



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

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May – A Time for Transition and New Direction

As graduation ceremonies are rehearsed and student belongings are packed into boxes with enthusiasm toward a new tomorrow, two single moms are inclined to move on but for less joyous reasons.

Circumstances due to job loss, health and/or other unforeseen factors have these real-life clients facing evictions and the possibility of homelessness. Regardless of reason, this is their reality - a situation in which only a populated few are taken care of. Left 'beaten' on the side of the road, as in the book of Luke, these women are left with little to no resource.

What did the "good Samaritan" do when he found such a person? Did he say "your choices got you to this situation" or "you should have known not to travel alone or to take that path?" No...he dressed his wounds and carried the injured man on his own horse to an inn where he left him to recover. The Samaritan also took personal and financial responsi-



bility for getting him on his feet.

What would you do? Are we to chastise those in unfortunate places for the choices that got them there? Or do we extend them grace and the option of helping them learn how to find a job, enrich their lives and meet the emotional needs of their children? It's possible they didn't obtain those skills in their own upbringing. Can we provide them with shelter or the means to self-sufficiency through counsel, education or vocational training?

When you support Samaritan Ministries, those are the things supplied. On a final note, we offer God's unconditional love and acceptance which brings much healing when received. We thank you for praying for us. We have many wounded. How can you help? ☆

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!



What has twenty legs, twenty arms, ten heads, lots of knowledge and are "driven" by God? ...approximately ten faithful mechanics who volunteer their time to our Quarterly car care maintenance at Shepherd of the Coast Lutheran Church.



Samaritan Ministries greatly appreciates this church serving as host to provision for women's vehicle needs. This time our ministry is doubly blessed to have been granted \$500 Hands-On Funding through the Volusia-Flagler Chapter of Thrivent Financial to help cover cost of items and any subsequent repair referred out for that day.

We are also grateful for those who contribute and donate to the car ministry with their time and talent. We also extend a big heart-felt thanks to those who help supply refreshments and hospitality. As I write this, we have recently assisted two women, a week apart from each other, totaling \$174.00 in cost.

Our next scheduled car care event is Saturday, July 26 from 8:00 AM- 12:00 Noon. If you know a struggling single mom (or are one) who could benefit from vehicle assistance, please call (386) 437-4372 to set up an appointment. ☆

It's All Borrowed



"Anything you did for even the least of my people here, you also did for me."

— Matthew 25:40

It's easy to disregard the misfortune of others when we get caught up with our daily pursuits to either obtain what we don't have or to maintain what we DO have. What we have are the God-rewarded fruits of our efforts which can't be kept unless given away. Blessings are what can happen while we focus on something or someone else. Helping others keeps on course God's will for us. We see His love in action through the 'forgotten, unfortunate and ailing, and His mercy among 'the broken and beaten'. Perhaps, those in need see Him in us when we reach a hand out in their direction.

While accumulation of possessions can be equated with worldly success, believe it or not, LESS is more. Earth can be viewed as temporary storage for what we don't



take to the Kingdom.

Francis of Assisi sacrificed all wealth to 'seek God in simplicity'. Jesus lives in the forgotten. He has taken up residence in the ignored" (excerpted from Max Lucado—And the Angels Were Silent; Book of Grace p.68)



To see and hear God better, we need to be willing to reduce or eliminate the 'clutter' in our lives. They can be material items or unhealthy situations and yes, even people (painful but true); some are visual and mental

obstacles that can steer us off course. Voices of uncertainty, doubt and indecision can be hushed when we become spirit-led (what He wants us to do) in our actions rather than flesh-led (what WE prefer to do). That silent inner whisper of knowing resonates when we step outside ourselves long enough to listen. ☆

Giving Local Gathered Many

For Samaritan Ministries, the thought of joining forty-six other nonprofits while making history, was no small feat. Especially for the technically challenged and social media newbies. Thank God for grace and patient sponsors! We want to thank Community Foundation of East Central Florida for organizing this event, and gratefully acknowledge the Daytona Auto Mall for being our headquarters, and others who made this possible.

This hailed as the single largest giving day in the year, nationally celebrating Community Foundations' Philanthropy for 100 years. Local nonprofits received over \$29,000. Mark your calendars for May 6, 2015 and begin watching for more about this in the Fall. ☆



Little Miracles - Big Blessings



We hadn't heard from Jay since the holidays. She had called once to inform the ministry that she had moved to find work in another part of Florida. This particular day found her in crisis. She was at the start of a new job and staying with her daughter in a hotel. Her first paycheck was expected that week, but not in time to pay the bill; so she had been asked to leave the following day.

With no vehicle to get around in, Jay reached out to Samaritan Ministries for financial assistance. I explained that we were too low on funds to help but suggested several agencies in her area. After that, we prayed FAVOR for her with the agencies, and with the hotel for briefly extended grace to settle past due payment.

Later on, she texted, with praise of God, that she and her daughter were allowed to stay. **PRAYER WORKS!** Proverbs 21:1 states "The King's heart is in the hand of the Lord; He directs it like a watercourse wherever He pleases." (NIV) ☆