

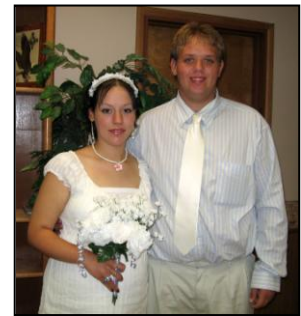
October 2, 2006

Dear Friends of LIFEBUILDERS MINISTRIES:

Due to time constraints we are sorry to have to forego what we always hope is an inspiring subject that is normally at the beginning of each newsletter. However we feel the following real-life story will serve as a good substitute.

### MINISTRY HAPPENINGS.

Building Lives. As you well know Lifebuilder's primary goal has always been to minister deeply into the lives of as many broken and hurting people as possible—"the last, the lost, and the least among us" (to use a recent phrase so aptly coined by my "brilliant" Tennessee cousin). Many times the problems have been so complex that we wondered could anything really be done? But occasionally we find some who just seem to be waiting for someone to come along and show them the right way. Cameron and Temple Crowe were raised in substance - abusing dysfunctional families. They were homeless when they came to us and she was 7 months pregnant. I probably violated every pastoral marital prerequisite that exists when I married them (but Jesus also got in trouble for violating certain "sacred sabbath" codes when He was involved in efforts to set people free as well-Matthew 12:1-8). You see they needed a home and could not get into the Missouri Hotel (Springfield's temporary residence for the homeless) without being married! Of course that wasn't the main reason. The deeper reason was that they wanted to spend their lives together and to follow right living. A week and half later I had the privilege to lead them to Christ in Lifebuilder's office with office administrator Joyce Skelly, and Nu-Elm site leaders Isaac and Amy Roberts, present. He said, "I thought I was saved but had based my decision on wrong information." She said, "I was around church people who urged me to 'join' and be baptized and that it was okay to do pretty much whatever you wanted because you just go and get forgiveness later!!" She continued, "I didn't understand the Bible but I knew that wasn't right, but NOW I UNDERSTAND, I FINALLY UNDERSTAND!!" (She repeated the phrase over and over). I wish you could have seen the delight in her eyes and the glow on her face (as she is normally a



*Happily ever after!*



*Cameron, Temple, & Vaylor*

very reserved person) as God's Holy Spirit entered into her. I don't think I have ever met anyone so ready to receive the truth as these two

To make a long story "shorter" their beautiful dark-haired baby girl "Vaylor" (8lbs,11oz) was born on Thursday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> and on Saturday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> were able to go "home" to their very own apartment which they had recently acquired at Cedarbrook. And to top it all off "Dad" at this time has two good employment opportunities. Lifebuilders, individual donors, and at least 3 Sunday school classes came through in a mighty way to supply them with the many things needed to begin their new life. Included were funds for marital expenses, clothing, food, transportation, utility assistance, baby goods, and a complete furnishing of their new apt. by a task force led by Joyce Skelly (typical!), not to mention moving assistance and loads of advice and personal mentoring. The greatest part of all this (in my opinion) is that Cameron and Temple have the ability to properly appreciate all the good things that have come their way. (see enclosed note). And we are sure they will "pass it on" as they are able. Their future looks bright indeed! Thanks be to God for the love of Christ that we first received from Him so that we could "pass it on" to them. —St. John 13:34, I John 4:19.

"Craft and Gab" Class Cedarbrook, Saturdays 2:00 p.m. The greatest thing that can happen to any neighborhood is for the people living there to have the opportunity to come together in ways that help build positive community values. The "Craft and Gab" class that has been meeting at Cedarbrook Community Building for the last year now offers the opportunity for anyone upper teens and above, not only to learn skills in general crafts such as sewing, quilting, crocheting, leather working, jewelry, etc, but also to have the opportunity to make new friends while doing so. "In fact, we will do most any craft anyone has an interest in if we can get find the materials" says Pat Killingsworth, Cedarbrook resident and founder of the class. Pat also says that "when people are doing good things together, bad things are less likely to happen." What a novel idea! Sound like a simple proverb? Well, check the sayings of great American heroes such as Abraham Lincoln, George Washington Carver, Daniel Webster etc., and you will find the backbone of our nation was built upon such simple truths. Every person desperately needs close personal friends they can confide in when they come up against the great difficulties of life. I suspect some have been formed as a result of this class. Pat, along with "Craft and Gab" and the daily nurturing of kids, teens, and adults that just happen to "drop by" her apartment, has also hosted Lifebuilder's Adult Bible Studies since our beginning ALMOST FIVE HEARS AGO! Pat, we are so thankful for your presence in the community as you give yourself to God on behalf of others. "Greater love has no man than to lay down his life for his friends"-John 15:13



*"Craft and Gab"*

MBC Church Planter's Retreat, Sept.22,23. Lifebuilders Ministries is proud to be recognized by Missouri Baptist Convention as a viable Multi-Housing Church Planting entity and to be included in their annual retreat. The last two years it has been held at the beautiful Tan Tara Resort (Lake of the Ozarks) with only the best of meal and motel accommodations. The program content on church leadership and life and vision plans conducted by Lifeway's John Shepherd

was both inspiring and practically applicable. This year the invitation to attend was extended to our site-leaders as well. Five of us were registered but two were prevented from going at the last minute by sickness and work schedule conflict. It was a great time! Thanks MBC for honoring your Church Planters with this outstanding event each year.

Increasing Financial Needs! Expansion to larger office space, general increase in production of office generated materials (flyers, brochures, etc) outside printing costs, increased phone/internet costs, more and varied requests for rental, utility, food, gasoline, car repair, temporary homeless (motel expense) assistance, etc. addition of a fourth ministry location (Nu-Elm Apts.) have put somewhat of a drain on Lifebuilder's liquid resources. And while we are so thankful for the growth of the ministry it does take more funds to operate. And there are a couple of additional areas that we would like to get into such as being able to reward some of the best workers in the world with volunteer appreciation checks/mileage reimbursement, and the ability to purchase inexpensive automobiles (\$1000 to \$1500) for families who desperately need them. In reference to just the increased expense drain we need to raise \$3600 by the end of the year above and beyond our regular monthly income. With the 175 newsletter recipients that we currently have it would only average about \$20.60 per family. As we enter the time of year when we celebrate God's greatest gift to earth (His saving Son-John 3:16) would you perhaps pray about sending Lifebuilders a special gift to help with these vital needs? In America many times we indulge ourselves, our families, etc with expensive, unnecessary gifts at Christmas time while making God a much smaller part of the equation. "Only one life, twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last"....

Thanksgiving and Christmas are such special seasons for America because when properly understood, they represent the very godly foundations that our nation was founded upon- thankfulness to God for our sustenance and survival, and the celebration of the true source of our Salvation. We pray that you and yours will enjoy good health and great peace this Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

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Winston, Sue, & Lifebuilders Team