

September 7, 2010

Dear Friends of Lifebuilders Ministries:

As you can see our opening message this month is shorter than usual. If this disappoints you please forgive us because there is just so much to report. But we always want to remind you that the same Creator, Jehovah Eloihim(who placed all the stars in space and called them by name-Isaiah 40:26) is the same Savior (Jesus, Yeshua) that shed all of His life's blood as the Lamb of God for our redemption and now leads us through life as Jehovah Raah (The Lord our Shepherd). He also calls His sheep by their own names and goes before them. John 10:3,4. We hope you will make every effort to avail yourself of His proffered desire to know and lead you...personally.

HAPPENINGS AND HEART HELPERS

“Susie Girls”. Donna Webb, (Site Leader at Bolivar Road along with husband Rick) recently started a class for Pre- and Early Teen girls (Susie Girls) with the specific intent to help guard them against certain inevitable risks that they encounter at this time in their lives such as premature dating, early pregnancy, etc. This is of course due to the lack of a proper nurturing family structure involving many things, but especially “overwhelmed” single moms and the absence of dads. However much of this can be overcome by the presence of godly women who are willing to get involved in their lives enough to make a difference. This type of “surrogate” mom not only gives Biblically-based moral guidance but also becomes both mom and dad to the girls in many practical ways. This is what Donna has done and now her “mantle” has been taken up by at least two other women in the LBM system, Cathy Barham at Villa Marie and Hillary Grant at Cedarbrook. Experts will tell you that in every case in which a child made it out of generational poverty/brokenness to a productive life the beginning point was when a caring mentor got involved for the long term. “Hats off” to you ladies. I don’t know that you could do anything more valuable this side of eternity. God love you and bless you for it.



New Classes. We are so pleased to announce the start up of two new adult Bible Study classes at Cedarbrook led by Marci Westermier and Joyce Skelly. These meet in the homes of Janice Weaver



ADULT BIBLE STUDY LED BY MARCI



ADULT BIBLE STUDY LED BY JOYCE

and Jade Williams. Marci's class began with her heart's desire to reach out to the younger single moms (who are showing interest as never before) and Joyce's began with her classic deeply caring/ in depth mentoring of a most skeptical (but real) young woman who has now been joined by some of her friends who all have an unusual hunger for the word of God. These things come about only as a result of great missional hearts. Congratulations ladies! God always honors these efforts to do the work He has made mandated "to make disciples of all peoples"-Matt. 28:18-20. These classes are in addition to the one who has met faithfully at Cedarbrook(Pat Killingsworth's home)since the beginning of the Ministry there and is taught by Dennis Reimer.



Kid's Cook Night. As you may know for the past several years a fellowship meal has been provided each Thursday night for the residents at Cedarbrook by sponsoring churches. However recently one church dropped out and wound up being replaced with a potluck meal prepared by the residents each month, who by the way, have done a great job! But on July 1st we were most delighted by a special effort by the kids, who under the leadership of Children's Ministry Staff cooked and served a most scrumptious Mexican dinner! Kid's who would normally be "climbing the walls" were lined up orderly behind the serving table (gloves engaged) conscientiously placing(on buffet' line plates) the several food components that it takes to make up tacos (or was it tostados) drinks and desserts!! Who was it that said the best way to train children was to give them something to do? I think we miss this point way too much and need to use it more. Thanks guys this was such a fun, cute experience.



Block Parties, VBS. On Sun-Wed p.m, July 25-28, and Sat p.m. Aug 6, the final Block Parties and VBS of the summer were held respectively at Nu-Elm and South Tower and they were just simply great! It's hard to convey in print all the joy and fun things that take place at these events but here are some: hotdogs, chips, drinks, cookies, sno-cones, popcorn, door prizes, money cards, games, gift certificates for oil changes, kids meals, numerous prizes for game winners (kids





and adults) and food/equipment sponsored by area businesses and LBM. Music was provided at Nu-Elm by the formidable “Beyond the Walls” band and at South Tower by father and daughter duet Winston & Jonna, soloist and guitarist Rick Rufkahr, and Northside Baptist Church praise Band. A very special highlight at Nu-Elm was Gregg Morris’s (former Army Ranger) in-depth story of his southern beginnings and his pilgrimage from total dependence on Ranger existence and mentality (to the point of family neglect) to coming to Christ and complete reversal of all these values and goals. What a powerful testimony! Special highlights at South Tower were the drama presentations of the life and death of Christ put on by the very outstanding youth team from Northside Church (see photos), African story teller Anna Martinez, and “ball of many colors” Salvation plan. A total of 209 people attended the two events. This was the first year for South Tower and a big thanks goes to head resident Russ Cobb who did such a great job of garnering in resources from community businesses and for detailed planning. We also wish to thank Galloway Baptist who for the third year in a row conducted the VBS at Nu-Elm which began Sun p.m. right after the Block Party. There were 33 kids enrolled. What great days these are for all of LBM!!



Back to School Provisions. What a pleasure it is to report that our long-term (and actually first church to partner in-depth with Lifebuilders) National Heights Baptist on Sun evening August 1st this year added to their already generous ministry output the provision of backpacks/school supplies, free haircuts, \$15 shoe gift cards (not to mention a spaghetti dinner) for some 60 children from Bolivar Road and Villa Marie. What can we say for this great church that has stood with us so faithfully through the years in showing such

love for the less fortunate among us. I tell you one thing....it does bring some “tears of joy.” Many happy returns guys!



Kids Summer Program/Backpacks/Gift certificates, Cedarbrook. Through attendance/bring a friend/ bring your Bible incentives, etc. in a kids summer program, thought out and facilitated by Children’s Worker Hillary Grant (and others) two \$50 shopping spree gift certificates were awarded to two very happy kids at the back to school/movie night party at Cedarbrook on Sat pm. August 14th...AND....PERSONALIZED



BACKPACKS TO 33 KIDS....that were sponsored by people personally recruited by Hillary and friends from the Brighton Community in which they live. WOW! This girl is a superstar but you know the thing in her heart that makes her so special is that she just wants to help these kids and see them have the best opportunity to grow their lives. Hillary is only 19 years old!! Can’t wait to see how God is going to use this girl in the future!! Hillary, you are such a joy to all of us!



Fashion Show Villa Marie. I suppose that there is nothing that makes little girls (or grown up girls) feel any better than to be “decked out” in a fashion that compliments their own special personas. This happened in a large way on Saturday afternoon



July 14, as 14 beautiful girls did their “fashion walk” in the amazingly decorated Villa Marie community building. For each “regalia” included a party dress, tiara, princess gift bag(wand, ring, bracelet and necklace), and shoes. Room décor included runway decorated with 10 inch neon-colored flowers, crowns depicting scriptures, balloons, and a pink tablecloth background...well...all the trappings for a first class fashion show! Nothing was left out. A Princess reception followed with pink and lavender strawberry mints, cup cakes, and pink raspberry punch! WOW!! One of the neatest things was the way that all the girls joined together in carrying out specific assignments in order to produce such a first class event. And of course it was all laced in scripture such as Psalms 45:11-“The king is enthralled with your beauty; honor Him, for He is your Lord”; Proverbs 31:29,30-“Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised”; I Peter 3:3-“Your beauty should not be just from outward adornment but from your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quite spirit which is of great worth in God’s sight.” And as a bonus a duffle bag filled with pajamas, Barbie, coloring book, pencils, warm socks, etc was made up for Madison Lobin who was scheduled to go to St. Louis for possible hip surgery in the next few days. We need to remember that an event like this can serve to build self-esteem in an area where that trait can be harder to come by and we wish to thank Cathy Barham (and all of those who helped her)for organizing, directing,...AND....investing a lot of her personal resources in order to bring such a beautiful event to the Villa Marie Community

Contributions(\$\$) Down in August! Even though receipts were considerably up in July they dropped sharply in August and we need a couple thousand dollars to catch up. Income for Lifebuilders has stayed up well during the recession and we are sure that God will provide but we did want you to know. And we are glad to be able to report such small amounts due to the precision with which the ministry operates in getting such large coverage with such a small financial investment, being able to acquire meeting space, utilities, etc., free of charge.....instead of having to report a need for \$20,000, \$50,000, or even \$100,000 that it takes some organizations to operate for just one week....or a few months).

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

In the months of July and August you have helped 11 families with food, 4 with rent, 3 families with car repairs, 1 with apartment cleaning, 1 with dental, 4 with gasoline, 1 with prescriptions, 1 with eye glasses and 7 families with utilities. Our special thanks to Marshall Ford, Graham Automotive, Mothers Automotive, Davis Dental, Lenscrafters and National Heights Baptist.

As I end this letter I am just “out of breath” writing about all the events and activities not to mention all the weekly services and personal acts of charity and kindness that go on constantly. I’m just in awe of how God has grown this ministry and you are a huge part of it. How we treasure your prayers and support. We are praying for you as well.

For His Kingdom,

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Winston, Sue, & Lifebuilder’s Team