

# 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 our LORD Jesus Christ,

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him - James 1:12. Oh, to be with Jesus Christ and the Father forever! Thank you, Savior, for coming to earth so that we can be with you in Heaven.

Gorgeous dresses for our beautiful little girls in third-world countries continue to be made. Since our last correspondence, Judy Kendall and her team have reached the 1,000 mark. Dresses were recently delivered via missionaries to Columbia South America and are on their way to El Salvador as we write this letter. By the grace of God, the team will continue making these dresses until Jesus Christ comes back.

Once again, Jill Casaldi did an excellent job organizing and partnering with Swissvale Cares for the food bag handout to 150 struggling people in the Swissvale/Braddock area. A sweet atmosphere was present, and Jesus Christ organized for us to minister to many. One, in particular, was a precious woman whose only daughter and child was murdered three months ago. We were able to cry with her and comfort her. She mentioned that she didn't have any toilet paper, and through gift cards, we were able to take her to the grocery store to buy her the additional supplies she needed. Today, she called and asked for prayer. We will continue to love her and help her get through her pain.

Upcoming events include a tea party at an elderly, low-income unit in Swissvale as a result of the food handout above on December 13<sup>th</sup>. We will be going back to the Pressley Street apartments again to do a Christmas gathering on December 18<sup>th</sup>. These functions offer us the opportunity to share the gospel of Christ with many. As a result, we are able to encourage people to come to Christ. Our desire is to disciple and make mature, passionate followers of Christ.

God has brought us a fabulous bible study teacher in Lisa Bradwell. She came to us a few months ago and has been helping us to see the Word of God in a very practical, powerful way. When we meet women who are interested in the things of God or are young Christians, we invite them to join us. Lisa has been teaching us about the Holy Spirit, and it is changing our lives.

Your generous giving has blessed both God's people and those who don't know him yet. A homeless couple hanging out in an abandoned home in Beltzhoover needed food. South Hills Interfaith Ministry (SHIM) referred a woman who desperately needed some help with rent. Another referral from SHIM needed help with their utilities. A family who were seven feet under water from the summer flooding was blessed. A single woman whose father died unexpectedly was in a financial bind. You helped provide a Christian afterschool program for a 7-year old boy in Rankin. A man lost his parent and didn't have enough money for the funeral. Many in the city who are elderly or disabled don't have automobiles to get to the store and back. You have provided them with shopping carts to haul their groceries. You assisted in a successful "bullying" function in the City of Pittsburgh on September 9<sup>th</sup>. A woman getting a divorce with two kids and a third on the way needed to get away from her abusive husband. You bought her a crib mattress and crib sheets. A woman getting out of rehab needed some groceries. A woman with nine kids needed encouragement. Her daughter ran away with a suicidal man. She is going through breast cancer and she has a child with down syndrome. A single woman with a premature baby was blessed to help with medical bills. A Walmart gift card was given to a single woman escaping from her abusive boyfriend to help her start over again. A man who had a brain tumor last year is now handicapped and has astronomical medical bills. A couple with four young children and a struggling marriage got some help with counseling. They are doing better! An agency referred a disabled woman who moved here from NYC who needed household items and furniture. A powerful, elderly prayer warrior, estranged from her family, needed encouragement. Flowers were sent to a woman with liver cancer for her birthday. Christmas gifts to tell others that they are important were purchased. A gas card sent to a working, single mom with two kids. A mom and her daughter were fighting at Aldi's over finances. You bought them a gift card. Help for a woman whose husband just got out of prison and they are getting back on their feet. Encouraging devotionals for a woman who had her toes removed as a result of diabetes. A gift for a young lady out of work for months due to an ankle injury. A woman who lost work because her young child has been in the ICU for three weeks received a gift. You provided several turkeys to families who didn't have one. A pastor with liver cancer and fighting for his life was encouraged with a monetary gift.

Thank you for providing the resources for what God has all of us doing. Merry Christmas!

Because Jesus cares, gives and lives,



Ruth for all of us

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