

# Standing In The Gap

*This ministry is for the sole purpose of reaching and touching people's lives with the love of Jesus Christ through acts of kindness. Matthew 6: 3 says, "But when you give to the needy (spiritually, physically, emotionally and financially), do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." "Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to Your name be the glory, because of Your love and faithfulness." ~Psalm 115:1*

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Dear Friends and Servants of our Lord Jesus Christ:

"For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and JOY in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 14:27). James 1:2-4 says, "Count it pure JOY, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." Really?! Oh, but wait! "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39). Through the trials, this passage brings JOY and hope!

The last couple of weeks has been a whirlwind as we labored together with local churches, organizations, your monetary donations and an additional women's bible study group to deliver Thanksgiving blessings. The principle of multiplication was truly in action. From the Northside, Polish Hill, Beltzhoover, West Mifflin, Brookline and the surrounding Pittsburgh area, all those blessed were given a bag of groceries and a generous monetary gift to get the items that they personally enjoy. Our contacts, who once received SITG's help, were given the opportunity to minister to others in their neighborhoods that they knew needed assistance so they also could have JOY and provision for their Thanksgiving day. It is a JOY to shine Jesus Christ into every home God brings our way through your giving!

In October, our bible study group went to the Pressley Street apartments (210 units) on the Northside and set up, on a sunny day, a table with snacks and a small gift to share with anyone who came our way. What a surprise! Wheelchairs, walkers, loud music and the love of Christ was evident as the residents settled in and didn't want to leave. We have been going to this building for almost 20 years now and the residents feel love and accepted by our wonderful Savior and SITG's representatives. Thank you for being a part of making relationships that are going to last forever! We covet your prayers as we prepare to go there on December 18<sup>th</sup> to give our friends a Christmas party they will never forget!

The JOY that your gifts bring to those suffering - a family still hurting from the flooding in NC; compensating those who assisted in emptying out one of our bible study woman's home after she went to heaven; several single women who had car repair issues; an elderly widow with a disabled son fell and injured herself and couldn't work; a mom working several jobs trying to get out of an abusive marriage; a young lady in a wheelchair needed a cabinet for her medicines and supplies; continuing the project of towels for our financially struggling moms and children; a single mom in the middle of PA with four children cried when groceries were delivered; sometimes those struggling mentally long for a cup of coffee from someone who cares; an elderly woman's microwave broke; a single woman with two daughters fell, she has lupus and is blacking out and going through trauma, was brought JOY; a woman whose husband beat her up in front of their children was given hope; a business owner had to have a triple by-pass; a retired, disabled policewoman, in a wheelchair, locked her keys in her car and was crying; several individuals who have been sick (many with cancer) needed groceries and medical supplies – one woman in particular, who owned her own flower shop, found out she had a large malignant tumor and had to have emergency surgery; a woman who was assaulted, while trying to cash her monthly check, was in the hospital for a long time, cried and asked if we could get her a winter coat; young people are being drawn to Jesus Christ and need bibles; one of our disabled friends was getting an apartment for the first time in her life, and you purchased paint for her place; a working, single mom hasn't been receiving alimony from her ex-husband for her two children; supplies such as socks and personal hygiene supplies for a 97-year old shut-in.

The needs are great. But our Heavenly Father is greater! We will always continue to love those He brings to us in our wonderful Savior's name, Jesus Christ. The JOY of the Lord is our strength. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Because Jesus cares,



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