

September 07, 2011

Dear Friends of Lifebuilders Ministries:

Did you know that God had to raise Jesus from the dead? Oh I know Jesus said He had the power to lay down his life and take it back again...and that was true, but the scripture says that “God hath raised him from the dead”- Acts 4:10. Why? Because in his humanity he had to please God in every way as perfectly obedient, perfectly suffering(allowing God to take out all His wrath for sin on him), and finally perfectly bleeding to death, his blood being the price of our redemption from slavery to sin. Jesus’ resurrection was God’s divine approbation (official seal of approval) that His work on our behalf for complete salvation was sufficient . “He was delivered for our offenses and raised again for our “justification”- Romans 4:25. How grateful we should be!!

HAPPENINGS AND HEART HELPERS

Sunday July 24 Block Party at Nu-Elm featuring not only the usual food, drinks, door prizes, etc. but also the “one and only” Beyond the Walls Band, Northside Baptist youth drama team, and terrific testimonials of struggles you would not have imagined from someone who was raised in a strong Christian home, bible teacher Jacob Webster...and from one who had it all, lost it all (wife, children, job, home), and then regained it all through Christ, band leader James Dodd. And for what seemed like a fleeting moment the Nu-Elm community had a visitation from God’s Holy convicting Spirit as people looked on in reverence and awe. Pray for this community that has such great spiritual needs. Seventy-six attended this event.



Sunday July 24 Back to School Bash at National Heights Baptist featuring free haircuts, \$15 shoe purchase coupons, 100 backpacks, school supplies and a spaghetti dinner!! Many kids from the neighborhood including some from Bolivar Rd & Cedarbrook were able to benefit from this great event.



July 25-29 VBS at Nu Elm. conducted by Broadway Baptist College Dept. and NuElm volunteers. Activities consisted of jump rope, basketball, Frisbee and other games on the courtyard, bible stories & crafts in the community room topped off by a hot meal served each night! One craft involved just writing whatever you wanted on a T-Shirt! Wow, that’s different! 18 kids were enrolled.





John B Hughes

Tuesday July 26 finally saw the long awaited Tour bus (mobile classroom unit) officially put into service at John B Hughes apts where the need that prompted it's becoming a reality originated. This was five months and approximately \$18,000 in purchase,



NuElm

conversion and furniture costs (if you count labor and materials donated) in coming. The third week in service found it housing 30 kids for classes!! What a relief to the space needs at JBH and Nu Elm. It was introduced at Nu Elm on August 21 with approximately 15 kids using it. A big thanks to drivers Jody McCleary and Bob Wise. The bus is scheduled to be at South Tower Block Party on Sat September 17, and at Greene County Baptist Association annual meeting at University Heights Church on October 6.

Saturday August 6 Villa Marie Ice Cream Party and the movie "Soul Surfer about a girl whose arm was bitten off by a shark resulting in the long term with a much deeper dedication to service which her previous schedule of surfing competition had crowded out...and she is still surfing! Eighteen attended this event.

Tuesday August 9 Warm Up To The Vision training for new volunteers Michelle Bentz, Katelyn Bentz, Jeremiah Webster and Joe Dickerson. Michelle and Katelyn serve at Glenwood, Jeremiah and Joe at Nu Elm. All serve in children's ministry with the additional blessing of Joe (with his guitar) beginning to lead worship at Nu Elm as well!



Jeremiah, Joe, Katelyn, Michelle

Friday August 19 Back to School Bash at John B Hughes. Hotdogs and hamburgers Block Party trailer, 130 backpacks with school supplies (100 of which were supplied by partnering church, Broadway Baptist!) and LBM mobile classroom made up our part of this event. Also present was Norm Ridder, superintendent, Springfield Public Schools, Caring Communities, and Police and Fire Departments. Approximately 200 attended this huge event!!



Monday August 22 Glenwood bowling night at Lighthouse Lanes. When I queried Site Leader, Paul Hadley as to it's theme/purpose my heart surged as he once again expressed the essence of Lifebuilder's existence – "to fellowship together in a fun environment and to **Build Relationships** with new residents." Fifty attended and three new adults showed up at the next week's Bible Study for the first time. There you have it!!



Tuesday August 23 Raedean Pollard Appreciation Service at Villa Marie. Few people represent the "heart and soul" of Lifebuilders Ministries or have given as much to its purpose and development as Raedean Pollard. She was the first resident to attend a



Lifebuilders service bringing 15 people with her!! She was our first children's teacher at Villa Marie multiplying into 3 additional locations, was the first secretary in our first office on west Sunshine street, was our first photographer, and spoke on behalf of Lifebuilders at denominational meetings. She gave, went, attended and served in more locations and events than we can count and through it all gave herself continually to helping individuals in her own path... and most meaningful to me was her unwavering support of me as a leader in more instances than I can count. Of course Raedean is unassuming and unaware of all this but I can assure you it is true. Recently Raedean went to work full-time for Springfield Public School Systems and we will greatly miss her daily presence in the office but thankfully she is being retained to put out the newsletter every other month with an skill unmatched and particularly suited for Lifebuilders... and she will still be attending services regularly. We thank the Lord for that. I have always believed that God put Raedean in place to play a major role in the establishment of Lifebuilders.

Saturday August 27 Basketball Banquet at Bolivar Road was one of the most inspiring services I have ever attended. Enough can never be said for the humble, yet courageous faith of Robert Spencer's purpose in giving these much at-risk teens not only the opportunity to play in a significant city league, but to be loved and mentored spiritually as well. Some "star" players had to be permanently suspended due to rules violations and some temporarily and allowed to return, based on severity of offense, but in the end a strong group emerged whose attitudes, commitment, and team spirit were pure. Certificates of achievements awarded included the following; "Best Defense", "Most Rebounds", "Most Improved", "Most Hustle", "Most Dedicated", and "Biggest Heart"... and a lasagna/chocolate cake dinner wasn't too bad either!! And of course there are the unsung heroes who spent so many hours (and gasoline) transporting the team to games and practices i.e. Rick and Donna Webb, Bob Hendrickson, Jay Borges and Marshall Ford. What a "God" thing to be a part of.



Sunday p.m. August 28 Baptism Service at National Heights. What a joy it was to be at this great church again and to baptize 8 year old Dillon Hoyt, son and grandson of LBM Volunteer Sam and Eleanor Hoyt respectively. As we have said many times National Heights was the very first church to come aboard with Lifebuilders and it's like "Homecoming" each time we are there. Dillon was raised in a Christian home and made his profession of faith in Christ at the Bolivar Road VBS Block Party this summer.



Sad Note. We mourn the passing of beloved Lifebuilders volunteer Dennis Reimer on Thursday p.m. September 1st. Dennis was a retired math professor with most of his teaching career spent in colleges in Oklahoma, followed by 15 years as a System's Analyst for the 3-M company. He had a heart for the weak and helpless, was a special friend to the ministry, taught adults at Cedarbrook for the last 5 years, and had an ever-steady calming influence on all in his path. I personally "gleaned" from that trait more than once! Most of all



he was a godly husband, father, and grandfather. His services were held at Jefferson Avenue Baptist, Springfield, on Saturday, September 3, 10:00 A.M. Pastor Craig Fields officiated with best friend and fellow Lifebuilder volunteer Ron Woods so aptly delivering his eulogy. But to me the crowning tribute to all his godly influence was the violin solo with piano accompaniment rendered so beautifully by his two lovely grand-daughters. "Dennis words can't express how much we'll miss you but enjoy Heaven... our special brother and friend."

\$\$ Concerning Finances. Contributions were up considerably in July and August and met budget requirements and we are enough under yearly budget in spending that the original deficit is not a problem at the present time. Some of you gave so generously and we are so grateful. We will continue to pray and work toward the much larger financial goals mentioned in the last newsletter but always keep in mind our only reason for doing this is to cover administrative costs appropriately and to have much more to invest in truly deserving lives in order to help them get to the next level of productive growth!!

Blessed is he who has regard for the poor, the Lord delivers him in times of trouble. Psalm 41:1

In the months of July and August you have helped 16 families with food, 6 with car repairs, 1 with day care, 2 with diapers, 1 with eye exam and glasses, 4 with gasoline, 2 with medical, 1 with phone service, 6 with rent and 3 with utilities.

Our special thanks to Mothers Automotive, Ace Transmission, and Muffler City, Grahams and Aasby's Automotive.

When I write these I have the sense that I am writing to family even though I realize I don't know many of you personally, but I do know that without your commitment to the Lord for helping the poor and disenfranchised among us we would not survive. Thank you and blessings to you all.

For His Kingdom,

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Winston, Sue, and Lifebuilder's Team