

March 09, 2009

Dear Friends of Lifebuilders Ministries:

Re-New The Vision. Every time I think about the open door we have been given to minister on H.A.S. Properties in Springfield my heart stands in awe all over again. I mean not only to have the opportunity to relieve human suffering in a variety of tangible ways but also to build long - term relationships which provide guidance in such areas as positive social interaction, family relationships, job finding, vocational training opportunities, vehicle acquisition and even home-care training. Many times these services have kept people from losing their homes and even when they had to move, provided the assistance they needed to be able to keep their possessions when there was just no one else to help! Of course all this is nothing more than demonstrating the unconditional love of Christ (to the “poor”) that He put such a premium on doing. See Luke 4:18; 7:18-22... What hope just a simple car repair can bring to a single mom, or removal of an abscessed tooth to someone who has no money and no insurance! But I fear that many of us, yes, even we who think of ourselves as the vanguard of God’s “front line” fighters do not fully appreciate the opportunity we have been given, because beyond just our weekly service time few of us are out there getting to know those who know so little of the God we know... the very thing we criticize the traditional Church for not doing!! I know our schedules are busy but we need to resolve in our hearts to take the time necessary to share the Gospel with every creature as He commanded (Mark 16:15) by sharing our lives with just one individual or family at a time.



From my heart to yours

A Very Sad Note.

Shock waves of titanic proportions reverberated through Lifebuilder’s ranks last Thursday as we learned of Mary Buckner’s sudden passing Wednesday night. Mary suffered a brain aneurism shortly after arriving at home from her usual Wednesday schedule of teaching G.A.’s at South Haven and died at St. John’s Hospital a few hours later. A huge loss



will be felt by everything and everybody connected with her. Mary was a very young 55 years.

Godly parents raised Mary in church from day one of her life and she served in many positions in music and teaching but according to her closest family members had just blossomed and found her “heart of hearts” with Lifebuilders. Not only did she serve as Children’s teacher in two locations but had so owned the vision that she had become an undergirding factor at every Lifebuilders juncture. Losing her is like losing a fierce “front line” fighter (who is in the trenches with you) right in the middle of combat!

Mary was pure-minded, calm, resolute, cheerful, persevering, faithful and always, always had a great sense of humor. When things would start to fall apart at some event or someone would fail perhaps creating an awkward situation, Mary never panicked or became critical, but would just calmly assesses the situation, speak a word of encouragement and move on to the next best thing to do. I dare say she had the most balanced Christian disposition I had ever seen, and she so loved to focus on sharing the love of Christ with troubled children.

Finally, Mary was always turning things around as when someone would say “Mary it is such a blessing having your serve here” she would say, “Oh, no but thank you for providing this opportunity for me to serve”, This is borne out in the enclosure in which Mary was paying tribute to Sue and I after attending LBM’s Christmas Banquet for volunteers this past Dec. This was just Mary... a spiritual leader’s dream for a servant. “Oh how we miss you Mary... Enjoy Heaven... See you there... One day...” But until then we will rest in the truth that “Jesus holds the keys of hell and of death”-Revelation 1:18, and “Not one bird falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will”-Matthew 10:29.(NIV)

HEART HELPERS.

Paul Gower was released from Virginia Department Of Corrections in May of 08. Here joined his family at Nu-Elm Apartments shortly thereafter and began the long tedious journey toward financial solvency and positive family growth. A book be written marking their progress...and the journey continues as we Paul and Peggy have both made professions of faith in Christ and demonstrated that faith in a number of seemingly impossible situations. Here are their testimonies.



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“Lifebuilders has helped our family in so many ways. One was by getting two different shops to fix our Pontiac Sunfire which needed a new head and clutch repair. Then about a month later when it just shut off for no reason the church helped by getting another shop to help that determined that the head was defective and had ruined the engine. When warranty service on the head and engine bogged down Pastor Winston referred us to a place called Super Cars with a helpful salesman named “Yosh” who got us into a 2000 Ford Explorer (in great condition) with a small down payment and a really good trade in on our disabled car. Without good transportation you can’t hardly do anything. We were also blessed by having the kid’s meet for Bible Class at our apartment while the apartments were being renovated. Lifebuilders also helped us with a study Bible, food, diapers, twin bed, bicycles for the kids, rides to work for Paul, and other things. They have helped us to find our faith in God and to keep it that way.”

Peggy

Having recently returned home, Lifebuilders has had a very strong effect on helping me through some very trying adversities and struggles. Peggy became involved with Lifebuilders while I was away and introduced me to Pastor Barnett who saw “right out of the gate” what I was facing. He looked past some things to a person who was trying to do right and basically took a “hands on” approach to help our family in so many ways. I came from a family background that involved “no family at all” and many times could see no light at the end of the tunnel. But with the help of Pastor Barnett and the good Christian people of Lifebuilders we have now found the light on many occasions. Pastor Barnett has taught me to pray to the Lord at all times not just when I had troubles. I wanted to change

my life in that way. He also taught me other things from the Bible that have softened my heart toward others. I will always be thankful that Lifebuilders opened up their kindness to me and my family and showed me people do really care. It has made me want to be more involved with giving and sharing through them. I pray that God will continue to bless them as they are true Christians and champions of Christ."

Paul

On Monday November 24, 2008 adoption procedures were finalized placing James Jeffrey Miller permanently in the care of and Sharon Schleuter. It was the final triumph of an 8-month process involving legalities in two states. James' birth mother family acquaintance and knowing that she didn't have the resources and ability to give the child a stable home wisely willingly agreed to place him with the *Mom, Dad and James Jeffrey*



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Schleuter's. There are many special things that could be said about this merciful episode, but two that stand out is that the birth mother is still included in the Schleuter's circle of love and the child has been given the opportunity to be raised in a loving Christian home. Ray and Sharon have served as worship leaders and children/youth teachers at Villa-Marie for 3 years. Thanks guys for your godly hearts in this matter.

New office location! On Saturday, February 21st Lifebuilders excitedly moved into a new office space located at 1942 S. Stewart, Springfield, 65804 (just behind the Plaza Shopping at Sunshine & Glenstone streets). However the weeks previous were not so exciting as on Feb 1st when we received notice our landlord that our yearly turned month to month lease was terminated because our adjoining neighbors (Everest



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College) was taking the entire building. They had told us this may happen at some point but after several years we just didn't think it would. However as has happened SO many times in Lifebuilder's history God came through in a marvelous way giving us twice the amount of square footage (1,000) as in the previous location (complete with kitchen and meeting room) for only \$500 per month, plus utilities!! It is also in a strategic location in the city which is very "user friendly" for our purposes. The new landlord also put in a new wall and door and allowed us to "rewrite" parts of the lease that were not palatable to us! Also there was no security deposit required. However prior to this were two excruciating weeks of looking and trying to decide on somewhat disadvantaged locations when it seemed that this was almost "dropped in our laps". Our total monthly expense in this category is going up approximately \$375 per month from our previous amount of only \$280 (which was totally antiquated to current going rates). But our Board of Directors feels good about it and we are so excited to see God move (once again) on our behalf! We are sure he will provide. A big enough thanks cannot be said to Joyce Skelly, our Administrative Assistant and all the LBM volunteers who worked so hard to redecorate the space and coordinate the move. I was not present at either occasion (Joyce's request!!) but upon returning from an evangelism conference on Wed (after the Sat move) I was overwhelmed to find everything so perfectly decorated and in place. I would not have changed any paint color (not even one shade) and I would not have moved anything even half an inch! How blessed I am! These sweet people took the time to decorate my office to the tiniest detail just as it was before. My tears flowed for the honor bestowed upon me by these dear, dear servants of Christ. Be sure to come see us now. This office belongs to all of us.

On Saturday AM, Feb 7 a total of 30 kids and adults from Glenwood and Bolivar Road were able to attend the new Veggie Tales movie “Abe And The Amazing Promise” at Campbell 16 Cinema. This was followed by an additional 32 attended movie nights at Cedarbrook and Nu-Elm on Sat PM, 7th and Sunday PM, Feb 8th. What joy and inspiration this brings to less fortunate and broken lives. Thanks to all the LBM volunteers that make these events possible... Easter egg hunts, summer VBS's, and Block Parties are fast approaching! Fun...Fun...coming!



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Economically so far so good for Lifebuilders in these uncertain times. December and January contributions were strong but February dropped off considerably, we feel we are good stewards of the monies God gives us and that He will provide but we must take the current economic situation in our country into account. Please send the most generous gift you can this month.

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

In the months of January and February you helped 5 families with car repairs, 2 with clothing, 7 families with food, 1 with gasoline, 1 with phone bill, 6 families with rental assistance and 1 family with utility assistance.

A special thanks to: Autotronics, Complete Auto, Ace Transmission Springfield Brake, and Hazelrigg Automotive.

We regret only being able to send the newsletter every other month but it is very helpful to our budget and you have been very faithful. Please let us know how we can help you or pray for you.

For Christ's Kingdom,

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Winston, Sue and Lifebuilder's Team