

Jackie's Story

Our God Is Able!

In Ephesians 3:20, "Paul tells us that God is able to do exceedingly; abundantly above all we can ask or imagine." Sometimes we think this is an exaggeration. It seems that we can go so long in our Christian life without truly seeing great things happen. But when we read the true story of this sixteen-year-old girl in Grand

Rapids, we will see that God still works miracles and through young and/or weak persons.

Jackie, a sixteen-year-old teenager, peddled newspapers. Not on an ordinary route, but in a low income, senior and challenged persons building. Every afternoon she faithfully delivered her papers. On Tuesdays however, she always ran a bit long, because there was a meeting that intrigued her. She would sit in the hall way and listen to thirty or so people singing and talking in the community room. It was a weekly worship service that intrigued her, and when a couple of people came out and asked her to join, she eagerly accepted. And shortly thereafter they led her to Christ.

Jackie turned out to be rather extra ordinary new disciple. She wanted to know more about the Bible and found a couple of Christian friends at her school who decided to have Bible study with her. They asked the administration if they could do it in the school and invite others. The administration gave permission and within a matter of a few months, they had an entire classroom filled with kids who came together each week for Bible study and for prayer.

Next Jackie decided to take her little eight-year-old sister on the paper route, especially on Tuesdays when the group was meeting for prayer and Bible study. Her sister Judy loved it, and joined in at the worship services. She found out that the sponsor of those worship services had a reading club in which they provided both mentoring and Christian books. Jackie and Judy both joined and brought the books home with them. Their mom became very interested in the reading and decided to read with them. Among the books were the monthly devotionals from Children's Bible Hour called **Keys For Kids**.

Toward the end of the school year Jackie had to do an interpretive dance for her dance class. She asked her teacher if she could do a "liturgical" or worship dance, because everything she did she wanted to do for Jesus. The teacher asked her to show her the dance. Jackie did it for the teacher and the teacher was so impressed that she was willing to have Jackie get all the kids to join her in the dance for "Jesus."

When we support ministries like **HIS PLACE**, through which this person was brought to Christ, we can never dream of the ways in which God will multiply the ministry far beyond anything we can imagine. Think of the lives that Jackie has already been used to touch – the kids at school, her sister, her mom and others that we don't even know about! How seldom we stop to consider what God does through our prayers, offerings, gifts and time. **IT DOES MATTER!** What we do has significance because God gives it significance and in doing that He multiplies it. Pray for Jackie, Judy, their mom and the kids at their school. Grant that Satan may not snuff out this explosion of God's goodness and love!

How much is one person's life worth?

Is HIS PLACE Growing?

Recently this question was asked of our director and the following is his response. If someone were to count the number of people we serve the answer would be yes. Today we serve more people than we did last year and the year before. Service is certainly one of our objectives. We distribute thousands of pounds of food to the needy, we hold more potluck dinners and that alone serves more people than previously. We distribute hundred of boxes of clothing to those in need. We distribute computers throughout our community and to persons teaching computer classes at junior high schools, churches and community centers. We collaborate with other non-profits and faith-based organizations for clothing distribution and computer repair and computer educational classes. We have planted two ongoing faith-based services at facilities where there were no services previously and we are training persons living in these facilities to take responsibility for their own services and to be leaders in the body of Christ. We have members of our community with disabilities that no longer focus on their disability rather they choose to focus on their ability and they are being empowered by God to do great things for Him.

We have more than thirteen women and girls reading hundreds of Christian books proclaiming Christian values and beliefs and these ladies no longer are hooked on soft porn romance novels. We have several men from our Monday evening men's group ready to do evangelism (teach, preach and serve) now. We have men from our group getting married (marriage God's way), when not long ago they were satisfied with common law marriage. We have men in the Guiding Light Mission and in The Salvation Army leading Prayer and Bible study groups.

During our first lessons with CRWRC we were informed of the term "**sustainable change**". Yes we have persons that are experiencing sustainable change. We also must share that we have those who say they believe and then return to old habits, addictions and life experiences. These are success stories in God's waiting room.

The Guiding Light Mission has asked us to be an after-care facility for their graduates. We are praying and asking God to lead us in this endeavor. We ask those who read this to call and join us, if God has placed a burden on you to help develop a facility for men with a focus on discipleship. Many of our men want to return to the troubled areas they come from to reach out and help others. To do this they need training. They will not go to Reformed Bible College, Cornerstone College or Calvin College. But they will participate in a live-in street academy with a focus on men like themselves that are homeless and feeling spiritually hopeless. This facility will be one and the same as the after-care facility for Guiding Light and could serve other missions as well. Our intent is not to duplicate the existing missions but to provide additional training (1-3 years) with spiritual and social structure for men who choose to dedicate their lives to serve Jesus Christ.

The ministry of **HIS PLACE** is different in approach but the mission is the same as any other faith-based entity, to **win souls for Jesus Christ!** We are always in need of volunteers for tutoring reading and math for adults and children. We need clerical and administrative assistance. Retired pastors and Elders with the desire to let God lead you in loving and teaching our men with troubled backgrounds call or come, we are ready for you. We thank you for your support in prayer and resources of all kinds. Every Tuesday at 2:00 P.M. we have prayer; you are welcome to join us.

HIS PLACE
1018 Lafayette NE
Grand Rapids Michigan 49503
616-454-1812
hisplace@hisplacegr.org

March 2005

