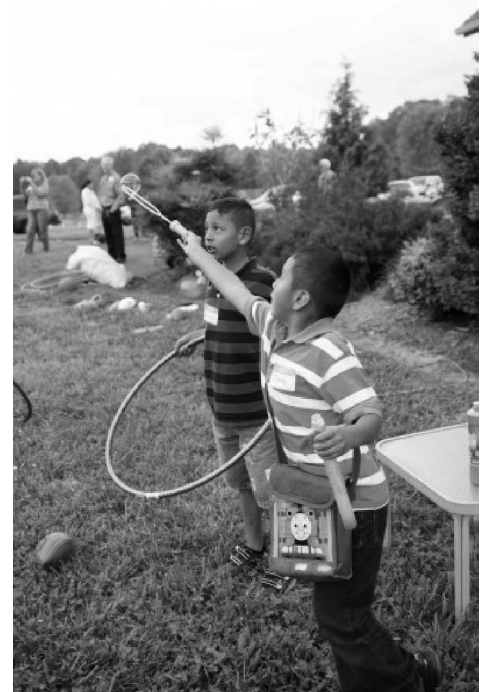


July 2014 Volume 1, Issue 2

g` **Touching Lives Through Tutoring**

The Cameron-Ferree Sunday School Class was challenged a few years ago to find a regular missions project. Sue Cameron recalled that they felt missions should be something outside the church. Since some of their members already helped with tutoring at Pine View Apartments, it seemed a natural progression for others to join in.

A group from the class goes every Tuesday to work with children from kindergarten through middle school to help with homework. Sue Cameron notes, "It is important because many of these kids' parents do not speak English so they are not able to help a lot with homework. Some of their parents are not real highly educated either. It's a genuine need and the folks there seem to appreciate it."



Reg Ferree explains that with the number of kids coming, they had to divide the time up between younger and older. Younger children come at 4:00, older ones at 5:00. He started out with

older kids, then decided to be available for both groups. “I just like working with the kids. Some of the kids are delightfully bright. They do their homework. Other kids are really sharp in their math let’s say, and poor in their reading or vice versa. I had a girl in the first grade; she brought her reading with her. She whipped through it. She was sharp as a tack. Then I had a little guy, delightful kid, third grader. He could not read. You have a contrast, different needs. I suppose part of it is that many times English is not reinforced at home; it might not even be spoken at home.”



The tutors do more than help with homework. Prayer is a part of the process. A card is kept with each child’s name and their prayer requests. Adults write down the date and the request or praise, and then they pray with them. Cameron recalls some of the needs, “I have had everything from pray for my dad who is in jail, to my cousin in Mexico is real sick, to pray that we can get a dog. I have had children ask that we pray that they have enough food. Pray that I make it on the soccer team, that I get chosen. Kid stuff, but some of it is really more adult. Some of the burdens

they carry are bigger than “pray that I can get an ‘A’ in class.” Ferree likes to share a Bible verse with each child, something age appropriate.

Once homework and prayer is complete, the children get a snack, typically a drink, crackers and fruit depending on contributions from the Sunday school class or the Bible Study Cameron leads.

They can also choose something from the pantry kept in the apartment, things like rice, beans or ramen which they can take home to their family.

They average about 20 children a week although they can have over 30. Each child is assigned a tutor who works with them from 15 minutes to an hour depending on the homework. In addition to tutoring, the class also hosts two parties a year: Christmas and a spring fling. The spring event is held at Cameron's home. "The church bus pulls up, they jump out like they were being shot out of a rocket. We have things planned for them. We have a cookout and stuff. They just want to run wild because their outdoor space at home is the size of a postage stamp."

Cameron notes that this mission project has united them as a class and given them a focus. She encourages other classes contemplating mission projects to start with something small and bite-size that fits the personality of their group. She notes that her class had many retired teachers. Not everyone tutors, some help clean the apartment every year. Others like to help with the parties by bringing food or supervising kids. Every year the class votes on whether or not to continue at the apartments and the response is always 'yes'.

Ferree's comments are heartfelt, "The kids are enjoyable. They are a challenge. They ask questions and make observations. Every once in a while the light comes on and you can hear it in what they say. We pray



that these are lifelong lessons, that they will be raised in Christian homes and will have a Christian influence. That they will raise their kids in Christian homes, and that this will be multigenerational.” If you’d like to get involved in MHMA at Pineview or Coleridge, contact Jeni Martin or any MHMA volunteer.

Adult IV Coed Reaches Many Close and Far Away

Many of the members in this class have served in the military. Many have or have had children who were serving their country. They are familiar with the worry that goes with having a loved one in a dangerous place.

Anita Lahr remembers how it started, “The first person who went into the military from our Sunday School class was John Griffin and his parents were sending boxes. They made us aware of the needs because most of us didn’t know how primitive some of the conditions were.



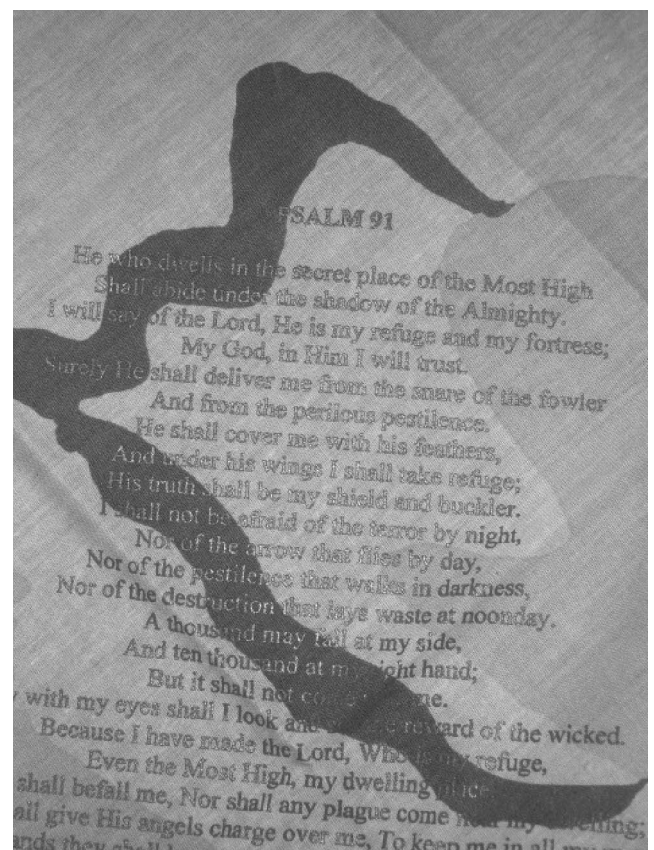
Our son Steven went next and then it was like popcorn. Soon, we had all four branches covered.” Many soldiers overseas are stationed at FOB (Forward Operating Bases) which can lack basic amenities like toilets, showers and cook

houses. They decided a good mission project would be to send some boxes to those serving overseas. “It was a whole new ballgame for us and it went well. We decided to continue this as a mission project for our class. As time went on people heard about

it and it wasn't just our kids. People would say, "My grandson is in the military. Could we add him to your list?" We said, "sure." So it just started growing. It started as a class project and our class still sort of heads it up but it's an entire church-wide project now. We lay the cards out in the hall so anyone can sign the cards that want to write words of encouragement."

They were inspired by Matthew 5:16 which says to "let your light shine before men so that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven." Their hope was to reach out to the military and their families and let their light shine in this one area. Lahr also references Galatians chapter 2 where we are commanded to "bear one another's burdens." She says "sharing and helping the families who are left behind deal with it -- I think that's part of bearing their burdens. Because its can be hard sometimes when you are the family at home and this is the 3rd year in a row your child has not been home for Christmas."

The class sends packages for Valentines, Easter, 4th of July, Veterans Day and Christmas for anyone who is deployed. Soldiers who are stateside get a card for all those holidays. The class tries to tuck in a McDonald's gift card or a Starbucks' card. Last year they tucked in bandanas with Psalms 91 printed on them. Lahr explains, "We try to send them a little gift of some sort just to let them know we are thinking about them."



What goes in the boxes? Wipes, beef jerky, crackers, individually wrapped hard candy, blister packs of gum. They pack Kleenex. toiletries, soap, chapstick and any kind of cookie. Sometimes people send socks because some of the places don't have laundry facilities. The group likes to put items in individual ziplock bags so if anything bursts, it doesn't get on the food. Foot powder, lotion and sunscreen in travel sizes are sent because soldiers typically do not have much room.

First Baptist's WMU craft group made prayer shawl squares that could be carried in a pocket. Anytime the class gets a new soldier they send one. "Those are prayed over before they are sent. These boxes are prayed over. It's just a reminder that somebody is praying for them."



Some members of the class help with the local prison ministry as well. They recognized that the men in the Randolph jail need mentors who can be a Christian witness, a role model and a friend. Prison life can be lonely and isolating. The men are surrounded by other felons. Some have little

family support. They are not prepared for life outside of prison. Gary Davis explains that they have to attend a two hour training program as well as participate in the community volunteer program. They go to 8:00am worship services at the correctional

center. These services draw around 40-50 inmates. Men from this class have checked prisoners out to go to Sunday school and worship at First Baptist. Sometimes they take them out for lunch afterwards. Members have also volunteered to assist in activities at the prison such as cookouts and cornhole tournaments.

Another activity the class does together is Adopt-A-Highway. They go once a month to pick up trash along a stretch of Zoo Parkway. The class decided to do this after the death of Gary and Ruth Davis' son in an automobile accident. It was a way to show love to the Davises as well as benefit the community.

If you'd like to get involved in ministry to the military, contact Anita Lahr. If you'd like to visit the prison ministry contact Gary Davis or Bobby Morrison.

Sharing God's Love

The Pathfinders are a close-knit class. They meet at different times of the year outside of Sunday School to strengthen their bonds as a class. They participate in different church sponsored mission trips but that is not all they do. The men have different hiking and camping events throughout the year.



Class members also try to invite people from outside the church to



come hang out and get to know them. Matthew Wood refers to it as an “Open Door Policy.” He notes, “We know that some people don't like to come to a church building, so we do outside the church events so we can meet those people and show them God’s love.” Their

main goal is to meet these people, sit down and let them talk about their lives. The Pathfinders engage them in order to allow them to become more comfortable around Christians. “Many people are scared to step foot into a church for fear of being outcast or ridiculed. Our events help to meet those people and show them that Christians do not judge and we have issues in our lives just as they do.”

This class loves God and believes in what the Bible has to teach them. They don’t preach to those that come to their class. Instead they reach out to those who come. Their desire is to build lifelong loving relationships that have Christ as the center.

Their outreach has borne fruit. By choosing to build relationships, they have fostered friendships and added members to their class. They feel that the journey they have taken has strengthened their class as a whole. Every year they have a retreat hosted by Mark Hall. Wood notes, “He helps strengthen our relationship as a class and our relationship with God.”

We are collecting school supplies for our MHMA

Our children and youth will be doing a giveaway at Coleridge on August 18 at 2:30 pm and Pineview on August 19 at 4:00 pm. Please place supplies in the designated bins around the church building. You are very welcome to meet with us and give out supplies. Thanks so much for your ongoing support of this ministry!



MHMA School Supplies Needs:

- No.2 Pencils (no mechanical pencils please)
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Crayons (sizes 8-64 packs for different grades)
- Wide-Ruled Loose Leaf Notebook Paper(no college ruled)
- Spiral Notebooks (wide-ruled only)
- Composition Notebooks (black and white sewn bound)
- Glue Sticks
- Erasers
- Washable Markers and Colored Pencils
- Fiskars Scissors
- Folders (any) some need to be plastic
- FLASH DRIVES! For the 4th grade and up
- Binders- ½ inch. 1 ½ inch and large 3-inch only

1 New Mission Opportunity and 1 New Team Assembled:

Disaster Relief Teams to NJ - There is still much to be done in NJ after Hurricane Sandy. This is a very economical trip that may only cost you \$100.00 and a few meals on the road! Team will go sometime this fall. Contact Charles Kemp for more information: 336-491-5394 or clk@triad.rr.com

Five Of Our Ladies are Headed to NYC

To minister alongside local missionary Winter Archibald (member of Crossroad Baptist Church) This team is already formed and is joining other ladies from WMU of NC to minister to international peoples in NYC. Our mission team supported Winter this past year and we look forward to ministering with her in the future. The team will be in NYC August 23-30.

Upcoming Events:

NC Mission Celebration, August 18th at Bethany Baptist Church, 630 Old Hollow Rd., Winston Salem. Supper is at 6:00 and program at 6:50. Register online at www.baptistsonmission.org

NC Baptist Mission Conference- April 10-11, 2015 at Calvary Baptist Church in Winston Salem.

Missions Extravaganza 2015 Annual Meeting of Women's Missionary Union of NC - April 17-18, 2015.



On Mission Team will meet Sunday, August 3rd at 4:30pm in the conference room. OMT will also meet after church Sunday, Sept. 21st for lunch and a coaching session.

Please pray for our mission teams preparing and about to depart: Wyoming, NYC, Italy and NJ.

Heart Connections team will meet next on Sunday, August 31st at 5:30pm.

Aikido for Christ will not meet in the month of July and will begin again when school starts back in August.

Volunteer Teams needed to work at Ruth Robinson's house, now called, "Robin's Nest." Contact Jeni Martin for details.

MHMA Team Planning Meetings:

Pineview Team: Tues., August 5th at 5pm @ FBC

Coleridge Teams: Mon., August 11th at 2:30pm @ FBC



