

September 05, 2008

Dear Friends of Lifebuilders Ministries:

Jesus' references to His redemptive work on behalf of humanity and his personal appeals to come to HIM are most precious. Luke 19:10 – “The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost”... Matt. 11:28 – “Come unto Me all you that labor and are heavy laden”..., Matt 23:37 – “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem how often would I have gathered your children as a hen gathereth her chicks under her wings”..., John 5:40 “You will not come to me that you might have life”..., John 15:4 – “Abide in me and let me abide in you”..., Rev 3:20 – “Behold I stand at the door and knock: If any man will open unto me”... Anyone would be well served to look up these scriptures and read them in their entirety, for without these there is no hope. And if anyone wants help in understanding and receiving this Jesus please contact us and we will help you.

HEART HELPERS!

A Most Special Cross. These boys all live at Villa-Marie and have been under Lifebuilder's influence since it's inception in January, 2002. David and Cameren were only 3 at the time, Colton was 5. They are now ages 9 and 11. Their mom's (Angela Hawn and Raedean Pollard), were among the first doors we knocked on the very first day we passed out flyers at Villa Marie... and they are still with us serving (and having served) as children's teachers, keyboard player, office secretary, mentor, and many other capacities. These boys have all been saved and Baptized in the last two years. I feel like their grandfather as I have seen their mom's grow so much in the time I have known them. A few months ago they got together and “made” this cross for me. I'm so thankful that when they thought of me they thought of a cross! If this were the only thing I ever achieved in my Ministry in my whole life it would be enough. These boys have been raised without fathers in the homes. Their “single” moms have done a great job of pointing them to Christ and I only have two words to describe my emotions toward this situation – “Joy Unspeakable!”

Baptisms! On Sunday A.M. August 3 we had the privilege to baptize the Frank Bentz family plus first cousin Harley Willadsen at Ridgecrest Baptist Church. This family's salvation came about as a result of two years of conscientious relationship building by Lifebuilders volunteers who serve at Glenwood Apts. Enough cannot be said about the many instances of caring and compassion shown to this family. A few of the many things that they overcame in their journey to Christ were marital brokenness, substance abuse, Old warrants (now satisfied) spiritual disinformation, and other things. It just seemed that when they heard the "truth" they Received it with all their hearts, and is now evidenced in their newness of life. Frank recently said (and I quote): "I just know this; we now have a family closeness that will give us the strength we need not to give in to the former temptations when they come around." Site Leader Paul Hadley and his team at Glenwood are to be commended for their diligence in servicing this family. The Great Commission in it's entirety was carried out here. What a joy to be a step in the journey of the Holy Spirit's creation of new believers! I Corinthians 3:6.



The Bentz Family and Pastor

First Baptist Church, Locust Grove, Ok. As you know The Freedom Christian Clown Troupe from First Baptist Church, Locust Grove has come to serve Lifebuilders in VBS's and Block Parties at Villa Marie and Cedarbrook each summer for the last 7 years. On Sunday A.M. August 24, we had the privilege to be in their home Church to commend their mission work here and encourage the church to continue (and even enlarge) their support for them in all their endeavors. The highlight of the morning was power point pictures presenting people whose lives their ministry has profoundly influenced. What a joy to be able to express a little appreciation for the countless ministries they have rendered on our behalf! They will be in Springfield again on Saturday, October 4, 4:00 p.m. for a Block Party at Glenwood.



Clown Troupe and Winston

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Special Events

"Children's Fun Olympics" was held at Villa-Marie on Saturday, July 26th in which kids were able to compete for prizes playing various games. Villa Marie's kid population is somewhat down right now but a total of 26 attended including sponsors. Thanks to Sharon Schleuter for planning and executing the games. Refreshments plus devotions were also included. Kids (and parents) had a ball!



The Long Awaited and twice “Rained out” Block Party was finally held at Bolivar Road Apartments on Saturday, August 30th. Approximately 55 people attended including LBM Volunteers. (It’s hard to get an exact count due to some coming and going without signing in), but we felt this was a great start as this was the first event of any consequence held there in years! Activities included food, drinks, desserts, games for children, door prizes, great praise band, puppets, and Heaven’s message as told by the “Ball of Many Colors”. An especially meaningful moment was an impromptu visit by senior H.A.S. Security Specialist Connie Cook and the compelling tribute given to her by LBM President Winston Barnett for the magnitude of sacrificial service given by her on behalf of the residents of all H.A.S. Properties. Lifebuilders loves Bolivar Rd and we intend to stay!!

Glenwood Community Day was held on Sunday p.m. August 24th. Activities included food (homemade ice cream!) puppets, games, and a “give and take” sale where items could be bought and sold for only 10 cents. Amazingly \$23.00 was raised for Lifebuilders! Hey, every “little bit” helps! Approximately 40 were present.

A Big Thanks to Lone Star Baptist church for the considerable amount of school supplies they distributed at Cedarbrook on the Thursdays of August 14th and 21st. Lone Star supplies the fellowship meal there each fourth Thursday of the month plus many other services.

Good news on \$\$\$! We wanted to say a special thanks to those of you who responded with special financial gifts to help overcome a significant “dip” in monthly receipts that we reported in July’s newsletter. Again you met the challenge! And while staying “on track” financially is an ongoing concern it seems that God has faithfully supplied in the most surprising ways. At this time we are happy to report generally good financial health for the Ministry.

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

For the month’s of July and August you have helped 1 person with a bus pass, 4 families with car repairs, 1 with dental assistance, 8 families with food, 3 with gasoline, 1 with a phone bill, 5 with rental assistance, and 1 with utility assistance.

Special thanks to Rick’s Automotive and McKowen Dental.

It seems to me that God has had His hand on this Ministry to grow it according to His design since its very beginning. There is just no other explanation for its success and we feel that He has connected many of you to us in special ways as a part of this process. It is such a joy to partner with you. We thank God for you.

For His Kingdom,

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Winston, Sue, & Lifebuilder’s Team