

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

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Dear Fellow Servant(s) of Christ:

A word of hope to the weary ones comes from Sheri Rose Shepherd's devotional, His Princess Warrior. "Tender Warrior, may you surrender your tears to heaven. May you feel His mighty hand wipe your cheek in the night and restore the joy of your salvation! May you never forget you're not alone in the dark hours. He is your God and will restore all that has been stolen by the enemy. In Jesus' name, your heart will soar over the pain and tribulation this world brings, and joy will come again." Job 8:21- He will once again fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy.

A group from our bible study got together to beautify the front of a HIV home on N. Charles Street in Pittsburgh. Maria, one of our bible study friends, lives there. It was a sweet time of fellowship and hard work with her and the other members of the home while we planted a flower garden and flower pots. Before we left, Maria asked if we could all hold hands and pray together. It was so nice to see Maria beaming, and it was a day of encouragement for all of us☺ - Laura Batchelder.

Update on the "Dress-a-girl-around-the-World" project - In March, 37 dresses that had been cut out and sewn by several wonderful volunteers at Judy's house were taken to Africa by a mission's group from the South Hills Bible Chapel. Also, through a connection of Marlene's, 12 dresses were requested in specific sizes for a church in McKees Rocks and sent in May. (It is nice to extend God's love locally to our little sisters in our own back yard!) Currently, close to 50 more dresses are almost complete and will soon be sent on another mission's trip to Africa this month. Thanks to the generosity of those who give to SITG, lots and lots more beautiful fabric has been purchased and is ready for several more dress making days, yielding over two hundred more dresses☺ - Judy Kendall and Marlene Lipinski.

Fruit Tree Report - In Western New York, the weather was harsh on the fruit trees. The LORD spoke this word to Joanna Smith, New York Representative, whose land the trees are on: "Seven is God's perfect number. You should look at the cup as ½ full and not as ½ empty and to praise God that we have seven living, thriving trees"! What we often look at as a setback is often God's perfect plan. We will keep you posted.

Jill Casaldi – "Standing in the Gap was able to bless one of my cousins that I had not seen in 23 years. Her mother was shot and killed when she was 12, and her father was sentenced to life in a prison. I knew she lived on the North Side of Pittsburgh but that was about all. It turns out she was living in the Spring Garden area, a place where SITG often goes to bless people. She was at a very low point in her life and had gone all winter without utilities and living with

kerosene heat. A poverty level that was very bad. I had contacted another cousin and had asked if he had talked to her, because SITG was going on the North Side, and if he spoke with her to let her know that I would love for her to come to our bible study. It turns out that as I was leaving these telephone messages, my cousin was moving her out of the North Side and getting her a house in Mt. Oliver to live with her family. They moved out with basically the clothes on their back. Standing In The Gap blessed them with a gift card from Walmart, and my mom and I took her shopping. She was amazed that SITG would do this. We overflowed an entire shopping cart and gave her time and love which is something we do at SITG and show people Godly love (we can't do it without our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ). I am grateful that we were able to bless her. She also received her first pot of flowers and tomato plants. I gave her soap, and she said to me several times that it just smelled so 'God'. Not everyone out there has the things we take for granted, but God is faithful and gracious."

These past few months have been filled with stories like Jill's only with different flavors for everyone we meet and every referral we get whether in New York State or here in Pennsylvania. We find ourselves continually loving and encouraging the low-income population, single mothers, families that are struggling because of broken and messed-up lives, the unemployed, distraught widows, lonely and oppressed people, those who need a healing from our Jesus because of deep, deep wounds of sexual and mental abuse, etc., since childhood that are still so vivid and raw in their lives. We are an important part of the hope and Good News of Jesus Christ for the people in our local areas. Our Savior created and died for these individuals. Now, He has called us to love them.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit – Romans 15:13. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Because Jesus cares, gives and lives,

Ruth Muedder ☺ *Janie Battler* 
Dawn Hurley *Margaret Bault* *Marsha Nylund*

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

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