

February 2017

Dear Sustaining Partner,

“Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.” ~Mother Teresa~

More and more I understand joy is not so much a feeling as it is a state of being--when I'm feeling good I think a better description is happy, giddy or content. To be joyful requires nothing more than to be connected to the source: Jesus. Feelings---good or bad are dependant on circumstances. Someone offers to wash my car and I'll feel happy. I feel anything but happy if said car is involved in a fender bender, but even then I can experience joy if I understand for a child of God there is no “Plan B.” It takes many of us a long, long time to recognize the difference between feeling and faith in The God who promises He has good plans for us. (Jeremiah 29:11)

I have been a believer by God's grace for 54 years, what I would consider to be a lengthy walk with Jesus, yet nearly every day The Father must take my face in His hands and turn it toward Him. My default is to focus on the bling in my life, not the creator of everything. As I think and pray through this continual struggle I am reminded our clients are all just beginning their journey to faith. It's important that we share foundational biblical truth with them or they are going to end up disillusioned and feeling cheating when life happens.

When we study the life of Jesus we realize His life was hard. Why would we think ours would be different? Why would we assure someone when she comes to faith life will always be good, when we are all aware our challenges may be greater. But it's worth it because we gain something we never had before---the opportunity to experience joy when we're not feeling terrific and life isn't going according to our plan. That's what Peter meant when he said people will ask us the reason for our hope especially when life isn't always good, yet our life is characterized by joy. Joy is what sustains us through whatever comes our way, and what attracts those who depend upon feelings which always fail to carry us in the rough places.

I have been asked, very often in the past few years how I can continue to believe God is good and sovereign. It's clear it's not because I'm feeling good. What we all want is to not just survive our lives, but to daily understand whatever happens to us has eternal significance. We all want our lives to mean something. Our clients are no exception. They are tired of going from one day to the next without purpose and not certain their lives matter. Our joy as we serve surprises them. Why should we care? Why would we want to help a stranger, especially one without one single thing to offer in return?

Because of our individual relationships with Jesus we can warmly welcome those who are tired and worn out as we demonstrate what authentic love and joy looks like. Neither are feelings, but it's where we can rest when we know Christ. The good news is although happiness is dependant upon circumstances; JOY is a state of being when we dwell in Christ. Let's dwell deeply!

The remodel with increased security is almost completed. The final phase has taken longer because we've had to have doors and windows made. Once those are installed we'll finish up with the baseboard and schedule an open house for the community.

We currently have the donated funds to purchase materials, but ***need volunteers to paint about 3,500 square feet of 6" wooden baseboard.*** Our warehouse is FULL which makes us very happy, but means we don't have room to paint the baseboard before installation. This will be a great opportunity for a group who wants to do a one-time service project. If you'd like to explore the possibilities, call me and let's talk.

In addition, we are still in need of a ***chairman for our events committee.*** We have a number of creative, hard-working people willing to serve, but we are in need of someone who will work with me and the committee as we plan successful events to raise funds and increase awareness for this ministry. Ideally our next event should be the Walk for Life traditionally held in the spring. If you'd like to chat about the need and how you can fit into this very much-needed group of important people call me and let's chat.

As is always the case, we have an ongoing need for general volunteers to help with various projects as well as men and women who want to have an opportunity to personally impact the lives of our clients by serving as a trained advocate. Wendy, our Volunteer Coordinator is the person you'll want to talk to about the application and training process.

Finally, don't forget when you shop www.smile.amazon.com and choose Mountain Right to Life, Inc. as your favorite charity (Our corporate name.) Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase directly to Pregnancy & Family Resource Center.

May His joy be in you, and may your joy be filled to overflowing...

For Life!

Lisa J Stiefken
Executive Director