

The Heartbeat



Monthly Newsletter of Life Saver Ministries/ December 2016

All I want for Christmas is You

Yesterday's snow definitely helped to brighten up what was a pretty dismal looking upstate New York! I think it definitely perked everyone up as we get closer to December 25th and all of the preparations are underway to make a memorable, beautiful Christmas for our loved ones. Here at Life Saver Ministries our "loved ones" go far beyond those who will be gathered in our homes, around the tree on Christmas morning, wearing jammies and diving into gifts. Our loved ones are a much broader circle of precious people who God has placed in our lives and in our trust to watch over and to love as He loves.

As we move into this season of celebrating our Savior's birth, our hope truly is that as we provide gifts for families, set up vast shopping areas for the moms we work with to shop for their families, and as we plan for special activities to make memories of love and acceptance in each & every heart that sets foot through our doors, we know that the goal is much bigger than the mere "stuff". These tangible acts of kindness and generosity open the door to something so much greater than ourselves as we show love to meet the physical needs so that we can introduce the Love of Christ to meet the greatest need of every heart.

My prayer is that through all of the gifts, the lights, the food, that somewhere along the way, as we share the Gospel message and the greatest love story ever told, the baby in the manger who became the Savior on the cross, that hearts will be opened and each will realize that the greatest love of all is that of our Savior. Every other relationship will always fall short and nothing and no ONE will ever fill that deepest void and quench that driest thirst. So please pray that in both word and deed, we can effectively communicate the depth and height and length and breadth of the love of God to the hurting hearts that we see every day here at Life Saver Ministries; and may they see that the empty tomb is truly the best gift of all. To Him be the glory forever for each heart changed, each life saved, and the miracle of Christmas-eternal life.

~Abbey Ballard, Ministry Director



Perhaps you have come across the touching story of the man who hated Christmas and the wife who found a way to bring the meaning and hope back. The husband, you see, didn't hate Christmas itself, but rather the materialistic, frenzied dash to buy gifts that no one really needed and the manner in which the real message of Christmas was getting trampled by the doorbuster sales and mass consumption of consumerism that he saw playing out around him. The wife began a tradition from hereafter referred to as "The White Envelope" that is an inspiration to anyone feeling the same angst as her husband felt leading up to Christmas. Every year, the wife would place a white envelope in the branches of the family's Christmas tree. Inside this envelope was a brief note telling her husband what need was filled and act of kindness given to a person or family in need, this being her gift to him. This simple act became the highlight of Christmas morning for the entire family and continues to be long after the untimely passing on of the dear husband and father. What a beautiful and profound display of a gift that truly keeps on giving. As you continue to read this month's newsletter, you will see some wonderful opportunities on our "Wish List" for giving toward the work of Life Saver Ministries and ensuring that your gift is impacting lives not only into the New Year but into eternity, creating your own "White Envelope" memories.

Wish List:

Here at Life Saver Ministries, there are some needs that have arisen that we would be blessed to have provided for us as we move into 2017 with hopes (and prayers!) of meeting more needs and changing more lives as God blesses us with opportunities to do so in His name! If you would like to provide any of the items listed below, feel free to either send a check to the ministry in the appropriate amount noting what item(s) you would like the monies applied to or make a donation online at lifesaverheartbeat.com and add instruction to us at the checkout as to what item(s) you would like the funds applied toward. If you are giving in honor of someone or would like a "White Envelope" mailed to you or the recipient, kindly indicate so and we will be happy to do that!

New chairs for our classroom! We are in need of 40 new folding chairs and have found ones that will meet our needs.
Cost: \$20 per chair

2 twin beds and mattresses: These are for a mother and her teenage daughter who we are working with to place in a Christian transitional housing center.
Cost: \$160 per bed

New curriculum for classes in the new year! We have a need for 6 new video series and are excited for these amazing teaching opportunities.
Cost: \$25 per series

New storage bins for our inventory: We have found some fantastic heavy duty bins to hold our inventory as we store up for upcoming seasons. We need 20 new bins.
Cost per bin: \$18

Mom & Me Art Class and Scrapbooking Supplies: We are seeing both of these workshops growing and are in need of some fresh supplies for each of the 12 months of 2017.
Cost per month: \$25

If you have any questions, concerns, or special requests, feel free to contact us at lifesaverheartbeat@gmail.com or 518-725-5777.



Seasons Greetings! Above left is a small portion of our Christmas store stocked with toys and goodies for moms to spend the points they have earned through class attendance. Above right is a precious little lady who loves coming to visit us, but not nearly as much as we love seeing her and her precious mom become part of our Solutions Family!



Heavenly Savior, Father of lights
Look down upon us from above,
And from within our aching hearts,
Restore us to wholeness with love
The perfect love that's only from You
And under no tree will be found
The gift of peace that's constant and true
By paper and ribbon not bound
And as we remember that sleeping babe
Who lied in a manger so low
Live on in us, precious Savior and King
Through our veins your love now flows
Into every life you bring our way
Breathe Your love into them through me
And go before us Holy Spirit and guide
So that everyone may see
That your love is unending, your mercies afresh
With the dawn of every new day
And nothing can break the bond of your love
No one can pull me away
From your promise of life beyond this world
A life unending and pure
In you, precious babe of Bethlehem
My future is safe and secure
So as we celebrate your life
And gather to sing praises due
To my Savior and God, El Shaddai, El Olam
All I want for Christmas is You.

A.B.



From everyone here at Life Saver Ministries, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a joyful, healthy New Year! May God bless and multiply our efforts as we work together to uphold life and see lives changed through the Christmas message!

www.helpimpregnant.com

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