

# Standing In The Gap

*This ministry is for the sole purpose of reaching and touching people's lives with the love of Jesus Christ through acts of kindness. Matthew 6: 3 says, "But when you give to the needy (spiritually, physically, emotionally and financially), do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing". "Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to Your name be the glory, because of Your love and faithfulness." ~Psalm 115:1*

2612 Lutz Lane, Bethel Park, PA 15102  
Telephone: (412) 212-3108  
Website: [www.Standing-In-The-Gap.org](http://www.Standing-In-The-Gap.org)  
Email: [standinginthegappittsburgh@gmail.com](mailto:standinginthegappittsburgh@gmail.com)  
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Dear Fellow Servant(s) of Christ:

"The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb (Jesus Christ) is its lamp." (Revelation 21:23). As we all live in a world that is filled with darkness, isn't it wonderful to know that one day the glory of God will be the light? Jesus Christ is coming soon to set up His kingdom here on earth. What a day of rejoicing it will be! "Encourage each other with these words." (I Thessalonians 4:18).

Standing In The Gap continues to encourage those who need hope in a dying and hurting world wherever the LORD leads us. This applies to both believers and unbelievers. The bulk of the work is done in the Pittsburgh, PA and Western New York areas. However, there are times when we are honored to assist individuals going on missions' trips, adoptions, and supplies for other situations outside of the above areas. It is humbling to see how He leads and guides. Man plans but God commands!

Bible Study - When it comes to the women God has brought us who are recovering from drug and alcohol addictions, sexual wounds, abandonment from families, ex-prisoners, etc., it takes time for them to be drawn to Him and then to respond. For some, it is quickly. For others, it could be months or years. We must persevere in gentleness and love as they come to Jesus Christ more and more through the power of the Holy Spirit. Some of the teaching has focused on "roots" deep down in our hearts. Are there still rotten roots from our past, or are new roots growing based on the healing, hope and reality that is found in the Word of God? As a group, we recently went to see the movie "Son of God". One of the ladies newer to the group was deeply touched. When she came out of the theater, she leaned against the wall crying and said, "I didn't know how much He went through for me". Teaching, loving, forgiving, giving them our time, showing them how to live a new life...

Some of you are asking about the fruit trees. It is still winter in Western New York, but I asked Joanna Smith (they are on her land) about them. She says the trees look good. In fact, she walked over with her dogs the other day and prayed over them. Come spring and summer, we will be able to give a better report. Keep praying that they will produce such abundant fruit that we will be able to boldly tell others what the LORD has done.

The making of beautiful dresses to protect girls from sexual harm is exciting. When these princesses wear the dresses, the potential predators think they are from a higher socio-economic class and leave them alone. Our vision is that these dresses will be going all over the world someday! Marlene and Judy are planning to have a "sewing" day once a month. If interested in helping, let us know.

Some need help learning how to drive so they can get their licenses, get jobs and not rely on the government. They don't have the money to pay for driving lessons and no one else to teach them. For some of them, they are the first person in their families to try to get a driver's license. We are trying to help one man get his birth certificate because he was homeless for so long and doesn't even know for sure what year he was born, and he has trouble reading. He was born in Mississippi, his mother was shot and killed when he was 14, and doesn't know who his father was. Social Security shows him having three birthdates. He can't get his driver's license back because SS won't give him a card. It is a vicious circle for some of these people trying to better their lives. Someone asked us if we could help them get their wheelchair fixed because they didn't get it through the "system" and can't afford to have it fixed. Socks, underwear and T-shirts were purchased and delivered to those in shelters in Pittsburgh and Washington, PA. These are just a few situations to make you aware of what SITG is doing in addition to the behind the scenes gift giving.

Gas cards have been sent to married couples struggling financially and to working, single moms trying to make ends meet. One woman, who was assisted around the holidays, has four kids and is separated from her husband who is now living with a girlfriend. The pain and rejection is so real and devastating to these people whose lives are being wrecked by sin. Groceries were bought for a woman who fell, broke her arm and had no money coming in from her job. Flowers were sent to lift the spirits of a downcast woman. Walmart cards were delivered to a woman who recently moved with her husband to a new area and now he is divorcing her and also for an elderly, low-income widow who is taking care of her grandchildren. You blessed a mom with a grocery card who just buried her son who was diagnosed with cancer and died soon after. More flowers were sent to a mother who has two young boys and went through a divorce this past year. Some telephone minutes were bought to help a low-income couple. Christmas dinner was delivered through a Walmart gift card to a mother of three and, as often is the case, no father around. A distraught, older cashier was encouraged by your kindness to her through a small gift card to G. Eagle. A woman we met in Erie, PA, was so sad. She was looking for a nursing job, her husband was in a car accident, their washing machine just broke and she was trying to make some extra cash to help out. You blessed her and the thank you note she sent to SITG is evidence that Jesus is working through your gifts! You did a kind thing for a woman who had a total knee replacement and has been out of work for three months. Orthopedic shoes were purchased for an 80-year old woman without enough insurance. You blessed a single woman whose pipes broke in the harsh, winter weather. A woman was robbed at Dollar General, and when she realized it, one of our board members helped her find her empty wallet at the store and then blessed her by purchasing the items she had planned on buying. Was it a divine appointment or just pure circumstance that Maureen was there behind her in line? We know what it was! An unemployed, construction worker needed to see God's love for him through a monetary gift to help pay some bills. SITG occasionally assists with utility bills for those trying hard but still struggling. Widows in crises are assisted because they are near and dear to God's heart.

Because Jesus cares, gives and lives,

Rutha Mueller ☺ *Janice Battalio*



*Dawn Hurley* *Maureen Bailey* *Marsha Ryland*

New York State Representatives: Anna Amrhein, Julia Jeffords, Joanna Smith, Gladys Schmidt

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