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# MANNA HOUSE

MINISTRIES

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NEWSLETTER XXII

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## Everyday Requests Through Manna House

He comes to Manna House on a regular basis. The countenance on his face is a look of peace and friendliness. Sam (not his real name) is a Christian. He is on Social Security Disability because of a birth defect. He has adult children. We discussed his disability and his Christian witness, especially to his family and neighborhood. We had prayer about his health and witnessing. I drove Sam home. He stated he wanted to pay his tithe to Manna House as we are a Christian organization. I was humbled by his actions.

Laura (not her name) states she is a Christian. She prays most of the day. She has an attitude of prayer. Her request was for her lost dog which she is very attached to. We prayed the dog would come back home or she could find it. People can become very attached to a pet. She is to keep us informed. God can and does answer prayer.

A friend had donated a sofa and chair to Manna House. Lenny, our friend, was delivering them to us. We had told him we could probably give them away the day they arrived. As he drove into our parking lot, a lady told us she could use a sofa and chair and asked could she have the one we just received. The answer was YES. Lenny and one of our volunteers delivered them to her house. There was joy in Tulsa that day. She received furniture she needed. God works in mysterious ways and brings happiness.

Howard Essary, Director



## A Volunteer's Perspective By Kay

Almost three years ago after having lost my husband to brain cancer, I thought to myself, "now what am I going to do." The Lord had been beside me every step of the way during Bob's illness and death. He had carried me when I thought I could not take another step myself. His presence was very real as I looked to the future wondering how I could possibly do the things that needed to be done—for my family, myself, and our business.

I looked to God's promises. One that especially spoke to me was Isaiah 41:10. ***"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*** I claimed that promise as His assurance that He would guide me through all that would be before me. Another promise was Philippians 4:6,8: ***"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."***

As I put my future in God's hands, I recalled the wonderful people who had prayed for me and encouraged me during those months. I also recalled another verse from the Bible, "to whom much is given, much is required." I felt a real need to give back and I prayed that God would show me how. Howard Essary, the Director of Manna House, had often spoken in our Sunday School class about Manna House and its clients. I felt God's leading to join the volunteers at Manna House and to try to make a difference in someone else's life as others had done for me. With thanksgiving for the resources others have provided, we pray for our clients as we prepare to hand out food and clothing. We ask Him to use us to show our clients His love. Our prayer is that His will would be our will and that our clients will see Jesus through us.

As we go into this Christmas season, all around us are those with hurting hearts, those with unfulfilled needs, those with troubles that are hard to even imagine. Jesus, that holy baby born to a virgin, who grew up to sacrifice Himself for our salvation, is the answer to life's problems. My prayer this Christmas season is that we look for opportunities to be His hands and feet, wherever possible. May we have open hearts and allow Him to use us to bless others, just as He has used Manna House. Thank you, Lord, for leading me to be a part of this ministry that serves others so joyfully.

Christmas Blessings  
From Manna House





## Angel Armies

By Rev. Debbie Simpson

Rita is a repeat client. The progression of her story is an inspiring one. The first visit with her this year was filled with praises. She stated God has protected and watched over her mightily. A difficult co-worker that was causing distress was removed from the situation and relocated to another job. Rita was moved from a demeaning employer to an employer who is respectful and kind. A large tree miraculously missed hitting her home by only a few inches. She gave God complete credit for all these victories. She jubilantly told of God continually helping her rise higher in her walk with Him!

During her next visit, Rita told of being viciously attacked by a gang member who has been pursuing her for years. This happened inside her neighborhood convenience store. The gang member lives only four blocks from her and recognizes her car. I encouraged her to be extra vigilant in being aware of her surroundings and also urged her to keep all doors locked. She had not been in the habit of utilizing this practice. She kept repeating she was afraid for her life. We then joined our faith together in a powerful prayer of protection. She needed to grasp the idea that this gang member was no match to God's fierce shield of protection and His large warrior angels.

As soon as I greeted Rita on her most recent visit, her first words were "I have kept thinking about the 10 to 12 feet tall warrior angels and God that are constantly surrounding me!" She said this aspect of our last prayer has kept her going forward during seasons of fear and doubt. She said it made a lasting impression.

At times, we can all be overcome by fear. God's Word is our strong tower. The words of 2 Kings 6 ring true! ***"When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. 'Oh no, my Lord! What shall we do?' the servant asked."***

***"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."***

***And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."***

Elisha and his servant were rescued by God and His many angels. I'm thankful for God and His angel armies!

God is now guiding Rita toward a new field of tinsmithing and jewelry making in Tahlequah. The Cherokee Nation is in the process of finding her new housing. That will ensure she will no longer be in close proximity to the home of the gang member, who keeps pursuing her. Restoring hope in folks and helping them to major on what really matters is the best. It continues to be a joy serving in the capacity of God's ambassador!

## HELLO FROM PASTOR RON



Hello from Pastor Ron:

This has been a very busy quarter at Manna House; we have had an average of about 60 clients every week and, of course, that represents many more people. We still have a lot of people in need of prayer. I had prayer with one lady whose son was in prison, and the son also has kidney failure and on dialysis while there. The son is in prison because of drug charges. The mother has to keep moving because of the threats by the drug dealers on her life to pay her son's debt for drugs. We often think that what we do only affects us personally but it often affects all those around us, as well. I had prayer with her and she said she would read her Bible and pray every day, and she left Manna House feeling much better about her situation.

I had prayer with another lady named Tammy who had a 47-year old daughter with cancer in her lungs, spinal column and liver and requested prayer for healing. We prayed for her, and she left with a much better feeling about her situation.

We have a young lady that comes in about every month to get food and clothing and always needs prayer for things going on in her life. This particular time, the house they are renting is over run with bugs of all kinds and they even had a live possum in their kitchen cabinets. When they try to contact the landlord, he either does not return their call or listens to their complaint and does nothing at all. This lady just recently married and her husband has a decent job, but he is also a gambler and goes to the casino to gamble, and, recently, he went to the casino and gambled away all the money they had and they didn't even have the money to pay the rent when it came due. Sin still causes many difficult situations in peoples' lives. Remember when we were told if we would pass the gambling bill, it would create more revenue for our schools. If it has, I have not seen it and our schools are suffering today because of lack of money and our teachers are some of the lowest paid in the country.

We recently passed a bill to allow convenience store and super markets to sell cold beer and wine with higher percentage points of alcohol which will create more drunks on our streets and highways. They will drink these products on the way home if they are cold and ready to drink. We, as Christians, need to take our stand against these kinds of evils instead of voting for them.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Ron.

### QUARTERLY STATISTICS

October, November, December - 2016

Families Served - 670

Representing - 1,727 Individuals

Food Distributed - 38,158 lbs. (From Food Bank Only)

Volunteer Hours - 2,240.3

No. Of Volunteers - 32

Number Pieces Of Clothing - 9,351