



## **The One-Eyed Bear**

by Lorraine Vickery

It was May of 1990. Our Mission Team was leaving for Belize in a few weeks. My heart was overflowing with joy as we met and discussed our programs, skits, puppet-shows and practiced our Spanish. I knew we were going to visit an orphanage. I wanted to bring gifts to the children. Orphans. Abandoned. I sort of related to them: an outcast who really didn't fit in anywhere, in anyone's "mold". I only had a little money. It would have to do. God could do the loaves and fishes. ☺

I went to the local Dollar Tree. Much to my delight there in an aisle were stuffed teddy bears.....\$1.00 each! I sat on the floor and started counting. As I counted, I came across one bear that was missing an eye. I threw it aside. Immediately I sensed the Lord wanting me to include the bear. I argued about giving an imperfect gift. A gift with a flaw. Gently I heard a reminder in my thoughts that God uses broken things.

What man sees as flawed, God sees as perfect in Jesus. That one-eyed bear will be greatly loved by a child in Belize. A child that didn't have anything or anyone. Maybe that child may be "different", also – like me. And yet, God still uses me. I was humbled and reminded that we are accepted in the Beloved.

Are you open to being used by God to bring love, encouragement and the message of Hope to others? Do you have flaws? Join the rest of us because His grace IS sufficient.....

Read on for ways in which you could serve.



### **SAMARITAN MINISTRIES GETS GRANT FOR FOOD**

WINN DIXIE-BiLo Foundation has awarded a grant of \$4,680.00 to enable Samaritan Ministries to enhance our Care n Share food program for our clients with fresh meats, dairy, and other foods not usually received from local food pantries. We realize food stamps do not last all month, and many women are in between re-certifying or are pending as new applicants. Sometimes extenuating circumstances (a sick child, transportation problems, etc.) can lead to women missing appointments and temporarily with food stamps.



We are grateful to the Bi-Lo Foundation, and so are the women who receive this blessing.

### **Moving On....by Letting Go**

by Heather

A time to cry and a time to laugh....a time to grieve and a time to dance. - Ecclesiastes 3:4

To endure loss, laughter and healing are synonymous terms. Humor can keep us light enough in heart and defy the gravity of pain that can pull us down into that dark place. From newborn to senior citizen, there is cause to celebrate a birth or entrance of someone into our lives. When we are immersed in grief over their exit or absence, it's a challenge to rejoice in their new-found glory in the kingdom.

Similar emotions can be applied to those with whom we still coexist, to those not lost through natural death, but by deliberate parting of ways. We mourn the presence of a season when they were 'so there' for us, only to see them vanish from our lives indefinitely. It's in those moments of oblivious haze that we are blinded to the outpouring of miraculous blessing that God wants to bestow on us. - Jeremiah 31:13

Among the five stages of grief, anger or sadness can be the most difficult to get past until we are able to forgive and accept the wrongful hardships suffered. In order to move on, we can only hold on by letting go. - Colossians 3:13

## Calling All Volunteers!

As we find God moving this ministry forward, exciting things are happening. In response to our growth, we have formed a Women's Task Force, comprised of former and current clients and staff. Our objective at this time is to form committees of 6-8 people to help carry the mission forward.

We have outgrown our small office which Alpha Pregnancy Center has graciously allowed us to use as our ministry 'home' for almost 2 years (as of May). We see their ministry also growing and enlarging their borders, so understandably we know our space could be well-used by them when we move on. We are looking for space elsewhere and ask for prayer as God leads us into His direction for us. We also need some volunteers to fill positions in a variety of areas. These are not weekly positions, but are on an "as needed" basis, and involve much that can be done at home by phone or in planning an event, etc.

There will be an introduction brunch to be announced at which time the Vision and our needs will be explained. If you prayerfully feel to be involved in any of the following areas, please call our office and let us know so we can put you on the invitation list for the Volunteer Brunch. Your inquiry or attendance at our brunch does not obligate you to "sign on".

- ♥ Media Relations (marketing)
- ♥ Event Planning
- ♥ Sponsorship
- ♥ Fund raising
- ♥ "Pay It Forward"



### JOY: An inside Perspective

by Janis Southward

*Joy: A strong feeling of great happiness, delight; a state or source of contentment or satisfaction.*

(Webster's Pocket Dictionary and Thesaurus)

I started volunteering for Samaritan Ministries in January 2008. Months after my mother had died, I was seeking something to keep me busy. In May of 2007, Palm Coast Christian School, where I had worked for 5 years, closed. My mother was gone 2 months later. I felt adrift. I knew God had plans for me but wasn't sure where or what.

I applied to work at Samaritan Ministries. I started when we had "the house" and worked 3-4 hours a week while the "house mother" took classes. I never dreamed that I would be staying 3 nights a week as a night time "house mother" for nearly a year. Lorraine is *very* persuasive! Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."

I had the joy of sharing evening meals with the ladies and children who were residents. For every bit of encouragement I tried to give, I received encouragement and blessings back TEN-FOLD! It was my privilege to give a mom and her baby a ride home from the hospital in Orlando; and to offer words of encouragement a few months later as they waited for transport from the hospital in Flagler to the hospital in Orlando.

I've given rides to shop for groceries, doctor visits and to look for rooms to rent. There is much to be done. (Lorraine, you are awesome!) God has put this ministry on Lorraine's heart....There is a great need for this ministry. We need a house that can accommodate at least 6 women!

[Editor's Note: Do any of YOU desire to be part of our moving forward to this next exciting season?]

**NEXT  
TIME:**

***Car Care and an AWESOME TRANSITION AND A VEHICLE FOR A MOM!  
Don't miss it!***

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