



The Heartbeat

Monthly Newsletter of Life Saver Ministries/December 2018

Star Gazing and Son Seeking

Isn't it incredible to think as we gaze into the night sky that this is the same celestial vista that our Savior Christ gazed into? I imagine Him having all the inquisitiveness that any young boy has as He gazed into space observing how different the stars looked from down here. The God man began as the God boy and I will never have a full understanding of that identity at least as long as I'm on this side of the atmosphere, but remain fascinated by what His journey was not only from cradle to grave but from Heaven to earth and back again. In all of the ways He could have brought about salvation and made His presence known, He chose to do so as a completely vulnerable baby; I mean, this is the God of the universe---maybe a little bit more of a dramatic entry? No. Not at all. Just a baby born to a family on the run, a baby who was hated and hunted before He was even able to hold His little head up on His own, an unrivaled power masked by tiny, tender hands that grasped His mother's fingers and gazed into her eyes. It's all too much for my head to wrap around but I sure am glad He has wrapped His Spirit around my heart because without it, what's the point of this Christmas Season? What's the point of life? There is none. Nothing. Zero.

Fast forward a couple thousand years and here we are in Gloversville, NY. Here we are seeing lives pour in who are in desperate need of that Christmas hope. The real deal, not the pile of crumpled wrapping paper, the broken toys, the heartache and disappointment of expectations unmet. The real Gift of Christmas is all we are really interested in giving anyone here at Life Saver Ministries. Predictably, our Soulutions Center will be a place where people turn for help with Christmas presents for their families. It will be a place where we enjoy time together and create family for those who are lacking in that. It will look a whole lot like Christmas in America, but what will be astonishingly different is that unlike the world around us that offers nothing but empty promises of the newest gadget making one's life complete, the promise of Santa encouraging decent behavior from unruly kids between now and 12/24, and the lies upon lies of the evil one taking the shape of consumerism, materialism, and indebtedness in the New Year, we can give true hope as the true message of Christmas is shared. Children in childcare will learn about that little town of Bethlehem, about that Holy Night, and about the stars in the sky looking down where He lay. The prayer of my heart is that we can use this passing holiday as an invitation to a permanent relationship with the Holy One; that we can give presents and warm hearts but bring families to the best Gift of all, the gift of eternal life through Christ that transforms every single moment between now and eternity after which even those stars that we gaze upon won't shine as brightly as we will. May everything we do point to the greatest Gift of all to Whom be glory both now and forevermore.

Abbey Ballard, Ministry Director



Our Christmas Store is fast approaching with opportunities for the ladies who attend our classes to use the points they've earned to obtain gifts for their families for Christmas! If you would like to give items toward our store, we would welcome it as toys, household items, wrapping paper, and essentially all new, like new or gently used items can be utilized. In addition, if you would like to contribute gift cards of any amount for gas, groceries, or retail stores, they will go directly to helping families in need! Thank you for helping us to make Christmas a little easier for families who are doing their best to provide for their children. May they be blessed by your love!

Blessings of Clients Past

There's so much I love about the classic "Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens; it gives a hauntingly realistic view of the choices of life and how they have an impact long after we're gone, whether good or bad. I've had the privilege in recent weeks of being in touch with a client who was served by the ministry back in the late 80's when facing an unplanned pregnancy. Her baby girl was adopted by a Christian couple and has grown to be a lovely wife and mother of 2, running her own business, owning a home with her husband. Her future is bright and I can't help but wonder if anyone who was involved with the countless choices and plans that had to be made along the way to ensure that this baby was placed in a family of love and faith had decided it wasn't worth it. If someone decided to bail out because there were too many "What If's". Too many personal sacrifices, Too much loss of comfort. I shudder to think of where this beautiful young woman would be. I shudder to think what her life would look like. I shudder to think of the ghosts of opportunities of good works past that might haunt the hearts of those who knew full well that God was calling them to step out in faith but chose not to. I am so grateful for stories such as this of this precious baby girl who was given a loving home and has grown to provide the same for her own children. I am so thankful that those precious parents have a legacy of life to be part of, that no matter what the sacrifices were, it was all worth it. I am so thankful for the gifts of those little whispers of gratitude from someone whose life was profoundly changed by the faithful ones who were this ministry of life in the season God called them to be. Beyond that, I am incredibly thankful that God has already planned out good works for each of us as we seek out lives in need of saving and sacrifices in need of making as we have a chance to live out His love with reckless abandon.

Help Wanted with Gifts for Life

This time of year is a crucial one here at the ministry as one of our main supply drives takes place between now and the new year with our Gifts for Life program; churches, workplaces, and civic groups alike have assisted Life Saver Ministries in the past by allowing us to provide tags (like those pictured at right) that are then placed on a Christmas tree or display of the group's choosing for people to choose an item or two that they would like to purchase for the ministry. These items range from diapers to socks, shampoo and razors, and beyond depending on what our current inventory needs are. The main ways that we are able to provide thousands of items to families in need throughout the year is through this Gifts for Life program (running Thanksgiving through New Years), our Love for Life Fundraiser in which people give monetary donations to cover 100 pounds at a time bulk supply of needed items (running Valentine's Day through St. Patrick's Day), and our Bottles for Change Fundraiser (running Mother's Day through Father's Day) in which bottles of spare coins, cash and checks are collected from churches around our supporter territory. These efforts along with generous monetary donations throughout the year and at our fundraiser gala is the means by which we are able to continue to meet needs for so many families God is calling us to serve. If you would be willing to help with the Gifts for Life campaign, kindly call Abbey at 320-6789 or email lifesaverheartbeat@gmail.com and we will send you as many tags as you would like and will be sure you have them in time for the entire Christmas Season. We then arrange to pick up or drop off at your convenience the collected items.

Thank you for considering being part of this important effort!

From everyone here at Life Saver Ministries, may your Christmas season and New Year be filled with the very best gifts from above!

In the New Year, there will be opportunities to become a certified Foster Parent; the needs in our communities are staggering and the opportunities for believers to be the light in this public arena is limitless. If you would like to find out more about being a life-changer, kindly e-mail us at lifesaverheartbeat@gmail.com or call 518.725.5777.

"If He calls you to it,
He'll equip you to do it!"

View our supporter website: lifesaverheartbeat.com!



Below are needed items
for Life Saver Ministries:

Thank you so much for blessing us with
your kindness this Christmas season!

(There is no need to wrap items.)

Please pray for us as we minister to:

A mother who is trying to regain custody of her 3 year old daughter; some bad choices have left some tough consequences and we count it an honor to help her work through the toughest stuff of life knowing that if she trusts God's ways for her life, she will be an overcomer.

A woman who is caring for a boy who has long term effects of drug exposure in utero; his behaviors are challenging and disturbing, honestly, at times as she tries to help him manage anger, fear, and anxiety. She has recently joined a local church and is truly walking the walk of faith. Pray for her as she is a woman who opens her heart and home to help many people in our community and her renewed faith will undoubtedly be tested and attacked in the months to come.

Please pray for a mother who recently took custody of a drug addicted baby straight from the hospital; pray that she will have the strength to be an excellent mother to her 8 year old who has special needs along with this new addition to the family.

**Life Saver Ministries. P.O. Box 407, Gloversville NY 12078
(518) 725.5777/ lifesaverheartbeat@gmail.com**