

October 08, 2007

Dear Friends of Lifebuilders Ministries:

Stop and think what causes you to experience disappointment? Most likely someone or something has failed to fulfill your expectations. Right? You had it all set up in your mind; the way a certain situation would work out, the way a certain person was going to respond. But it never materialized. Your wish fell fast and hard against stone-cold reality. Your desire dissolved into an empty, unfulfilled dream. Consider the following.

“I’m not happy in my work. When I got the job I never realized it would be like this”

“Marriage has become a drag! On our wedding day I thought it would all be so different. It’s nothing like I imagined at all.”

“We came to this church with high hopes expecting great things. We threw ourselves into the program without reservation. Now we’re disillusioned with the whole thing.”

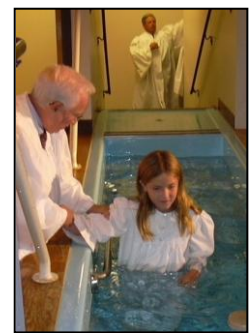
Expectations! We erect mental images which are either unrealistic, unfair, or biased. Those phantom images become our inner focus, rigidly and traditionally maintained. Leaving no room for flexibility on the part of the other person (allowing no place for circumstantial change or surprise) we set in mental concrete the way things must go. When they don’t, we either tumble or grumble...or both. The result is tragic. As our radius of toleration is reduced, our willingness to accept others’ imperfections or a less-than-ideal circumstance is short-circuited. And worst of all, the delightful spontaneity of a friendship is strained. The chain of obligation, built with the links of expectation, binds us in the dungeon of disappointment. We need to give one another stretching space – the room to respond and react in a variety of ways, even as our infinite Creator molded a variety of personalities. It will also mean that we stop anticipating the ideal and start living with the real – which is always checkered with failure, imperfection, and even wrong. So instead of biting and devouring one another (Galatians 5:15), let’s support individual freedom as we serve one another in love (Galatians 5:13,14; Matthew 20:1-16; Colossians 3:12-17).

New Site-Leader, Cedarbrook. In Ephesians 4:11, 12 the scripture speaks of Christ as giving to the church men whom God had gifted to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers for the purpose of perfecting (growing, maturing) of the saints for the work of ministry and the edifying of the body of Christ. We feel this is exactly what happened when Michael Stewart felt drawn over a process of time to become Site-Leader at Cedarbrook. Lifebuilder's people had been praying for God to send someone for over a year! Michael's stated purpose is to pastor the people and instill in them the desire to grow in Christ so that they may be able to reach others also. More than anything I believe the people in the areas we serve need conscientious pastoral care. When they get it they seem to flourish. Michael has a wife and two children, is a graduate of Wayland Baptist College, works full time at Missouri Hotel as a caseworker, and is pursuing a Masters degree in Social Services at Missouri State University. But his personal desire for Christ and the leadership of the Holy Spirit in all areas of his life are the most important things to him. Also outreach is one of his foremost passions, and those of you who know me best, know what that does for your Senior Pastor! Michael officially assumed duties at Cedarbrook on Thursday September 13. We are looking forward to a great time as God honors his work there.



Michael Stewart

Baptismal Service. On Sunday a.m. September 30, I had the privilege to baptize 9 year old Sarah Primm at Ridgecrest Baptist. There is nothing more joyful than to see a family complete in Christ and united in Church membership. Her mom received Christ at an adult Bible study at Glenwood apartments and was baptized at Ridgecrest a couple of years ago. Her older brother Chris (whom we baptized at National Heights Church a few months ago) joined Ridgecrest also on the 30th. The family lived at Glenwood and attended LBM services there for almost four years. We went through a lot of hardship together but at each juncture they ultimately chose to grow closer to God. The very next Sunday after Sarah's baptism (yesterday) they were all present again at Ridgecrest for Sunday School and Church for the very first time. Even though they have recently moved from Glenwood, we will always be connected because we are always close to those we help birth into God's Kingdom and well...also...well, because I have been kinda adopted by the kids as their grandfather!



Sarah

Block Party, Glenwood. At least 60 people that I counted (many didn't sign in) attended the long awaited Block Party at Glenwood apartments this past Saturday afternoon. Glenwood was "skipped" during the time of the June V.B.S Block Parties. Joyce Skelly (who directed the VBS at Glenwood) made sure that we brought back our faithful friends (The Freedom Christian Clown Troupe from Locust Grove, OK) for the fall Glenwood party! As usual the Clowns were the epitome' of light, love, color and truth but with the added joy of the debut of a new clown



Lefty sharing God's Love

(Lefty) played by Jessie Covington (who with his wife Cassie) made their very first mission trip to Springfield in June resulting in the call of God on their lives to join the Clown Ministry. As a



Ron and Don



Clowns teaching new songs



Randy Brooks teaching the meaning of "giving your heart to Jesus"

child Jessie lived in low-income housing and experienced the heartbreak of a broken home. He has a lot of appreciation for the Ministry that we try to do. "Welcome Lefty, we are looking forward to a lot of years of fun with you"! And oh, hurry up and get Cassie trained, we feel she will make a great clown too! Other highlights of the Block Party were music by Ron & Don (the odd couple), food & drinks, and door prizes. And perhaps best of all were 6 new Glenwood families in attendance, a number of "hearts at the cross", and at least one young adult woman who seemed to be seriously moved by the Holy Spirit and was prayed with by Glenwood resident Sherena Cox. Can't wait until next year!



Quarterly Worker's meeting. Lifebuilders third quarterly meeting of 2007 was held at Ridgecrest Baptist on Saturday morning September 15. The meeting consisted of special praise & Worship time, state of the ministry address, Site-Leader celebration reports, introduction of new Risk Management Policy, and viewing of the 2007 Missouri Baptist Convention Mission offering DVD in which Lifebuilder's was featured in a 4-minute segment. Especially meaningful was a closing message by Michael Stewart emphasizing the value of seed sown and time invested in just one life, even when there seems to be no visible evidence of any change whatsoever. Workers come away from these meetings especially encouraged, due to the common bond that exists because of a dedication to minister to a poor culture regardless of the lack of financial, numeric, and social gains that are usually the norm when working with the middle and upper classes. The worker's only hope of reward is the Master's approval. This produces a unique camaraderie. Twenty-Eight workers were present. The next quarterly meeting will be our Christmas Celebration. Details will be forth-coming.

Lawn Party. Twenty nine attended a "Lawn Party" at Villa-marie on Friday, September 28th. Hotdogs, chips, drinks, and Gospel music were served up, and I imagine a few testimonies were included also. I didn't get to attend but those who did were sure talking it up! Pretty fall weather also greatly helps to enhance these events. Villa-Marie has been putting together some kind of special event every month. Way to go guys!

Upcoming Fundraisers:

Charitable Auction- South Haven Baptist Fellowship Hall , Sat. November 10, 8:00 a.m. – Urgently need donations of things of value!

Trivia Night- Ridgecrest Baptist Fellowship Hall, Fri. evening, November 2, Reserve your table of eight or individual spots now.

For more information go to www.lifebuildersmin.org or call 417-873-9572.

We hope you are having a great fall with lots of sunshine and cool temperatures as is the case here. More than that we hope you are having a great walk with God as you experience His daily

shepherding presence. You know it is totally possible if you are willing to get in a little over your head (by faith), trust Him like a child, and expect Him to show up-John 14:23.

For His Kingdom,

S

Winston, Sue and Lifebuilder's Team

P.S. We wish to express sympathy to the Barnett family in the loss of Sue's Aunt, and to the Woods family for the loss of Ron's Father.