



# S.M.I.L.E.—Samaritan Ministries Imparting Letters of Encouragement

Phone: (386) 437-4372 — FAX: (386) 437-3111 — E-mail Address: sammin2@att.net

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 24 , Bunnell, FL 32110

January, 2014

## 1 Corinthians 13:13

Three things will last forever – FAITH, HOPE and LOVE. And the greatest of these is LOVE...

This same verse was recited at my sister's wedding seventeen years ago (and they're still going strong!). While she and her husband had different upbringings of faith, they have managed to find common ground with a strong belief system in place. Because of their faith and hope in one another, love is more than a word included in their vow exchange. It is what they have put into action daily, as spouse and parent.

The following scripture can be readily applied to relations of any nature. While the mention of love brings about thoughts of romantic reference, we are still talking about the comprehension of God's love. We are free to love completely when faith and hope are in line.

FAITH is the foundation and content of God's message. HOPE is the attitude of focus and love. It is through LOVE that all three can genuinely be put into action. Great faith, acts of service, and devotion can resonate most when this going-through of motions is demonstrated with devoutness of heart.

1 Corinthians 13:1 – If I could speak all the languages of earth and angels, but don't love, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal...

The authenticity of love can be defined by endurance and selflessness. It's what we direct toward others, rather than ourselves.

1 Corinthians 13:7 – Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always helpful and endures through every circumstance...



## Open House High Tea – A BLESSED Event

(When God alone gets the glory! Judges 7:4-7)



Whenever God wants to show that it is HE who allows success without our depending on OUR methods or OUR estimated *numbers*, many times He does so by allowing a few people attending an event, yet having the event outcome equal a fundraising goal as though 10 times the number of people actually attended. (As in this case, our beautiful Holden House Open House and High Tea.)

In the Old Testament, there is a story of a young man named Gideon who wanted God's assurance of a victory in battle. The Lord told Gideon to have his men go down to the water's edge to drink water and He would show Gideon how to separate men for the battle.

The Lord told Gideon to watch which men cupped their hands and drank water in that way. The Lord then told Gideon to watch those men who bent down and lapped water from the brook like dogs. God told Gideon just take the 300 who lapped water like dogs into battle and He would give him the victory. And He did.

Samaritan Ministries has been watching miracles in many forms for 13 years. (Our ministry's 13th birthday is 1-22-14.) We have seen God perform His Word and show His faithfulness when circumstances would say otherwise.

We are excited to see what God is going to do IN and THROUGH this ministry in 2014.



Samaritan  
Ministries will  
be 13 years old  
on January 22<sup>nd</sup>!



Relaxing in the comfort & nostalgia of Holden House

## December 20, 2013 – Golden Corral

By Heather

Holiday caroling, gifts, endless buffet trips of lighter fare, heartier down-home grub and decadent dessert indulgence, fellowship...

That was the two-hour setting in the restaurant's back-corner meeting room for some of the volunteers, clients and families of Samaritan Ministries as they regaled in yuletide festivities at its annual Christmas dinner.

While some guests were still between mouthfuls, voluntary around-the-room introductions took place. Most shared what brought them to the ministry and how it has blessed them, plus their hopes, dreams and goals for the New Year. But with Samaritan's visionary perspective, some dreams can span beyond 365 days from now.

A vision still in its earliest stages is the (re)opening of another transition home for single mothers and women. As a former Samaritan resident, I cannot stress enough how crucial the need for scared and confused women coming out of bad situations (abuse, eviction etc...) to have a safe place to take shelter while getting their lives (and those of their children) back on track is.

In my seven years as a single parent, Samaritan Ministries has been a goldmine of resource. It's office staff is always a blessing to clients coming in just for food and toiletries, or for women with non-material needs. Some come in with life dilemmas that require counseling, prayer, and access to community agencies that could help address their situations. "Contact networking" is the life blood that pulses through this non-profit, donation-funded ministry.

The mission to change the world one life at a time is continually upheld by those willing to support with their time, talent, and resource. Many hands make light the work, and by faith, we trust that God channels HIS provisions through what we reap.

*Praise  
the Lord*

---

### MOVING FORWARD

1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 4:9 & 10

As we enter into 2014, there is a sense of excitement among many I speak with. It appears that the Lord has been giving many of us a sense that His will for us, personally AND in ministry, is that 2014 will be a year of MOVING FORWARD.

We have already begun to see some changes in circumstances, people, positions, and a renewed vision to establish Café Barnabas – hopefully in our own building, continue catering, and re-open Samaritan Inn transition house.

We know these endeavors take prayer, resources, and a LOT of faith. Yet we also know that: 1. Nothing is too hard for God, and 2. What God orders, HE pays for! ☺

Please be in prayer for us this year as we MOVE FORWARD trusting God to lead, guide, and provide so this ministry can **"enlarge our borders"** (1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 4:9 + 10). There are so many calls each week asking for shelter and other assistance. We even get calls from distraught relatives from other states whose daughters or nieces are homeless or needing other help.

Thank you for those who support this ministry in any way. You have a part in changing lives for some of our most vulnerable. For those who are reading this yet may have never decided to support us, please consider us this year for any amount of gift.

Working together, we DO make a difference!

