

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 Co-Laborers in Jesus Christ,

“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.” - Isaiah 61:1-4. He lives in us and so we are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us - 2 Corinthians 5:20.

Recently, some of our adventures for Christ in Pittsburgh have included helping a single woman make a flower garden in her front garden along Beltzhoover Street. Her grandchildren and the neighbor kids were right there with us digging, planting, etc. They were learning how to “take back the ground that has been stolen from them”. When we were finished the lady said, “I was asking God to help me put a garden in and you showed up.” We thought we were going someplace else that day but “no”, God had other plans! Man plans but God commands! You were there in spirit and finances to plan and assist a “garden party” on the Corner of Estella and Climax in Beltzhoover on July 20th. There were over 100 people from the neighborhood who came out that day and the love and presence of Christ was evident. Oh, how He loves them. We took the bible study ladies to Simmons Farm to pick flowers. They then took the flowers home in vases and gave them to their neighbors. This Thursday, we are having a “Tea Party” at one of our favorite places – Pressley Street Apartments. The presence of our Jesus will be there through prayer, teaching, lunch, laughter and tears. We have another tea party planned for October 5th in Beltzhoover. Please pray for His presence as we minister there as well. We have been asked to do other tea parties in the city in the low-income, disabled, elderly apartments. Thank you to Calvary Full Gospel for the beautiful tea cups they donated! Wherever and whenever He leads, we continue to help out those who need household items, smaller furniture, etc.

New York State Report – Joanna Smith

As many of you know, sometimes we cannot remain anonymous to some of the ones we are helping. In the last newsletter, Julia shared about a situation of a beautiful mom and her girls

who have been blessed greatly through SITG to just survive. As Julia mentioned, there was a breakthrough in her circumstances. She was finally able to get into storage units that her recently-deceased husband had items in. My husband, Bryan and I were assisting her to clean out one of the storage units and we found cash in there while sorting out items! The first thing our friend said was that she had to give it away and that SITG had to be one of the ministries that she was immediately to give to! She is a very generous woman and now she is able to give back to the ministry that helped her! She also gave items to us to help us to sell. These items are being sold on Ebay and are also being used to donate to the ministry through PayPal Giving Fund. Additionally, we are also getting emails from buyers that are telling us that they are buying from us because we are giving to charity. Everyone that looks at items for sale on Ebay are seeing the mission statement from SITG if they choose to do so. Please know that we have added two more sellers that have agreed when selling on Ebay to give a percentage of their profits to SITG. They are emilya132013 and bereadytoshopnow. Other sellers are Joannamk93, MrsSmith1017, camrhein56 and everywhereishop.

A few years ago, we planted fruit trees on our land to bless SITG when they finally produced fruit. It has been a long journey. Out of all the trees we planted, we only ended up having seven fruit trees that survived, but the LORD told me that seven was His perfect number, I was not to be discouraged. This year they finally started producing a little more fruit. A few weeks ago, Ruthie and some beautiful women from Pittsburgh came to our place for a retreat. They were able to pick the fruit and take it back to Pittsburgh! Thank you for giving so generously to SITG. Blessings and love to you all – Joanna Smith.

Individuals who have been blessed through gift cards, items they need, etc. are as follows: An almost 90-year old woman needed a portable air conditioner for her home; you bought a small lawnmower so SITG can assist those who can't afford it or are too disabled to do their lawns; we found four chairs and a folding table at an estate sale for a woman in the city who has started a bible study in her home; help for two families that had sudden deaths; a working man who is struggling with his health and has so many medical bills; gas cards for our precious single women; a homeless woman downtown needed some necessities for her life; a mom needed some assistance to help get her daughter and grandchildren an apartment; food and clothing for a prisoner; clothing for an elderly, single woman; lunch for a woman and her son after church; a car seat and potty seat for a mom struggling financially through bible study; hospitality bags are put together for the new residents at Pressley Street low-income apts. These bags include paper towels, toilet paper, soap, toothpaste, etc.; a gift for a young lady who had an accident and couldn't work for a time; a bicycle tire and tube was purchased for a young, special needs boy who told me his dad slices his tires when he drinks too much (very sad); you sent a teenage, inner-city young lady to camp; two phones for women from bible study – one whose husband ran out on her and the other wants to live for Jesus and her man wouldn't marry her so she sent him on his way; supplies to have a very small memorial for a man who died and had no family; a gift for a woman who has had cancer since 2005 and her insurance company has decided to stop paying medical bills; 70 of our dress-a-girl dresses were sent to El Salvador; assistance for a woman who house got flooded; a man who had a terrible motorcycle accident and can't work right now received a financial gift; a single mom with three children wasn't getting support and couldn't make her utility bill. She works and takes care of her mother too. This referral was through another ministry. We sometimes work with other agencies or churches to help get the

need covered. A family where the husband and father had a nervous breakdown needed some assistance. A godly family with four children, the mom works two jobs, dad works but doesn't make much, needed a touch of His love. Gift cards were sent to a family where the father had an accident, needed foot surgery and he was not able to work for a while. Forty-eight cases of water were purchased and distributed to the people in Pittsburgh whose water was contaminated. You were there for all of these people.

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

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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