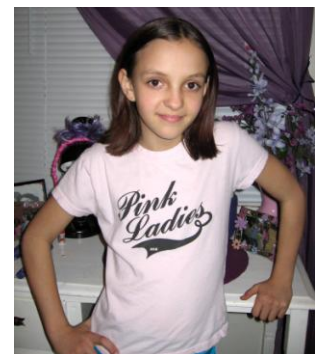


March 07, 2006

Dear Friends of LIFEBUILDERS MINISTRIES:

I believe that as we move more into our “senior” years, we become more aware of the brevity of life on this earth and the sure end of it. I for one have paid much more attention to the deaths of friends and loved ones, especially those at or near my age. Just this past Saturday Sue traveled to the small Missouri town she grew up in to visit her terminally ill cousin. Seeing his shortness of breath and the distortions of his body caused by the ravages of cancer devastated her, and who wouldn’t it have? Episodes such as this can make life seem so futile. The best comfort we have is in the sure knowledge that our Saviour, and sure Rock, Jesus Christ, came to this earth voluntarily, and in His Crucifixion suffered more than any human being ever has or will. He has been there first and we can take comfort, even joy in that fact, yes, even in suffering. On June 27, 1937, Pastor Niemoller, in his last sermon before being imprisoned by the Nazi’s boldly proclaimed-“There is indeed no hope except to hold firm to the Crucified One and therefore learn to say in simple yet certain faith-‘In the bottom of my heart thy name and cross alone shine forth at all times and in all hours and therefore I can be glad.’ ” Suffering and sadness are not the last things about this world. They are the next to the last. The last best thing is the laughter deep in the hearts of the saints. Christ has said it and they have found it true. “Lo, I am with you all the days.”-Mathew 28: 20, and “I have the keys of Hell and of death”-Revelation 1: 18c.

The Seeds are Growing! Understanding the actual amount of information being absorbed by seemingly distracted, unattentive children (I believe) is a common mistake made by most adults. Whoever coined the phrase “little pitchers have big ears” was on to something. Those of us who work in environments where children have grown up with maximum opportunity to develop unruly habits must keep this in mind. However occasionally we have the opportunity to realize just how much some of them have learned. A couple of weeks ago after the Monday night meeting at Glenwood a few of us were standing around talking when one of our children’s teachers casually asked, who baptized Jesus? To which 11 year old Lisa (pictured right) quipped “I don’t know for sure who it was, but I do know it is in Mathew chapter 3.” Stunned, the teacher



Casually continued, “and doesn’t the scripture say somewhere that Jesus said Satan fell like lightning from Heaven” to which Lisa replied, “That would be in Luke chapter 10.” Lisa is Raedean Pollard’s daughter. Raedean has lived at Villa-marie for five years and is now head resident there with H.A.S. She joined our ministry team 4 years ago as a children’s teacher and is now my Administrative Assistant. Lisa has probably been to more Lifebuilder’s functions than anyone with the exception of myself, and what a joy to see what she has “caught”!! Those who have the privilege to grow up in the “shadow of the Temple” are blessed indeed. “And let us not grow weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.” Galatians 6: 9.

Villa-Marie Shooting / Ministry environments can be dangerous!

Raedean Pollard (pictured right) as a part of her official duties as “head resident” at Villa-Marie, was called out one night in December to try to settle a domestic conflict occurring on the property. (Also, combined with her “legal” duties and yet somewhat separate, she has filled the role as “resident shepherd as well). When she got outside she found a young woman standing on the running board of a vehicle about to turn out of the driveway onto the street. She was screaming at her boyfriend and another young man inside the vehicle. Suddenly a masked figure ran from between the buildings, pointed a gun inside the vehicle, (not more than 6 feet from Raedean) and fired 3 or 4 times! Fortunately no one was killed, but the passenger now has a bullet lodged so near his heart that it can’t be safely removed. However he was not the intended victim! Two weeks later, another attempt was made with a drive-by shooting, this time wounding the target’s girlfriend. The person the shooter was after turned out to be the grandson of an elderly Afro-American lady at Villa-Marie, who Raedean and Lifebuilders had ministered to many times. When I called to comfort the Grandmother the grandson just happened to be there and answered the phone. When I realized it was him I spoke to him of the shootings and told him I was concerned for his soul and those involved in this episode. I expected him to hang up or to bow out somehow, but instead he was open and said he had been thinking about this already. He readily agreed to meet with me at some point at his Grandmother’s house whom we just recently helped move to a new location. The thing that is so outstanding to me is that we would never have had this repore with him had Raedean not been there so constantly to minister to his grandmother the last few years. Please pray that we will be able to penetrate this situation with the Gospel in such a way that the danger and violence will be defused and those involved will have the opportunity to be saved. – “Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in that my house may be filled.”-Luke 14: 23.



MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

A Regional Multi-Housing Church Planting Conference will be held at Ridgecrest Baptist Church (Fellowship Center) Saturday April 1st 9:00 AM-4:00 PM (see enclosed flyer). This event is sponsored by Lifebuilders Ministries, Greene County Baptist Assn., and Missouri Baptist Convention. The North American Mission Board tells us that 40% of the population in America lives in multi-family housing (apartments) and that less than 5% attend church. Without a doubt the multi-family housing community is the largest mission field in America. Pre-Registration cost is \$10 (deadline March 24). Cost at the door will be \$15. Lunch is included.

Please mail check (along with your name and address) to Greene County Baptist Assn, 430 S. Glenstone, Springfield, Mo. 65802.

LBM Benevolence is constantly ongoing with five automotive places willing to provide car repair for single moms, dentists providing emergency care for adults and comprehensive care for children. The North American Mission Board, local churches, and special contacts in other agencies provide food, rental, and utility assistance. This is not counting LBM moving assistance and temporary transportation and lodging. Recently we have become more involved in meticulous mentoring and support for single moms trying to get free from domestic abuse situations. One recent case included collaboration with an assistant prosecutor (who from information we provided), was motivated to ask for stiffer sentencing for the defendant which we feel was definitely appropriate.

Writing these newsletters compel me to be more mindful of the many activities Lifebuilders is involved in, thereby helping me to reflect more deeply on our basic mission which is to “heal the brokenhearted and set the captive free.” This keeps the vision fresh. Thank you for being on our mailing list.

For His Kingdom,

Winston, Sue, & Lifebuilder’s Team