

THE HEARTBEAT

NEWSLETTER OF LIFE SAVER MINISTRIES

Christmas 2024

Emmanuel, God is with us....

What a glorious promise and greatest gift we could ever ask for- a God Who is with us, an ever present companion, counselor, source of peace and omnipotent God. There is no greater gift we can reach to personally or extend to those around us as our desperate human condition is a universal one that is a depth and void that only the Baby in the manger could fill. It is abundantly clear here at Life Saver Ministries that God is with us and an ever present force that brings those who desperately need the hope that only He can bring into our doors and into the community of care that is the very essence of The Soulutions Center. It is God Himself Who gives us all the desire and strength to continue serving in what can be a heartbreaking and exhausting work and further gives us the love for a community that often reflects the polar opposite of God's design and has the generational despondency and decay as proof of what humanity detached from the loving and brilliant design of the Creator will inevitably become. Please pray that hearts will be prepared, minds will be renewed and lives will be profoundly transformed by the work of Life Saver Ministries and the matchless, unrivaled force of the Gospel message that is the only hope for our families, communities, state, nation and world, an eternal hope that every hurting heart is desperately searching for. As in so many years past, I ask again that you pray for Life Saver Ministries and all of the families we serve during this Christmas season, that we may meet needs in what can become a frantic season that creates distraction from that greatest gift of God with us; please pray that we will do nothing, even from the best of intentions, to detract from the need of each and every family we will serve to know this One Whom we celebrate as Lord and Savior, Abba Father and Wonderful Counselor. This season can become so grossly consumed with the desire for material things, temporary gifts, that will soon be useless and forgotten and it would be such a counterfeit love for us to have that be the focus of this season. Please pray that there will be beautiful opportunities to experience Gods grace in the weeks to come for the families we serve and that most of all, there will be hearts willing to accept the greatest Gift of all, the salvation that only Christ can bring and the only force that can overcome death and bring life abundant both in this life and the life to come. May God receive all honor and glory for every life saved and changed by the Greatest Gift of all, brought to us by a baby in a lowly manger and may we celebrate Him each and every day of the year.

Abbey Ballard, Ministry Director



We are facing some budgetary shortfalls this year as expenses for client services and goods have increased; we welcome you to consider giving toward this work and helping us to step into the New Year well funded and ready to give generously to those we are called to serve. Please feel free to email or call us if we can answer any questions as to where funds are most needed; if you feel led to give, checks payable and mailed to the ministry or donations on our secure website are greatly appreciated!

Stay Connected!

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Gifts for Life

There is plenty of time to get involved with this year's Gifts for Life effort in which we supply you with gift tags that have needed items written on them, items that are generally small and relatively inexpensive and always needed for our TLC (The Love of Christ) program that supplies women and families in need with the dignity of personal care and household items that they are simply unable to attain or afford otherwise. This effort has run during the Christmas season and through January in the past, but please know that it can be plugged in anytime that your church or civic group would like to as these items are ALWAYS in demand. Thank you to those of you who are already launching this effort for this season; we appreciate you so very much!



Pictured below are a couple of very happy little ones who are part of our tutoring ministry and enjoyed a hands-on project with one of our volunteers.

We are so happy to be able to be a part of young families in our community!



Emmanuel
GOD WITH US

Home for the Holidays

I have found myself to be guilty of not fully appreciating the miracles that play out through the course of the daily grind and steps of faith that don't always connect immediately to an end result. It's because of this that I feel prompted to share God's faithfulness over the course of the past nearly two years and His perfect, perfect timing. Our family moved into a neighboring county 4 years ago and a couple years into being settled in it became evident that God was telling me to pursue having our home become a certified foster home again. At the time, there were 6 children in the home and life was quite full most days, so "Why now, God?" seemed like an obvious and reasonable question. The answer came in a manner that no one else has ever or will ever be able to communicate with me and my heart...it came through a solid assurance, an inaudible voice though the depths that I have learned to not ignore- His voice: "Trust Me."

So the process began and it completed in January of 2023. "Now we wait." What I would later find out is that just 2 weeks after this, there were 2 children in our same village we live in who were abruptly removed from a foster home they had lived in for over 5 years, the vast majority of their young 8 and 7 year old lives. They were removed due to abuse in the foster home, a foster home that would have likely been an adoptive home, but God intervened. Over the next few months, our home was not called upon to help, but rather these two children went to two other foster homes both of which proved to be not the permanent homes intended for them. Their last placement was with a 73 year old woman who committed to God to care for them until their forever home was found. Our home received a call in May and we began having the children come over for respite which led to eventually a permanent placement in August. Fast forward to September of this year, just over a year later, and the adoption of these two children was finalized and I know this was an answer to two children's prayers for a number of years as they just want a home and family that will be permanent and solid. The day of the adoption came and went and I am still astounded by God's faithfulness, by the fact that things have moved smoothly and beautifully, by His timing being so perfect. This year as we prepare for all of the family festivities and traditions, I have to pause and appreciate the miracle of what He has done as two more voices can be heard calling me "Mom" and two more lives have accepted the greatest gift of all, the gift of salvation, and I am eager to watch the future unfold for these precious children and all God has in store for them. For those of you who prayed and those of you who will be from this point forward, we are so grateful. May God do more in and through the lives of these two children than we could ever imagine and may He receive all glory for His redemptive power and relentless love. -Abbey Ballard, Mom and Ministry Director

Upcoming Events!

- New Year Supply Drive
- "Why Pro Life?" Regional Book Club
January 1- February 28, 2025
- Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
Open House, January 19
- Foster Home Initiative January 1-
February 28, 2025
- Saturday October 4, 2025, 6 p.m.
Life Saver Ministries 40th
Anniversary Celebration Banquet