

# MILK AND HONEY

Vol. 1, No. 2

*The Craddock Center*  
(Enriching Lives through Service)

March, 2004

## O, THE BURDEN OF THE PROPHET!

I never knew until recently how heavy is the burden of the prophet. In the February issue of *MILK AND HONEY*, I made a prediction, it has come true, and now I am besieged by folk wanting their fortunes told and tips on the races.

I predicted that the Center board would enthusiastically support the purchase of a commercial vehicle to be customized, painted brightly, filled with children's books, and commissioned to take books, storytellers, and singers to everyplace in the area where there are children.

I also predicted that many folk would want to help with this slightly expensive project. This prediction will come true soon, and it will happen, as the Bible says, "on this wise." From now until April 15 gifts of any amount will be welcomed; we prefer many smaller gifts to a few large ones. Mark your check for "The Story Express." If it should happen that on April 15 we are a few dollars short of the \$35,000.00 we need, then I will bring this shortfall to the attention of a few friends who apparently had not heard this appeal.

Will we get this vehicle? Yes, even if I have to set up a roadside stand and sell boiled peanuts and fish bait, do a bit of motorcycle repair, and dabble in acupuncture.

Giving to this program will make you happy.

## WANT TO GET AWAY FOR AWHILE?

If you are a physician or a nurse practitioner, then we have a deal for you. The community of Beverly, Kentucky is very much in need of your services if you are willing to volunteer for six months. Please contact:

**Red Bird Clinic & Red Bird Mission**  
**Fred Haggard, Executive Director**  
**HC 69, Box 700, Beverly, KY 40913**  
**Phone: 606/598-3155;**  
**E-mail: [rbm@rbmission.org](mailto:rbm@rbmission.org)**



Let us know here at the Center if you decide to go. We will feel much better knowing you are caring for those people.

## WHEN IN ROME

Georgia, stop by Shorter College. They have a good program to equip for ministry lay persons who wish to be better prepared to serve. I spent Saturday, February 21 in a workshop on Preaching with the staff and those enrolled in the program. Five denominations were represented, the hospitality warm, the spirit good, and the content – well, what can I say?

## DID EVER YOU SEE SUCH A SIGHT IN YOUR LIFE?

As 77 ministers in one room talking about sermons? That's the way it was on Monday, March 1 at the Annual Spring Preaching Workshop sponsored by the Craddock Center and held at Cherry Log Christian Church. This was our largest attendance, from four states, representing 12 denominations. The event, including continental breakfast and lunch, was free to all participants.

The Annual Fall Preaching Workshop will be held on Monday, October 4. Contact the Center if you wish to register early; our limit is about 85.

## WHO IN THE WORLD WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO A BOARD MEETING?

Well, call me weird but I do. Let me tell you why.

1) Pam Lindsey and Betsy Doty will be here at the June 1 meeting to give their year-end reports. What these women, with their assistants, are doing with and for Head Start and Pre-K children in North Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina is absolutely amazing. Music and songs and stories can be life-changing.



2) We will continue planning Appalachian Weekend September 25-26. This will be our biggest: more crafts, more music, more food, more people, more out of town guests.

3) We will decide on a budget for 2004-2005. This is the frightening part; our budgets are so theoretical, so ethereal. Some organizations calculate income and then develop a budget. We listen to needs, commit ourselves to meeting them, and then anticipate costs. Is that a budget? The difference between what we need and what we have is laughable. But God continues to provide through friends of the Center.

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### MEET DON WEST

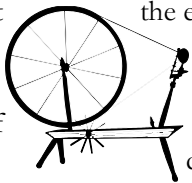
The Center board voted on March 2 to make Don West the focus of Appalachian Weekend September 25-26. Don was a native of the Burnt Mountain area of Gilmer County. He was a Congregational minister, a poet, and a social activist who threw his life into the struggles of the poor to be heard, to receive health services, to be justly paid for their labor, and to be respected as American citizens making contributions to our life together.



A new book about Don West has just appeared, entitled *NO LONESOME ROAD* by Jeff Biggers and George Brosi. It is published by the University of Illinois Press. It is or will be in libraries and bookstores. Read it in preparation for the poetry reading, the stories, and the music of Appalachian Weekend. Don West loved these mountains and the people of Appalachia.

### DID I MENTION

That will be Blue plenty of for the dinner for We want this to be a time of, and for, and by the people of this area. We will welcome back many who had the poor sense to move away.



the events of Appalachian Weekend held in the Kiwanis Building in Ridge? There we will have parking space and large rooms display of native arts and crafts, everyone, and for the program.

On Sunday morning, September 26 all are invited to Cherry Log Christian Church where Dr. Craddock will speak at 9:30 on "The Quest for Social Justice in America." A concert of Appalachian music will follow at 10:30. Regular worship will be at 11:00.

### HOW TO SHORTEN YOUR TRIP THROUGH ARKANSAS



Slide in a CD, set your cruise control on 35 mph, close your eyes, and relax. What CD? you ask. The CD of the Songs and Stories at Brasstown by Steve Darsey and Fred Craddock. The CDs are being prepared now. Indicate if you want 2002, 2003, or 2004, or all three. \$15.00 each. Make checks payable to the Craddock Center.

### OVER LUNCH

At a lunch in Ellijay convened and hosted by Betsy and Bob Doty, a number of opportunities for service in cooperation with other interested groups (Rotary Club, Boy Scouts, Fraternal Order of Police) were discussed. Two projects presented themselves for immediate response and the Center board has given the go-ahead to both.

One, the Center will receive donations of equipment such as walkers, crutches, wheel chairs, etc. from persons who no longer need them, repair them if necessary, sanitize them, place them in our storage space, and make them available to those who need them.

Two, the Center will enlist a team of persons with carpentry skills who will join with other volunteers to build ramps at the homes of persons temporarily or permanently handicapped.

### A-RAMPING WE WILL GO!

If you read the article "Over Lunch" in this issue, then you know we're asking you to volunteer to build ramps. It takes two persons five-six hours to build a ramp. How often we will receive calls for this service is not known, but if you are willing to be on our carpentry list, please call Kay Zimbrick at the Center. However, if you have absolutely no skills with hammer, nails, and saw, and you live in New Jersey, maybe the next project will have your name on it. Thanks.

### NO ROOM IN THE INN?

Because of the growing and wide spread interest in the life and work and poetry of Don West, we anticipate a larger number of visitors to our area for the Appalachian Weekend September 25-26. We will, therefore, publish well in advance the names and phone numbers of motels nearby. Early reservations are suggested because in late September the apple houses are open and the autumn leaves are beginning to turn. Here come the buses!



I would invite you to stay in my home but the guest room has already been claimed for Sept. 25-26. Sorry.

#### THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The inaugural issue of *Milk and Honey* was mailed last month to almost 1700 addresses. Were it not for the help of Nettie Craddock, Joyce Dakis and Eileen & Mac McRoberts, I'd still be sitting here looking at the stacks before me, asking "Whose idea was this anyway — Dr. Craddock?" My gratitude.....

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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