

A woman with long dark hair is shown from the chest up, looking upwards with an open mouth and wide eyes. The background is a solid yellow color. In the upper left corner, there are three white, upward-pointing arrows of increasing size, each filled with a fine grid of dots.

REVEAL

LUKE 4:18-19

REVEAL

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2009

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the LORD’s favor has come.”

Luke 4:18-19 (NIV)

JESUS TEACHES THE PEOPLE

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Holy Spirit, and stories about him spread all through the area. He began to teach in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

Jesus traveled to Nazareth, where he had grown up. On the Sabbath day he went to the synagogue, as he always did, and stood up to read. The book of Isaiah the prophet was given to him. He opened the book and found the place where this is written:

“The Lord has put his Spirit in me, because he appointed me to tell the Good News to the poor. He has sent me to tell the captives they are free and to tell the blind that they can see again. God sent me to free those who have been treated unfairly and to announce the time when the Lord will show his kindness.” Jesus closed the book, gave it back to the assistant, and sat down. Everyone in the synagogue was watching Jesus closely. He began to say to them, “While you heard these words just now, they were coming true!”

Luke 4: 14-21 (NCV)

DESTINATION HOGWARTS

Throughout the week, we will look to our friend Harry Potter to help us relate to our daily scriptural themes. Harry’s parents passed away when he was a very young child and he is consequently raised by his aunt and uncle, Vernon and Petunia Dursley. Unfortunately, the Dursleys did not provide a positive living environment for Harry to grow up in and even forced him to live under their staircase. During his childhood, Harry begins to realize that he has special talents. Having no knowledge of his family’s history, Harry struggles to understand why he is different. At the age of 12, and longing to leave the Dursley’s home, the Ministry of Magic contacts Harry and reveals to him that he is a wizard and subsequently invites him to attend a school for wizards, Hogwarts. Harry eagerly accepts and we follow Harry’s as his many adventures unfold. Each summer Harry returns to the home of the Dursleys but is always anticipating his return to school for it is at Hogwarts that Harry learns the true importance of relationships.





THE WAITING GAME

Have you ever waited a long time for something? As you see it draw near, anticipation rises. Harry Potter certainly did. He waited many years to find out what made him different and each summer he anticipated his return to Hogwarts.

In today's scripture, the people in the synagogue, and their ancestors, had waited nearly two thousand years for God to fulfill His promise of a decisive demonstration of salvation for His people. Here, Jesus declares that day to have come; the opportunity is present.

Jesus' synagogue declaration provides us with a snapshot of His entire ministry and it creates a moment of decision for those who

hear His claims.

Throughout the week, we will have questions, will be presented opportunities, and will dig deeper into this scripture as we look to God to reveal His promise, and bring it to life in each of us.

THE SORTING HAT

What is something you have waited a long time for that finally arrived?

Some of us have been waiting a long time for this workcamp week to arrive. What are your expectations for this week?

God is constantly revealing his presence to us; we just need to see it! Throughout this week, we will refer to these revelations as "God Sightings." In what ways can we seek to be more aware of God's presence in and around us?



HOPE FOR THE POOR

MONDAY, JULY 27, 2009

"The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the LORD's favor has come."

Luke 4:18-19

A RICH MAN'S QUESTION

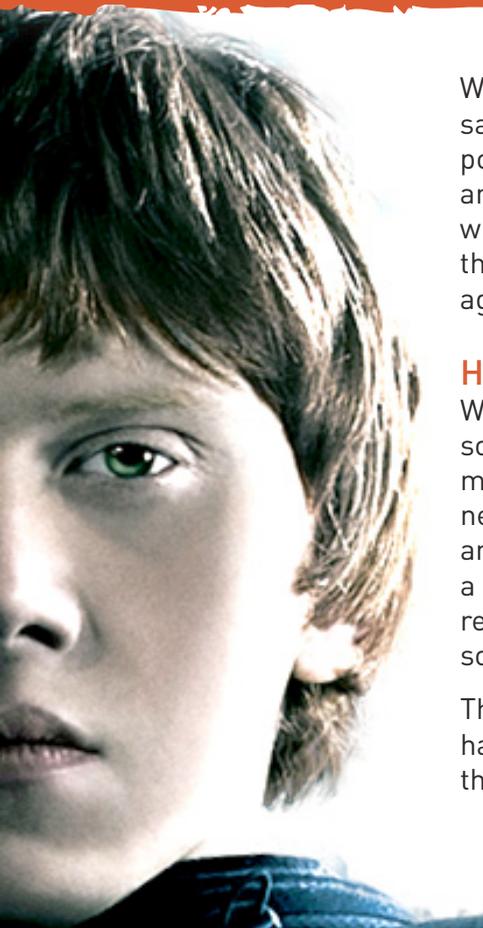
A certain leader asked Jesus, "Good Teacher, what must I do to have life forever?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? Only God is good. You know the commands: 'You must not be guilty of adultery. You must not murder anyone. You must not steal. You must not tell lies about your neighbor. Honor your father and mother.' But the leader said, "I have obeyed all these commands since I was a boy." When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "There is still one more thing you need to do. Sell everything you have and give it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me." But when the man heard this, he became very sad, because he was very rich. Jesus looked at him and said, "It is very hard for rich people to enter the kingdom of God. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."

When the people heard this, they asked, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus answered, "The things impossible for people are possible for God." Peter said, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, all those who have left houses, wives, brothers, parents, or children for the kingdom of God will get much more in this life. And in the age that is coming, they will have life forever." (Luke 18:18-30)

HOT OFF THE PRESS

What is it that makes news? Just what the word says: it is something that did not exist before. In the wizarding world, most news is communicated through a visually intriguing newspaper, the Daily Prophet. This paper is delivered by owls and, over time, we see the paper reporting news ranging from a mass breakout at the Azkaban Prison to quidditch match results. One of the paper's daily readers is Mr. Weasley. His son, Ron, becomes very good friends with Harry Potter.

The Weasleys are a close-knit family of wizards. Mr. Weasley has a good job with the Ministry of Magic, the government for the magical community of Great Britain, but raising seven kids





has put a strain on their financial resources. Consequently, many if not all, of Ron's possessions are hand-me-downs, including his robes, school books, wand, and a pet rat whom he calls Scabbers. His family's lack of finances often makes Ron a target for taunting by his classmates, specifically Draco Malfoy.

Like the owls who deliver the Daily Prophet, Jesus is delivering a message. A message of Good News to the poor. When we hear the word poor, we often focus on one's economic standing. But wealth is not always measured in dollars and cents. In the book of Luke, Jesus heals those who are poor due to social or religious exclusion (i.e., lepers, gentiles,

tax collectors, and criminals.) He also seeks to help the spiritually poor like the rich young ruler from the passage we just read. Jesus is telling us we can accomplish all through him. That the promise made centuries ago is being fulfilled and no matter what our background, we can all receive God's grace freely. Whether we are poor financially, spiritually, socially, or otherwise, when we hear the Good News we are conscious of something that did not exist within us before. For these reasons, the Weasleys are the kind of people who are the focus of Jesus' message in Luke 4:18-19. We all are.

THE SORTING HAT

We all make sacrifices at one time or another. How would you respond if you were asked to give up all of your possessions?

On Sunday mornings, just prior to the offering we often hear it said, "Now that we have heard the Good News, let us respond to it." What is really being said?



RELEASE FOR THE CAPTIVES

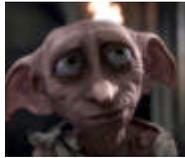
TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2009

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the LORD’s favor has come.”

Luke 4:18-19

GOT SOCKS?

When Book 2: The Chamber of Secrets opens, it has been 12 years since Harry's initial triumph (see Thursday) over the series' greatest villain, Voldemort. Unknown to Harry, that triumph gave hope and a new dawn to many in and around Hogwarts. One of these recipients of hope was Dobby, a house-elf clothed in rags and enslaved to the Malfoy family. Dobby had been a slave for many years and would receive his freedom if, and only if, a Malfoy

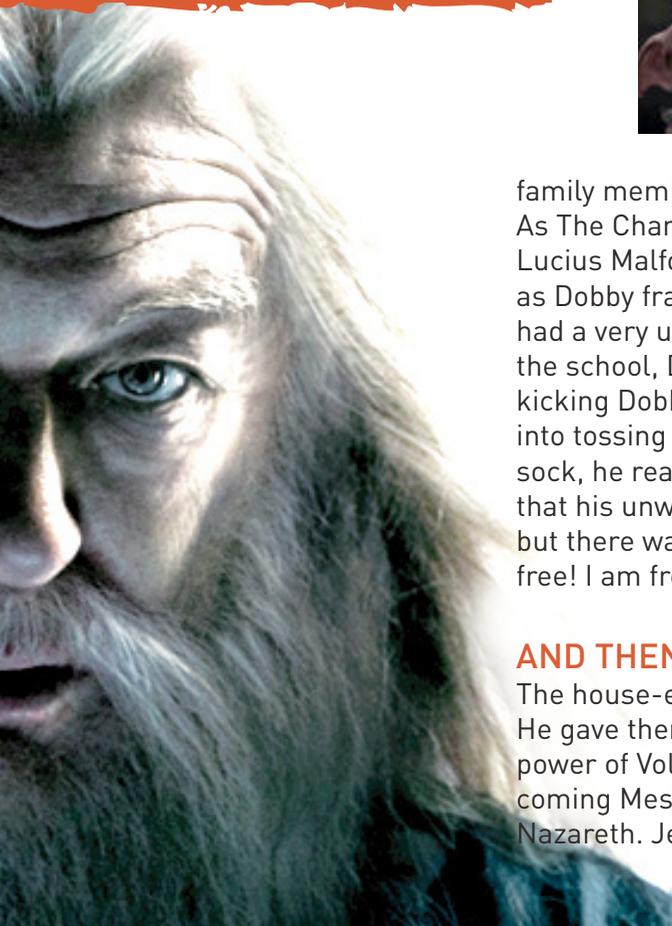


“Got a sock, Master threw it, and Dobby caught it, and Dobby—Dobby is free.”

family member would give him a piece of their clothing. As The Chamber of Secrets comes to an end, we see Lucius Malfoy, Draco's father, storming out of Hogwarts as Dobby frantically shines his shoes. Mr. Malfoy had just had a very unpleasant meeting with the head master of the school, Dumbledore. As Mr. Malfoy was exiting and kicking Dobby down the hall, Harry tricked Mr. Malfoy into tossing Dobby his old sock. Once Dobby caught the sock, he realized that he was free. Mr. Malfoy was furious that his unwitting gift of a garment had cost him his slave but there was nothing he could do. Dobby rejoiced, “I am free! I am free!”

AND THEN THERE WAS LIGHT

The house-elves saw Harry as a light in their darkness. He gave them hope that there was some way to break the power of Voldemort. Likewise, the prophecies of a coming Messiah were a light of hope to the people of Nazareth. Jesus declared himself to be the one who





effect, our robes of righteousness have been tossed to us, unwittingly, by those who crucified Jesus. They thought they were just killing him when really they were helping to deliver the redemption God wanted us to receive. But we have to take hold of it for ourselves like Dobby catching that sock that set him free. Now that this garment has been offered, we each have to lay hold of it by putting our faith into action. Then we can exclaim, as Dobby did, "I am free! I am free!"

THE SORTING HAT

How have we seen God at work so far this week?

What does it mean to you when you hear the phrase "slave to sin?"

It is one thing to hear and say what we believe, but how can we translate our faith in Jesus Christ into action today and throughout this week?

would release the captives and let the oppressed go free. The Bible describes people as slaves to sin. Unless we are freed, we are destined to be slaves forever. Therefore, Jesus came to speak to all those enslaved to sin. When Jesus died and rose again, He offered a new dawn of hope to all who would believe in Him.

REDEMPTION SONG

Like Dobby, we too are clothed in rags, spiritual rags. In Dobby's story, his sock is a symbol of redemption. The idea being that something is given as a ransom to buy back the freedom of something or someone held captive. When the payment is made, the captive can go free. Our payment has been made, our clothing has been purchased. In



SIGHT FOR THE BLIND

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2009

"The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has annointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the LORD's favor has come."

Luke 4:18-19

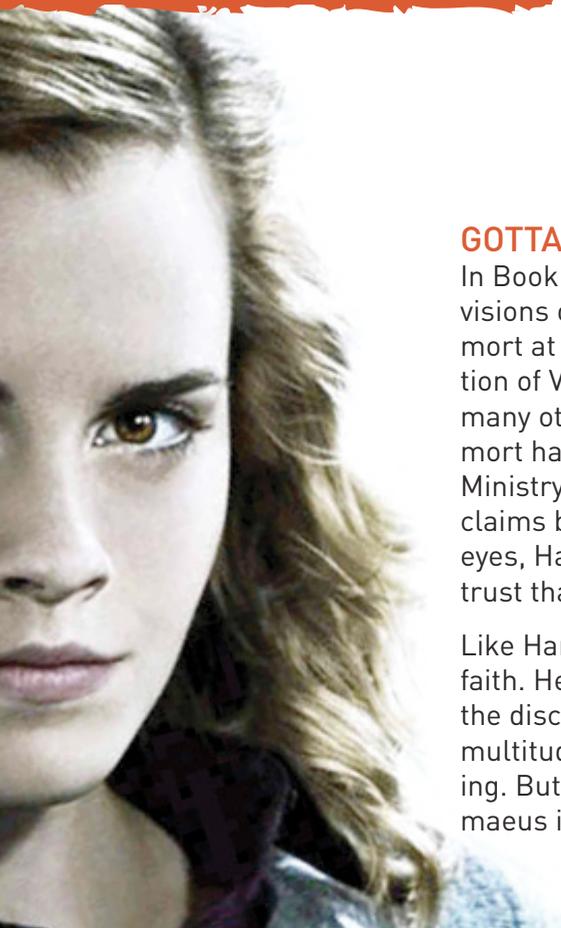
JESUS HEALS A BLIND MAN

Then they came to the town of Jericho. As Jesus was leaving there with his followers and a great many people, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus son of Timaeus was sitting by the road. When he heard that Jesus from Nazareth was walking by, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many people warned the blind man to be quiet, but he shouted even more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stopped and said, "Tell the man to come here." So they called the blind man, saying, "Cheer up! Get to your feet. Jesus is calling you." The blind man jumped up, left his coat there, and went to Jesus. Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man answered, "Teacher, I want to see." Jesus said, "Go, you are healed because you believed." At once the man could see, and he followed Jesus on the road. (Mark 10: 46-52)

GOTTA HAVE FAITH

In Book 5: Order of the Phoenix, Harry Potter begins to have visions of his godfather, Sirius Black, being tortured by Voldemort at the Ministry of Magic building. Despite Harry's description of Voldemort's recent activities, the Ministry of Magic and many others in the wizard world refuse to believe that Voldemort has returned after a long hiatus. While the newspapers, Ministry of Magic, and general public do not believe Harry's claims because they have not seen Voldemort with their own eyes, Harry's closest friends (i.e. Hermione, Ron, Ginny, etc.) trust that Harry's visions are true. They have faith in Harry.

Like Harry's friends, Bartimaeus was a man of very strong faith. He had never met Jesus but had heard about Him. Unlike the disciples, he had not seen Jesus walk on water, feed the multitudes, or heal the sick. He was blind and could see nothing. But he could hear, and what he heard he believed. Bartimaeus is an example of determined perseverance because





in the face of opposition, he was willing to make a nuisance of himself. When everyone else thought he was too loud, he thought he was not quite loud enough. He was not concerned with other's perception of him, only that he have the opportunity to follow Jesus. We see his gratitude. Jesus told him to go his own way and he adopted the road which Jesus was traveling as his own. He had received his sight and what did he use that sight to look at? The answer is Jesus, up ahead of him on the road.

We have not seen Jesus with our eyes, and yet we believe in Him. We must persevere through various trials as we seek to get a glimpse of Him. Bartimaeus truly was ahead of his time.

THE SORTING HAT

Have you every imagined losing your sight? How does your hearing give you vision?

Would you trust and have faith in someone you have not met but have heard about? Why or why not?

FREEDOM FOR THE OPPRESSED

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2009

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the LORD’s favor has come.”

Luke 4:18-19

The LIFE OF FREEDOM

Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.

It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don’t use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that’s how freedom grows. For everything we know about God’s Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That’s an act of true freedom. If you bite and ravage each other, watch out—in no time at all you will be annihilating each other, and where will your precious freedom be then?

Galatians 5: 1, 13-15

REJECTED!

Oppression is defined as “unjust or cruel exercise of authority or power.” When Harry Potter was just a boy, the entire wizarding world was being oppressed by Voldemort. His fear tactics and barbaric actions led to the death of many and left all in fear. When Harry was born it was predicted that he would have the power to eventually defeat Voldemort. In an effort to avoid this prophecy from coming to fruition, Voldemort tried to kill Harry with a spell. However, the spell was deflected by young Harry and it drained Voldemort of all his power. This lone act freed millions of people from the oppression of Voldemort and wizards around the globe were grateful for Harry’s victory.



FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

The Apostle Paul is considered the most notable of early Christian missionaries. In fact, you will find maps of his journeys in many of today's study Bibles. In Galatians 5, Paul reminds us that in Christ Jesus we are all free. We are not to slip back into any kind of slavery. Paul looks at freedom as more than a release from oppression, however. Freedom in Christ is not a gift to be enjoyed as one would indulge in an ice cream cone on a hot summer day. He defines freedom as an opportunity for responsible action.

For freedom, Christ Jesus has set us free. We have been freed to live according to the fruit of the Spirit, "love, joy, peace, patience,

kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23) The Spirit of Jesus is upon us, and he has anointed us to preach good news of freedom to the poor, the prisoners, the blind, and the oppressed. We are freed to live in the manner that Jesus lived, according to the essential purpose of his own ministry.

THE SORTING HAT

What will we do with this freedom?

How can we be more loving to each other and our neighbors?

Will we respond as they did in the synagogue or as the Apostle Paul?



THE LORD'S FAVOR

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2009

"The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has annointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the LORD's favor has come."

Luke 4:18-19

DESIRES

We have read, before, in the Scriptures that for God one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years is like one day. Obviously, the way we experience and understand time is not what time is to God. Therefore, it is true that we are still within the year of the Lord's favor. Yes, according to Western Civilization we are now in the year 2009; but, according to God's proclamation this is truly the year of the Lord's favor.

When God applies His favor toward us, it may very well be quite different from what our present desires are. In a real sense, God showing us favor is very often God giving us new desires within our hearts. Sometimes it may be difficult for us to accept what God is showing us and telling us.

OCCLUMENCY

Many times throughout the Harry Potter series Harry has difficulty accepting what is being shown or told to him. In Book 5: Order of the Phoenix, Harry's mental connection with Voldemort begins to strengthen and Dumbledore instructs Professor Snape to give Harry a crash course on Occlumency, the art of magically defending the mind against external penetration. These lessons will aid Harry in his attempt to block his own mind from the influence of Voldemort. With this mental clarity, Harry can focus on what is really going on around him much in the same way we need to be mindful of God's messages to us.

I AM MAKES ME WHO I AM

When Jesus went into the synagogue, stood up, read a passage of Scripture from the Prophet Isaiah and said such words as "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing," the people in there were amazed. But their mood quickly changed when they were told they would have to change their ways.





THE SORTING HAT

What are we to learn from this about ourselves, about God, and about our relationship with God today, in this year, in this time of our lives?

When Jesus died on the cross, He died for us all. The people in the synagogue are an example of how we may learn more about who God is to us, and what our relationship with God truly is. We are the poor to whom Jesus has brought the good news. We are the captives who have been released from the prison of the devil in this world. We are the blind who have been given new sight. We are the oppressed who have been set free. We are transformed, made new in Jesus Christ.

At the beginning of the week we talked about expectations. Now that it is Friday, were your expectations met? What unexpected things happened throughout the week?

Workcampers, what are you taking away from this experience that you'd like to share with your prayer partner? Partners, how have you felt God at work in you throughout this week? Be sure to join the campers in the sanctuary on August 9th following worship to briefly discuss these and any other to topics that have been alive in you

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2009

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has annointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the LORD’s favor has come.”

Luke 4:18-19

We have God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit in the center of our lives, individually and as a community of believers. We are called to open our eyes and our hearts to Christ, and to journey with Him on the road from Emmaus. The road we take is a prayerful one; it is a road of discovery and surprise. It is walked hand-in-hand with others.

We are inclusive of all who travel on the road and all who seek to join us. Together, we joyfully praise God and passionately seek God’s word and will for us. We are continually learning, sharing and singing to the Lord a New Song.

We work and pray with our partners to spread the joy and the promise of the Gospel, both in our neighborhood and around the world. As we develop caring and prayerful relationships among ourselves and with those to whom we minister, our way is lit by “God Sightings” – the unexpected ways in which we encounter God throughout our day. As we serve God, we begin to live God’s word and will. We seek to know God’s voice, to hear God’s song, and to share it with others. We strive to leave the path we travel well lit and inviting to others.

As we travel, we give of ourselves along the way. We give of our time, our talent and our treasures. We give because it brings us joy, and because Jesus taught us to give. As we give, our hearts are lightened and once again, a new song pours forth.

We acknowledge that the road is not always easy, and are eager to help those who are struggling along the way. We cry with those who are grieved, share with those who are burdened, encourage those who are fearful. We lift one another up in our journeys, and look ahead to the time we can sing joyfully together once more.



We gain our strength from the power of the resurrection. That strength gives us the courage to be honest, to share our struggles and fears with one another, to live into hope and continue forward on the road to claim the joy, grace and peace that is ours through Jesus Christ. We dare to embark on this journey because we know that with God, we can accomplish more than we can ever imagine. (Ephesians 3:20)

MARTINSBURG, WV

For the past 18 years, Faith Presbyterian Church has participated in Group Publishing's summer workcamp program. The primary goal is the spiritual growth of high school and college-aged students. Workcamps are an intensive week of community service offering teenagers an opportunity to perform hands-on home-repair projects for low income families. Projects include carpentry, roof repair, step and porch construction, weatherization, wheelchair ramp construction, painting, and drywall work.

As the campers serve, their confidence and character can grow like never before. Their faith ignites as they complete hands-on, meaningful work that really counts, and they discover a genuine appreciation for all God has given them. Some residents must choose between putting food on the table and fixing a leaky roof. The real repairs, however, are done not to the homes, but to the lives of those they touch.

This year we head to Martinsburg, WV. Due to the close proximity to Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, new construction in Martinsburg is catered to individuals with high-paying jobs looking to live outside the metropolitan areas. Meanwhile, the majority of local employment is at minimum wage and elderly and disabled individuals are struggling to maintain homes that commuters pass each day. The heart of this town is still beating strong, but many residents need the helping hands of youth to bring this apple-orchard town a face lift during difficult times.

The theme for this year's workcamp was **REVEAL**. This booklet has guided us through the verses (Luke 4:18-19) that were the primary focus of this summer's workcamp. We set aside time at lunch, during the evening program, and at bedtime to really focus on these verses and to help our faith grow. We hope you have done the same and that God's word has spoken to you just as it has spoken to us.



THANK YOU FOR
MAKING
A
DIFFERENCE!



Be sure to stay up-to-date with all of the workcamp happenings by checking out our blog at FaithWorkcamps.com. We'd love to hear your feedback, so please feel free to leave us a comment on the blogs! Also, you can e-mail campers by going to GroupWorkcamps.com and clicking on the email a camper button. We look forward to sharing our experiences with you upon our return!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

18 YEARS OF FAITH WORKCAMPS

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* Denotes 2009 Workcampers

