

.November 7, 2012



Dear Friends of Lifebuilders Ministries:

To paraphrase Malachi Chapter one, God said to Israel “You have despised My name”. They said, “but how have we despised you, we have offered up the required sacrifices!” God said “by offering me the lame, the blind, the blemished, in other words, your leftovers.” To despise someone is to primarily think of them as worthless. Let’s be sure in giving thanks this season that we are giving Him the best of our body, soul, and spirit in worship, time served, and possessions. Let’s not indulge ourselves in material comforts and pleasures, and then just give Him the leftovers! I think that’s probably where most of American Christianity is today.

#### HAPPENINGS & HEART HELPERS

Saturday, September 8, Fundraiser at Pleasant Hope Fall Festival headed up by Michael and Dedra Smith selling sno cones and cotton candy. A total of \$50 was cleared in this first of its kind endeavor for LBM, and served as a “practice run” for bigger venues next year. Great effort guys, everything counts! Successful ideas are never developed until someone tries something NEW!

Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup> H.A.S. Annual High Rise Picnic, Madison Towers. Approximately 150 residents, Housing Authority executive staff and employees, and outside agencies attend this event each year which provides not only a chance to get better acquainted but also to enhance helpful interactive community partnerships. A big thanks to H.A.S. for the meal, Downtown Market for cokes and ice cream, and Lifebuilders for Bert Smith and The Walk Band... and LBM volunteer Bob Martin who led the pre-meal prayer. I regretted having to miss this event for the first time in five years.

Saturday, September 22 All-Volunteer/Spouse Meeting, Ridgecrest Baptist. A great meal, discipleship video with discussion, corporate fundraising review by Tim Piatchek, testimony by Elvester Kennedy, warm rolling ministry pictures, loads of fun and fellowship, and a high-tech equipment rescue (by none other than Randy Brooks) made up this meeting. Forty-four attended and it was such a powerful time for vision encouragement. Being unable to attend, I was so proud because the leadership did such a great job in my absence, perhaps better! A big thanks to Donna Webb for anchoring the program. **HEADS UP! Make plans now to attend the Volunteer Christmas Party scheduled at National Heights Baptist Fellowship Hall Saturday, December 8, 5:00 pm.**

**\$\$\$ Financial.** Most organizations seldom mention money unless there is a shortage, but wanted you to know that Lifebuilders has received the required amount of 2012 budgetary receipts consistently all year long.

Thanks for your faithfulness and may God's blessings continue to be on you as you give to help us reach out to the "last, the lost, and the least" among us. Please help us finish strong with a great November and December!



Sunday A.M. September 30 "Springfield Mission Trip" encouragement to Clearview Baptist, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. It was Glenwood Site Leader Paul Hadley's and my distinct privilege to greet, thank, and cheer on Pastor Larry McDonald and this great church who has brought such outstanding mission teams to Springfield the last 4 years. They do VBS's (with adult classes offered) and block parties at Glenwood and Bolivar Rd. It is hard to measure all the good they do for the sake of the Gospel on the properties but we certainly see the fruits. Rumor has it that they have a 20+ member team in tow for 2013 and perhaps even a 3<sup>rd</sup> VBS in mind at another location! THANKS GUYS!

Thursday, A.M. October 4, WMU presentation, Second Baptist Church. Joyce and I had the privilege to be with this hearty group. It's been said that if you want to get something done around the church quickly and effectively (with the least amount of "fanfare") give it to the WMU! I BELIEVE IT and this group was no exception as they readily agreed to assist Laura Hawley and her Sunday school class at Second who has been bringing dinner to the Cedarbrook residents every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday for several years. They also agreed to look into bringing hats and gloves for the children at Christmas and special gift baskets to single mom's on Mother's day, etc. Thanks ladies, what a joy you are! This group is led by Janice Cooper.



Saturday, October, 20 Field Trip to Trantham Dairy Farm. Cedarbrook and Villa Marie teamed up to deliver 54 adults and kids for Randy and Wendy Calhoun to entertain on this fun occasion. The excitement levels are so high as many have never even been near a farm, much less on one. Activities included hayride, scavenger hunt (searching for such amazing items as a rock, hickory-nut, walnut, acorn, persimmon, a bone, and bird feather), feeding calves with a bottle, seeing little pigs, hand-milking a cow, and oh, a wiener roast too! A bonus for Joyce, Sue and I was a grand tour given by Randy of all the family properties, deer stands, and pear tree leaving Wendy to deal with all the kids!! Boy was he in trouble but we had great fun at his expense. Thanks Randy! A big thanks to Alan and Beverly Trantham and Wendy and Randy for all this fun. See you next year guys with 100 people!!



Saturday, October 20. Fourth annual Pumpkin Daze at Nu Elm with hot dogs, Bounce house, ring toss, bean bag throw, penny toss, apple dunking and 50 pumpkins that had to be painted because they turned out to be too tough to carve!! Pumpkin Gospel was also shared. Forty-six attended, a great group considering so many vacancies currently at Nu Elm. Karen said they couldn't get the kids out of the Bounce house!! Great job guys!



Tuesday, October 9 and 22 Warm up to the Vision Training for 9 new volunteers. Pictured left to right are Brady Woolace, Casey Merrick, Sarah Story, Tony Geraci, Anthony Solis, Stephon Williams, Raymond Perez, Phillip Milligan. All these guys are serving at John B Hughes. Pictured left is Becca Dickerson who serves at Nu Elm. Wow that's 15 total in the last two months!



Permanent driver at Nu Elm-Stephon William's story. As you probably have realized by now drivers with CDL class A/B licenses for 46-passenger tour bus weight class and air brakes do not grow on trees, especially for 4:00 p.m. Sunday worship services! We have struggled to find a permanent driver for Nu Elm for over a year as the bus is needed there for lack of classroom space. But through a chain of events it seems only the Lord could weave together that need has been supplied in the person of the handsome guy pictured at the right.



Stephon has quite a story. He was raised in a highly at-risk neighborhood in South Florida where most adult males were involved in drug trafficking and the younger ones usually followed in their footsteps. But not Stephon, he said **NO!** He worked at Burger King and the Outback Steak House from 1998 to 2008, played football and basketball at Maland High School, Daytona Beach and South Florida University, Tampa. He relocated to Springfield in 2010 with a long-term goal of being a big rig or charter (tour) bus driver.



Most people who obtain CDL class B licenses have to be formally trained. Not Stephon! It took him many months and 15 or 16 trips to the DMV office to pass all the written tests for a permit, passenger endorsement, general knowledge, air brakes and finally CDL Class B...but he made it! A significant part of his training was his opportunity to apprentice under Jody McCleary riding with, and eventually driving LBM's bus to and from John B Hughes on Tuesday nights for almost a year. Stephon now works for Springfield Public Schools, but that is not all of his story. He was saved and baptized this year and attends services at John B Hughes and Broadway Baptist. He is growing in his faith and recently, joyfully became the father of a beautiful 7lb, 6oz baby girl, Katressa. Stephon is the epitome' of the Bible verse "He that humbleth himself shall be exalted". I think He'll go higher, don't you?

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

In the months of September and October you helped 14 families with food, 6 with dental, 2 with gasoline, 1 with phone service, 8 with rent, 11 with utilities, 1 with furniture and 5 families with car repairs. We would like to say a special thank you to Aasby's Automotive, McKowen Dental, J&S Automotive, Ace Transmission, Autotronics and Buzbee Dental.

Wow it's hard to believe that the Holiday season is upon us once again. We hope it finds you and your family in the best of health and enjoying the richest of God's blessings. May the true intended peace of the season, mankind's Redemption through Emmanuel(God with us)rest in your home and hearts.

For His Kingdom,

*Winston, Sue, and Lifebuilder's Team*

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