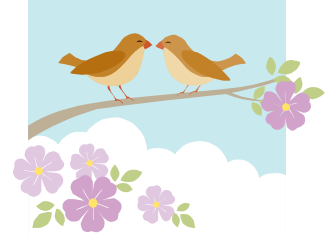


March 05, 2010

Dear Friends of Lifebuilders Ministries:



The Ozark's winter of 09/10 has been one of the longest and most consistently cold on record and people here are longing for warm winds, sunshine, blooming flowers, and budding trees. When these seemingly impossible things begin to appear out of 30-degree wind chills, cold frozen soil, and ice-covered limbs it is indeed just another opportunity to be reminded of God's miraculous power to bring life out of death. Jesus said in John 12:24(speaking of Himself) "unless a kernel of wheat (seed) goes into the ground and dies it cannot produce abundant life." The scripture teaches us that He took humanity's penalty of death for sin into the "ground" (grave), left it there and rose to new life never to be extinguished. I hope you will be "warmed" with these thoughts this Spring and if you need more information on how this new life is freely available to all please contact us as soon as possible. We revel in sharing this great news.

HAPPENINGS AND HEART HELPERS

The following letter (written by Frank Bentz to his discipler and mentor Randy Brooks) represents the epitome' of the effect we hope to have on as many lives as possible in the areas we serve.



Bentz Family

My name is Harry Frank Bentz III and this is my story. For the first thirty six years of my life I felt like I was doing the best I could with the life I had been given. I would tell myself, using drugs, telling one lie after another, cheating, were all tools I could use to get ahead in this life. There were times I would feel bad for the things I had done but I would just tell myself to quit being weak, suck it up and move on. While drug use almost destroyed my family, I lied to myself by thinking I was a better person when I was on them. I refused to see the destruction they had in store for my family and my life. Then my family and I moved to the Glenwood apartments in Springfield, MO in what I felt was the lowest time in my life. Until then we had always had good jobs, nice cars, and nice houses to live in. Not that the apartments were bad or anything, it just wasn't what we were accustomed to. At this point in my life I had almost single handedly destroyed my relationship with my wife and my daughters and at times felt it would just be easier to walk away than to repair what I

had worked so hard to destroy. That's when we met Life Builders. At first I wasn't sure what they were all about, but my wife and I saw that a lot of the kids from the apartments were going to this " Church" thing every Monday evening and our girls were wanting to go. So we let them. Over the course of the next few months we started to get to know some of the volunteers with Life Builders mostly Paul, Donna, and Wendy. After spending the last several years around people that were one way in front of my face and the complete opposite behind my back I didn't know what to think of these people. They really acted like they cared and at the same time I knew it wasn't an act. These people were kind, happy, and displayed a quiet confidence of people who knew what life was supposed to be all about. This is about the time our girls started coming to us with questions I couldn't even begin to answer. I had been born and raised Catholic and always assumed I was a Christian up to this point. The questions they would ask had to do with the Bible and at this point in my life I might have only picked one up a half a dozen times and even then it was only to move it. My girls were asking us questions about being saved and what it meant and the difference between being Catholic and Christian. I had to, for the first time, realize I knew nothing about God. How could I possibly live a good life and know nothing about God? This is about the time my wife and I decided we tried it our way long enough, it was time to make a change. I admitted to God that the way I had been living my life was wrong, that I was a sinner and that I needed him in my life if I were to fix all that I had broken. About two weeks later my wife and I were invited to a Valentines dinner put on by Life Builders. That's when I met Randy. He said he was going to start a men's Bible study on Monday nights while the kids were doing their thing. I felt like this was Gods way of saying, you want to know me, here I am. Randy is one person I thank God for everyday. He knows a lot about my past and still he doesn't judge me. Randy has a zest for life and a passion for God that I will strive for the rest of my life. Since meeting Randy and joining his Bible study I have made huge strides in developing my relationship with God, and with that have come major changes in my life including the relationships with my wife and kids. Since joining, my wife and three daughters have all been saved which led to the greatest day of my life when as a family we were all baptized at Ridgecrest Baptist Church with the help of Winston, another amazing person with the Life Builders organization. I thank God for Life Builders and the work that they do because without them I just don't know where I would be.

Frank Bentz

New Ministry Site. The first service at Lifebuilders latest site (South Tower High Rise) was held on January 11, 2010 and meets there each Monday at 6:30 p.m. South Tower is a six story H.A.S. Property that houses approximately 70 adult residents. Bill Richardson, a 35-year veteran Missionary to Brazil (IMB-retired) is heading up this ministry. Along with regular services life skills classes in the form of Budgeting and Cooking With Savings are already being offered there by local professionals in those fields.



Bill Richardson

A big thanks to Bill for his vision and effectiveness in accessing these services. Please pray for him and music leader Rick Rufkahr as they labor among a population segment that is especially characterized by loneliness and loss.

Pictured right is the Children's Church Kids from North Hills Baptist Church, Sherwood, Arkansas who voted to give their Christmas Mission offering of \$200.00 to Lifebuilders. What a



special joy to receive this financial gift from such a group and to experience this love for missions from such young hearts. We commend their leaders for (no doubt) recognizing the long-term value of this kind of training for the carrying out of God's great commission in the next generation. Thanks guys, what a blessing you are!



Valentines parties, game and movie nights! Just as a matter of course nowadays, several special events are usually taking place almost simultaneously within the Lifebuilders system at any given time. On February 8 and 13th 148 residents attended Valentines parties at Glenwood, Bolivar Rd., and Nu-Elm. Activities included dinner (kids serving parents), “parents night out”, video of Rick Webb’s marriage proposal to Donna (done on Donna’s cooking segment “Eating Well” on KOLR 10!), guest speaker Andy Thornton, Associate Pastor, Ridgecrest Baptist, (who himself has adopted 3 foster children), making your own valentine and more. Forty residents attended movie and game nights at Nu-Elm and Villa-Marie on January 23rd and February 26th. Nu-Elm watched the movie “Up”, and at Villa Marie activities included games such as Chutes and Ladders, Jenga, Pick-Up-Sticks, and Candy-Land along with face painting. These activities are designed to draw the community together, build relationships, and provide fun times in a wholesome environment...and which of course are always laced with the love of Christ.

Life Skills Classes. As a result of collaboration between Nu-Elm Tenant Association, Caring Communities, and Lifebuilders Ministries life skills classes in the form of male/female relationships, parent/child relationships, financial literacy, GED acquisition and nutritional cooking are being pursued for placement at Nu-Elm Apartments. A resident survey assessing what classes are the most desired is currently out. Please pray for the success of this endeavor as it will not only enhance the quality of life of those who take the classes, but will also provide even more avenues for wholesome relationship building.

\$\$ Financial. For all intents and purposes contributions to Lifebuilders remained consistently strong in 2009 with total receipts of \$60,099.53 for the year, an average of 5,008.29 per month. This has happened without any formal fund raising program in place. We realize that some Ministry organizations and churches receive this much in a week or a month but due to Lifebuilders unique operating structure (that requires little or no investment in buildings, utilities, furniture, large staff salaries, etc.) and a frugal effort to get the most for every dollar we have been able to accomplish a lot with a little. However our revenues do need to grow for various

reasons, especially to meet the need for office staff salary increases for those who give so much for so little. So far in 2010 receipts have been a little down. If you have ever (or perhaps even never) considered supporting Lifebuilders financially, would you please pray about beginning this year...and rest assured that your dollars are being invested in reaching a people group who are commonly described as “the last, the lost, and the least” among us.

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

For the months of January and February you have helped 6 families with car repairs, 1 with dental care, 1 with household items, 1 with medical and 3 with rental.

A special thanks to Springfield Brake, McKowen Dental, Aasby Automotive, Yocum Automotive, Graham Automotive and Complete Automotive.

We are very excited about 2010 as 2009 was our best year ever and Lifebuilders continues to grow. It seems to be (apart from the Lord) the greatest joy in many of our volunteer's lives but WE COULD NOT DO IT WITHOUT YOU. Thank you for helping us carry out this Vision.

For His Kingdom,

S

Winston, Sue, and Lifebuilder's Team