

The Heartbeat



Monthly Newsletter of Life Saver Ministries/ November 2020

Harvest of Blessings

Blessings abounding and new opportunities to serve others in ways never before possible are everywhere these days and here in Gloversville at Life Saver Ministries, it is no different. Because I know I will run out of space far too quickly as I write, I am going to dive in to sharing with you a recent happening that is so reflective of the goings on here at the ministry. This little vignette is something that I truly wish each of you could be here to see, to experience, to be as impacted by as I am, because it is all a reflection of an absolutely awesome God at work in ways we can't even imagine. This story unfolds in quite a moment to be seen on an early morning last week when I found myself at our ministry building at a time and on a day when I am generally not there, nor is anyone as it was much earlier than our opening time. There had been a widespread power outage the night prior and my children's school was closed for the day, so as everyone slept in, I was at the ministry early doing a few things and organizing in our addition, which is the space that joins our two buildings and is the landing pad for all of our donations. As I worked, I heard a noise at the door but assumed it was the wind as it was a stormy, blustery morning. The noise occurred again and this time I decided to open the door and investigate; as I did I laid eyes on this precious little boy, a face I know from the ministry, a face that is known and loved by our volunteers and staff as he has been to our children's programs, vacation Bible school and other activities. As I laid eyes on him with his arms tucked inside his T-shirt and thin pajama pants for bottoms, I noticed he was clutching a full size hunting arrow in his trembling shivering hands. As we made eye contact I asked him "What's going on, buddy? Why are you here? Come on in- it's freezing!" He gladly came in and I tried to camouflage my worry with easygoing questions. He explained immediately that he ran away. Mom was mad. He left. Mom was going to be really mad. I assured him that mom was going to be just plain relieved that he was, in fact, safe. Friends, this boy walked clear across town on a blustery, cold, 45 degree morning with hardly any clothes on, clutching a hunting arrow. The potential for danger is horrifying. This boy walked clear to our door because he trusted he would find someone here. He knows he is loved here. He hadn't even thought of the possibility of no one being here which SHOULD have been the case that morning, but God....but God brought me there because of a storm. God brought that little boy there because of a storm. God created a perfect storm and in that moment it was abundantly clear that this is a family in crisis, a family living through the storm of generational brokenness, a family doing life as best they can. This is a family that God called us to serve more deeply. This is a beautiful moment in the midst of stormy tensions in a household and a stormy, dark and windy day in the natural world, a storm in which the spiritual realm and the physical world collided. As I began to try to contact this boy's family, I began to pray. As I began to pray, my phone began to ring as messages had been received and the sound of relief in this boy's father's voice was palpable. The shared phone was at work with dad and mom was likely pounding the pavement of Gloversville looking for her precious son as Grandma kept an eye on the other 5 children at home. What a mess. What a beautiful mess. As both me and this boy got into my car and headed down our driveway, we rounded the corner of our building, and there she was. Mom. Somehow Mom knew to come to us. Mom knew that this place was likely where her son would run away to. I couldn't roll my window down fast enough to say "He's here; I've got him." Those words barely escaped me and Mom began weeping a gut level kind of weep that only a mom who truly though her child was gone could weep. This mom had been searching for quite some time, stopping traffic, begging people for any insights as to where her son could be. The weeping gave way to screaming as she clenched her fists and yelled "I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE!!! I've gone through so much for you. I CAN'T DO THIS." It was the kind relief and rage that no word in the English language really describes. It was intense. It was raw. As I welcomed her into the car and demanded that the boy apologize to his mom, we began the ride home. We talked. She cried. I assured her that we are here for them and will help ANY way we can and I meant it because WE mean it. This ministry means it as is evident through the generosity of people who support this beautiful work. This story is far from over as our work with this family is far from over. This wild at heart beautiful boy is destined for greatness and I pray we will be used to mold and shape him into everything he was created to be. I pray that the generational curse that this mom is breaking in so many ways can be rendered powerless over the life of this boy and his siblings. I later learned that after being taken home, this boy had some breakfast, colored and slept a good portion of that rainy, blustery day away. In the week to come, he and his siblings came to our center to be tutored and can't wait to come back. Friends, if we are faithful to these God ordained opportunities, God will bring a harvest of blessings that is generational and eternally fruitful. To the God Who brings the storms, Who quiets the storms, Who is greater than any storm we will ever endure, be honor and glory both now and forever.

Abbey Ballard, Ministry Director

While we may not be gathered together under one roof surrounded by music, the soft murmur of conversation, the echoes of laughter, we count it a blessing to be able to share the eternal banquet table of our Lord Jesus Christ and to be filled up by His grace. This year is incredibly impactful, friends. This year is affording us opportunities like never before and this year will be different than any year before in so many ways, including in our annual fundraising effort. As many of you know, our annual banquet is a large segment of our fundraising effort for the year as we strive to partner with all of our supporters to see that the needs of the people we serve are met. God has clearly called us to serve in this area and to meet the needs and bind the brokenness of the people He sends through our doors. Would you consider giving toward the needs of the ministry as we are seeking to fund all aspects of this ministry, as represented by the logos at the right. We are seeking to see \$15,000 donated to the ministry through this fall fundraiser as that amount will ensure that all of our needs are categorically met including advertising and networking, diapers and hygiene items, building and grounds maintenance, provision of lodging for emergency situations, school and camp scholarships along with tutoring resources. In addition, we are welcoming 5 Legacy Donors and pledge to invest \$5,000 over the next year in the eternal work of Life Saver Ministries as we seek to respond to the growing needs in our communities. If you feel led to give in any way toward these needs, please know that we welcome you to do so by way of mailing a check payable to Life Saver Ministries, P.O. Box 407, Gloversville, NY 12078 or giving online at lifesaverheartbeat.com. This fundraiser will conclude on November 30th & we prayerfully anticipate seeing this goal reached!



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Annual Fundraiser



Anticipating God's continued faithfulness!

