

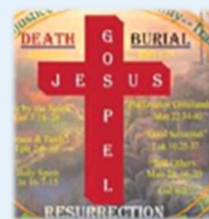


*** THE MIRACLE NEWS ***



We Have the Answers to World Peace

by Paul Kruse



The Bible says: "In this world you may have trouble." This is putting it lightly. It also says in John 16:13: "I (Jesus) have told you many things so that in Me you will have **Peace**. Take heart, I have overcome the world." There you have it, **Peace** is found in **Jesus**. It couldn't be any clearer.

Just like the old adage goes: If there is NO **God** in our lives, there is NO **Peace**. But if we KNOW **God** we KNOW **Peace**!

All members of our bodies must be at **Peace** with each other to live right. As Colossians 3:15 says: "Let the **Peace** of **Christ** rule in our hearts, since as members of one body you were called to **Peace**. And be thankful." Are we always thankful for **Jesus**?

How much effort are we putting into being Peaceful? Hebrews 12:14 says: "Make every effort to live in **Peace** with everyone and to be Holy; without Holiness no one will see the **Lord**." Trusting in **Jesus** as Savior and Lord is the only way **God** will see us as Holy!

We can experience **Peace** by doing what is good for each other. 1 Thessalonians 5:15 says: "Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else."

God calls us to righteousness. James 3:18 says: "Peacemakers who sow in **Peace** reap a harvest of righteousness."

How do we guard our hearts and minds against unrest in our world? You guessed it: In the Bible. Philippians 5:7 says: "And the **Peace** of **God**, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in **Christ Jesus**."

How do we find joy in Peace? Prov. 12:20: "Deceit is in the hearts of those who plot evil, but those who promote **Peace** have joy."

By pleasing the **Lord** we find **Peace**. Prov. 16:7: "When the **Lord** takes pleasure in anyone's way, He causes their enemies to make **Peace** with them."

We get strength and Peace from **God**. Psalms 29:11: "The **Lord** gives strength to His people; the **Lord** blesses His people with **Peace**."

Peace is up to us. Romans 12:18: "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at **Peace** with everyone."

So how do we get Peace? Romans 14:19: "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to **Peace** and to mutual edification."

We also get **Peace** by the pursuit of it and by turning from our evil and wicked ways. Psalms 34:14: "Turn from evil and do good; seek **Peace** and pursue it."

1 Peter 3:8-9: "Finally, all of you, be like minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil for evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing."

So, I believe for our discussion here, the inherited blessing is **Peace** between ourselves, cities, countries and nations!

(Continued on next page)

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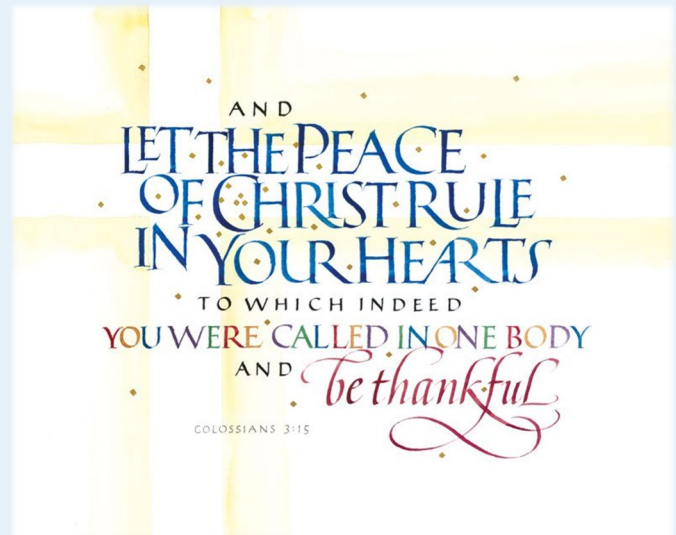
We Have the Answers to World Peace *(continued from page 1)*

While we are talking about "Loving One Another," don't forget the Greatest Commandments: Luke 10:27: "Love the **Lord** Your **God** with all your heart, soul, strength and mind; and love your neighbor as yourself." Also the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37). Also remember the Gospel of **Jesus Christ** 1 Cor: 15: Life-Death-Burial-Resurrection-Ascension of **Jesus Christ**.

So please ponder and put into action these verses and remember all the good and useful words God uses to encourage us to live in Peace: Of course **Jesus** and our salvation first, then **Peace**, overcome, rule, in Me, hearts, thankful, **Peaceful**, members, body, holiness, holy, **Lord**, trusting, **God**, experience, good, everyone, righteousness, **Peacemakers**, harvest, promote, joy, understanding, **Christ**, each other, strength, like-minded, sympathetic, love, compassionate, humble, blessing, edification, and more.

Finally, we have the answers through **God's** Word; we just need to implement them! We should all just practice what the Bible preaches and this would be a much better world! Maybe we should make flyers with these words and give them to anyone who would plan to destroy or cause pain and problems for others. Go and live in obedience to **God** and live in **Peace**, Love and Righteousness, in **Jesus'** name! AMEN!

Thank You **God**!



Give STL Day Tops All Prior Years

The **7th Annual Give STL Day** which took place on May 7, 2020 is now in the books. It was simply amazing how people from all over showed up to create a \$4.5 Million contribution to 977 non-profits in the region. FSBH came in FIRST in the Human Services category for micro charities. Thanks to 40 donors...and of them 16 new and 6 anonymous. We were blown away to find the dollars at greater than \$47k!!!! THANK YOU, **GOD** ... and thanks everyone who responded to the call and contributed. We are blessed! And so are our clients!



Filter by Organization Size

Less than \$250,000 (micro) ▾

Filter by Category

Human Services ▾

SORT BY

Total Raised HIGHEST FIRST ▾

1

First Step Back Home, Inc.
40 unique donations

Match met!

Total

\$47,754



Trucker BBQs Bless Over-the-Road Driver Heroes



Sunday morning **Trucker Church** leader **Chris Bray** organized the event and did all the grilling. FSBH Board members **Tom and Cheryl Street** also helped with engaging the truckers and serving out the goodies. We enjoyed connecting with folks from "the ends of the earth."

We are so thankful for the cooperative spirit of TA Manager **Matt Shepherd** and his crew for providing support to these events...and to a few FSBH FB page friends who brought out drinks and desserts. God Bless You ALL!!!

Lovin' our trucker friends with periodic BBQs this year. The first was held in early May, when many drivers had been unable to get hot meals while on the road.

Most recently we held one over the Fourth of July weekend, knowing many of the drivers wouldn't be home for the holiday. Burgers, brats and dogs for about 80 truckers and travelers at the TA in Foristell each time had been prepared and lovingly served by FSBH Board Members and ministry friends.



Masks for Clients, Workers and Volunteers

Masks, masks and more masks, lovingly made by servants of the Lord from **New Life Church-O'Fallon** for ministry clients, workers and volunteers. Such cheerful hands created each one... Some for men, others for women and even some for kiddos.





Cars for Clients

We are frontline workers in this pandemic for homeless and economically disadvantaged. We see them with 6-ft distances and masks and do what we can to meet needs almost daily. This year, thanks to the wonderful donations coming from so many faithful donors, we have been able to acquire 11 moderately used vehicles for 11 working families desperately needing reliable transportation. Such a joy to meet so many practical needs! **God** is Good!



Home Sweet Home for Client and Baby



SB was referred to us last April from a former successful client who had lived in one of our mobile homes and finally graduated out. SB is a pregnant late-twenties lady who had been “couch surfing” and working with **Birthright** during her unplanned pregnancy. We found out she works in a permanent job at a local grocery store, earning good wages and getting health care benefits. What she really needed was a place to call her own, so she could prepare for the baby girl who is to be born in early fall. Her situation became known to us just when we had an open unit, and it was a delight getting her moved in and helping her get furniture for her new home.

We found out her automobile situation wasn’t good either, as her car had major repair issues. It ended up that she was aware of an excellent used car she could acquire if we could help some, so **FSBH** purchased it for her and now she can easily get

back and forth to work. The car she found was in Little Rock, AR, and her dad drove her there to get it.

Then thanks to Covid, her hours were cut back recently, and covering her July lot rent was difficult. **FSBH** was able to pay that expense. Now we pray she doesn’t have any more financial problems. This is a good example of what we try to do for our mobile home clients, to help them succeed in permanent housing and remain self-supporting there as long as they can afford it. We can only do this because of our faithful and generous donors. If we don’t have funds, we can’t help.

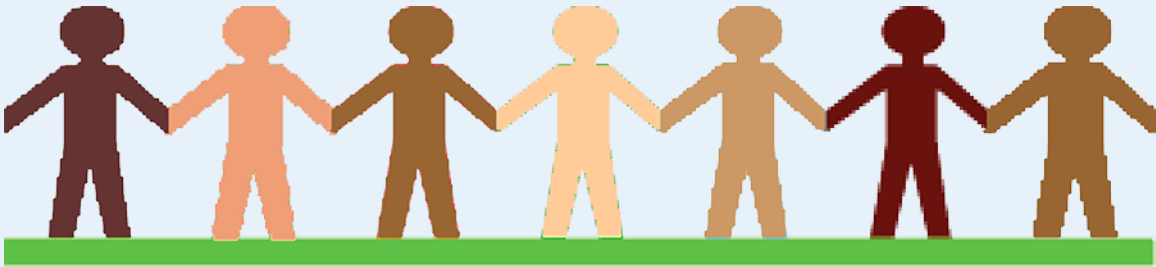
We don’t know how long SB and her baby girl will be “under our roof,” so to speak, but it is a joy to have a grateful and thankful client who is experiencing the love of **Jesus** in practical ways.



FSBH Board Discusses Current Projects

Takin' care of business...quarterly ministry board meeting at the LSL Marina earlier in June followed by BBQ lunch and boating. Thankful for an energetic encouraging board with great vision and commitment.

Current Board Members are **Paul Kruse**, President; **Dave Bonney**, Secretary; **Lana Kruse**, Treasurer; **Chris Bray**, **Tom Street**, **Cheryl Street**, **Dan Neibert** and Wentzville **Mayor Nick Guccione**.



Wentzville Unity Walk

Unity Walk in Wentzville one hot summer Saturday in June! About 200 residents, community leaders and visitors participated in a wonderful, peaceful, full of love and positivity two-mile walk through town. The event started and ended at **Wentzville United Methodist Church**. It was organized by the **MLK Committee** of Wentzville. Most folks maintained their social distancing and wore masks for the walk.





RunnyMeade BBQ Planned

In collaboration with **First Baptist Church** (FBC), O'Fallon, we'll be having community-wide back-to-school barbeque and par on Wednesday evening, August 12 in the common ground at RunnyMeade where our new playground is located.

FBC will be bringing over lots of games and fun for this first-ever neighborhood event. They'll also have a popcorn machine, snow cones, ice cream treats and desserts of all kinds. Their crew will cook up burgers, brats and dogs for everyone.

Over the past year there have been several outreach activities hosted by FBC at the mobile home park. Last year they hosted a week-long VBS program on-site. Several families have gotten connected to the local church, which is located within a mile of the park. Some having gotten into Bible Studies and spiritual growth programs, according to Outreach Pastor **Dr. Brandon Kiesling**. Earlier this month the Youth Group distributed flyers for the BBQ, then gathered on the common ground to pray over the homes and event to come.

Runny Meade
Estates
(Residents Only)

PLAY BBQ

Postponed

Wednesday August 12
6:30 - 8:00 pm
Runny Meade Playground
(If inclement weather, it will be 8/19.)

FREE!!

Food • Games • Face Painting
Cotton Candy • Sno Cones • Popcorn

Hosted by:
First Baptist Church O'Fallon
8750 Veterans Memorial Pkwy
636-272-4838 www.firstofallon.com

a
ty

UPDATE: THIS EVENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19 CONCERNS



Save the Date!

12th Annual Christmas Wonderland: December 19th



The **12th Annual Christmas Wonderland** will take place on Saturday, December 19, 2020 from 10:30 am – 2 pm at **Wentzville United Methodist Church**. Please mark your calendars now and Save the Date! This year's event will be by reservation only, for clients from St. Charles, Lincoln and Warren Counties only.

For food donations, please contact **Janice O'Rourke** at 314-737-8400 or malonyorourke@gmail.com.

If you want to volunteer in any of the activities of the day or for general questions call **Lana Kruse**, 314-799-3694 or lanakruse@gmail.com.

This year's event may look a little different, based on Covid guidelines closer to that time. More details to follow as we get closer to the date!

Christmas (Planning) in July!

Now's the time to start collecting items for laundry baskets and other treats for the working poor and homeless who will come to our **12th Annual Christmas Wonderland** on Saturday, December 19, 2020.

Here's what to put into the laundry baskets, so we have consistent "gifts" when distributing them. In the past several groups have made it a project to collectively gather items and then assemble them towards the end of the year. This list is also posted on our ministry website under "tangible assistance."

FSBH Laundry/Cleaning Basket Suggested Contents

Sturdy Basket
 Laundry Detergent
 Powdered Bleach
 Dryer Sheets
 Toilet Paper
 Window Cleaner
 Paper Towels
 Toilet Cleaner/Brush
 Hand Soap/Bath Soap
 Dish Soap
 Bathroom Cleaner
 Dusting Spray
 Stain Remover
 Sponges
 Dish towels
 Hangers
 \$5.00 in quarters
 (optional- for laundromat use)



Other items you might consider collecting are clean, gently used purses, diapers and wipes, ladies cosmetics, new underwear, and socks for teens and adults.

Last year we ran short of filled baskets, so we weren't able to send one home with each family that came to the **Christmas Wonderland**. If you or a group you're a part of could do this, it would be so very much appreciated!



Recent Donor Acknowledgements

We want to thank several businesses, churches and community groups who have financially supported FSBH this past quarter with these recent gifts.

- \$3,500 – **Tammy Stratman Brown Charities**
- \$2,500 – **Central Presbyterian Church**, Clayton
- \$1,500 – **Dardenne Presbyterian Church**
- \$1,300 – **Mary Martha Thrift Shop**
- \$1,200 – **Mission Financial**- St. Peters
- \$ 800 – **Grace Community Chapel**, St. Peters
- \$ 800 – **Element Church**, Wentzville
- \$ 750 -- **Ameren Missouri**
- \$ 729 - **Thrivent Choice Dollars** as allocations from **Dennis & Donna Hall**, **Jessica Holtam**, **David Nickel**, and **Kenneth & Tina Koncki**
- \$ 577 – **Abbvie Corporate Match** for employee contribution
- \$ 500 – **Home Maintenance Solutions**, Wentzville
- \$ 500 - **Commerce Bancshares**
- \$ 400 – **Warrenton Christian Church**
- \$ 300 – **Chapel of the Lake**, Lake St. Louis
- \$ 100 – **Boeing Match** from 1 employee
- \$ 100 – **Pfizer Match** for employee contribution
- \$ 95 – **Network For Good**
- \$ 31 – **Make My Donation, Inc.**
- \$ 30 – **New Life Nazarene Church** - \$5 for each visitor who attends their services
- \$ 12 - **Amazon Smile** Designations

*Thank
You!*

We are so very thankful to all of you who think of donating to our public charity when opportunities present.

Donation Received from Ameren Missouri

Many thanks to **Ameren Missouri** for an unsolicited donation of \$750 for our work with the homeless and working poor in our community!

This is the note they sent with their donation of \$750:

We are pleased to be able to provide this contribution in support of the many important services you provide the community.





Donation Methods to Support FSBH

We want to remind you that your tax-deductible charitable donation is a great way to support the ministry. We are a public charity per IRS Regulations of a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations will be receipted for tax-deductible documentation purposes. Here are several options to consider:

- **Corporate Matching Grant Donations**
 - Some matching grant companies are **AT&T**, **Wells Fargo**, **Monsanto**, **Boeing**, **MasterCard**, **Pfizer**, **VMWare**, and **Thrivent Financial Services**.
 - Boeing and perhaps other corporations offer volunteer time grant matches. If you volunteer 25 hours with our ministry, Boeing will send a \$250 cash gift.
 - If you work for a company that offers match gifting, please initiate the paperwork for this to be done, and we'll complete the required elements so you and others can participate.
- **Write a Check** payable to "**First Step Back Home**" and send to the following address:
First Step Back Home, Inc.
Paul Kruse
PO Box 966
O'Fallon MO 63366
- **Log onto our ministry website** and click **PayPal** for direct donation via your credit card. There is a small fee charged to the ministry with this option. firststepbackhome.net
- **Thrivent Members** can create an "Action Team" and receive \$250 "seed money" twice per year for charitable causes. Details can be found at this link: thrivent.com/actionteam.
- When you shop online, use **Amazon Smile** and choose **First Step Back Home** as your charity. They will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. You can use this direct link to our page: smile.amazon.com/ch/20-8676289



Women Prisoners Need Pen Pals

by Dave Bonney, FSBH Board Secretary

As you probably know, **Broken & Beautiful** (B&B) is a Christ-focused prison ministry that has served the **Women's Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center** (WERDCC) in Vandalia since 2014. We have held weekly Thursday Night Services as well as quarterly Church services and hosted bi-annual weekend seminars at this facility over the years. Since the pandemic hit in March, the facility has been closed to all volunteers as well as visitors. However, the need these women have to look for direction and healing through their relationship with Christ has not changed.

With all of the Christian ministries shut out of the facility and the need still real, **Broken & Beautiful** decided to step up our **Pen2Pen Pen Pal** program. With our limitations to directly interact with the inmates at WERDCC we worked with the prison Chaplain to hand out flyers and promote this program. We used the prison email system for signups and to connect the volunteers to the inmates. The result is that we have 100 women who have signed up for the Pen2Pen program and have increased our volunteers from 8 to 21. God is at work in Vandalia!

At this time, we are still needing more Christian women to act as pen pal sponsors. The feedback from our sponsors and the impact this program is having is incredible. Through our pen pal sponsors we are continuing to assist the ladies once they leave prison, which is when the challenges really intensify. Once you become Christ's hands and feet to those who are in need, your life is more blessed than those you are serving.

If you are interested in joining this program, please contact **Dave Bonney** at davebonney@hotmail.com.



Meal Ministry Update

The Meal Ministry has had a few adventures over the last few months. We had to suspend the ministry mid-March due to the State shut-down order. We are thankful for **Pam Russina** who started the **Wentzville Meal Ministry** to continue feeding families during the pandemic. (See article below.)

We tried restarting the meals at a new location in June but did not have many “customers.” We were happy to get permission from the Economy Inn to return there, as long as servers and clients wear masks and maintain social distancing.

We are grateful for the groups that have been able to serve since we restarted meals in June. We welcome a new server, **Laurie Guffey** from **Faith Christian Family Church**, who has started serving on 3rd Mondays.

Because of concerns about Covid-19, many groups are unable to return to serving at this time, so we have a number of openings on the schedule. If you are able to serve, check the calendar at firststepbackhome.net/meal-calendar for open dates. The only permanent openings we have right now are 2nd Tuesdays, and 3rd Fridays (even months only). Contact **Kim Orf** to sign up or for more information. Call or text 636-219-5496 or email korf18@hotmail.com.

Grocery Angel Feeds the Homeless and Poor



In the midst of the COVID-19 Crisis, one community need in the Wentzville area did not suffer much, thanks to the willing volunteerism of one lady who helped once... twice ... and now more than 30 times!

Mrs. Pam Russina, Dardenne Prairie, aka “Grocery Angel” had been one of the providers of hot meals at the Economy Inn, Wentzville, through the **First Step Back Home** (FSBH) homeless ministry as a part of her church group from **Grace Community Chapel**, St. Peters. When she heard that meals needed to be suspended due to healthcare concerns, she decided to form a new ministry and rally her friends to take bagged-up grocery items to the parking lots of two motels where the homeless and economically disadvantaged stayed. She identified needy folks- those who had lost their jobs due to Covid-19, and clients of FSBH; and masked and gloved, the Grocery Angel brought them food two-three times each week, shared a little encouragement, prayed with some and

thereby fed their bodies and souls. She’s been doing this since mid-March and has continued even after the FSBH evening meals program restarted, since there have been many open nights on the schedule due to continued Covid 19 concerns on the part of meal provider groups. About 150 meals per week had been provided by our Grocery Angel, or about 1,650 meals from mid-March through the end of May!

Pam put the word out through her social media contacts and found many who were eager to help with her cause. Some contributed financially, so she could buy items according to menus she prepared. Others surprised her and just dropped off LOTS of grocery items at her doorstep. Since the start of her effort she has collected more than \$5,395, served 1323 meals, and had about 200 volunteers shopping, prepping, delivering, donating and praying!

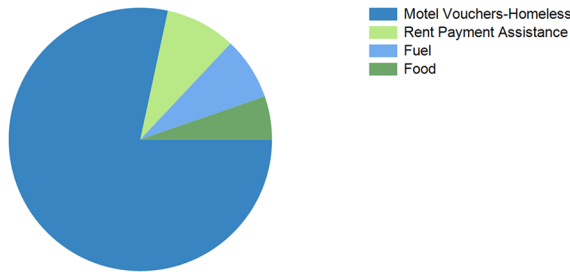
Weekly, Pam has been reporting in her **Wentzville Meals Ministry** Facebook group about her interactions with those she’s taken groceries to. She’s been able to help get many connected to job resources or other agencies who could help with long-term solutions, provide incidental personal care items and just share God’s love with those who have been discouraged by their situations.



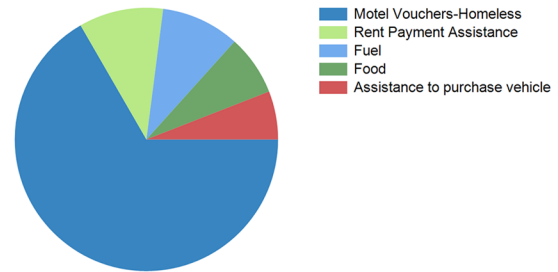
Services Provided by FSBH through St. Charles, Lincoln & Warren Continuum of Care

First Step Back Home Supportive Services

Top 5 Services by Units



Top 5 Services by Clients



Service	Entries	Units	Total	Clients	Families	Adults	Children	Seniors
Assistance to purchase vehicle	8	8	19,945.00	8	8	10	5	1
Car repair	11	11	1,960.97	7	7	8	4	0
Cell phone	5	5	237.89	5	5	7	5	0
Cell Phone Minutes	4	4	180.29	4	5	5	2	0
Clothing	1	1	1.00	1	1	1	0	0
Dental Care	1	1	300.00	1	1	1	0	0
Department of Revenue Payment	4	4	292.66	4	4	4	0	0
Emergency Home Repair	1	1	49.06	1	1	1	0	0
Food	11	11	555.41	10	10	14	6	0
Fuel	16	16	392.07	13	13	19	11	0
Insurance	4	4	659.43	4	4	5	4	0
Medication Assistance	1	1	29.42	1	1	1	0	0
Mobile Home Expenses	5	5	1,565.97	4	4	4	3	1
Motel Vouchers-Homeless	128	181	18,233.24	90	92	129	46	5
Rent Payment Assistance	17	18	3,257.00	14	15	15	8	1
Rental Deposit	5	5	1,525.00	5	6	8	2	1
Storage	1	1	172.93	1	1	1	1	1
Transportation	1	1	103.20	1	1	1	1	0
Utility Arrears	6	6	1,584.57	6	6	7	14	0
Utility Assistance	6	6	212.92	5	5	7	10	0
Utility Deposit Assistance	1	1	150.00	1	1	2	1	0
Program Total:	237	291	\$51,408.03	145	149	195	86	8

Do You Know Someone In Danger of Homelessness?



The Coordinated Entry program, through the Continuum of Care for St. Charles, Lincoln & Warren Counties, can help.

Have them call 2-1-1. Enter "2," then their zip code. Enter "3" if for currently homeless, and they'll be connected to a coordinated entry staff person. (If someone enters "1," that's for utility support; or "2," that's for food or transportation support.) FSBH will then get a referral if our agency is the best source of help for the client.