



May 05, 2010

Dear Friends of Lifebuilders Ministries:

Who?...to die for You? Soldiers have died defending their Country and Policemen have died defending their Communities, but what about someone who would die just for you? Please take a moment and scroll through a list of your friends and family and think what attitude you would have if one of them would actually want to die so that you could go on living! Sobering isn't it? The Bible says that Christ died for the sins of the whole world that eternal life would be made available to all but it also teaches that He died specifically for individuals. Jesus was personal as well as corporate in His Redemption. At the "last supper" (communion) the night before He was crucified He said to the twelve, "This is my blood which is shed for many for the remission of sins"(Matt. 26:28), but on the cross He said to the thief, "Today you shall be with me in Paradise"(Luke 23:43). In John 14:2,3 He said, "I am going away to prepare a place for you and I will return again to get you so that where I am you may be also. Oh it's personal alright...so...what level of loyalty and devotion should this evoke? What should we do toward such a One who would do such a thing for us?"

HAPPENINGS AND HEART HELPERS.

One of the most rewarding things that has happened to me in Ministry in quite a while is to have both married and baptized Greg and Tiwanda Morris in less than a month. They were married on Wednesday, March 17(St. Patrick's Day) and baptized at South Haven Baptist on Sunday, April 11th It is not often that we have the privilege to see this kind of victory come into a family's life in such a short period of time. We first met Greg and Tiwanda at Nu-Elm Apartments in May of 09 and have had the privilege to watch them come to personal faith in Christ over the last year. What a joy to see this happen in the lives of this gentle, quiet, soft spoken couple. Greg and Tiwanda have a son, Dorien, age 10 and are expecting a new baby any day! Greg is a former Army Ranger with tours of duty in Iraq from which he suffered injuries that have left him fighting to prevent permanent disability. Please pray for this family that Greg will get the compensation he so richly deserves for this sacrifice and for their continued growth in Christ.



Gregg & Tiwanda's Wedding



The Power of One. Some times it takes only one person to stand up to make a huge difference. Such was the case when a swell of courage and determination came into the heart of Nu-Elm resident Rebecca West, as she witnessed a near riot (resulting in violence and injury) take place on a warm Sunday afternoon last October. Rebecca had lived at Nu-Elm for 7 years and had grown tired of the drug dealing, drug using, hostile environment that had been common place on or near the property for years. In short order she enlisted her neighbors, and with the cooperation and help of Apartment Management and Springfield Police, organized a very effective Neighborhood Watch. She also set up monthly meetings and in partnership with Lifebuilders, started to have frequent community events. With proper reporting in place the management was able to document more resident guideline violations and evict those causing problems. You should see the peace and order that prevails on the property now... a totally different atmosphere! Rebecca is a strong Christian and a vital participant in all Lifebuilders services at Nu-Elm, and to think she did all of this while suffering from a serious shoulder injury, job change, loss of income, and financial hardship. “Becky we are so proud of you. Our hats are off to you.” Now let the rest of us be sure that we continue TO HELP HER and not let the “guard down”!



Rebecca



Tim



Katherine



Blaise



Pat



Theresa



Hillary

New Volunteers. Lifebuilders volunteers and leadership teams are stronger than ever with a total of almost 65 in service now...dare I say that in some cases almost (if not for sure) reaching a “Dream Team” status. I’m so amazed at how people who come to serve become so fervently dedicated after a period of time. Pictured right are Hillary Grant working in children’s ministry at Cedarbrook (you should see the events she has planned!). Theresa Burden & Pat Gentry, established and maintain the desperately needed nursery at Glenwood. Tim Piatchek with helpers Blaise and Katherine, who took over the 4-5 yr age group at Glenwood after Brenda Haley had to step down for health reasons. There are others whom haven’t been formally inducted yet who will be included in the next newsletter. Pray for all our volunteers as they continually attempt to share the love and light of Christ with a very tough culture.

Poster Contest Winners. As a part of it’s 2009 Housing America Campaign NAHRO (National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials) held a poster contest for children associated with affordable housing and community development programs administered by NAHRO. Posters were to reflect the theme “What Home Means To Me”. We are so happy to report that Cameren Black, age 10, and Kim Nelson, age 9 (who live at Villa Marie) were the 2nd and 3rd place winners of \$20 and \$10 cash prizes for the Springfield area. These great kids attend services at Villa-Marie regularly.



Kim and Cameren



Four Easter Celebrations took place (almost simultaneously) at Cedarbrook, Bolivar Rd, Nu-Elm, and Glenwood on Saturday, April 3rd with approximately 213 in attendance. Activities included breakfast brunch, noon meals, refreshments, scads and scads of eggs to hunt, and of course most important the Resurrection story of Christ shared again and again. This season (with the kids) ranks up almost to the level of Christmas. You just have to be there to experience the joy of the residents...and the volunteers!!

Sad note. It's hard to put into words how deeply saddened we are by the recent passing of Missouri Baptist Convention Multi-Housing Ministries Coordinator Vivian McCaughan. Vivian battled cancer for almost three years and passed away early A.M. Sunday, April 18th. Vivian was one of the very first and foremost advocates for the Multi-Housing Ministries we were trying to advance in this area. She was such a friend to the ministry, not only accessing thousands of dollars over the last 9 years but was a generous personal contributor as well. She also was a great personal coach, teacher, and encourager. In addition to Multi-Housing Vivian's illustrious career included service as an International Missionary, State W M U Director, Ministry/Evangelism Coordinator, and other positions. Vivian was heard in the highest echelons of Denominational leadership, but would also go out of her way to encourage what might appear to be the most "insignificant" person who was trying to serve Christ. She was wise, discreet, mild mannered, soft spoken, but tough as a boot when she needed to be! "Vivian, you left us way too soon...but enjoy heaven...you deserve it...see you later Friend"...



Vivian

Blessed is he who has regard for the poor, the Lord delivers him in times of trouble. Psalm 41:

For the months of March and April you have helped 4 families with food, 4 with utilities, 8 families with car repair, 2 with gasoline, 1 with a phone bill and 6 families with rental assistance.

Special Thanks to Complete Auto, Ace Transmission, Yocum Automotive, Springfield Brake, J&M Complete, Carsten's Auto Glass and to Marshall Ford.

It seems that the ministry of Lifebuilders becomes more mature and meaningful with each passing day. Thank you for your loyal support and pray for us as we seek for more volunteers and additional sources of funding as there is still a large portion of our mission field to be reached...and as always let us know how we may minister to you.

For His Kingdom,

S

Winston Sue and Lifebuilders Team