

July 7, 2006

Dear Friends of LIFEBUILDERS MIISTRIES:

The conflicts that arise in the ordinary home and work lives of individuals (even Christians) that have the potential to degenerate into destroyed relationships are amazing to me. Even more amazing is the fact that “Christians” can act so “unchristian” at times. The greatest challenge for every Christian is not in the arena of “public” service they have chosen (pastoring, teaching Sunday School, preaching to large crowds, etc) but letting Jesus be lived out in the “mean streets” of their daily lives. We forget that the great marvel of the Incarnation had to “slip” into Jesus’ ordinary childhood life (Luke 2:41-51), and that His glorious transfiguration on the mount vanished when He descended into the devil-possessed valley (matt. 17:9,14-21). It takes Almighty God IN US to do the most menial duty to His glory. The test of the life of a saint is not in career perks or marvelous spiritual experiences (that our success driven culture so neurotically craves), but faithfulness in human life as it actually is! Jesus set the greatest example when He, THE INCARNATE SON OF GOD, stooped and washed the disciple’s dirty feet (John 13:2-15). This is the eternally profound picture of sin-infected saints being considered and forgiven daily, not only by the Son of God, but by a loving brother as well. “He is not ashamed to call them brethren”- Hebrews 2:11b. May we as Christians never forget that we are first of all the family of God, then friends, and finally, co-workers in the Kingdom. All else is eternally secondary...

MINISTRY HAPPENINGS:

Springfield Cardinals . On Thursday May 4th, 06 for the second year in a row twenty-five Lifebuilders constituents were provided free tickets and the use of the Paperwise Company’s prestigious sky-

box to enjoy a Springfield Cardinal’s baseball game. This skybox is one of only three located on the third floor of the stadium complex. The others belong to John Q Hammons (Springfield favorite son) and the press core. We deeply appreciate the Paperwise Company for their generosity in providing such an opportunity for individuals who would otherwise never be able to afford it, and of course pictures



Lifebuilders and Mariachi Band

with Cardinal's mascot Louie, and the Mariachi Band considerably enhanced the charm of the evening. Thanks Paperwise for being so community minded.

Free Haircuts! On Saturday, June 3 Brenda Haley (in our opinion) went above and beyond the call of duty to administer a total of 18 free haircuts to a cross section age group of kids, teens, and adults at villa-Marie Apts. At a conservative cost average of \$12 per head that would represent a savings of over \$216 to the community. That may not sound like much but it is a lot to the Villa-Marie residents who benefited. (Even though all areas were invited, most all who came were from there). Brenda has indicated her willingness to offer this "on-site" in the other locations as well. Brenda recently joined Lifebuilders as a children's teacher at Glenwood and is also very interested in adult evangelism and discipleship. Thanks Brenda, for your enthusiastic contribution of time and energy to meet this basic human need.



Brenda Haley



June 12-16 Daycamps, Block Parties, Freedom Christian Clown Troupe! The week of June 12-16, 06 became the fifth year in a row for the Freedom Christian Clown Troupe, First Baptist Church, Locust Grove, OK to make their annual "missions trek" to Springfield to partner with Lifebuilders in conducting Neighborhood Day Camps (VBS) and Block Parties at Villa-Marie and Cedarbrook areas. This has become a very "looked forward to" event each year. Several of the children have their "favorite" clown and can hardly wait until they get here. The week begins

with the clowns arriving on early afternoon Saturday, unpacking and settling in at National Heights Baptist (our gracious host church), and being treated (by Lifebuilders) to dinner at Lamberts, the famous "Home of the Throed Rolls Restaurant" in Ozark, Mo. Sunday A.M. is usually spent ministering in a local church, and P.M. passing out Daycamp door hangers. Monday through Friday consists of Villa-Marie Daycamp 10 A.M.- noon (with lunch following), and Cedarbrook Daycamp 2 – 4 P.M. Block Parties are held on Tuesday and Thursday nights respectively. It is a very busy week and we can't say enough about the clown's and LBM volunteer's energy and efforts to make this a creative, colorful, and light-hearted learning experience for the kids. For me this year was personally special with the clowns making me an honorary member of their troupe, and giving me the "opportunity" to perform as a clown "Hippo"(Oh me! upper left picture) in one of their routines! There was a total of 74 kids enrolled (new record), and 204 signed in on the Block Parties. I wish I could report a genuine 30 or 40 salvations, etc, but in an unbiblical culture we just do not push or manipulate kids to make "decisions" just to have something to count. However, they are all given the opportunity to respond, and myriads of Gospel seeds are sown in their lives that we feel "will not



return unto Him void”(Isaiah 55:11b). At least two single mom families are now attending Villa-Marie weekly as a result of the week’s activities. Thanks clowns for giving so much of yourselves. We are already looking forward to next year.

Dede’s Lilies. As most of you know we lost our oldest daughter Dede in an untimely death in March 05, and you may recall that she had a very troubled life complicated by substance abuse and medically diagnosed mental illness. However we did have the privilege to see her receive Christ at age 10, and return to rededicate her life to Him 2 years before she died. As I sat listening to the message at her funeral my eyes drifted to the flower sprays where someone had placed a beautiful arrangement of Easter lilies. And I remembered thinking “Oh how I wish her life could have blossomed and have been as graciously lived out as those lilies”. A few days



Dede’s Lilies

later as we were disposing of the wilted flowers we came across the lilies and started to pitch them. But then I thought, “No, I’m going to set these out and see what happens.” Without exercising any professional plant knowledge I simply dug 2 holes out by the shed, put the lilies in them, watered once, and let them go. With no further care at all they went through the spring, summer, fall of 05, and winter of 05/06 in one of the worst year-long droughts in mid-Missouri history. But lo and behold in May, 06 there were 12 (as you can see) of the most beautiful lilies that one could ever see blooming on just one of the plants. As you may guess, with the death of a troubled child there is generally some insecurity on the part of the parent as to their eternal well being. As I passed by her picture on the piano many times during the year I wondered, “Will those lilies really bloom?...And even though I have no Biblical foundation for it, and realizing that a parent in this position could be vulnerable to “wishful” thinking, do you suppose , OH DO YOU JUST SUPPOSE that there is a chance that May’s lilies were one Father’s way (who knows how it hurts to lose a child under tragic circumstances) of comforting another father who desperately needs to know that his child is okay, that she is there with Him blooming in complete perfection-just like those lilies! I can’t say for sure but I do know that He cares enough to number the very hairs of our heads and that He loves to give the best gifts (specifically tailored) to His children. Matt 7:11...

Well, as usual it seems that many wonderful things are happening around Lifebuilders such as moving to larger offices, redecorating, and the NU-ELM Church Plant’s first service scheduled for this Sunday, July 16, at 6:00 P.M. We feel like all of you are a part of all of this with all you bless us with on your behalf. Please call if we can serve you in any way.

For His Kingdom,

Winston, Sue, & Lifebuilder’s Team

