



Bundles of Hope

February 1, 2014 was our first shower and we are very proud to say that it went fantastic. Thank you all for the huge outpouring of love and support for Monica and baby Sofia.

We had a great time playing games, eating and watching Monica experience the love of our ladies and most importantly the love of Jesus. Seeds are being planted through these showers! Please continue to be in prayer for Monica and Sophia.

We are currently in the process of meeting with our friends at ALC to choose a new mom and baby to shower with love. Please be in prayer for her, we may not know who she is but God does!! We look forward to April and what the next shower brings. What a blessing it is to see God at work. Thank you again. Please email Angela@milwoodbaptist.com for information about Bundles of Hope or to contribute to this ministry.

Read more about the Bundles of Hope Ministry on page 2.



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Bundles of Hope Ministry continued...

Bundles of Hope aides expectant mothers and supports life by battling loneliness with opportunities for community, by confronting hopelessness with the love of Christ, and by dispelling desperation through providing necessities.



Partnering with Austin Lifecare Center (ALC), a local pregnancy resource center, we build relationships with women who have chosen life against all odds. By holding baby showers for these ladies to provide for their needs, we love them, share the gospel of Jesus Christ with them and fellowship with them (a bundle of hope). Many of the expectant mothers at ALC work hard to better their life by attending classes. ALC offers expectant mothers opportunities to earn Baby Bucks (for materials), offers LPC counseling, hosts Bible studies, parenting classes, and more. But there are still needs and opportunities to provide deeper community, lasting hope, and basic care necessities.

These expectant mothers have very little support in the world. Most of them do not know Christ, therefore they do not know God's love. They are broken, pregnant and facing many difficult decisions and substantial responsibilities. By offering to bless them with a showering of love and gifts, we are giving them a chance to see God's unconditional love firsthand.

Without help, many expectant mothers may not have the necessities they need to raise their child. Can you imagine what it would be like to bring your baby home from the hospital, without the love of an earthly family or a church family to rally around you? Without the things that you need to keep the baby healthy and safe and comfortable? So often they have nothing.

The vision is for Milwood is to love on these mothers—so alone, broken, and afraid—love on their babies as if they were our own, and ultimately to display Christ to them, inviting them to trust him. God has called us to love one another....what a great opportunity this is to show His grace-filled love!

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Scripture Focus: Speaking

What we say matters. In the passages below you will find a common thread. They all include speaking. Speaking is an important part of being a Christian! Be challenged, consider what is coming out of your mouth. Notice, it is not merely about *not* saying bad things, it is about *speaking* good things.

Ephesians 4:15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."

4:25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

4:29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

4:32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.



RENOVATION

Praise God that our budget and plans have been approved! Now that we are in the renovation giving time, make sure you consider what God would ask of you to support the renovation project. Also, take a gander at our pictures in the back of the sanctuary and get excited about what God is doing.

ELDER UPDATE

What are our Elders doing? We continue to meet every Tuesday night for prayer and to work on our vision and discipleship plans going forward. On January 26th, you heard the plan to start Building Blocks on Sunday mornings in the fall. We are excited that we already have two planned and are developing potentially two more.

Our hope and excitement is to see our church increasingly focused on growing as mature Christians who love reading their Bibles and have a strong desire to the share the gospel with the lost.

God is using the church to build the church. The next few months, our Elders are going to focus on rallying the church around this vision of "Joyfully Building up the Body of Christ for the Glory of God".

In our Elder meetings we pray for the church through the member directory, thinking through the maturity, physical needs, and spiritual strength of each of our members. If there is anything you need prayer for let us and we would love to join you in prayer.

LIFEGROUP LEADERS

In February, we held a meeting with several members of the church, asking if they would consider launching and leading new LIFEgroups. Several responded affirmatively and we are excited to have a training day in the coming weeks in order to launch a few new Lifegroups. Hopefully soon!



MISSIONS IN UNITED ARAB EMIRATE

Supporting Arabic Language Learning

Our brother, "T", in the United Arab Emirates is making a major shift in his ministry for the next two years. He is taking time off from his ophthalmology practice to pursue language school in order to master Arabic. This, he trusts, will open the door for gospel conversations and he plans to remain in the UAE for the foreseeable future. The Milwood missions team voted to support him in this endeavor by giving the cost of his language school which is \$12,000.00. This is a note from T (parenthesis added as some words are not appropriate for email):

"This will require a substantial investment on our part, but I am firmly convinced that better communication is essential to our efforts here. We know that some things (the gospel) only come by hearing. This will be challenging but I believe it will prove honoring to Him."

Ophthalmic Surgery Training Center

The UAE is an intersection in the Middle East. People from surrounded countries such as Iran, Oman, Saudi Arabia flock to the UAE for the economic and education opportunities. Many come for medical care and training as well. T is hoping to develop a training center in Al Ain in order to facilitate the training of ophthalmic surgeons from the surrounding region. Here is T on the center:

"We are working with a similarly-focused group that is developing an innovative, realistic, surgical simulator. This will allow us to train surgeons from all over the region in a form of cataract surgery that is very cost effective for the developing world. We believe that the potential for meaningful conversations is immense during these training sessions. As you know, these type of opportunities require significant investment, yet the potential for His Kingdom seems vast. We sense the Lord's hand in this and are personally committed to the investment."

Conversations

One of the things that impacted me the most on my visit to the UAE is the frequency in which T is seeking conversations about Jesus. This is a short update from him:

"A friend of mine and I have started hanging out at a new coffee/sheisha place on Friday evenings. We met some new friends last night. Please pray for our time and conversations there. Also, I am looking specifically to visit some of our long term patients this spring. I feel we have built friendships to the place that I can be more specific in our conversation. Please pray with me."

For His Glory,
Nathan J Loudin
