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- ◆ Barnabas Benefit Ride, Sept. 13



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

It Took a Miracle!

Years ago, George Beverly Shea sang a song, "It Took a Miracle." The song talks about God putting the stars in place. Then the chorus says something like, When he saved me, it took a miracle of His love and His grace. God is still in the miracle business.

In the last few weeks, I have watched God perform miracle after miracle. Barnabas has received two special miracles : a grant that will



Chaplain Buice

give us a laptop computer and projector for PowerPoint presentations and money for training materials for the men at Barnabas House.

Last week God provided a van that will help with transportation issues at Barnabas House. Now I am praying for people to minister with Barnabas Ministries.

I cannot wait to see what miracles God is going to do next. Please continue to pray for Barnabas and for the miracle of lives that will be changed through Barnabas Ministries because of your efforts, donations and prayers.

Chaplain Terry Buice

LETTERS FROM THE HEART

Feb. 13, 2007

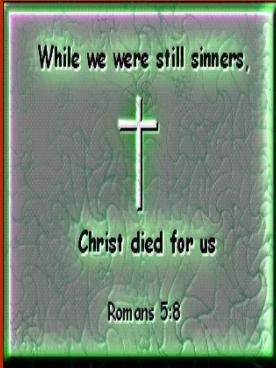
Dr. Terry Buice,

Please allow me to give you the much needed appreciation that you all deserve. I want to thank you with all my heart for spending all the hours that it takes to have the Bible studies, church services, Bible college and extra activities that you provided. In my past, I have dealt with addiction and my heart had become numb. ... I thank the Lord for meeting you, Chaplain, and everyone that volunteers for Barnabas. You all have helped me in ways I can't even explain. Then to meet people like all of you is a true blessing. I really want to encourage you to continue touching lives.

Johnny

Phil. 4:13

BARNABAS WOMEN'S MINISTRY By Sharon Johnson



Barnabas Ministries Vision

To encourage and help men successfully transition from prison back to their families and communities while connecting them with Christ and His lifestyle.

Mission

To help men upon their release from prison become productive citizens by developing a strong work ethic, necessary life skills, and a vital relationship with Jesus Christ.



People outside the prison system have verbalized how we should use our time ministering to people. I have heard, for instance, “Those people (inmates) get saved ten to twenty times,” and “You know it’s just jailhouse religion.” Yet, Jesus told us, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Unfortunately, many people believe they can lose their salvation, especially those that tend to be in trouble because they have done something wrong. I believe Romans 8:38-39 teaches that once we are saved nothing can separate us from Christ. Thank God there are those willing to go

into the prisons and teach others what God’s Word says. When we understand that we cannot lose our salvation, we are freed from a heavy burden and can begin to seek how to serve God.

What about jailhouse religion? God knows what it will take in each person’s life to get their attention and draw them to Him. For some, they need a time out from the hustle and bustle of life; a quiet time that God brings about. They need to



get away from their peers. And yes, some of them are in a lot of trouble and at a low point in their life. If this is what it takes for God to get their attention, so be it. It took this for them to realize they need God. All of us have to get to that point of realizing we need Him before we turn to Him for salvation.

I believe God has called me and the other Barnabas ministry team members to serve Him by ministering to those in the Gwinnett Jail and Gwinnett Corrections.

Since January, five women have received Christ as their Savior as God uses women to minister to women who are incarcerated. Praise God!

A Word on Finances by Derrick Wheeler

God continues to bless Barnabas Ministries with volunteers, resources and funds. As I write, it is still winter and cold weather has us in its grip. However, the weather will have started warming by the time you read

this. Which brings me to the inevitable point—the heating/air conditioning bill for the transition center goes up each year just like your home energy bill. This is true for all Barnabas’s expenses.

The residents at the transition center and the

Board are very conscientious about spending wisely. Your continued support is vital, but only as the Holy Spirit directs. Pray for the Barnabas Board to be wise in its use of all that God provides.

Upcoming Barnabas Ministries events:

- ◇ **Barnabas Volunteer Appreciation Banquet, April 26**
- ◇ **Barnabas Golf Tournament, May 16**
- ◇ **Barnabas Benefit Bike Ride, Sept. 13**

Please pray and see if the Lord would like you to partner with us by becoming involved in the above events.

Contact Barnabas Ministries at (770) 339-9494

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

by Nanette Snipes

Straquadine Teaches Art at I. W. Davis

Carol Straquadine, 53, started painting about six years ago after her husband, Paul, got a job selling canvas. As a family, they sat around and tried to paint for fun. Carol fell in love with art and continued to pursue it. Although she is self-taught, she has been fortunate to take classes with other great artists across the country. Presently, she has a studio located at Tannery Row Artist Colony in Buford, Ga.

Six months ago, Straquadine started the art class at I. W. Davis Detention Center. She had previously been involved in prison ministry in California for many years, but once she arrived in Georgia, nothing seemed to work out. She longed to get back into the trenches, so one day she called Chaplain Buice and asked if she could possibly start an art class for the men at the center. She thought that by showing them how to appreciate art the way she did, and give them an outlet for expression, she could impact them for Christ. A faithful follower of Christ,

she began every session with a short devotion and prayer.

Straquadine has seen the hand of God at the Detention Center. Once, there was a blow-up involving someone in a class, and a few people became upset. The Bible verses she shared that day were from the Holy Spirit, and they provoked a great conversation between her and the men. She later prayed for the individual.

'I can draw!'

-Inmate at I. W. Davis

Since then, he has asked, "Why do you do this?" "Why do you come here?" Her answer is that she is concerned and praying for his situation.

Many of the men have shared personal stories with Straquadine, and she feels fortunate that they trust her. By consistently showing up every week, she hopes to be a good example of a Christian, selflessly giving of her time and talents so others will know Christ.

The art class is attended by twelve men with different lev-

els of knowledge and skills. She specifically enjoys teaching anyone who says, "I can't draw a stick figure!" She is thrilled when they realize they can do much more than they ever imagined, or when someone says, "I can draw!"

One of the most recent projects was collage, and each person in the class, over a two-week period turned their 9 x 12 canvas boards into works of art. Straquadine beams when she thinks about the look of satisfaction on each man's face when they complete a project.

On Dec. 13, twenty additional men joined the group for a Christmas card-making party in which they made at least three cards for their loved ones or a serviceman. Twelve Stone Church generously provided all supplies.

Carol Straquadine has been married to her husband, Paul, for 11 years, and they live in Monroe. They have three grown children (hers, his and theirs through adoption).



When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, **"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."**

—John 8:12



"Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live."

—1 Cor. 8:6

Barnabas Ministries Report as of Mar. 14, 2008

Activity	No. of Worker Days	Attendance	Salvations	Rededications
Bible Study	13	52		
Worship Service	147	1236	29	46
Angola Trip 2008			18	2
Total	160	1288	47	48

Number of men that have lived in transitional center – 8

Barnabas Ministries Men's Prayer Retreat

Teach me your way, O Lord,
 And I will walk in your truth;
 Give me an undivided heart,
 that I may not fear your name.
 I will praise you, O Lord my God,
 with all my heart;
 I will glorify your name forever.
 For great is your love toward me;
 You have delivered me from the
 depths of the grave.
 —Psalm 86:11-13



The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord
 Lord is on me. Because the Lord
 has anointed me to preach the
 good news to the poor. He has
 sent me to bind up the broken-
 hearted, to proclaim freedom for
 the captives and release from
 darkness for the prisoners, to
 proclaim the year of the Lord's
 favor. And the day of vengeance
 of our God, to bestow on them a
 crown of beauty instead of
 ashes, the oil of mourning,
 and a garment of praise instead
 of a spirit of despair.
 —Isaiah 61:1-3

On Feb. 15 and 16, Barnabas Ministries held a prayer retreat at Refuge Baptist Camp in Carnesville, Ga. Nine men participated, four mentors and five residents of Barnabas House. The food, workshops and fellowship were wonderful. On Friday night after dinner a devotion on prayer was shared by Eric Cowart, and a workshop given on how to pray was led by Chaplain Buice.

Saturday morning started with fasting and a prayer time began in the



Participants of Prayer Retreat

auditorium. Everyone got on their knees and poured out their hearts to God. Two more workshops were held on Saturday, and then each man took a prayer walk for one hour spending time alone with God. All the

men who went enjoyed the time away and said they would like to do another retreat this year.

We are hoping to do another retreat in the fall with more people from Barnabas and lay people involved.

Those attending were Chaplain Buice, Dave Lagerberg, Eric Cowart, Scott Jackson with Barnabas Ministries and James, Woody, Rusty, Tony and Stuart from the Barnabas House.

The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. —Matt. 9:37-38

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Barnabas Ministries makes a big impact on incarcerated men and women. Many needs exist, including the need for volunteers in both men's and women's ministries. It is our prayer that you consider giving. (Even \$5 a month would be a big help)

Please consider volunteering. We need:

- ◇ Office help (commit to a 4- or 8-hour shift Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., on a regular basis)
- ◇ Handyman for odd jobs, including cutting grass, painting, construction, etc.
- ◇ Someone to assist in organizing and planning events:
 - Upcoming mission trips
 - Recognition Banquet
 - Motorcycle Ride
 - Revivals
 - Women's Ministry
 - Mentors for the Barnabas Ministries' Transition House

If you feel God is leading you, you may reach Barnabas Ministries at (770) 339-9494 or e-mail The_Encourager@bellsouth.net www.barnabasministriesga.org.