

March 05, 2008

Dear Friends of Lifebuilders Ministries:

I love sunshine, light, and warmth. And even though I understand that we must have clouds for moisture, cold temperatures for other benefits (even the snow and ice is pretty for a little while), I just can't wait for fair skies, green grass, and 72 degree temperatures to return. The 2007-08 winter in the Ozarks with several thunderous snow and ice storms (more tree limbs lost), temperatures spiking up and down dramatically, winter tornadoes, (not to mention rampant flu and bronchitis) has been a long one! All of this has taken a toll on people and the weariness is reflected in their faces. However, on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> (for the first time in a long time) we had a "kiss" from spring with 64 degree temperatures and a balmy, bright, "sunshiny" day. I even got the mower out and mowed the dead grass!! I believe the teachings of scripture in Isaiah and other books in the Old Testament indicate that the earthly environment during the millennial kingdom will be one that is representative of eternal spring. Chapters 21 and 22 of Revelation speak of fruit trees (and I bet flowers too) in eternal bloom, and no need for the light of the sun because we will be basking in the "light of the Lamb". What! light better than the sun? It also says that He that sets upon the throne will make all things new and that there will be no night there. You must read these chapters. I believe that every spring on earth is just a token of what things are going to be like weather wise in Heaven. So brighten up! "Eyes have not seen, ears have not heard and neither has it entered into the heart of man the things that God has prepared for them that love Him". I Cor.2:9.

Cedarbrook Dinner Ministry. Various Springfield SBC churches started to provide fellowship dinners each week for the Cedarbrook residents beginning in the fall of 2006. This has turned out to be a wonderful blessing both to the residents as recipients, and to the churches as a mission outreach. This is not only a hunger ministry but has also provided a friendly, all-inclusive atmosphere which gives the extra incentive that some families need for encouragement to come who wouldn't otherwise. This has greatly enhanced our ability to build relationships with them resulting in deep ministry into their lives. Some are in such great need of restoration from brokenness and/or guidance in establishing their lives on the right foundation



*Second Baptist*



*Church at Finley Crossings*



*Mentor Baptist*

that a case history(book) could be written on each one. This has been the case with at least two families whose “connection” with us began with their attendance at the dinners. Also some who come are in wheelchairs. Think about what a blessing it is for them not to have to worry about fixing a meal! And on cold and/or rainy nights plates are prepared and delivered to them. There have been at least 4 salvations and 3 adult rededications since the dinners began. The churches that provide regular monthly dinners are Second Baptist Singles, Church at Finley Crossings, Mentor Baptist, Lone Star Baptist, and Galloway Baptist. (sorry, no photo available for Galloway). Of course there are not words to express the appreciation we feel and no real way to measure the far reaching effects of this compassionate ministry. Many times in Israel’s history when God punished them for turning their backs on Him, they were indicted for their mistreatment and neglect of the poor. Twice in Jesus’ key messianic statements (Luke 4:18, Matt 11:2-5) He placed the preaching of the Gospel to the poor as inclusive to the same level of importance as the performance of His marvelous miracles. I do not personally believe that anyone is ever nearer to the heart of God than when reaching out to the poor with physical and spiritual substance. Thanks for all of you who come and for the pastors and churches that stand behind you in this ministry.



*Lonestar Baptist*

New Ministry site. On February 18, 5:30 p.m. the doors were opened to the community building at Bolivar Road area for the first service there. This is the fifth Multi-Housing Ministry / Church Plant location established by Lifebuilders since January 2002. There is nothing quite like the satisfaction of placing the ministry of Christ where it has not been before, and to a people who have the least ability to “repay” so to speak. These are church starts like no other. The larger crowds and converts are slow in coming and the culture is transient, but those of us who have been around for a while have the ecstatic joy of knowing that there is going to be people showing up whose lives are very broken, who know little (if anything) about the Gospel, and who will be incredulously awed by the unconditional love they will find from these “perfect strangers.” Some will be saved and their lives rescued from destruction, and those who came to share will never be the same. After such experiences mediocre Christianity will no longer do! There were 24 present at the first service including LBM volunteers from other sites, and visitors from Temple Baptist Sunday School class. There was only one family from Bolivar Road, only one dad who was concerned enough to want his children and himself to be in church. But that was enough! (Concerned MEN are scarce in these areas). When one of his daughters asked Joyce about being baptized, she said, “Well, have you been going to church?” To which the girl replied, “I came to church tonight!!” I’m sure we will be discussing this matter more in detail with her soon. Pictured above are most of the volunteers from Community Southern Baptist (partnering church) who



will be conducting the ministry at Bolivar Road. One of the greatest joys I have as Senior Pastor is to see “hardy”, adventurous souls such as these step out of their comfort zones to brave uncertainties, experience in-convenience and endure the rigors of total surrender to Christ in order to take seriously His command to “preach the Gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). What special blessings await their lives!!!



Valentines Party, Glenwood. In spite of a week’s delay due an ice storm, Site-Leader’s absence (family necessity), Sr. Pastor and LBM’s office staff absence (facilitating first service at Bolivar Road), Head Resident’s absence (hospital) and other hindrances, 30 people attended the special Valentine’s service at Glenwood Monday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>! Activities included valentines and goodies, inspiring testimony of transition from belief in religious system to personal faith in Christ by volunteer Donna Webb, children’s “love” musical presentation (Galatians 5:22, 23), and message by Randy Brooks. Such a program being carried out in such an efficient way with several key volunteers absent speaks very well for the depth of the 12 member Glenwood team who serve there. Ten of the 30 present were two complete families of 5 each (Mom, Dad, and three kids)! Glenwood is growing numerically and spiritually. A women’s Bible study has been meeting there for over a year now and a man’s class just began in January. We are thankful for the growth of the Kingdom of God in the lives of both the residents and the volunteers there.

Encouragement! Occasionally we get notes of appreciation from someone whom the Ministry has touched in a special way. We wanted to share a couple of these with you.

Hi Winston:

The new website looks great. I just wanted to take a few minutes to say hello and tell you how much your friendship has meant to me the past several years. I will be moving away from Villa Marie apartments within the next few months and school has me so busy I wanted to tell you this now. When my mom got married this last November she offered me her house. I am excited to get out of this apartment but Natalie and I will miss the friends we have made something terrible. I am not moving far (just across Glenstone actually) and I want to be involved in the vacation bible school with the clowns from Freedom Christian Clowns every year that you will allow me to help. I love those guys so much and could not bear a summer without them. Please continue to send the newsletter (you can email it when you get that going if you want to, I know that would be cheaper for you.) And PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE let me know when the clowns will be here so I can arrange to have that week off to spend it with them. I will be graduating from nursing school this next May and will then be a registered nurse after I pass my state board exam sometime in July or August. I hope to have a job lined up before I graduate. I promise I will stay in touch.. Thank you again for all of your support and friendship.



Love always ,Cathi

Cathi and Natalie Horne lived at Villa-Marie for the last 6 years.

Hey Guys:

I am sorry that I haven't called, you know me, busy, busy, busy. I guess I should be thankful though, because I think that is what keeps me alive. I have a plaque on the wall behind me that reads "God has put me on this earth to accomplish a certain number of things and right now I am so far behind, I will never die". I got a message last week that said that you needed my new address again, so here it is.... I love getting the newsletter and hearing all that God is doing. I often share stories from it with clients who need a word of encouragement. I truly believe that we are living in the last days and I know I want to be found doing God's will. I want to be caught feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, and ministering to "the least of these". You truly are my brothers and sisters in Christ and I love knowing that there are others out there working the front lines of poverty and despair with me. I will keep you in my prayers and covet yours as well.



Gail Blood, Family Resource Specialist  
OACAC Greene County Center

We first met Gail in June of 02. At the time she was jobless, homeless, and had two children to care for.

Baptismal Services. A total of 5 people are scheduled to be baptized in services scheduled for March 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at National Heights and Glenstone Baptist Churches. Any and all of you are invited to attend. Will report more on this in the next newsletter.

Bi-Monthly Newsletter. In January we reported that due to time constraints (brought on by ministry growth) and cost effective considerations we were going to attempt to send the newsletter only on a bi-monthly basis. Hence (as I'm sure you noticed) you didn't receive one in February. Since we consider the newsletter to be the most vital means of communication and connection between us and all of our Ministry Partners, we were concerned that less contact may have a negative effect on contributions and other supportive resources. But so far this hasn't happened. Thank you for your understanding and conscientious faithfulness to our cause of ministry to the last, the lost, and the least among us. Please look forward to your next newsletter in May.

In the months of January and February you helped 1 family with dental, 4 families with rental assistance, 5 with auto repair, 2 families with food assistance, 2 with furniture, and 1 with prescription co-pay assistance.

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

We pray that your lives will be filled with worship of Christ, mournful hearts for the lost, and a compassionate spirit for the poor around you.

For His Kingdom,

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Winston, Sue & Lifebuilder's Team

