

The Heartbeat



Monthly Newsletter of Life Saver Ministries/ January 2019

Covered in Grace

As I look out my window on the eve of a new year dawning, some snowflakes gently fall to the ground, covering everything in a blanket of white newness. I couldn't help but think of how awesome it is to have that promise of a God Who renews every fiber of our being the closer we walk to Him, the promise of mercies fresh every morning, the promise of new beginnings regardless of what month or season of life we find ourselves in. What an awesome promise to head into 2019 with and what an awesome promise we have the privilege of sharing from this platform of ministry God has provided us the privilege of. A resounding message that God has been bringing to my heart through various means lately is twofold and exponentially impacting in my life and the lives of those we serve. For starters, He has reminded me that **He is so incredibly faithful- so unbelievably, indescribably, unwaveringly faithful.** I have watched this God we serve do the impossible time and again in my own life and in the lives of others who have the courage to daily surrender to His ways (as if the ways of our broken human condition are a better option, right?), but we sure do like the familiar as humans don't we? I was reminded recently in a conversation with one of our "girls", a young woman who began attending classes at the ministry over 8 years ago, who has crested the 30 year-old mark at this point, but will always remain one of our daughters in heart. This beautiful soul shared with me how God has been doing such an incredible work in her life and that of her husband; she shared how God has faithfully provided for her as she has time and again chosen the narrow road of raising children in a life of faith versus the wide, easy road of coasting complacency. I have felt this precious mom's hot tears hit my shoulders on more than one occasion and have seen her press on through tears as her view of life and faith rooted in Christ rarely aligns with her husband's lifeview and order of priorities. It would be so, so easy to quit, **yet she hasn't.** It would be so easy to say it's not worth it, **but she won't.** As God continues to renew her strength daily, to create fresh starts through the silent, steady, layer of grace He provides daily, I am watching the impossible play out in her life and that of her entire family. There is growth where there once was no sign of life. There is hope springing eternal where there was once a spiritual wasteland. There is eternal life and hope in the hearts of her six precious children who could otherwise be aimlessly existing in spiritual obsolescence. There is a maturity of faith that could otherwise be ingratitude and excuses. There is a steadfastness that could otherwise be flippancy with regard to what truly matters most. I absolutely love that we—you, me and everyone else who is part of Life Saver Ministries- have been able to be a steady, helping hand, a shoulder to cry on, a channel of grace, a shelter in the storm to this young woman and so many others.

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Thank You!



To everyone who took part in our "Gifts for Life" program this Christmas season, we truly can't thank you enough! You have helped us to head into the New Year with a great jump-start on the items that we will predictably need to continue to minister to the women and families God has called us to serve. Diapers, hygiene items and more have been provided and there will be ongoing needs in the months to come, so if your church, group, or workplace would be interested in having a supply drive to support Life Saver Ministries, please contact us at lifesaverheartbeat@gmail.com; we truly couldn't do what we do without God's provision through the hearts and hands of His people. We thank you for being part of everything we do to meet needs and offer the hope that only Christ can bring. May He do more than we can even imagine in 2019!

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In this ministry there aren't always evident signs of life. There can be terribly long, droughts of the soul. There can be discouragement. There can be frustration and yet just as steady and unwavering as that blanket of snow I am watching slowly cover everything it lands on, God's grace continues to pour out. It pours out not only vertically from Him toward all of mankind but horizontally through the hearts and hands of His people by His spirit. Through you. Through me. To you. To me.

The second part of what God has been teaching me lately was best worded in a sermon I heard recently that reminded me of what I have often seen play out in life: "Good and evil run in parallel tracks and often arrive in our lives at the same time." That is so unbelievable true for me and so true in the lives of the women we minister to. So often something beautiful and good God is bringing our way, or bringing to the life of the women we serve, has something overtly evil hot on it's trail waiting to distract and derail. It is so incredibly predictable that it has, in a weird sort of sense, brought me comfort along the way and reminds me to buckle up when God presents a really beautiful opportunity in my life to serve Him because, somewhere in the distance, something not of God is heading my way. If I put my ear to the ground, I could probably feel that vibration as it gets closer, but I know it better to put my ear to the Heart of my Savior and listen to His heartbeat, His Word, His message to me that transcends any human language. This is truly the message we speak from our classroom, from our conversations with the women and families we serve as we know with painful awareness that there is so much at stake in their lives as they are forced to choose everyday whom they will serve- the very same choice that each and every one of us make the second our eyes peel open at the dawn of each day. Who will I serve and how will I spend the next 12-18 hours?

The real, everyday choices of life.

Moment to moment. Hour to hour.

Decade to decade.

Ashes to ashes. Dust to dust.

The little choices pave the way to life-shaping, destiny-ushering realities that not only impact the life of the one making the choices, but the generations thereafter and that of the entire circle of influence.

A heavy reality indeed.

Furthermore, these choices of immense impact almost always disguise themselves as insignificant daily decisions whose true power can often only be fully appreciate in hindsight with either incredible relief and gratitude or the deepest of regret and pain. I can promise you that here at The Soulutions Center we will always instruct the women we serve to lead their lives in a way that leads to more abundance and less regret as God's Word never steers us into a direction of harm.

Please pray as we gear up to head into a fresh month of teaching, leading, serving and loving that God will break through the chains that bind so many hearts. I would be lying if I said that here at the ministry, 2018 wasn't especially painful in many ways as we saw a lot really awful choices and consequences play out in the lives of those we love and serve here. **My hope is that 2019** will be a year of transformation that is nothing short of astounding and that we will be pointed to areas of greatest need and greatest impact as we serve Him together and see Him do more than we could ever ask or imagine. May our work reflect Hos glory and bless His heart both now and Forevermore as we seek to fulfill the good works He has planned for us from the very beginning. To the Alpha & Omega be glory forever.

~Abbey Ballard, Ministry Director

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2018 in Numbers

So much of what is done here isn't able to be measured by human standards of quantity but some things that are can be found below!

- 44,680 diapers and over 7,000 household and hygiene items distributed
- A client base of 735 people
- 27 children attending Christian Summer Camp
- 6 children being assisted with Christian school Scholarships/subsidies
- 213 TLC care packages
- Two children being provided full-time residence & care by the ministry
- over 300 hours of classes & workshops

Please pray for a pregnant teenager who we are helping along the way as she has chosen life for her baby. Pray that she'll make good choices for both her & her baby and realize how much she is loved.

His Spirit at Christmas!

This Christmas season has, yet again, left me astounded at the generosity of so many people in our community and beyond. It is so amazing to watch as people from all corners of our area respond to the needs of the families we serve. From civic groups to families to children—we saw so many give so generously to Life Saver Ministries. We were given beautiful gifts to help families in need, generous financial contributions to keep our programs funded as we move into the new year. We had people contact us wanting to bless families in need by delivering gifts and encouragement on Christmas morning; the families that were blessed have had some incredibly difficult circumstances this year and were beyond blessed by the generosity of others whom they had never met before. People helping people—that's one of the many things that I love about this ministry. No questions asked, except, "How can I help someone in need?". This is a beauty like no other to behold and always the greatest blessing to the heart at Christmas and every other day of the year!

Our friends at Pine Tree Rifle Club in Johnstown blessed the ministry yet again with a generous monetary donation and an....



abundance of gifts to bless the children and families we serve. Thank you so much for giving so generously!