

November 3, 2009

Dear Friends of Lifebuilders Ministries

Words From Winston. In my opinion the greatest challenge for the American church (and even for those of us who consider ourselves to already be out on the “front lines”) is to implement and maintain the Relationship Building process....while keeping in mind what the first century Christians accomplished. They reached the known world at that time by individually sharing their lives and faith without the benefit of educated clergy, money, buildings, or systematic theology. They were excited about Jesus as someone who could identify with them –A “homeless” God... In a country, yes, even America, where many “gods” are now recognized we must take the mindset of a Missionary in a pagan land who sometimes takes years to build trusting relationships through practical acts of kindness.....to show people that they “belong” before they are expected to “believe”. When people see enough of this kind of love they naturally want to know more about you and sooner or later you get to share your “faith”... which the Holy Spirit can then take and “resonate” as “true” to their hearts. Just being information givers never works but consistent unconditional love wins the day every time...and the joy of the life-change and the bond that is formed between you is one of the most precious things you can experience this side of Heaven! Paul said it best in I Thess 2:8-“We loved you so much that we desired to not only share the Gospel of God with you but our own lives as well.”

HAPPENINGS AND HEART HELPERS

Multi-Housing Church Planting Conference. Sixty six people attended the Multi-Housing Church Planting Conference held at South Haven Baptist on Aug 28, 29. Lifebuilders played a significant role by sharing information on how to enter a Multi-housing Community, build relationships, children’s ministries, and Site-Leader responsibilities. Other speakers included Ben Hess, Missouri Baptist Convention Director of Church Planting, Ken McCune, MBC Multicultural Church Planting Strategist, and Neal Hughes, North American Mission Board Coordinator for Mass Evangelism and Pilot Projects. There is a possibility of three new Multi-housing Churches being established as a result of this conference. Vivian McCaughan, hostess, and Missouri Baptist Convention Multi-Housing Ministries Coordinator, awarded each church present a \$200 check for ministry start-up purposes and six individuals names were drawn to receive a \$50 door prize! We feel it was an inspiring and informative time that strengthened Multi-housing Ministries in the Southwest Missouri area.

Site Leader Meeting Sept 18. These meetings are being held bi-monthly on the third Friday. These leaders along with their staff are the “boots on the ground”, “front line”, “in the trenches” people who are the very heart of this ministry. They are invited to share whatever ... the “good, the bad, the ugly”, what works/what doesn’t, what thrills/what depresses, unsolvable problems, etc. These meetings are absolutely synergistically motivating and serve best to “stir up love and good works in each other”-Heb10:24. We hope to move these meetings to monthly venue before long.



Children’s Fun Day. On Sat afternoon, Oct 3rd, twenty six kids and parents attended this event at Villa-Marie. Games included “fishers of children”, Bible Ping Pong, Jabber talking, and Gods colors. Hmm! Sandwiches, cookies, juice and popcorn were served too! A special thanks to Sharon Schlueter for much of the planning and execution of this wonderful event. At least two new single mom’s and dad’s attended for the very first time.



Glenwood Block Party. The annual Fall Block Party was held at the Glenwood Apts on Saturday afternoon, Oct 17th. This event always features the “return” of the Freedom Christian Clown Troupe from Locust Grove, OK along with food, drinks, door prizes, LBM Gospel “Rock & Roll” Praise Band, and lots of other fun stuff. It was very cold but 45 “hearty” souls showed up anyway, 9 of which were first time people. The clowns did their usual great “love and light” ministry (joined this time by local clown “Harmony”). Another inspiring aspect of the event was that a large part of the “nuts and bolts” of the party (cooking, serving, registration table, etc) was handled by new Christians on the campus who have grown strong in the Lord.....and a big thanks to Randy Brooks who brought his “fire pot” to roast marshmallows and to warm by. It saved the day!!



Bolivar Road Field Trip. Bolivar Road volunteers shuttled 42 kids and adults to the Trantham Dairy Farm (located a few miles north of Springfield) to play in the hay barn, petting zoo, milking demonstration (complete with hands-on “udder” experience) and Weiner roast. I wasn’t there but understand it was a “blast”! A huge thanks to Allen & Betty Trantham and their “kids” Wendy and Randy Calhoun, for making this all available and for an unforgettable experience in the lives of these Bolivar Rd. residents.



LBM Outreach Seminar. This was held for the first time in over a year on Saturday, Oct 24th at LBM’s office. It centers on returning to the “fields are white unto harvest” mindset, practical instruction on getting past the “flyer and the formal greeting at the door”, and salvation scripture plan majoring on obtaining the “Righteousness” necessary for entry into Heaven. We are encouraging smaller groups (approximately ten people), with lots of interaction. A revival spirit is usually starting to happen as it draws to a close. The main effect it seems to have...as one participant put it... “thank you for reminding us of what we are here for!”



Cedarbrook Pumpkin Party. This was held at Cedarbrook on Thursday evening Oct 29th. Fifty five attended with at least 3 new families present. It was a five-station layout with face painting, drawing a pumpkin face on a balloon, making a candy sack, bean bag toss, and Pumpkin Gospel Story. A huge thanks to Randy & Wendy Calhoun and Betty Trantham for putting all this together and for all the volunteers who helped “man” the stations.

Nu-Elm Pumpkin “Daze”. Seventeen kids plus “big” kids (parents) got to carve pumpkins at this event held Saturday Oct 31st at Nu-Elm (11am to 1pm) with over 43 people in attendance. Wow! What an experience for any kid to actually get to carve a pumpkin!! Also chili, hotdogs, candy and drinks were served and the “Pumpkin Gospel” was shared expertly by children’s teacher Heather Balfour. A big thanks to site leaders Dennis and Karen Webster (and their staff) as well as to the Broadway Baptist Sunday School class that supplied funding for this event.



Finances\$\$\$\$. It has been a very steady year overall financially for Lifebuilders. Contributions dipped for a couple of months in the Spring but came back strong with a special appeal, and for the year is running slightly ahead of projected receipts. But to finish the year on this good note, November and December need to stay strong. God has provided from a number of unusual resources and places. Also please remember that requests for benevolence and Christmas help increase this time of the year. Thank you for your faithfulness to the Lord in all this. We feel we get a “lot” of return for the dollars invested in this Ministry.

COMING EVENTS

-Saturday, November 14th – 5k Run-4-Hope benefit sponsored by Ridgecrest Baptist, proceeds split between Lifebuilders and World Vision

-Mission Presentations

- Macedonia Baptist Church Staff, Tuesday, October 20th
- Lone Star Baptist, Sunday, November 22nd, A.M. Service
- Golden Avenue Baptist, Sunday November 22nd, P.M. Service
- Shining Light Ministries, Charleston, Mo – to be announced

Blessed is he who has regard for the poor, the Lord delivers him in times of trouble. Psalm 41:1

In the months of September and October you have helped 7 families with car repairs, 2 with dental, 7 with gasoline, 3 with food, 2 with rent and 8 families with utilities.

A special thanks to Graham's Automotive, Ace Transmission, Mothers Automotive, Autotronics, Davis Dental and McKowen Dental.

We want you to know that you are in our minds and hearts as we enter the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. We are so THANKFUL for you and how you have helped us to share the greatest GIFT of all, Jesus Christ.

For His Kingdom,

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Winston, Sue & Lifebuilders Team