

POINTS *of* HOPE

The Newsletter of Building Together Ministries

January-February 2003

Giving from the Heart

by Helen Johnson

Myrtle Allen is a volunteer for Adopt-a-Grandparent. Her senior friend is Mrs. Kellogg, a resident on the Alzheimer's wing of Morningside Senior Residence.

On their monthly outings, Mrs. Kellogg laments the fact that she is unable to treat her friend Myrtle because she has no cash in her pocketbook. Not only has she been stripped of her memory, she has been stripped of her means to give.

This gives Myrtle an idea. Before their next outing, Myrtle places five one-dollar bills in the glove compartment

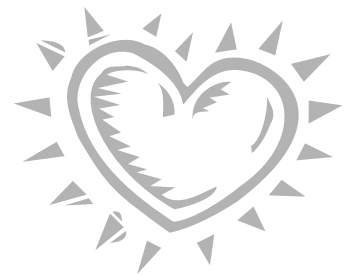
of her car. She drives to pick up Mrs. Kellogg, seats her in the front seat of her car, opens the glove compartment and points to the five one-dollar bills saying, "Mrs. Kellogg, this money is for you. It is from your family for you to spend as you choose when we go out together."

Mrs. Kellogg is not fooled. She stares at the money, stops her humming and chanting and looks straight at Myrtle. "No! That is not my money. That is your money," she proclaims in a clear voice and then begins to hum again.

The next month, Myrtle and Mrs. Kellogg were part of a

large group of seniors that traveled by vans for a BTM field trip to our local Farmers Market. Each senior was given a basket to fill and a card with fifteen dollars to spend. Some chose fresh vegetables, fruits, pastries, even country ham.

As Mrs. Kellogg opened her envelope, she exclaimed as she pulled out her money, "This is mine ... mine ... mine!" Turning to Myrtle with joy, she offered, "Now I can take you to lunch!"



Let each one [give] as he/she has made up his/her mind and purposed in his/her heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, "prompt to do it") giver [whose heart is in his/her giving].

II Corinthians 9:7 (Amplified Bible)

What is Adopt-a-Grandparent (AGP)? – Friends paired with 18 seniors from Glenwood Towers, Parkview Manor, Murphy Apartments, Morningside Center and nearby neighborhoods.

AGP has group outings once a month to gardens, luncheons, and meetings for prayer, singing and Bible study. Volunteers needed.

Immediate Need: Helper for Leco Wright, elderly male in wheel chair. Needs someone to shop twice a month for food, clothes. Call Linda Riggins, 834-7626 ext. 13.

Praise for toys, donations, volunteers and 470 shoppers who provided for their families through the Pride-for-Parents Christmas Store.

Pray for mission team leaving for Haiti during the week of March 6. Pray for safety, for openness to learning from our Haitian brothers and sisters, for soap making project with women in Gonaives.

The NeighborStore Thrift and Consignment Shop is in great need of volunteers, shoppers and donations. Donations of furniture, appliances and computers are especially appreciated. The NeighborStore is in need of a store manager, applications are now being accepted. 755-0048.

We give thanks for those who pray and give that we might serve God in this community –

*Staff of BTM
Kathy, Sheila, Linda, Reggie, Stan, Donna, Dawnn, Patty, Helen and Freddy*

Announcement

As the staff of Building Together Ministries seeks new ways to be good stewards of your resources, we are planning a new newsletter format. In the future, instead of a 6-page quarterly newsletter, we will be sending out a one-page report every two months featuring one of the programs of BTM. We invite you to view our website at www.btministries.com for update info.

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Thank you for your support.