

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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December, 2016

Dear Friends and Co-Laborers in Jesus Christ,

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life – John 3:16. We thank you, Father God, for the gift of your son, Jesus Christ, our Messiah, who provides forgiveness of our sins and gives us an abundant life through our pain, struggles and afflictions.

Because of God's grace and mercy, we are seeing fruit for Christ in the people He is taking us to and they are responding. Many are believers but just need someone to disciple them. Others are seeking Him and are experiencing His love through the acts of kindness that you provide through your giving. We understand that God is guiding us to help others achieve the visions and dreams God has given them. We are the resource for those who otherwise would not be able to go forward in what God has birthed in their hearts.

Just recently, we met a woman from Beltzhoover who had a desire to bring the community together through a tea party. It was impressed upon us to help her. It was an awesome day serving others in the Community Center in that area. The people said they had never been to such a nice gathering. The Word of God was brought forth and this tea party led us to do one at the Pressley Street Apartments where again they heard of God's love through Psalm 37 - the "tea party" Psalm. In attendance, was a woman from Cleveland, who asked us to come to her large apartment complex and do a tea party for Jesus there! Our God is Creator of the Universe, and He is teaching us creative ways on how to reach others for Him through relationships with them.

A note from Jill Casaldi - I Peter 4:10, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in various forms." On November 21st, we did our third annual Thanksgiving food drive in Beltzhoover, Allentown and Mt. Oliver. We had two teams with a total of 14 women and my brother Tom helped us this year also. We were blessed to fill 50 bags with all the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal in each bag. As a result of previous food drives, quite a few of the women from our bible study are from Beltzhoover so they guide us to the homes that are in need. We were able to pray, encourage, give hope and show kindness to many on this day. There is a lot of crime, drugs, alcoholism and sexual abuse in these neighborhoods. In addition, there is brokenness, pain and affliction. My hope is that we can show light to as many as possible and that they would see there is hope through Jesus Christ.

Thank you to all that donated to this project. The outing was a wonderful day, and this opportunity allowed us to serve others and hopefully touch hearts and encourage many.

Currently, 70 beautiful dresses are blessing girls in orphanages and other hard-pressed areas of El Salvador in Central America. Judy Kendall and her team continue to work hard to keep the dresses coming for missions' trips all over the world. If you are going on a trip, please contact us so we can share dresses with you as you go out to be an ambassador for Jesus Christ in these under-privileged places.

As always, we continue to minister through gift cards and help that people need. Many women in difficult marriages and single moms and their kids are referred to us. We do what we can to shine God's love to them. They need hope and to know that they are not forgotten. In addition, we assembled bags of hygiene products and socks and delivered them to the homeless. You blessed a family who lost their 7-month old baby to sickness and another family whose baby has had several surgeries. An elderly, handicap women needed some help with the cost of a wheelchair; you encouraged an 84-year old widow on her birthday with a luncheon; you gave a small gift to send nine women from our bible study to a Christian women's retreat (they paid most of the money for this on their own); widows and single women received encouragement with their medical bills; winter coats and under clothing was purchased on clearance for those without; hygiene products for a woman in a wheelchair crying out for help on the side of the road; clothing for a young boy whose mom died and his dad is struggling. A Vet's apartment was robbed when he was in the hospital. You purchased essentials to get him back on his feet. We purchase restaurant gift cards for families going through cancer, and other difficult situations. They are exhausted from long days at the hospital, etc. They can pick up a quick dinner for their family. The Lord has us involved with prisoners and parents of those arrested. Sometimes they just need a small gift to encourage them. We put together "welcome packages" for the Pressley Apartments with the gospel in each package. We are assisting those trying to move but just don't have the funds to get the job done.

Naomi Hofert from North Carolina wrote: "Standing In The Gap was a huge blessing to me last month as I was able to call and get help for two single moms in the area that I live. They were in need of basic food items and clothing that we take for granted. Thank you for being a resource to meet these needs and also for your prayer support for these women."

May the grace of our Lord be poured on you abundantly this Christmas season, along with the faith and love that are in our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Because Jesus cares, gives and lives,



Ruth for all of us

Pennsylvania Representatives: Laura Batchelder, Maureen Boeltz, Jill Casaldi, Dawn Hurley, Judy Kendall, Ruth Mueller and Marsha Nylund

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

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