



The Wills' Wire

February 2007



Howdy from Atlanta and we hope you had a Happy Valentine's Day. We want to say a special thank you to all of our supporters as we have reached the half way point in our journey this year. At times it has been challenging and at others we have been reminded by your love and devotion which is the reason we are doing this program. In this newsletter we will be highlighting a special event that took place at our church here in Atlanta: New Life Covenant Church.

Valentine's Day for most is filled with sweet cards and sweet candies. The smell of roses and smiling faces fill the streets as people walk with certain pep in their step. It is meant to be a day to remind those closest to us how much we love them with an extra special dose of care. However, Valentine's this year took on a whole new meaning.

For weeks our church had been announcing that a special event would be taking place the night of Valentine's and we looked forward with eager anticipation and a slight suspicion of what would take place. We knew nothing of what to expect and even our closest guesses were very far off. The Sunday prior to the event we found out that February 14th was going to be the 1st birthday missed by our Associate Pastor's sister who passed away last May after her 3rd battle with Leukemia. This still left no clues as to what we would be doing.

Finally, Wednesday night arrived and we showed up to find the fellowship hall of our church, which is actually a remodeled warehouse, all made over with candles and table clothes and a great meal of spaghetti and salad. Emily, the Associate Pastor, welcomed us all to what she called, "A birthday party for her sister." After the meal was over came the real surprise. We were split up into teams all to do random acts of kindness throughout the neighborhood. The first team was given 10 \$5 gift cards to Publix, a local grocery chain with the instructions to pass out to anyone in the neighborhood they could find. The second team was given a dozen roses and directed to visit Mother Maddie, a 94 year old woman, who is unable to attend church due to health reasons. The next team was sent to visit another shut in, Sister Pat, who is suffering from illnesses which are causing her to go blind. The girls of our team made up a group who passed out bags of cookies and brownies to those they found walking around the neighborhood. Lastly, the remaining men of the church took brown bags filled with sandwiches and chips to the homeless men and women found on the cold streets of our neighborhood.

Through this exercise our eyes were not only opened to some of the vast needs of the neighborhood that are often hidden by the nightfall but our hearts were pulled in a different direction. On a holiday that focuses so much on commercial love by concentrating on what you can buy for your significant other, we spent some time focusing on the small but necessary acts of kindness to show true love and real warmth to people who rarely experience love in such a way. This brought me to consider the life of Jesus and his commands of loving the Lord our God and loving our neighbor as our self. This is something Mission Year prides itself in teaching and is something that can only be learned by doing. No amount of reading or study could replace the knowledge gained by showing someone love and seeing them receive it and be changed forever on the inside.

If you find yourself led to give, please send your tax deductible contributions made payable to D.O.O.R, a Mission Year partner that handles our finances, to 430 West 9th Ave, Denver, CO 80204. Please make sure to designate your donation towards us by writing our names in the memo section of the check as well as our city, Atlanta. You will receive a receipt for each gift given.

Prayer Request

- Our Neighborhood (The girls are starting an aerobics class on Saturdays. Please pray for a good turnout and a good time.)
- Our Safety
- Our daily impact on the children
- Financial Support (Currently we have raised \$2,637 out of \$19,000 that is almost a 30% increase from the previous 5 months!)

Ben and Sara Wills

**love God.
love people.
nothing else matters.**