



The Monthly Newsletter of Mustard Tree Ministries, Inc.

March 3, 2017

Volume 1, Issue 1

Program Highlights

Sustainable Farming National Ag Day is March 21, 2017!



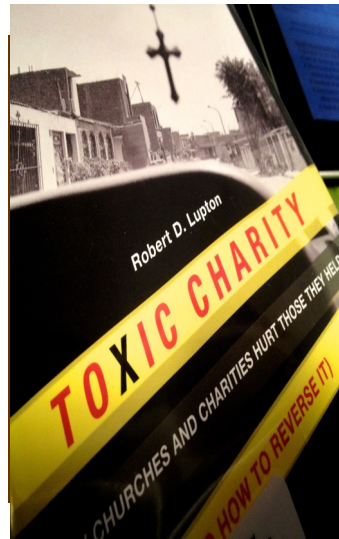
MTM serves the impoverished through sustainable farming. In 2015, 2500 pounds of produce was cultivated and provided to the area food bank and families in College Hill Courts! We host various youth and mission groups throughout our community and we are able to provide employment for some of those we serve.

For information on how you can help out on the farm, contact Kathleen at Kathleen@mustardtreeministries.org (423) 713-6379

Notes from the Director: Toxic Charity, When Helping Hurts

I have to admit that the first time I heard someone mention the book *When Helping Hurts*, and now the book *Toxic Charity*, I cringed. I thought, this is a way that the Church is trying to come up with reasons NOT to help people who are in need. We have to be honest, the Church has not always lived up to the standards that Jesus set for it. History reveals that, and we need not deny it. What we need to do is live into the mission that Jesus set for us. My thought is that the Church has forsaken its responsibility and passed that responsibility onto the government. So, I figured these two books were just another way that the Church was passing off its responsibility to be the positive change agent of the world with more high sounding theological rhetoric as we subtly pass the baton of ministry with the poor onto some other institution. I have had a number of

people "offer suggestions" as to how we should do things differently through Mustard Tree Ministry, and I have always said I will engage in conversation with you if you have a real plan of offering help and hope to the people we serve; if not, I don't want to talk to you. I have discovered that these two books offer some real help and hope, and we need to engage in conversation over the ideals they present. You see, Mustard Tree Ministries has the goal of not just offering people charity that does not affect their lives and the general society. Our desire to be a part of the Community First movement and the building of a tiny house community is in fact all about the mission that Jesus set for the Church. It will allow us to offer real life change to people and not just charity without opportunity for a whole change of life..



Sowing Seeds MTM Case Management Program Client Highlights



Bianca Blackwell

Bianca was referred to us by the Atheists Helping the Homeless. Thanks to your generous support, we have been able to sow into Bianca and offer her financial, job placement, and clothing assistance. She is currently seeking employment and is part of our Sponsor the Homeless program.



Working to eradicate homelessness and poverty one life, one community at a time—here and around the world.

Mustard Tree Ministries, Inc.

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Director Highlight of the Month Meet Kathleen Kidwell, Agricultural Director



Kathleen has always had a passion for helping others. She graduated from Hiwassee College with a degree in Social Science and continued her studies at Middle Tennessee State University. Her areas of study were Equestrian Management, Agriculture, and Animal Science. Kathleen has also served as a missionary to Central America and some small European countries and hopes one day to teach poor communities how to be self-sustaining through agriculture. She currently manages our Hixson and Harrison farms.

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Upcoming Events

- Be sure to stop by our tables this Saturday, March 4 from 11:00—3:00 at the UMW's It's a (Slightly Mad) Tea Party at First Centenary UMC
- Join us for Hot Dogs for the Homeless on Sunday, March 26 at First Centenary UMC and help us take a bite out of homelessness! Enjoy hot dogs and homemade chili for just \$5.00. All proceeds go directly to MTM
- Stay tuned for more info on our first annual cooking competition coming soon!

Opportunities to Get Involved

Needs

- Donations for the general operating budget
- Volunteers for meal and transportation assistance.
- Flower and vegetable containers for a new gardening project