



PO Box 385, Gobles, MI 49055-0385  
jawe@ghhinc.org  
269-628-5185

## God's Helping Hands, Inc. 1980-2020

Dear Friends,

Spring, 2020

Birthdays and anniversaries are special reminders of where we've been and what God has done. While we may think that having more birthdays just means we are getting older, we can instead take the opportunity to review God's work in our lives and give Him praise!



Chalk talk in the early years

While Bob and Shirley Friedl (Dad and Mom to us!) had already been doing chalk talks and puppetry for a couple of years, God's Helping Hands, Inc., became official on June 1, 1980—40 years ago. One of the first things that we did as a staff in the new year was to get together and reminisce. Some of us have more years of memories than others, but we are all able to recall how the Lord has worked in our lives and in the lives of others during these past 40 years. With a video camera rolling, we shared memories that made us

laugh, reminded us of God's provision, showed His protection and proved His faithfulness. Check out the GHH website in the coming weeks to view our ramblings and remembrances!



Dad did the "chalk" and Mom did the "talk!"

While we weren't on staff until 1986, we were doing puppets right along with Dad and Mom after work and on weekends. There were times when Jeff took weeks of time off from his electrical construction job so that we could make long-distance trips for the ministry. Soon Jeff was helping Dad with bus projects and building props and stages while Robin helped Mom with office work and bookkeeping and we both served on the board of directors when God's Helping Hands became incorporated. Becoming full-time staff was just a natural progression of our involvement, but the Lord was directing each step.



Bernie and Lulu with us since the beginning!

At the very beginning, God's Helping Hands highlighted Dad's chalk art and Mom's storytelling. It wasn't long before they started using the puppets that Dad had begun to make. Since neither of us had the talent for chalk art, we began telling Bible stories by acting them out. All seven of our children

have helped us with puppets and Bible stories during their growing up years. Now we have a new generation of workers (including our daughter, son-in-law and granddaughters) who are using their own talents and ideas to make more ways to share the gospel. Not only do they continue to put on puppet programs churches, camps and community events, they are bringing us into the



Some of Dad's first puppets

world of technology with podcasts, classroom curriculum and videos. Although the means by which we share the gospel is changing and growing, the truth that salvation comes through placing our faith in Jesus Christ never changes!



Puppets in 2019

The fact is that the office is abuzz with staff working to produce quality, Biblical material that can be used in a variety of ways so that boys and girls can have access to Truth from God's Word. Jeff is busy directing the staff as they work, being directed by staff when something needs to be built, repaired or remodeled, and continuing to investigate and plan for the addition and remodel for the Reach More project. They all work well together! The big winter project has been relocating Juli's office and remodeling the front room into a comfortable reception area complete with examples of visuals and videos used in the ministry. He is, and always has been, a jack-of-all-trades!

These days you'll find Robin mostly at home continuing to home school Jordan and caring for her mom. Both Robin and Jordan have "senior-itis" and he's only a junior! They do enjoy being part of Homeschool Performing Arts together where Jordan has the role of Drake in their spring production of *Honk!* and Robin is co-head of the costume committee. Recently, we have scheduled in-home help for Mom since she took a few falls in the month of January and we don't feel comfortable leaving her

alone. Robin is called on to edit letters and articles as well as help Mom answer and correct the correspondence lessons, all of which she can do from home. Logan continues to work as a vet assistant and recently brought home Frank, the cat, who was not getting along well with the other clinic cats. He is, however, doing well with our two dogs and the rest of us!

The change we made a couple of years ago from traveling and doing puppet programs to serving in the office has been an adjustment. But the Lord knew what He was doing and what the ministry and family needs were going to be. We serve a great God who calls us, allows us to serve Him and knows what's best for us. Jeremiah 29:11 has been a favorite verse for years. *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* We so appreciate you and your interest, prayers and support of this ministry throughout the years!

Because of Jesus,

*Jeff and Robin Awe*

Jeff and Robin Awe



Truth Travelers from 2019

