

PAXTON MINISTRIES ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are pleased to announce the selection of Joanne (Jodie) Smiley as the new Executive Director of Paxton Ministries. Jodie will assume the role on July 1, 2010, taking over from current Executive Director Chris Book, who, along with his wife, Marlys, will be returning to Africa. Chris will be the Administrative Director of the Macha Research Trust in Macha, Zambia.

Board Chairman Darren Asper says, "The Board of Directors chose Jodie because of her extensive commitment to Christian ministry and her management and strategic development skills. These attributes will help Paxton Ministries meet the challenges and opportunities over the next several years. We are excited to have Jodie join our team here at Paxton and look forward to working with her in continuing our ministry of 'Housing, Help and Healing in the Name of Christ.'"

Jodie comes to us from IBM where she was employed for almost 33 years. Most recently, she worked as a Business Unit Executive managing a team of information technology sales professionals working with the Department of Homeland Security. Jodie graduated from Messiah College in 1977 with a degree in mathematics and joined IBM right after college as a systems engineer, later moving to a position as a client representative working with federal government customers. In 2003, she moved into management where she found that she enjoyed her role in creating teams of people with common objectives. She is very team-oriented and likes to identify strengths and strategies, collaborating with partners and peers to achieve "a joint vision of future possibilities."

Challenged by the need to prevent homelessness for single mothers in the Harrisburg area, Jodie led the startup of the local affiliate of Bridge

of Hope, a faith-based nonprofit ministry that helps single mothers achieve self-sufficiency through employment, housing, and mentoring through local church partnerships. The mentoring groups provide friendship and supportive structure that is often missing. Jodie explains, "Homeless moms and children are often the invisible homeless because moms will stay in unsafe situations to protect or keep their children." Jodie has helped shape that ministry since 2007 and continues to chair the board.

Jodie and her husband, Jim, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in 2009. They are members of the Grantham Brethren in Christ Church where they have been actively involved for more than 30 years and have served as deacons for the past six years. Jim serves the Brethren in Christ Foundation, where he is the Director of Planned Giving. Jodie and Jim have two adult daughters, Lynne, who works at Melmark, a program for people with developmental challenges near Philadelphia, and Lisa, who works as an auditor for Nestle Purina and lives with her husband, John Arnold, in St. Louis. Jodie enjoys playing the piano and, on occasion, plays for worship at church; she especially loves to play piano-organ duets. She also likes to garden and grow irises, take walks, read, and participate in her neighborhood book club.

Jodie looks forward to serving at Paxton and says, "God has blessed the work of Paxton Ministries and the faithful, compassionate leadership of Chris Book. As I look toward becoming the next Executive Director, it is with excitement, challenge, and reliance on God. As you have done in the past, please continue to pray for residents, staff, the board, and for me as we serve in this ministry." ■

John P. Walker, Director of Development



*New Executive Director
Jodie Smiley*