



THE SOUNDS OF “THE REFUGE”

Volume 3, Issue 1

Son Set Ministries, Inc.

Jan 1, 2008



Inside this issue:

The Year In Review	1
Fairway Outdoor Advertising Partners with SSM	2
Staying True to the Model of Nehemiah	2
Needs of The Refuge	2
Board Sets Goals for 2008	3
Methodist Conference Recognizes Erasing the Lines	3
Devotion	4

Available on our Web Site:

- *Web site:*
(www.thesonsetrefuge.com)
- *Architectural Rendering*
- *Work Team Volunteer Waivers*
- *Previous Newsletters*
- *Photos of Progress at the Refuge*
- *Erasing the Lines Photos*

The Year in Review

In looking back at 2007, much of the year seems to be just a blur. As we begin our second year of operations, fundraising and marketing, we want first and foremost to thank you for your support of this ministry. We recognize that we are but one of thousands of worthwhile non-profit organizations competing for hard earned dollars and so we are especially grateful to you as we grow in these early years of development. All of us recognize that when someone gives you a bucket to carry water, you may have to use that bucket to first dig the well, but eventually, you had better start bringing back some water. In 2007, we did a lot of digging, but we also carried some water.

So what did we accomplish in 2007? We completed the detailed master plan for The Refuge to include the infrastructure necessary to support the long-term goals. This included final renderings of the much needed cabins and dining facility. We hired a full-time Executive Director to develop programming and to promote the Refuge; we conducted a very successful Erasing the Lines in Kinston with over 120 youth and 40 adults; we reached out to another 185 youth at the annual Fall Retreat weekend; we brought numerous groups of inner-city youth to The Refuge where they learned to fish, hike and learn about God’s love for them; we completed the first Contentnea Creek canoe journeys which are the pilot for six or more trips in 2008; we conducted the first Family Nature Day which will serve as the pilot program for 2008’s Creation Days. Multiple work days at The Refuge resulted in debris removal from around the area and an enhanced entryway; boy scout troops were supported in community project activities and camping. In addition, an aggressive fundraising program commenced and yielded over \$150,000. Multiple presentations throughout eastern North Carolina were made to increase awareness, heighten interest and garner support.

Your involvement throughout 2007 was essential to making these things happen and is equally important in 2008 as we further develop

our programs and begin minor construction projects. 2008 promises to be an exciting year and we pray that you’ll stay the course with us!



Fall Retreat –Serve God–Not Man–Nov 2007



Erasing The Lines–June 2007



Contentnea Creek Canoe Outing–May 2007

Fairway Outdoor Advertising Partners With Son Set Ministries



Fairway Outdoor Advertising is one of the country's largest outdoor advertising companies. Headquartered in Augusta GA, Fairway operates five major divisions with ten offices in six southern states. In these markets, Fairway has a demonstrated history of assisting non-profit organizations with excellent opportunities to reach their target audience at the right place and at the right time.

Paul Hickman, General Manager of the Triangle East Division of Fairway met with Sammy Hudson and Chip Olmstead on November 5, 2007 in Raleigh and has agreed to a multi-year relationship with Son Set Ministries in which billboards and the associated artwork and production will be provided at no cost in the markets of Greenville, Ayden, Kinston, Goldsboro, Jacksonville/Swansboro. This partnership is critical to us as we seek to spread the word of The Refuge and create a buzz with our 2008 marketing campaign: "It's About Time." In addition, Fairway has agreed to assist us with the brick and mortar work associated with minor construction projects at The Refuge.

The commitment of Fairway Outdoor Advertising to non-profit organizations serving the local community is remarkable in an age where so many companies are driven by the profit margin. We look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship with Fairway Outdoor Advertising and are grateful for this tremendous level of support.

Starting in February 2008, pay attention to those billboards and be the first to see the Son Set Ministries advertisements in your community. The campaign will start with a six week run of some "teaser" billboards followed by the answer in mid-March. Tell us what you think, and if you see Paul Hickman, Angie Cooper, Rob House or Phillip Goodwin tell them how much you appreciate all their company is doing to support Son Set Ministries.



Chip Olmstead, Chairman, Son Set Ministries, closes the deal with Paul Hickman, General Manager, Fairway Outdoor Advertising

Staying True to the Model of Nehemiah

I wonder if Nehemiah ever sat silently in prayer and said to God, "Are you sure this is what you want me to do?" I wonder if he didn't sometimes say, "I believe, but forgive my unbelief." I wonder if he didn't sometimes look around and ask God, "where are the resources I need?" Discouragement, I'm told, is the most often used of Satan's tools....I believe that! I wonder how many great acts done for the glory of God amounted to no more than dust in the wind due to discouragement along the way. I wonder how many times I've said, "I can't do this anymore," instead of saying, "I don't know where you are leading me, God, but I will follow and trust in you." I wonder how many times I've said, "I'm tired Lord," instead of saying, "I know you'll sustain me."

Nehemiah said the following, "The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding....I set out at night with a few men. I told them about the gracious hand of God upon me and what the king had said to me. They said, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work."

We are incredibly excited about the year 2008! With our feet firmly rooted in reality but our eyes and ears tuned into God, we are prepared to start "rebuilding the walls." For starters, take a look at the minor construction projects highlighted on the adjacent page. Like the families of Israel that individually took responsibility for a section of the wall, or a gate, we'd like to see your church, youth group, scouting organization, etc step up and take responsibility for a project at the Refuge. If you'd like to know more about pending projects or you have a particular project on which you'd like to work, call Sammy Hudson at 252 531-3214. Projects beyond those identified on the adjacent page should include concept drawings, be consistent with the goals of the ministry and the master plan, and be approved by the board of directors. Whenever possible, we'd like for the sponsoring organization to participate in the cost-sharing of materials. This helps demonstrate commitment to the project through its completion. So, cinch up those tool belts, sharpen those saw blades and "let us start rebuilding!"

Prayer List Items for the Refuge

Thanks to those who responded to our last needs list. We could use the services of a part-time volunteer secretary to assist Sammy with the administrative work. Four or five hours a week would be a real blessing. We received a riding lawn mower, an awesome storage shed, and many tools. However, our list grows as we grow. Check your garage or shed and see if you have any of the below listed items. Let us put them to good use! Canoes/kayaks/fishing poles with reels/life vests/Tractor with front end loader/box blade/Push Mower/Water Hose Chain Saw/Weed Eaters/Yard Tools/New Windows for Farm House/Lumber for Boat Docks and Boat Houses/Bush Hog Services/Brick and Mortar Services for foundations/a couple days of bulldozer work/shrubs and plants. We'll pick them up. Call 252 531 3214.

Board Sets Goals for 2008

Last year was a foundational year for Son Set Ministries as the board of directors was able to discern the support that could be expected at the grassroots level. A comprehensive 2008 budget was derived based on known giving and projected increases as we grow. In the final meeting of the year, the board of directors established goals and objectives for 2008 that include the following:

Programming:

Pride of Rochelle Overnight Camping:

This program is focused upon middle school aged children from schools that largely serve underprivileged neighborhoods. Rochelle Middle School is the pilot school for this program. The program will reward children who are meeting above average expectations in school with the opportunity to camp at The Refuge. While there, these children will be afforded opportunities to canoe, fish, hike, sing and enjoy a primitive outdoor experience.

Contentnea Creek Canoe Trips:

Multiple overnight canoe trips are planned this year and are divided into several categories such as college-age, adults, couples, senior high, and family. These trips begin at The Refuge and end at the Neuse River. Each

day, participants will canoe about 11 miles and will enjoy an overnight camping experience with song and spiritual development.

Erasing the Lines: The fifth Erasing the Lines in Kinston will take place from June 22–27. This year’s event will seek to include representatives from Greenville, Jacksonville/Swansboro, and Goldsboro as we seek to take the success of the program to other communities.

Fall Retreat: Always a spiritually motivating weekend that combines growth with comedy and song, and a favorite with the high school youth. There may be two Fall retreats in 2008.

Camp Duo: Camp Duo is an existing summer camp program that will relocate from Kinston to The Refuge. This program is a one-on-one mentoring program in which young disadvantaged children are teamed up with college-aged mentors and spend a week-end together exploring new activities and building lasting relationships.

Other Activities:

A major goal of Son Set Ministries this year is to support the needs of other organizations such as Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops, Challenge Weekends with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and local

church outings.

Minor construction projects at The Refuge will include:

- A Pavilion capable of sheltering 12 picnic tables.
- An outdoor grilling/cooking area
- A public restroom facility
- A canoe/dock storage/launch facility
- 2 Volleyball courts and a basketball court
- Boat Dock on the front lake

Fundraising Goals:

Individual Donations: (\$115,000)

- Pledges: 10 new \$25 pledges per month
- General Giving: Increase by 20%

Organizational Gifts: A minimum of one major presentation per month capable of yielding \$4,000. (Examples: Rotary Clubs and other civic organizations, Individual Churches, etc)

Major Gifts: 4 gifts of \$10,000 or more

Marketing/Advertising:

Commence Billboard advertising campaign with Fairway Outdoor Advertising and combine with bumper stickers to increase name recognition

Create a more interactive and energetic web site.

The board is confident that these actions are achievable in 2008 but will conduct quarterly reviews of the budget to ensure adjustments are made as appropriate to meet our goals.

Methodist Conference Recognizes Erasing the Lines Program

On December 9, 2007, the Jack and Kay Crum Prophetic Ministry Award, given by the North Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, was presented to Sammy Hudson along with a \$500 scholarship to Queen Street UMC for the ongoing work accomplished through the “Erasing The Lines” summer mission project. Now preparing for its fifth year, “Erasing The Lines” seeks to share the love of Christ by reaching out to those in need in the City of Kinston and Lenoir County. “ETL” has, for four years, chipped away at the barriers of ethnicity, culture, economics, and class by harnessing the enthusiasm of youth seeking to improve their own communities. On June 23-27, 2008 150 youth and 50 adults from 15 or more churches, representing multiple ethnic and cultural groups, will gather for a week of service, worship, and prayer in hopes that Christ will be glorified and we will see each other as God sees us. “Erasing The Lines” is sponsored and directed by Son Set Ministries and represents what Son Set Ministries is all about. We are humbled by this recognition from the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and grateful for the scholarship that Queen Street UMC intends to use to bring additional kids to camp. If your church would like more information about “Erasing The Lines” or would like to become involved, please contact Sammy Hudson.



Erasing the Lines Leaders with Pastor Bingham and Dr. Larry Johnson

“Fundraising begins with Friend-raising”

SON SET MINISTRIES, INC.

*Ministries of Hope for a Better
Tomorrow*



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Breaking the Chains of Attachment

In his book, [A Testament of Devotion](#), Thomas Kelly writes, “God plucks the word out of our hearts, loosening the chains of attachment. And he hurls the world into our hearts, where we and He together carry it in infinitely tender love.”

It seems to me Kelly is saying that God first helps us realize that our attachment to, dependence on, and love for Him is of primary importance. Then He gives us a new heart and new eyes to see the world in a new way - His way. The Bible is replete with examples of Jesus looking upon people in a compassionate and loving way when those around them did not. Jesus looked past their faults, dirt, crimes, and sins and saw the needs of their heart - to be accepted, forgiven and loved. At the end of the second chapter of the gospel of John, we are told that no one needed to explain humankind to Jesus because He Himself knew what was in a man. Jesus’ personal knowledge of what it is like to be a human being with all its joys and sorrows, struggles and temptations makes Him perfectly compassionate.

Compassion is not a strength of mine, but due to God’s “hurling the world into my heart” over the past decade, He has brought me a long way. Through meeting Him in Scripture, meditation, prayer, and service, He is changing the way I see and deal with myself and other people. I have become my brother’s keeper and a needy person’s neighbor on many occasions, asking God to allow me to see them through His compassionate eyes. I

may not be able to help every person every time, but someone wise once told me to “find out where God is working and go there.” Sometimes that place is right in front of me and other times where I would not even think of going.

Has God broken your chains of attachment to the world and then hurled the world back into your heart? Since you are reading this newsletter, perhaps The Refuge is a way that you are sharing God’s compassion. With our prayers, work time, and finances, how blessed we all are to be co-creators with God as this special place of compassion continues to unfold in the year 2008!

In Christ,

Debbe Gastmeyer



Sharing God’s Compassion with the Young and the Old

If you would like copies of previous “Sounds of the Refuge” newsletters, contact Son Set Ministries at

P.O. Box 5247, Kinston, N.C. 28503 or go to our web site for downloads.