



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

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www.SamaritanMinistriesFlagler.org

### Samaritan Ministries announces their "Save the Starfish" Campaign

On Saturday, June 13, 2015, Samaritan Ministries and Marjorie Phoenix hosted a community awareness luncheon at Shepherd of the Coast Lutheran Church to focus on the silent issues of Domestic Violence, specifically Psychological and Financial Abuse and the lack of resources for the growing number of victims in Flagler County.

The event was a huge success with over 30 attendees where \$2628 was raised from a minimum donation of \$10 at the door. Announced at the event was the kick-off of Samaritan Ministries' 120-day campaign called **Save the Starfish** to fund the expansion of services for the immediate needs of new and existing client emergencies and programs. The campaign goal is \$10,000. The purpose of this campaign is to meet the average cost per woman per week and the need that is growing. The objective is to save every "Starfish" that walks through the doors and not turn them away.

This campaign will conclude at the annual event, which is the **Save the Starfish Soiree**, to be held at Pine Lakes Country Club on Saturday, October 3, 2015, from 6:00-8:30 P.M. with keynote speaker, *Barbara Huddleston*. **Please save the date.** The amount raised from the campaign will be announced at the soiree.

For more information about serving on the planning committee, becoming a corporate sponsor, or any other information, contact Lorraine Vickery, Executive Director, Samaritan Ministries, at 386-437-4372.



### **We Prayed for Grace!**

By Sherry Ames

*Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)*

Trying to get four women going at a specific time is a challenge and almost doomed to fail. Looking back, it would have been better to say, "The train is leaving now — all aboard!" Instead, we left a half hour late for the Jacksonville airport. Traffic was fast and furious, and so was the stress. My knuckles were white from hanging onto the steering wheel so tightly.

(continued on Page 2)

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## We Prayed for Grace! (continued from Page 1)

I'm kind of speeding at 75 mph, but there are others flying by me, and me flying by others. Pat agreed to keep an eye on the signs for the airport so I could focus on getting us there on time and in one piece. "Exit now", she says. I'm in the far left lane! Do you believe in miracles? I was able to cross over and exit in what seemed a few short seconds, dropped my two friends off, and proceeded to exit the airport.

Somehow, my brain had me thinking that I was on I-95 a little prematurely, and the officers were flagging me to pull over. I'm positive they are looking for someone on the Most Wanted list escaping the airport. The officer asks me for my license and insurance card and returns to his car. No problem; I'm clean. He comes back, hands me my things, and asks if I know how fast I was going. I say something like, "no". Then he quickly shows me a radar gun and tells me I was going 67 in a 45! I can't disagree, so I agree. Even thanked him for doing his job. Yup, I just got nailed! I didn't see one speed limit sign and later learned others were talking about that speed trap exiting the airport in Jacksonville.

The first thing I do is take the problem to my Father and seek His instruction: Rule out every option except going to court. No driving school or traffic attorneys. Really? Really! Lorraine offers to drive me to court, so I don't have to worry about that. Such a friend!!

We had been praying right along that I would have grace in all of this, because I truly felt that I didn't deserve what had happened. My total request was that I would learn from the experience, and that would be my penance; zero out-of-pocket expense and damage control regarding my license and insurance. We also prayed that I would get in and out quickly.

We enter the building, me pushing Lorraine in her wheelchair and with my eyes swollen almost shut from surgery—black, blue, and yellow. We're directed to *domestic violence* court; however, we need *traffic* court and get there just in time. I notice the judge's name is Grace. Lorraine and I start laughing, and she dares me to tell her that we prayed for Grace. I'm the first one on the docket. This is my first experience with traffic court, and, surprisingly, I'm not nervous, but confident.

I approach the microphone and stand awaiting her judgement. Judge Grace reads me my fate. The amount of the ticket is decreased partly because I was in agreement with them and didn't give them a hard time. There would be no damage done to my license or insurance, and I was given extra time to pay the fine, which was still pricey to me. I got a good break, and I thanked her. I also told her I had prayed for Grace and got **her!** She gave me a little smile and showed me where to get my papers.

Once in Lorraine's car, I mentioned that I got a good break, but that I really felt that I would not have to pay anything. She agreed. Lorraine was parked across from the court building where a couple of officers were having a smoke break. She starts backing up and backs over the curb. Pulls ahead and backs up again right over the curb, jouncing us again! I start laughing. She tries again, and once again goes up over the curb. Now her audience is cracking up, and I'm just howling. We're both laughing uncontrollably now and wait a minute to get regrouped before trying again.

The ride home was one of laughing jags until we reached my place. I picked up my mail on the way into the house and found a large envelope from an old friend. Opened it and found pictures, letters, some articles, and a check for \$400!!!! For real???? I call Lorraine and tell her I would not have to pay a penny out of my pocket. God's grace has landed! So...everything I asked for was a "yes". I was able to bless the sender with a new large print Bible, bless the ministry, pay my ticket, and get some groceries! My part was to listen to the voice of God from the start. This has helped me tremendously in my faith walk and tuning into the voice of God to insure His will be done in my life each day, hopefully...I don't always get it right, but the thing is, I **want** to get it right!

### Plant Sale for Ministry held at Shepherd of the Coast a HUGE success!

On a bright Saturday morning before Mother's Day a team of volunteers at Shepherd of the Coast held a 3-hour plant sale in support of the mission of Samaritan Ministries. There were about 400 plants, and, surprisingly, almost ALL of them were sold. This was the first of this kind of event done for Samaritan Ministries, and we are SO thankful to Dick and Lois Rhodes and the Outreach Committee of SOTC for all their hard work. The plant sale raised over \$700, and, by handing out brochures, more people became aware of who Samaritan Ministries is and what we do.



Arranging the Plants



Shoppers