

June 06, 2007

Dear Friends of LIFEBUILDERS MINISTRIES:

Restful Progress. In recent months Lifebuilders has become engaged in much more action in moving toward the accomplishment of its purpose. This includes quarterly meetings for motivation, coordinating, and calendaring, expansion of the Board of Directors with various sub-committees operating in the pursuit of our 3- year goals, and of course all of our weekly activities in four locations. Over a nine week period, April 26-July 3, (63 days) , 56 of them had (or have) an activity (or activities) scheduled, including VBS's. (I was a little amused as I remembered one of our donors relating to me recently that someone had asked them why they supported such a "little" Ministry). Anyway, while plans and actions are absolutely necessary for the accomplishment of what we believe to be our God given vision, we can easily become over-scheduled in the process, and duty that was once a delight can become a drudgery! To counteract the possibility of this syndrome overtaking you I want to again offer the following scriptures given at our quarterly meeting on March 29th.



"from my heart to yours"

- Psalms 127:1 "Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it."
- Psalms 147:10 "The Lord does not delight in the strength of a man."
- Proverbs 3:6 "In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths."
- John 3:27 "A man cannot receive anything unless it is given him from heaven."
- John 15:5 "Without Me you can do nothing."
- Romans 8:26 "For we don't even know how to pray or what to pray for, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us."
- Mathew 7:7,9 "Ask, seek, and knock for your Father in heaven loves to give the very best gifts for your life."

I believe that application of these verses (with prayers for His will to be done, not ours) can lead us to a mode of operation that will enable us to continually delight in our calling. I believe also that any active leader in our modern, chaotically busy culture can benefit from this exhortation. Anyone, anywhere who reads this or

hears of it, please feel free to use it... and ... go often to the One who “wrote” Mathew 11:28 – “Come unto Me all you that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you REST”... that rest which can only come from confidence in His eternal, gracious, truthful character.

Growing Pains! In the last quarter of 06 (Holiday Season) we made a special appeal for funds to which you generously responded. What a difference it makes in the life of a ministry to know that people believe in it enough to give even above and beyond the many demands on their resources! Our gratitude can hardly be put into words. And while this is not our favorite thing to do, due to increases in regular operating expenses such as outside and in-house printing costs, office supplies, quarterly meeting and special seminar materials, outreach supplies, employee compensation, and a great need to establish our own website we must make a mid-year appeal to raise an additional \$4,200.00 over the next three months just to stay on budget. This is (of course) above and beyond our regular contributions. And along with these very tangible needs here are some, perhaps more emotional reasons for giving to a Ministry such as ours. These were contained in an appeal made several years ago by Nicki Cruz of New York City “ghetto ministry” fame. We feel that they resonate well with the environment in which we are called to minister.

“The man called by God and his helpers go out into the “highways and hedges” to obey a divine obsession. They see firsthand the devastation and terror of satanic powers. They walk in “ghetto” environments and what they see and hear marks them for life. The faces of lost souls haunt them into waking hours. They see hungry people and want to feed them. They see children neglected by dysfunctional, sometimes substance-abusing parents and want to take them in. They see adults with so much accumulated brokenness that there seems little, if any hope for repair or progress. They see families ripped apart either by crimes they commit, or crimes committed against them.” (The Cross And The Switchblade, Nicki Cruz, Bethany Fellowship Inc., 1973) And we could go on and on....

The shock and concern that is generated in the heart and mind of the worker by all this can hardly be expressed. We want to cry out and, convey the depths of this carnage to God’s creation, but feel inadequate in doing so. That’s why when any interest, understanding, or support is shown from the outside world it is such a comfort. Some of my very special Pastor friends have said repeatedly – “You guys are doing the real work and we are just glad to be a small part of it”. While we, on the other hand are desperately appreciative of their interest and support because it helps fill the void of continually working toward a task that seems much greater than our capacity to accomplish.

Almost every God-Ordained Ministry has enough knowledgeable people to more than meet every need. It’s not about a few giving much, but perhaps many giving a little. As you know, we try to see that every dollar is used wisely and do not ask for any more than is absolutely necessary. We are not involved in expensive, and perhaps unnecessary building projects or programs. We are focused on helping people. It has been said that Lifebuilders does a lot with a little. We hope to continue in that mode. You have responded marvelously to our special appeals in the past. We have confidence that you will do so again. Luke 6:38 – “Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure pressed down, shaken together and running over shall people give into your entire being.”

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

In the months of April and May you have helped 1 family with dental assistance, 4 families with food, 3 families with gasoline , 1 automotive and 3 families with rental assistance.

May you fully realize the truth and grace of Jesus Christ in all your life on earth, and His personal presence for all eternity.

For His Kingdom,

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Winston, Sue & Lifebuilder's Team