

JAMES 1:27 FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2008

FROM THE PRESIDENT - DAVE JONES

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My sincere thanks go out to everyone who contributed to the success of our Garden Party fundraiser on June 14th! Special appreciation goes out to Mark & Leigh Ann Lynch who hosted the event. Through the hard work and dedication of all who gave their precious time, labor, ideas, and services, James 1:27 was able to raise much needed financial resources to meet the future needs of our widows and orphans.

Despite the success of the Garden Party, we know that these financial resources will not last as we enter the colder months. Your donation now will definitely make a meaningful impact in the life of a widow or orphan in the coming months. Please place yourself in the shoes of a widow with rent and utility bills stacking up, having to decide between essential medication or food. What would a \$50 or \$100 grocery store gift card mean to her? How about a \$500 electric bill paid in full? How about something as simple as a new pair of shoes? What if volunteers showed up with a working refrigerator to replace the one that broke a month ago? These are the kinds of differences that your donations can and will make.

Please prayerfully consider donating at this time to further our cause. Any amount will be sincerely appreciated, even \$10 or \$25 will go a long way. Thank you again for your past support and together we truly can change the future!

THE BLESSINGS OF HOME VISITS - MELISSA KERNS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One important part of our ministry to widows is what we call a "home visit." As the Executive Director, I have the great privilege and blessing of being able to meet one-on-one with the special women who seek assistance from the James 1:27 Foundation. This program began in part so that we could verify that the family's need was real, and also so that we might have an opportunity to connect with these women and children on a more personal level. What I could never have foreseen was that I would be so greatly blessed in return!

The home visit can be a very humbling experience. Before I began this program, I didn't realize the severity of the poor living conditions and the emotional struggles that these families endure as a result of their unforeseen loss. On the other hand, it is amazing to see the strength that many of these ladies possess in spite of their distressing circumstances. Many of our widows request

that I pray with them during these home visits, and it's wonderful to feel the presence of God and His peace as He comforts them during this most difficult time.

Because many of our widows' situations do not have a quick or easy fix, some home visits continue throughout the year. This provides the Foundation with a great opportunity to build relationships and to find other ways to serve them. As a result of home visits, we have been able to assess the practical needs of these families, from new refrigerators to toilet paper! These needs were generously met by the supporters who attended our Garden Party Gala last June. What a joy it was to be able to deliver these treasures to them!

What initially began as part of our "intake protocol" has become such an important and vital part of our ministry. I am so thankful to be a part of the Foundation, and I am honored and humbled to spend time with these dear ladies and their children throughout the year. I am especially grateful to our supporters, who make all of this possible!

QUICK NOTES:

- Remember the James 1:27 Foundation in your estate planning. If you would like to contribute to our endowment fund please contact Dave Jones, Foundation President at 540-664-1827 or email president@jamesfoundation.com
- All donations are tax deductible and go directly to widows and orphans in need (Board members pay for all operating expenses)
- If you know a widow or orphan in need, please contact the Executive Director, Melissa Kerns at 540-667-1027 or Info@JamesFoundation.com
- Volunteers are always welcome. Contact us with your desire and skills.



JAMES 1:27 Foundation

Comfort in Crisis

ABOUT US

James 1:27 Foundation seeks to provide financial, emotional and spiritual assistance to women and children in times of distress by easing the burden of living expenses, expanding educational and employment opportunities, offering prayer support and comfort through the teachings of the Bible, or providing other charitable services relating to the welfare of widows and orphans living primarily in the Winchester, Virginia, area.

Your prayers and generous contributions are the fuel of the James 1:27 engine. Please consider those less fortunate as winter will be upon us. The Foundation and more importantly the widows of this region are extremely grateful for your continued support. Donations should be sent to:

James 1:27 Foundation
PO.Box 781
Winchester, VA 22604

BOARD EXPANSION

Many of you have expressed a heartfelt desire to do more on an ongoing basis for the local widows and orphans. We know that the work goes way beyond what we, the Executive Board, can practically accomplish by ourselves and we wish to share with you the opportunity to be blessed by serving God through this ministry.

Prayerful consideration for how best to expand has led us to establish an Executive Council that will encompass

seven separate committees: Prayer Ministry, Widows Outreach, Service, Children's and Orphan's Outreach, Communications, Church Relations, and Fundraising/Events Planning.

We trust God to provide Council Leaders and members to serve and we ask each of you to consider if God might be calling you to serve Him on one of these committees.

If interested, please contact our Foundation President, Dave Jones, at

MEET THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

We are delighted to welcome Dave and Sue Hickman to the Executive Board. They bring a unique passion for widows and their children.

For several years Sue and I have supported the Foundation in various ways and count it a privilege to now serve the Lord on the Executive Board. Sue brings a unique passion and perspective to the board having been a widow for 2 1/2 years before we met and married 10 years ago. We have two boys and added a daughter-in-law to our family just a month ago. Our oldest, Chris, and his bride, Amanda, both graduated from JMU in May. Chris is in training with the Secret Service. Andrew is in his senior year, at JMU. The boys were just 1 and 3 when their Dad's inoperable brain tumor was first discovered and they were 8 and 10 when he passed away. The experience has developed in them a special heart of compassion and gratefulness to God for His faithfulness midst hardship and loss. After home schooling our boys, Sue began her own home based business with Arbonne International and I work in Reston as Senior Systems Analyst for a small company called AvMet. We live in Berryville, VA, attend church in Reston, VA, and delight in this opportunity to serve the Lord through this local ministry. Dave & Sue Hickman

2008 GARDEN GALA

Heavy rains could not quench the beauty of this year's Garden Gala, a truly magical night to remember. Magical because of the dreamlike atmosphere under the elegant tent lined with twinkling lights; magical for the soothing jazz tunes by Caleb Nei and the retro sounds of the Robbie Limon Band; and magical as a result of the spirit of generosity and compassion among the guests who dined and danced. The knowledge that this event was organized to raise awareness and support for widows and their children in our community added a beauty all its own to the evening.

New this year at the James 1:27 Foundation's sixth annual Gala was the Widow's Wish Table, a special display that featured a personal story and a list of specific needs for each woman who has received assistance from the Foundation during the past year. Friends of the Foundation cre-

ated this special table as an opportunity for donors to provide direct, tangible assistance for a neighbor in need. The needs posted on the Wish Table ranged from basics like toilet paper or dish soap to such big-ticket items as a refrigerator or sofa. The response of our guests to these needs was overwhelming as one by one the cards disappeared into the pockets and purses of openhearted donors. One guest chanced upon a wish list that read "size 10 orthopedic shoes", and he just happened to have a brand-new pair of that exact size in his car! What a testimony to God's provision! By the end of the night, friends of the Foundation had pledged to meet nearly every single need. What a tribute to the grace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit in our community!

A special thank you is extended to Mark & Leigh Ann Lynch who gra-

viously provided their beautiful back lawn for the Gala, and to committee members Ellen Cowley, Patricia Jackson, Kelly Kremer, Christine Lynch, Leigh Ann Lynch, Liz Martin and Angie Haecker for organizing this beautiful evening. The event was made possible by the generous donors who funded the cost of the evening's festivities. Collectively, our sponsors, donors and guests contributed almost \$30,000! The annual Gala traditionally has been the Foundation's main fundraiser for the year; the widows and orphans whom we support rely on every dollar that is raised, and they receive every penny. No donations are ever used for administrative costs unless specifically given for that purpose. You can rest assured that your money IS making a difference in many lives. Thank you for sharing your time, resources, and prayers with us. May you be greatly blessed in return!