

September 8, 2005

Dear Friends of LIFEBUILDERS MINISTRIES:

Lifebuilders Ministries is committed to maintaining a consistent presence to the poor and broken among us, which is characterized by the Compassion of Christ - Luke 4:18. This is not always easy to do because sometimes those in poverty exhibit behavior that seems so counterproductive to any social, economic, or spiritual progress that they may be able to make. However, let enough bad things come across any of our paths for long enough, and even the best of us can become bitter and hopeless. Haven't you at some point seen this in the lives of both "saints" and "sinners"? When this happens with the poor many middle and upper class people just become frustrated, turn their backs on them, and head for more "comfortable" surroundings. Aren't we all glad that Jesus didn't do this when he had to face the cross to save us from the consequences of our sin? According to His standards all of our righteousnesses(good works), socio-economic standings, etc. are as "filthy rags"- Isaiah 64:6. In Isaiah chapter 58, God informed His people that he was not responding to their "fasts"(acts of service and devotion) because primarily, their treatment of their fellow man was characterized by selfishness and oppression. In verse 6 He said "I want you to share your food with the hungry and bring the helpless, poor, and destitute right into your own homes. Clothe those who are cold and don't hide from relatives who need help"(The Living Bible). Let us never forget that we are first and foremost "our Brother's Keeper."!!!

MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

NAMMC Conference. On Aug 18-20 I had the privilege to attend and speak at the National Association of Multi-Housing Ministries & Congregations (NAMMC) conference at Midwestern Baptist Seminary in Kansas City. According to the North American Mission Board 100,000,000 people in America now live in Multi-Housing(Apts.), and less than 3% attend church. NAMB has taken a great interest in this phenomena and has acquired at least two full-time staff "Missionaries" to address this situation. The great challenge is to plant congregations within the Multi-Housing communities themselves. We are excited about some of the methods being developed and used to reach all socio-economic levels of this culture. Plans are being made to expand this outreach in the Springfield area in 2006. Will share details with you as things develop. Pray for this huge segment of unreached U.S. population.

