



Does our Mission-Identity fit?

There are bill board signs of a popular fast-food chain introducing one of its products by saying “a 90210 Sundae in a 48234 zip code.” You get the picture! How do you start a Kingdom of God mission in a community of 2000 people (48770) with a median household income of \$29,000?

Well, ask Deacon Jack Rohn and his wife/parish assistant, JoAnne. They will tell you the story of Good News Ministries, Whittemore.

Whittemore is a small rural community tucked off of M-65 between West Branch and Au Gres. Good News Ministries had its start 22 year ago and met regularly in two small buildings on M-65. In the early 90s, 11 acres were purchased and a multi-purpose building was constructed. Today, a garage, pavilion, and storage unit have been added to house food pantry supplies and other storage needs and outdoor facilities. Sunday morning worship, Sunday school, and Bible class attendance has grown to an average of 75 and three Vacation Bible Schools are held throughout the year. A Thursday night children’s ministry is held September through April.

Although the mission of Good News Ministries is the same as any congregation, Word and Sacrament mission and ministry, there is uniqueness about how Good News Ministries goes about that work.

In a rural community with a population of 2000, Good News Ministries provides an active food and clothing pantry. Furniture and appliances, when available, are also given to those in need. Warm clothing and outdoor wear are given out during the winter months and an annual Christmas dinner



A long line forms for food at the mobile food pantry and yard sale

serves more than 60 people. In addition, they have sent over 900 pounds of goods to Operation Shoe Box for the U.S. military in war zones. In March of 2009, they partnered with Iosco County and provided 202 bags of groceries. Over 200 six dollar vouchers were given out for use at the congregation’s yard sale.

You would have to be there to see it for yourself to fully appreciate how the congregation works together towards social ministry and are involved in Sunday mornings. About 40 families a month fulfill assignments such as ushers, readers, greeters, prayer leaders, acolytes, hosting coffee hours, and provide snacks.

For the Rohn’s, this was how to start a mission in Whittemore and witness the years of the congregation’s labor through the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of God’s people in serving their community.



Thanksgiving food boxes

Vacation Bible School in the Pavilion

