

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:

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ~ John 1:14. As we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, may we become more and more aware of His glory and presence in our lives. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! ~ 2 Corinthians 9:15.

On Thursday, Nov. 20th, we headed to the Pressley Street Apartments to make Thanksgiving and Christmas cards with the tenants. We really never know what to expect when we plan these events. These events are a way to build relationships with those who live there. As a result of much prayer, God allowed us to be instrumental to many in the building that day. There was a sense of calmness and peace as soon as we entered that morning. People were already waiting at the tables for us to come and do cards with them. As they were making cards, Sandy, Lisa, Terry, Diane and Jill did the gift giveaway. When their names were called and they came to get their gift, they were offered prayer, and every person except two accepted. Many prayer requests and many hurting needs were expressed. The women were able to pray, share the gospel and give them hope through Jesus Christ. It was an emotional but joyful day and many hearts were open to hear and receive the good news about Jesus Christ!

God directed us to go to homes in the Beltzhoover area of Pittsburgh to pass out food bags. While sharing a bag with one woman, she introduced us to a powerful, Godly woman who knew the people in the area. Through her, God allowed us to make our way into living rooms and bedrooms to pray for the sick, desperately lonely and hopeless people. Many cried. We obtained the names and addresses of many of these individuals, and we will continue to grow our relationship with them. We witnessed a humbleness and thankfulness in their hearts. For this is what the high and lofty One says – He who lives forever, whose name is holy: “I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.” ~ Isaiah 57:15.

Our anonymous giving whenever possible continues daily. A single mom with an autistic son started a new job but didn't have the means to pay a babysitter until her first paycheck came in. An elderly, low-income, woman with no family was diagnosed with cancer, and you blessed her. Birthday cakes were provided to women that needed to know someone cares. Basic household items were purchased on clearance for those who need them. One sickly woman's apartment was condemned and she had to leave everything on the spot. You helped her with some clothes from the Salvation Army. You also helped her with a few nights stay at the Motel 6 while we looked for a place for her to move into. This woman was so touched that she prayed publicly for the first time in Jesus name and thanked Him. Families with job losses, children with disabilities, and serious illnesses have been assisted. One discouraged woman needed groceries because her son stole her money ☺. Another woman, with no family, moved from Buffalo to Pittsburgh with just her cat and the clothes on her back. You bought her a bed and household items were supplied as well. A family

who lost their home to a fire had two pre-teenage sons who needed clothing. Sheets and a pillow were purchased for a worn-out, 40ishy man living in a one-room apartment above a shop that was disgusting. Some of our elderly are struggling with medical bills. One single woman was assisted with a partial payment for a new furnace. A financially, struggling, single father was encouraged with some gift cards so when he sees his children he can take them out for ice cream, etc. Shirts in very large sizes were purchased for some low-income individuals. Most people don't have cars or the means to get around to buy these items. We occasionally still rent a U-Haul to help families move into a new place. It is strange to most of us, but so many don't have a support system that cares enough to help them get the job done. Sometimes, as the Lord leads, we encourage college and exchange students with a small gift card to Subway, etc. We continue to purchase yarn for a woman to crochet blankets. It is a way for her to relax. So many of our friends live on so little that by the end of the month they need some extra help with food. You have come to their rescue. Very recently, one lady with a ten, four and two-year old left her abusive, gambling husband. She was concerned for the safety of their lives. As we share these accounts, please realize it is you that is accomplishing the work and changing lives in the name of Jesus Christ.

Recently, Aletha contacted us and shared how she felt the Lord prompting her to hand out the tract that shares the gospel through the candy-cane story. What is amazing is that she is in a wheelchair. Your kindness has been supplying the candy canes and the brochures. To date, she has handed out at least 500!

Although most of the work is done in our own back yards in the Buffalo and Pittsburgh areas, we continue to help with supplies when God impresses upon us to give to others going to places around the world. Some of our kid volunteers put together 20 Samaritan Purse gift boxes to go to those less fortunate. Blankets and 50 Dress a Girl Around the World dresses are making their way to Central America this month, and supplies are headed to Haiti this winter. For years now, you have helped us love our little girl, Jyoti Shankar, from India through World Vision.

Once again, we must thank South Hills Assembly of God for inviting us to refer individuals who need assistance in purchasing Christmas gifts for their children. The Toy Treasure program that they offer is awesome and allows these individuals to pay a portion of the costs. Standing in the Gap was able to refer 22 families to them. We know that when they go there to get gifts for their children, they will again hear the glorious gospel of our Savior.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests. ~ Luke 2:14.

Because Jesus cares, gives and lives,

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