

# 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 Friends and Servants of Jesus Christ,

A word for our weary brothers and sisters, "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him." (James 1:12)

By the grace of God and with his favor, in October we will be celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> year doing what God called Standing in the Gap to do for his kingdom. Too many to number have been touched by Christ's love. We have cried, laughed, encouraged, shared and become mentors. There is a deep need for our world to see Christ in action, and when people see it, many are affected spiritually in a life-changing way. Thank you for your referrals, faithfulness and generosity to go forward with his plan. Our vision remains the same, and we will continue until God tells us otherwise.

In July, our bible study teacher was led by the Holy Spirit to take one of the ladies aside to minister to her. She wanted to be sure Jesus Christ was this woman's Savior and Lord. This woman prayed that he would be! We then explained baptism and encouraged her to be baptized in obedience to the Word of God. Immediately, we took her out to the pool, and with all the others witnessing, she was baptized. Her life has been transformed. Her old friends are asking her what happened to her and telling her that she is different. Just recently, she shared how she has never known real love until now.

Every accomplishment starts with a decision to try! Recently, I (Pam Hoffman) was invited to join several ladies from Standing in the Gap on a 4-day excursion to the "Sweetest Place on Earth" – Hershey, Pennsylvania. Each one of us different in almost every way, spiritually, financially, emotionally, but one common thread intertwined us all ~ Jesus. At some point in time, we had all encountered Jesus on a personal level, and he was calling us together for this short time. An adventure packed full of solid biblical teachings from Joyce Meyers, dealing with the stresses of work, technology, entertainment and the like. The long weekend provided plenty of opportunity to learn about new possibilities including an exceptional educational program for the underprivileged children at the Milton Hershey School. Together we found beauty in a broken spirit, a tired and weary heart, a lonely widow, a gentle word from a friend and so much more. The stunning landscape and tranquility of Pennsylvania Amish Country was a perfect

reminder that we were shaped to serve and worship a God of order who created a world for us to enjoy and take pleasure in as we honor him in the way we respond to every trial and triumph. For some of these ladies life is hard, but they are choosing to stand together believing God has a plan to break them from their bondage. Please pray with us, that in time, each one will find the courage to step out in faith to make a decision to try and change their circumstances. That may mean moving to a new town, getting a job or leaving an unhealthy relationship behind. Wherever God leads them, we know their lives will continue to be touched by his great Love!

Here is a report on our ongoing ventures. We support a little girl, Badsha Bhuta, through World Vision in India. We often help with supplies for individuals going on missions' trips. (This keeps us world-minded as well as locally-minded.) We are planning a session to sew more dresses in October for the Dress a Girl Around the World project. So far, 300 have gone out to precious girls. We frequently assist individuals at the low-income complex, Pressley Street Apartments, in Pittsburgh with household items, groceries, functions and furniture. There are 211 housing units there and the people are coming and going constantly. It is a wonderful place to show the love of Christ. We have built trustworthy relationships with the leadership there, and we have much freedom for Christ in the facility to come and go as we are led. Our fruit trees in New York State continue to grow. We knew this would be a long-term mission, and we have learned to be patient. The trees were transplanted, and it has made a difference. We saw them in July, and they look good. U-Haul trucks for those who just can't afford a move. We have a woman who knits blankets for however God leads us to give them. It keeps her mind at ease, and she is growing in Christ. We purchase shopping carts for those in the inner city who are disabled and elderly because they need them to get groceries and to do their laundry, etc. Those who are adopting children from around the world receive monetary gifts towards doing what is near and dear to our Savior's heart. We are also working with refugees from Prospect Park in Baldwin. They want to become a part of our culture through speaking and learning from us, and they are honored when we invite them into our homes.

For our single and widowed women you have provided dishes, towels, frypans, a futon mattress for a grandmother watching her two grandchildren through the summer, monetary assistance for a woman with three children in between jobs, diapers for others, help for one single woman to get to her brother's funeral in New York City, a new tire, a monetary gift for one whose husband recently died of cancer, aid for a woman who had to leave in the middle of the night with her children because of domestic violence, gift cards to grocery stores, relief with unexpected health bills that insurance won't cover and fuel cards to help get them to work.

Some other situations that you have been a part of ~ a sickly man who works hard and needed some help with a used car. Flowers were sent to a Jewish lady who lost her mom as a young girl. She called out to God and felt he didn't hear her. She is bipolar, has OCD, anxiety and was in the psych ward. An elderly, disabled, low-income lady who just got out of the hospital was told by her doctor she needed a lazy boy chair to put her legs up. A young boy at an elementary school needed tennis shoes, socks, shorts, shirts and sandals. A couple was blessed with a financial gift because the husband is bleeding internally which has caused him to need blood transfusions. They are struggling to meet their bills. Sundaes were purchased to give out at an elderly apartment building. Another day we handed out hamburgers on the streets in Pittsburgh. Flowers for a godly woman to lift her spirits and another woman who almost died because of

fluid around her heart received flowers too. For a couple where the wife is dying of cancer, you helped buy them a queen bed so they can continue to sleep together. A woman who works hard and is struggling financially needed help with a refrigerator. God had us pay for a haircut for a woman who couldn't afford one and was so humbled by God's love for her in this way! A man getting custody of his 16-year old daughter, because her mother died of cancer, asked if we could help with school clothes for her.

We thank God that Jesus Christ is our life! Continue to be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer.

Because Jesus cares, gives and lives,

Ruth Mueder ☺ *Janie Kattler*



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