

N LIFELINES Outreach

May 2012

W **Financial Donations can be sent to: 3225 Knobdale Rd, Nashville TN 37214**

S The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood. John 1:14a (the Message). Every Christian would agree that we are to go make disciples of all nations and teach them everything that Jesus commanded. This is the mission of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God the Father sent God the Son and God the Father and God the Son sent God the Holy Spirit. The Triune God sends us His children into the world to make disciples; this is the essence of God's mission for the church of God .

L Many people might think that they are carrying out the mission by wearing a John 3:16 shirt or by having a fish emblem on their car. Others may consider being missional as serving food at the Nashville Union Rescue Mission or sending money overseas to build water wells. Still others may think that they are being missional by taking a trip to Haiti for a week or two. How about having a food and clothing ministry like we have at Lifelines. Is that what God means by carrying out His mission? So if we share the Gospel with each person at the food and clothing ministry, does that make us missional? Is that then enough to have Jesus say, "Well done thy good and faithful servant." Is this really how Jesus perceived us as carrying out His command to make disciples? All these things are good things to do but are they the best things?

E When Jesus came to the world, He came to a specific place at a specific time to begin making His disciples. He came and set up shop in a region of Galilee and identified with the culture and became part of their life story with no intent of leaving until the time ordained by the Father. The people of Galilee, specifically the 12 disciples became His life.

T One of the most important things we have learned in making disciples is that you must see the world from a missional perspective but you also must look at it incarnationally. What I mean by incarnational is that we become like Jesus and move into the neighborhood with no intention of leaving until the time that has been ordained by the Father. Living a missional incarnational live means that we take Jesus with us where ever we go. This would include where I work, the bank, grocery store, YMCA, athletic events, and every other rhythm of life. We've become intentional in building relationships with the intent of living the Gospel out in front of people who become our friends. Proclaiming the Gospel as the Holy Spirit leads us. We live out our life as a contrast to the world system. People see that we are different for the reason that we have Christ living in us as the hope of glory. To live as salt and light in this dark world is to live our lives in contrast to what goes on around us in our culture.

T When we begin a new ministry, our intent is to never leave until God ends that ministry. We want to live authentic lives in front of people so that they can see the contrast between the world and the lives we live as Christians. The apostle Paul said that the life he lived was the smell of death to some but life to others. Many of our Bible studies have been going on for years. People know they can trust us since we teach the Bible and talk about Jesus. They know our Bible study leaders are going to show up and be consistent each week and model how a follower of Jesus should live out each day. What an honor to be used by God to bring the Gospel to those who need to hear it the most.

For more information about these ministry opportunities please contact Richard Gay at 838-0367 or by email at lifelinesoutreach@gmail.com or Shahe Nahler by email at shahe@madisonfirst.com

www.lifelinesoutreach.com

I've had so many good example of how to live a missional incarnational life. Mama Lou has shown me how to do this in so many ways. After she broke her hip, it was hard to keep her away from the boys at Woodland Youth Development Center. Here is Mama Lou in her 80's not wanting to miss taking Jesus to 14-18 youth offenders. She has been doing this for several years. She has nothing in common with the boys except the need to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Johnie Arrowood worked with me for years at a Bible study in North Nashville on Monday nights to men and women who lived in the boarding house. Johnie had to cross cultural lines, social economic differences, and ethnic diversity to bring Jesus to people who were so different than himself. Rain or shine, cold or hot, convenient or not convenient, he showed up to build relationships and share Jesus with men and women that could change every area of their life. I still have a relationship with many of the people that still live in this north Nashville location. IN fact, one of the guys we helped disciple named Eugene still leads a Bible study at the boarding house. Tom who is an alcoholic still lives in the house. I've known him about 15 years. He has never made Jesus Lord of his life but we will never give up sharing the Good News with him. We know the miracle that God can provide through salvation through Jesus.

To end I would like to share with you about a bus full of three young men who were traveling around the country just to help people. The bus is painted with many bright colors and the name on the bus is "Lost Bus". Visit their website if you get a chance and find out what they are about at www.LostBus.com. Thank you for your prayers and support. We will always try to be faithful to God's calling with His help and with His strength. Remember to read your Bible and to pray everyday! -Richard Gay

We just wanted to say thank you for all of the donations of food and clothing that you continue to bless the ministry with. It amazes us how God will provide just what we need for the folks that come to get help.

We accept food and clothing donations on Thursdays from 8 am through 2 pm at First Baptist Church Madison at 719 Gallatin Pike South, Madison TN 37115.

If you can't come out on Thursday's, please email Shahe at shahe@madisonfirst.com to make an appointment to come out. Sometimes we are out of the office at apartment Bible studies.

If you prefer, you can mail a check to Lifelines Outreach, 3225 Knobdale Road, Nashville TN 37214 and we can grocery shop for you. We can get food at a reduced cost from Second Harvest and pay no sales tax.

A special thank you to Tulip Grove Baptist Church, their pastor Gerald Bontrager, and Wayne and Jane Jackson for having me come to their class to speak on witnessing to those of the Islamic faith. Thank you for such a warm welcome! -Shahe