chose two people who are probably the most inadequate for this job. We trust that His grace is sufficient for us and His power is made perfect in our weakness.

Thank you for your patience with us. And thank you for supporting MTC. May God richly bless you as you bless us with your friendship, prayers and support.

"We trust that His grace is sufficient for us and His power is made perfect in our weakness."

More than Carpentry Christian Ministries

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.morethancarpentry.org

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Our Purpose...

To minister to the physical and spiritual needs of individuals through apprenticeship-training and education in carpentry integrating Christian discipleship and life skills.



CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES
1259 Stephen Jones Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63133