

July 08, 2009

Dear Friends of Lifebuilders Ministries:

“Lifebuilders Ministries, Inc., a Christ centered organization, exists to ‘heal the broken hearted and set the captives free...’(Luke 4:18) through planting churches, teaching life skills, mentoring residents and providing benevolence in low income Multi-Housing properties in the Springfield, Missouri area”

The above Mission Statement remains our high visionary ideal as well as the object of practical implementation as God empowers us to do so. We appreciate your support in this vital Great Commission cause.

“Up Front” \$\$\$. As you may know we have never opened a newsletter with a special financial appeal but income has dropped off the last few months leaving us with the need to raise an additional \$4175.00 (above and beyond regular contributions) by the end of August to stay on yearly budget schedule. Increased office expense, lower receipts due to economic downturn, and the possibility that some may have missed “regular” monthly contributions due to bi-monthly newsletter schedule...have all contributed to the deficit. However this is not unusual as we have had to do this at least once each calendar year anyway. So please send the most generous gift that you can. We get a lot for each dollar invested in this ministry. We invest in people, not buildings and fine furnishings. We “take the church” to them meeting in whatever facilities that are available on their turf.

HAPPENINGS AND HEART HELPERS

Summer Fun!! It’s hard to put into print all the wonderful things that happen and the challenges that can occur during three Vacation Bible Schools and four Block Parties all occurring mostly within a two-week period. June now rivals December in terms of “busiest” month of the year for Lifebuilders! Here’s the schedule... you may get tired just reading this... but it is all GREAT!

Nu-Elm – “Springout” Block Party Sat May 30, 3:00p.m

Villa Marie VBS– June 15-19, 10a.m – Noon w/Block Party Tues evening

Cedarbrook VBS– June 15-19, 2:00-4:00p.m w/Block Party Thurs evening

Bolivar Rd VBS– June 22-26, 10a.m-1:00p.m w/Block Party Wed evening



VBS's included lots of Bible stories, unique and involved crafts (ask the teachers!), music, recreation, T-shirts, puppets...and other things. Block Parties included hot dogs, chips, cookies, drinks, (one ambitious location even provided watermelon!), music by 5pc LBM "Rock & Roll" Gospel praise band, puppets, door prizes, children's group singing, clown programs... and other things...



A total of **107** local volunteers participated to help make these "big" weeks happen. This number does not include the **10** and **12** member "out of state" mission teams.

A very deep expression of appreciation goes to the following:

-Mixed age and Adult I Classes, National Heights Baptist, for providing lunch at Villa Marie for the Clown Troupe.



-LBM office staff and Women's Missionary Group, Northwest Baptist, for providing lunch at Bolivar Rd for the Clearview Mission Team.

-LBM Site Leaders and staff for doing such a good job of pre-planning and executing Block Party responsibilities with very few (if any) "fumbles"...!



-LBM "Rock & Roll" Gospel Praise Band for providing great music for all the Block Parties.



-Freedom Christian Clown Troupe, First Baptist Church, Locust Grove Oklahoma for conducting VBS's at Villa Marie and Cedarbrook FOR THE 8TH STRAIGHT YEAR!!

-Clearview Baptist Mission Team, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma for conducting the VBS at Bolivar Rd and for making plans already to come back next year!

-National Heights Baptist (long-term ministry partner) for "housing" both the Freedom Clown Troupe and Clearview Baptist Mission Teams (consecutively) the weeks of June 13-19 and 21-26.



Finally and probably most important, **101** kids were enrolled in the VBS's and over **350** people attended the Block Parties. Myriads of Gospel seeds were sown in precious young lives, adults heard the message in most creative ways, and the love and light of Christ was shared abundantly in these areas. Only eternity will reveal the value of all this... and two more VBS's are scheduled at Glenwood and Nu-Elm for the week of July 20-24th!!



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 Kim Nelson, age 9, and Cameren Black, age 10, from Villa Marie have been chosen from our area to compete in the national competition. Savings bonds and cash prizes will eventually be awarded. These are really sharp, great kids that attend Villa Marie Church and youth group each week. Be sure to congratulate them!



Pledge Drive. As you know Ministries continually seek ways to sustain and if necessary, increase their funding. Lifebuilders is totally dependent upon free will offerings (contributions) for its existence. We currently have many families on our mailing list with a small percentage (comparatively) contributing financially to the ministry...kind of like in a typical church setting where 20% carry 80% of the load. However we feel that many do not give because they feel that a smaller gift they could afford (\$10, \$15, \$20 month) may not be adequate. But actually many giving a smaller amount consistently helps off set the "roller coaster" ride of feasting when the big checks come in, and the famine that sets in when they don't! So when you get a phone call from our office please prayerfully consider the appeal BUT do not feel any guilt if you cannot give. If you enjoy keeping up with Lifebuilders we want to keep you on the mailing list as a "cheerleader" and a prayer partner.

Six-State Regional Multi-Housing Conference.

The first ever six-state Regional Multi-Housing Conference will be at South Haven Baptist on the weekend of Aug. 28-29, 2009 (less two months away!). States included are Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Mississippi, and Louisiana. It is being hosted by Vivian McCaughan, Missouri Baptist Convention and North American Mission Board. Springfield was chosen as the meeting largely because of Lifebuilders' success in Multi-Housing ministries church planting there. Lifebuilder's part in the program schedule feature a breakout session Friday *Vivian*



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afternoon, Mission's presentation (Donna Webb & Winston) on Friday evening, with another breakout session Sat. A.M. The Manual that Vivian McCaughan asked me to write will be made available to all participants with me addressing its contents and fielding questions on Saturday A.M. It is now at Missouri Baptist headquarters in Jeff City being printed and put into notebook form. Other speakers from different parts of the country will be featured along with North American Mission Board Multi-Housing Church Planting strategists.

The meeting will conclude early afternoon Saturday with as many participants as possible taking a tour of some of LBM's ministry sites for prayer walking and briefing by Site Leaders on operational procedures. The conference fee is \$25 per person but Vivian McCaughan/MBC is scholar shipping all currently active Lifebuilders Volunteers.

We are honored to be chosen as a major feature of this conference and hope whatever knowledge we impart will result in multi-housing church planting being expanded in the region.

An exact program schedule will be forth coming but roughly the conference will begin early afternoon Friday and will end Saturday around noon. And Oh!...a dinner will be served Friday evening just before mine and Donna's presentation

Clear you calendars now! Make plans to attend! Let's make this a blast!

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

For the months of May and June you have helped 6 families with food, 2 with rental assistance, 4 with auto repairs, 2 with medications, 3 with telephone payments, 3 children with camp tuition, 3 families with gasoline and 1 family with utilities.

Specialthanks to Complete Auto, Autotronics, Aasby Automotive, Mckowen Dental and Davis Dental.

As per usual thank you for all your support and encouragement in every way and PLEASE let us know how we may help or pray for you.

For His Kingdom,

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