

REBUILDING THE BREACH MINISTRIES NEWS

Reaching out to counsel and minister to the lost, unloved, hopeless and rejected with the love and life of Jesus Christ.

WHOEVER LIVES IN LOVE LIVES IN GOD, AND GOD IN HIM - 1 JOHN 4:16B

BY KALI THIEL

Jimmy Lilly, a nine-month resident at the Bakery House, felt the love of God this Christmas when he opened a brand new dress coat - a gift from an anonymous donor at Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church in Crown Point.

"I needed a new coat to wear to church," he said. "All I had was my work coat and that had paint all over it."

So Jimmy put a coat on his Angel Tree wish list.

Angel Tree is a gift-giving program in which anonymous donors are matched with individuals who cannot afford to buy gifts for themselves or family members at Christmastime. Congregants from Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church in Crown Point and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Munster participated in the program, buying gifts for the men of the Bakery House, along with other Gary community members.

"When Jimmy put that coat on, he just could not stop smiling," said Marianne Manning, assistant executive director at the Bakery House. "He was like a delighted little child. His glee just shone on his face."

Jimmy said what made the gift especially meaningful to him was that he wasn't expecting it.

"There was a crescendo of a lot of different factors that led up to that coat," he said. "My birthday was the day before [the Angel Tree gift exchange] and I hadn't really received anything. It just didn't feel like a birthday."

So on the day of the Angel Tree gift exchange, when Jimmy first opened a pair of gloves, he already felt like he had received a lot. But when he opened a shirt next, then a fleece and then finally the coat, he said he was feeling truly humbled.

"I was really taken aback," he said. "I didn't expect none of it. Tears started to come out of my eyes."

Donors who participated in Angel Tree had the option of buying one, some, or all of the items on the individual's wish list. Cont'd on page 3.



Jimmy Lilly



Bakery House -
a ministry of RBM
4913 Broadway Ave. Gary, IN



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WORDS OF WISDOM BY PASTOR MAXWELL

Well done good and faithful servants! "Come into my rest which was prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, you gave me food, I was naked, you gave me clothing, I was homeless, you gave me shelter" . . . may Jesus speak these words to you on the last day simply because you lived your life in **true love** to your neighbor. Keep the fire burning until the Lord returns.



THANK YOU to ALL who made Christmas such a blessing to the men of Bakery House as well as the community members of Gary.

Special thanks go to:
Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Crown Point
St. Paul's Lutheran Church Youth, Munster
Kathy O'Day
Patti Wentz
James Hayes
Merrymeals
Rebecca Crum
Lisa Piepenbrink
Lois Thomas
Jeff's Movers



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2012?

The women volunteers are starting a Ladies' Bible Study to be held at the Bakery House on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 10a.m.

It is a time of encouragement and fellowship for those who already participate in this ministry and we are hopeful of reaching out to members of the community as well.

It is also an excellent opportunity for others to become involved with Rebuilding the Breach Ministries. Come and support our volunteer ladies and the women of Gary.



Check out our **NEWLY DESIGNED WEBSITE:**

www.rebuildingthebreach.org

A big THANK YOU to Dan Torkelson and Bob Michalak

Men are available for work: short-term or long-term work assignments or to help on a volunteer basis. Give Marianne Manning a call 219-663-3504. We do have transportation for the men.

All food is provided for the men by Food Stamp cards, but things like toilet paper, paper towels, disposable gloves, garbage bags, laundry detergent, bleach and personal items such as deodorant, bar soap, shampoo, razors, toothpaste and toothbrushes are always needed.

Garage sales will be here before you know it; please save your gently used furniture, household items, toys, tools and clothing for us. These garage sales are a major source of income for our ministry. We are in need of ongoing storage space; contact Marianne if you can help.

Surprises abound as we faithfully serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We look to a year of abundance in 2012!

WHOEVER LIVES IN LOVE CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

“We were bowled over by the generosity of people,” said Marianne, who was responsible for transporting the gifts from Trinity to the Bakery House. “The men received so many gifts, expensive gifts too.”

“When I went to Trinity one week to pick up the gifts for the Bakery House, I found a bag overflowing with gifts for just one recipient - a Gary community member who regularly attends Bible study at the Bakery House. She must have received nearly all of the items she had written on her wish list - items for herself, for her children and for her family.”

“When I saw this generosity, I was so excited, but it also awakened a new concern: What if some of the men at the Bakery House aren’t chosen off the Angel Tree? What if some people receive so much, and some don’t receive anything at all? How will I handle that situation?”

But Marianne learned that she need only have trusted in the Lord’s provision.

“Every person received a gift,” she said.

“There was one woman from the community who initially didn’t receive a gift for one of her two daughters, but some people had donated extra miscellaneous gifts and she got to go over and have first pick from those gifts for her daughter. She went away happy.”

According to Marianne, people from St. Paul’s and Trinity went above and beyond what was anticipated for this program.

One woman donated to the men and community members by knitting hats, scarves and blankets and making other homemade gifts.

“She wasn’t even a member of either church, and yet, she still gave generously,” said Marianne.

Leon Allbritton, a 3-year resident at the Bakery House, experienced God’s love as well through one amazing gift for his son.

Leon had requested money on his Angel Tree wish list because he wanted to buy a laptop for his son B.J., who is a freshman at Michigan State University.

Leon said he had raised \$300, which he was going to put towards his son’s computer. But then in early December, he experienced some car troubles and needed to put that money towards fixing his car.

“I felt really bad,” Leon said about not being able to buy B.J. a laptop. “I felt like I was going to let him down, and like I was letting myself down.”

Leon thought about the ways he could still get the money for the laptop and had planned that he would borrow the money from someone, but he didn’t know who he could borrow the money from.

Soon after, he received a phone call from Marianne, telling him that a member from St. Paul’s had bought a laptop for his son.

“It was a total surprise. I wasn’t even thinking about myself when I wrote out [my Angel Tree] list, just about helping my son get a laptop and then someone from St. Paul’s just bought him one.”

God’s love is what these men need and it is this love that is changing their lives.

Jimmy said that he used to be addicted to cocaine.

“That was another thing that made [the day of the Angel Tree gift exchange] prolific,” he said. “I was celebrating my four years of sobriety.”

“I’ve been blessed by God to be [at the Bakery House],” said Jimmy. “I’m still growing and I continue to grow here.”



Leon Allbritton and Patti Wente, organizer of St. Paul’s Angel Tree

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e-mail or phone.

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TESTIMONY

Michael Randolph came to the Bakery House in August of 2009. On his application, he wrote that he wanted to restart his life. He left after an extended stay.

Recently, Michael stopped in to the Bakery House. He has, indeed, restarted his life. He now lives in Lafayette, IN. In fact, the way that Michael put it is: "Me and God have our own place."

What a delight for the volunteer "moms", Pastor Maxwell and Bakery House men to reunite with Michael and share his joy.

"The Bakery House helped me to stay focused on God. Before coming here, I wasn't following God appropriately".

"It's (focus on God) the only way!" quipped Michael.

While living at the Bakery House, Michael's two daughters were tragically shot. One of his daughters was not expected to ever walk again.

Michael stated, "I encouraged her to have faith", and I gave her a Bible that I received from the Bakery House.

"Recently I heard a knock at my door; I opened it to see my two daughters standing there coming to visit me," Michael stated with pride in having a place that he could entertain his children.

"I pray for my children regularly. My daughter walks with no limp at all." Praise God!



Michael Randolph and volunteer "moms"