

# 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,

“Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty, he is the King of glory.” Psalm 24:8-10.

Connie started coming to bible study with her cousin back in the summer. After bible study one day a few months later, she came into the kitchen and asked for some salvation verses. “Do you want to get saved?!” She said, “Yes!” the older ladies went out on the back porch and had the honor of leading her to Christ. She is so hungry for Jesus. Women come and go. Once in a while, we get to bring one to Christ, disciple them and love them. It makes it all worthwhile. Connie was kind enough to write this for you. “Being in the bible study group has uplifted me to a much higher power. Having Jesus in my heart has made life worth waking up each morning. I cannot thank the women of the group enough for what they have done for me. Everyone has become not only my friend but my sister in the eyes of the Lord.” Luke 15:7 – “I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous persons who do not need to repent.”

From Jill Casaldi – Hebrews 13:16 – “Don’t neglect to do good, to share what you have for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” On November 21<sup>st</sup> we had our third annual Thanksgiving food giveaway. Three years ago, we started with 50 bags. This year we filled 160 bags. We partnered with Swissvale Cares, a food pantry in Swissvale, that feeds lower income families twice a month. We did the food drive out of New Day Church in Swissvale. The people were waiting in line before we even got there with the bags. We were blessed to have the men from Swissvale Cares unload our vans and bring everything into the church. The Swissvale Cares men wanted us to meet and talk to the people waiting in line. We talked, hugged, encouraged and prayed with them. A few of us went to a shut in and prayed with the elderly woman that lived there. We also went to Swissvale Towers, an elderly high rise complex, and gave bags out to people there. We were able to deliver additional bags to some of the women in the city from our bible study. We want to thank Calvary Full Gospel Church as they assisted in donating much of the food for the drive. In addition, thank you to all who donated and helped to make this

possible. We appreciate each and every one of you. There is so much joy in giving to others. We can't wait to see how many bags we can fill next year!!

The Lord is blessing our efforts to reach out to those in our community with kindness through acts of service to the elderly and lower-income areas. We have recently done tea parties in Beltzhoover and the Goodwill Manor in Bridgeville. Just this past Wednesday, a woman gave her life to Jesus and another is certain that she was healed of cancer as God's people prayed for her. Last evening, we once again helped our friend who has the Unified Positive Effect Garden in Beltzhoover as she gave an appreciation/recognition dinner for those who are helping her make their neighborhood safer. We plan on going to our friends at the Pressley Street Apartments this next Thursday to bless them with a Christmas gathering of love and joy. We continue to help those who need household items and furniture. Dress A Girl around the World continues to provide dresses to those in our poorer nations along with supporting our sweet girl in India through World Vision. Please continue to pray as we reach out as God leads.

Anonymous giving whenever possible since our last newsletter - You bought a thermal heating pad for a low-income individual with back/neck issues; blessed a young man who had a motorcycle accident, can't work, is divorced and has two boys; a precious worker at Panera Bread who never married, took care of her parents and needed encouragement with her taxes; a Christian woman suffering with cancer who has since went on to be with Jesus; help to clean for a disabled, widow with diabetes, and other health concerns; an elderly, prayer warrior widow who is estranged from her family; a woman who had to have a double mastectomy and has been out of work as a result; a son of one of our bible study ladies needed some clothing; a single woman with two daughters still struggling from an abusive husband who died recently; a gift for a single, working mom who cares for her daughter with brain tumors; you helped purchase vases to make bouquets for people in nursing homes (This is keeping the women busy at Goodwill Manor.); assistance for some car repairs for a family with three kids; gift for woman whose husband after 12 years just up and walked out on her; a gift to the women's auxiliary for Hospice because they bless us year after year with items from their fundraiser to bless lots of individuals; help with a utility bill for a woman whose mom died and there were no funds to bury her; a struggling woman in the city needed help with the costs of a bed; supplies for a group of missionaries going to Haiti this coming January; fuel to help women get to bible study; a mom who lost her husband to colon cancer 10 years ago is now struggling with brain cancer and her son is in college; when the Northside was without water, you bought 50 cases of water for the low-income apartments there and Diane, our representative in that area, delivered them; a small gift card for groceries to a woman getting off of drugs, pregnant and homeless; single mattresses for a woman who wants to have her home available for those on furlough from their missionary posts; another single, working woman with fibromyalgia needed some assistance with her taxes; a young couple who work hard - their truck broke down, they have a new baby and are trying real hard to do what is right; a gift so a prisoner can buy the essentials he needs such as toothpaste, shampoo, shaving cream, etc.; a thank you Starbuck's gift card for a young teenager who has a servant heart; a family received a monetary gift where the wife works all the time and the husband works hard too. They needed financial and emotional encouragement; you blessed families in Puerto Rico through one of their family members who knew they were hurting badly from the storms; another family suffering from the costs and discouragement of cancer received a gift; an older woman needed partial assistance with her furnace that needed to be repaired; a

financially, struggling family with four children (one is handicapped) received a monetary gift; groceries were purchased for a mom and her daughter who needed encouragement; and 20 bibles are being purchased for kids and teenagers who live in one of the communities that two of our bible study ladies live in.

From the November 13<sup>th</sup> Daily Bread devotional – Lord, You meet our needs in surprising ways sometimes. Use us to do that for others as well. Our generosity meets needs and glorifies Jesus. His love will always be the hope for all eternity – Bethel Worship. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Because Jesus cares, gives and lives,



Merry Christmas from 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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