

Journal ARCHIVE 2012

JANUARY 2012:

01/01 - *I made the conscious decision to dedicate my life to my life and resources to a lifelong mission to share the blessings GOD has given me with those in need, and to be an example of how GOD's message of hope through faith in Jesus Christ can change our lives and the lives of others. It is this decision that inspired me to create the "Leap Of Faith Movement".*

01/13 - *I made a personal contribution of hats, coats, boots, socks, undergarments and groceries to the local City Union Mission. Taking along my father who lives alone to share in the positive experience he needs in his life right now, re-enforcing the power of giving, and ensuring that those who are homeless in my community have a chance to make it through another day.*

01/23 - *I had lunch with my son at a restaurant participating in the "KC Restaurant Week", which donates 10% of your bill to Harvester's. The donation from my lunch bill will end up providing 7 meals to those in need!*

01/26 - *Using the profits gained from the sale of personal jewelery, I was able to make monetary donations to CBN to help share GOD's message of hope around the world, a donation to "The Smile Train" that was tripled because of a donation challenge which will enable 1 child to have the cleft surgery that will change his/her's life, and finally a donation to Harvester's that will allow for 2500 meals to be provided to the desperate hearts who need a meal.*

FEBRUARY 2012:

02/02 - *I began the planning and organization of a personal Estate/Garage Sale to be held in early spring. This effort will help fund donations and future give back opportunities. NOTE: I continue my efforts to explore short term / long term business opportunities that will extend my Leap Of Faith mission work.*

02/04 - *Participated as a volunteer in support of the "MDA Muscle Walk" event held at Arrowhead Stadium to pay tribute to and raise funds for children and adults served by the Muscular Dystrophy Association. I was part of the "Button Team" whose responsibility was to make sure Team buttons were handed out to the appropriate teams. I decided to also sign up to participate in the actual "walk" , with the registration fee going towards MDA support.*

02/08 - *I made a personal donation of some old electronic equipment to the local Salvation Army, where the proceeds from the sale of these items will go to supporting one of the many wonderful programs they support.*

02/10 - *I spent the morning with my 81 year old dad. I brought along a few items he needed for his apartment and a copy of a "Jesus of Nazareth" CD that I recently purchased off Ebay to help him stay strong in his faith. We spent the morning driving through the city as he showed me the locations where he grew up and shared stories of his childhood and his past. Along the way a stranger approached me asking for money. I was able to share a few dollars, a handshake and hug. It was a good day! It is so important to honor your father and mother, and always have compassion for those who are less fortunate.*

02/18 - *My wife and I attended a fundraiser today benefiting a local man (David King) who recently fell off a ladder after suffering a epileptic seizure, injuring his spinal cord and is now*

paraplegic - <http://ltribune.net/lees-summit-news/community/benefit-planned-after-man-falls-from-ladder.htm>. We were able to meet David and his family, letting him know that we were inspired by his story and made a donation that will help him and his family pay rent for the year so he can focus on his rehabilitation. The family are believers of Jesus Christ, and through it all they are staying strong in their faith. Our prayers are with them in their time of need!

02/21 - Today I spent the morning shift volunteering at Harvester's Volunteer Outreach Center, sorting and repackaging donated food items to be sent out to the many hungry children, seniors and families in our community. I was able to meet and get to know the stories of several other volunteers (Tyler, Derrick, Angela and Wilma) while completing an important task for Harvester's. I will plan on doing this regularly.

02/28 - Today I submitted a volunteer application for the American Red Cross to become one of the many special volunteers who help provide disaster assistance, community education in disaster preparedness, health and safety classes and jump in wherever there's a need.

MARCH 2012:

03/09 - Today, I made a special visit to my 81 year old Dad. I brought along some genealogy documentation and some nutritional shakes to help improve his diet (it seems he eats a lot of TV dinners). I ended up taking him to the grocery store to get him re-stocked. We had a good conversation about our family genealogy and made plans for future visits.

03/12 - I made a personal donation of \$35 to Harvester's to help provided meals to the desperate hearts who need them. By leveraging each dollar to acquire, transport, sort, store and distribute donated food, Harvesters can turn each dollar donated into five meals....Amazing!

03/13 - Attended my first volunteer orientation class at the Greater KC Red Cross as a prelude to becoming a volunteer for the Mobile Meals Program, where I will be preparing and delivering meals to the homeless individuals throughout the greater KC area. There is a waiting list for this opportunity, as well as additional courses that I will be taking prior to being accepted. Looking forward to this opportunity!

03/19 - Submitted my volunteer application to the Phoenix Family Housing Corp, to participate in the Mobile Food Pantry opportunity. Many seniors have to go without fresh vegetable and fruits, and this program gives them the opportunity to have that...I will be helping setup the pantry, distribute food and helping seniors to get their choices back to their home. I'm eagerly waiting my application acceptance and for this opportunity to begin.

03/21 - Today I took a family friend (Chuck) to a medical appointment. Chuck was a long time companion of my mom and helped support and care for her in her early struggle with gall bladder cancer. He gave my mom the love and support she needed in her time of need.

Something I can never repay. I will always be in dept to his kindness and plan on continuing to be there when he needs me..Like today. I was able to get him to/from his doctor appointment safely and we shared memories of my mom over lunch. God Bless you Chuck. We miss you Mom!

03/22 - Today I took my Dad to the VA hospital for his scheduled checkup, Although he is in good health I have decided to start overseeing and managing his health care from now on, as he is getting forgetful. As we entered the hospital, it was amazing to look around at the hundreds of people in the military family who were wondering around. Each having their own story of sacrifice. I felt honored, yet sad at the same time. As I sat awaiting lab results for my Dad, I met an elderly lady and we struck up a conversation. She told me she was here with her husband, who had recently been diagnosed with leukemia (from agent orange exposure). We spoke about our mothers whom we both had lost recently to cancer and the fact that you never stop missing

them. We shared the experiences of our loved ones spirits making their presence known in our lives even after they had passed. Both of us recognizing GOD's divine glory and the spiritual after life. It was a welcomed conversation and a true testament of the importance of connecting with others. I ended the day by purchasing a new hat for my father, commemorating his military service. A trip to Walmart for him to pickup essentials, and finally lunch. A full day of honoring my father.

03/26 - *Today I spent the day volunteering for the Phoenix Family Housing Organization's Mobile food pantry, Helping with the setup and distribution of fresh vegetables, fruit, canned and package goods to seniors at the Palestine Housing complexes located in the urban core. I got to meet some great people who help to make this event possible; Karen (the Service Coordinator), Kim and Angela (volunteers), but most of all I got to personally meet and help the many seniors who benefit from this service. To personally see the smiles and hear the words of appreciation was priceless.*

03/29 - *I made personal monetary donations to CBN, to help share GOD's message of hope around the world and to "The Smile Train" , to help children around the world to get the cleft surgeries that will help change their lives. Both of these charities are close to my heart and just knowing that I can help make a difference means a lot.*

APRIL 2012:

04/10 - *Today I attended my second Red Cross training course to make it one step closer to becoming a Mobile Meals volunteer and be able to feed those who are homeless in our community. The humanitarian work that the Red Cross does is amazing. Eventually I hope to also become apart of their DAT (Disaster Action Team), providing support for local disasters and making a difference in the community.*

04/11 - *Today I made a visit to my 81 year old dad. I took him to the store to pickup some groceries and I took him to the Don Bosco community center afterwards for his daily activities. It was a nice visit. We spoke of life and memories of my mom. I see a big need in the Senior citizen community for activities and services. Many of our seniors are neglected and lonely (a bi-product of our society, the increase of people getting older, budget cuts etc..). This is an area I can see myself focusing on in the near future.*

04/16 - *To kick-off National Volunteer week, Today I revisited the Palestine Housing complexes located in the urban core to help out with the setup and distribution of fresh vegetables, fruit, canned and package goods to the seniors living there. Once again, it was a very amazing day, and to see the smiles on their face as an expression of appreciation was priceless. GOD willing, I see myself creating a foundation in the future to provide services to the ever growing senior citizen population.*

04/18 - *Today I spent the morning shift volunteering at Harvester's Volunteer Outreach Center, sorting donated food items to be sent out to the many hungry children, seniors and families in our community. I was able to meet and get to know the story of one of the volunteers (James). He had an amazing testimony of how GOD was working in his life. He came up from the streets and decided to accept GOD and turn his life around. He was on his third week of volunteering at Harvester's, coming everyday to help out. He currently lives in an outreach center and volunteers to help him stay strong in is faith, while helping others. It is amazing to see GOD working in the lives of others. There are many out there like James and myself who's lives are being changed by accepting/following Jesus Christ.*

04/24 - *I was reminded this past weekend of a valuable lesson. That "No matter how righteous*

we think we are, or how many "good works" we accomplish, We are all sinners and need to humble ourselves daily". A reality check when we think we are in control.

MAY 2012:

05/01 - *Today I visited my 81 year old dad. I picked him up at his apartment, took him to the store to pickup some groceries and to the Don Bosco community center afterwards for his daily activities. It was a nice visit. Seems he has met a nice Vietnamese woman at the community center that is close to his age. They seem to like each others company. My dad says her English is rough but he really likes her, and he thinks the feeling is mutual. Hopefully this will start a positive relationship for my dad and allow him to have the companionship he longs for.*

05/07 - *I revisited the Palestine Housing complexes located in the urban core to help out with the setup and distribution of fresh vegetables, fruit, canned and package goods to the seniors living there. Today we had some new volunteers from the local Rotary Club there to help out. I got to discuss my mission and spoke personally with one of the Rotary Club volunteers (Jan) about what they do and how they got involved with the Phoenix Housing group. I also got to meet some more residents at the complex. Ms. Ester, a 97 year old resident who was so sweet, and of course one of the regulars, Mr. Lee who I enjoy seeing. I also had the opportunity to meet with the Phoenix Family Housing Communication and Outreach Coordinator (Tanessa) for the first time. We had a nice discussion about her roles and responsibilities and future plans for missionary work through her church. It was a very rewarding day.*

05/09 - *I spent the morning shift volunteering at Harvester's Volunteer Outreach Center, sorting donated food items to be sent out to the many hungry children, seniors and families in our community. I was able to meet and get to know the story of one new volunteer (Jeremy), he was originally from Wisconsin and was volunteering today because he had some idle time and had some interesting ideas to bring attention to Harvesters through the Food Network Chopped program. He presented his ideas to the Harvesters management team. I also saw my friend James, who I met previously. He is the one who is currently homeless and living in the local City Union Mission and comes to Harvesters twice a week to keep strong in his faith. He told me today that he had been living there now for 2 years and really wants to try and find a job to get out on his own. These are the kinds of people that inspire me and I want to help. I will be looking for opportunities for him as I pursue my entrepreneur journey. As I looked around the warehouse today it was amazing how many people really care for those in need. It gives me hope for the human race in a time when all around us is sensationalism and negativity. GOD is great!*

05/13 - *From the proceeds from last weekend's garage sale/fundraiser, I was able to make a personal donation to Harvester's of \$75. Harvesters is a wonderful charity that is able to leverage their network of resources to turn ever dollar into 5 meals. My donation will help provide 375 meals for hungry people in the community. What a blessing!. I will continue to volunteer my time and money to this great organization and build my network of contacts within their organization as I continue my aspirations of creating my own humanitarian foundation. More to come!*

05/22 - *Today I visited my 81 year old dad. I started the day by gathering almost 300 pieces of summer clothing from my garage and together with my dad we donated all of it to the local Salvation Army. I then took my dad to his follow-up doctor appointments at the VA hospital where he checked out fine and healthy, we had lunch together and visited my moms grave site to honor her memory and finally I took him to the store to pickup groceries. It was a great day of giving back to those in need and honoring my mother, dad, and most of all expressing my faith*

through love and compassion for others.

05/25 - *Today I met a family friend (Chuck) at the cemetery where my mom rests. Chuck is a long time companion of my mom, who helped support and care for her in the early stages of her gall bladder cancer. He gave my mom the love, companionship and support she needed in her time of need. Something I can never repay. I will always be in dept to his kindness, and will always be there for him whenever he needs .Like today, Chuck and I went and laid flowers in honor of my mom's upcoming birthday and Memorial Day. We shared memories of my mom, and I let him know that I had ordered him a new large print Bible so he could continue his journey of growing his faith. A faith that he expressed has been renewed since my mom's passing.*

JUNE 2012:

06/01 - *Today I sold an old vehicle I owned and no longer needed for salvage. The proceeds from the sale are going towards expenses related to my ongoing volunteer activities, such as transportation cost (i.e. Gas and maintenance etc..) for getting back and forth to volunteer activities. I will continue to sell all my unwanted items in an effort to fund future expenses and charitable contributions and seek out additional freelance entrepreneur opportunities in an effort towards creating a successful business or non-profit to help others realize their potential through the power Faith!*

06/07 - *Today I visited my 81 year old dad. I took him to the grocery store to pick up some food and supplies, and together we took 2 large boxes of old movie videos and electronic equipment from my garage and took them to the local Salvation Army. It was a great opportunity to share some time with my dad and share the opportunity to experience giving back to those less fortunate.*

06/08 - *I spent the morning volunteering at Harvester's Volunteer Outreach Center. Today I was assigned to sorting and repackaging breads which will be sent out to the many hungry children, seniors and families in our community. I was able to meet and get to know one of the volunteers (Ulysses). He is a young man (probably 18 years old) who was volunteering because he felt the need to do so. It was very encouraging to see someone so young doing something so positive. At the end of my shift I ran into my friend James, who I met and have worked with many times before at the Harvester's Volunteer Outreach Center. He is such an inspiration to me. He is homeless and has been living at the City Union Mission for the past few months trying to overcome the demons of his past (i.e. drugs and alcohol) and trying to get back on his feet. He comes to Harvesters to volunteer his time 3 times a week to stay away from those bad influences and give back. He speaks of his faith and is living the example of his love for Jesus. During our conversation I learned that he was trying to get enough money to pay for a bus pass to continue his efforts with Harvesters. I gave him money to help but felt bad afterward that I did not give him enough to pay for the entire cost of the bus pass. I look forward to continuing my relationship with James and helping him to grow in his faith. I finished up the day with lunch with an old friend (Ken). We had a great visit catching up. All in all it was a very blessed day!*

06/11 - *Today I took the time to take my dad to the dental college to see about getting his dentures realigned. At the end of the day he decided that he could not live without his teeth for the 3 days it would take to get them repaired. Although we didn't achieve our goal, we were able to spend time together which is the most important thing.*

06/15 - *Today I attended the "Donuts for Dad's" volunteer event sponsored by the Phoenix Family Housing group. The event was held at the East Hills Village located in the Kansas City urban core (not far from where I grew up). It was designed to recognize dads for fathers day by*

offering up free donuts. The turn out of dads for the event was a little disappointing, but I got a real sense of community as I sat there listening to the conversations between the people that manage and help out at the apartment complex and the the tenants. I got to meet some very special people (Megan, Anthony) that are making a positive difference in the lives of those around them. It made me proud and hopeful. I also got to know a little more about the Communication and Outreach Coordinator from the Phoenix Family Housing group (Tanesha), who was present at the event. I have met her before during some of my other volunteer events. What a wonderful young woman she is for all that she does. It was a great way to end the workweek by giving back!

06/18 - *Today I spent the day volunteering at the Palestine Housing apartment complexes located in the urban core helping out with the setup and distribution of fresh vegetables, drinks and package goods to the seniors living there. We had some new volunteers there to help out (Toni and her sister) and some old friends (Kim and her kids & Angela). Although I was feeling a little under the weather today, It turned out to be a very rewarding day getting to see and help out the residents once again.*

06/21 - *Today I spent the morning shift volunteering at Harvester's Volunteer Outreach Center, sorting donated food items to be sent out to the many hungry children, seniors and families in our community. I was able to meet and work with many new volunteers I had not met before, like Debra and her daughter Kianna, both of which had volunteered many times before and were back again because it felt good to them to give back to those in need. I also saw my friend James who continues to come to Harvester's several times a week despite being homeless. He told me that the City Union is encouraging him to find a paying job since he has been staying there at the mission for several months and they need to open up his bed for others who are struggling. I gave him a few bucks, my contact information and will continue to pray for him to find a job and continue to grow his faith.*

06/22 - *Today I made a special visit to my 81 year dad, who had called me to express his need for a new VHS/DVD player. His had gone out and he explained how watching old movies was one of the few ways he is able to combat the loneliness he feels on a daily basis. I picked him up and together we went to the local Walmart to get him a new one. Along the way I tried to encourage him and let him know that we all have choices in life and his decision to let his loneliness control his life was something he could control if he wanted. I let him know that volunteering or getting involved in his church were just a few ways. We talked a little about his memories of being in the military and ate lunch together. At the end of the day I was able to get his new VHS/DVD player all set up an working for him and hopefully made his day a little less lonely.*

06/23 - *Today as I was going through my emails, I was inspired to order a case of discounted Bibles on line. I'll carry these along with me in my car and hand them out accordingly as I do my volunteering work and daily activities. This will be a perfect way to spread GOD's word to those in search of hope in their lives and help others realize their potential through the power of faith!*

JULY 2012:

07/03 - *Today I made a visit to my 81 year old dad and took him an air conditioner for him to use during the recent heat wave that's occurring across the mid west. I also brought him some WWII movies I recently purchased from an estate sale (since I know he enjoys these old movies) and a coupon for denture adhesive that he can use. On the way back home I stopped by the local Salvation Army to donate over 100 stuffed animals/toys from my garage that are no longer*

needed. It was a great day knowing that I have made my dad a little more comfortable and hopefully giving a little joy to the children in need in our community.

07/09 - *Today I spent the day volunteering for the Phoenix Family Housing Organization's Mobile food pantry. Together with Karen (the Service Coordinator), Kim and Angela (volunteers) we setup and distributed fresh vegetables, drinks and package goods to seniors at the Palestine Housing complexes located in the urban core. It was yet another good day knowing that we are making a difference for the many seniors who benefit from this service.*

07/11 - *Today was the day I was to complete my Emergency Response Vehicle training class through the local American Red Cross in order to become a driver for the their Mobile Meals program. However, the day would take a very indirect and ironic course. It started with frustration. I woke up late and fully expected that I would be late to my class. Out the door I go only to discover what I thought looked like a flattening tire on my son's car (the same tires for which I recently spent hundreds of dollars to replace). I get into my own car and discover I am almost on empty and I'm not sure if I can make it to my class without stopping for gas. The frustration is building and patience is running thin. I get on the road and discover road construction. When I finally make it to my destination I discover that my classroom instructor had been trying to contact me to inform me to bring some required documentation. I end up having to take home the workbook portion of the class and now have to reschedule a time for the hands on portion. I leave to take care of other financial business before heading home only to discover that my financial business cannot be completed as expected and I'll have to postpone it for another day. At this point my patience has exploded to anger, so I stop to get gas, Then along comes CARLOS, a tall thin man carrying a backpack asking if I could spare some change. This turned my day around. I had a conversation with him as I was standing there pumping my gas. I learned his name, discovered his story and saw the sincerity in his eyes. I gave him the money he asked for and a special gift. A gift of hope. A Bible, from the case of bibles I recently purchased just for such an occasion! I told him that the answers to all his problems could be found in this book. He sincerely thanked me for my gifts, and as I drove away I saw him starting to read through his new bible. I continued my journey home feeling that I had made a positive difference in this man's life. On a day that seemed so overwhelming and frustrating, I discovered that GOD has a way of putting things back into perspective. At the end of the day I would end up getting to my class on time (without running out of gas), the tire I thought was going flat was not flat after all and I would end up completing my workbook course as expected, and most importantly I discovered a lesson in patience and compassion.*

07/12 - *Today I made a visit to my dad. Our plan was to take some items that I had gathered from my garage and drop them off at the local Salvation Army, then take him to the store to pick up some groceries. I decided ahead of time to bring along some tomatoes from my garden to help him with his daily diet and a copy of the first movie that he and my mom watched together before they were married. I remembered the movie from our earlier conversations and purchased it online hoping that it would bring back some good memories of him and my mom when they first met. At the end of our planned visit we dropped his groceries off at his apartment then I dropped him off at the local senior community center so he could have his lunch as he does everyday. He would then take the bus home, and I would make my journey back home. It was a good day knowing that I have honored and helped out my dad, and hopefully made a positive difference in his life.*

07/18 - *Today I attended a meeting at the offices of the [Phoenix Family Housing Group](#) to help provide feedback for a new Volunteer Orientation presentation they plan on giving to new volunteers, and because I have been an active volunteer for some time now they requested my*

feedback on the presentation. I met with the Service Coordinator (Tanisha) and another frequent volunteer (Robyn) who works with deaf children in the community and together we finalized the presentation. It felt great knowing that the work we accomplished will help inform new volunteers of the wonderful work this organization does for the community.

07/19 - *Today I traveled back to my local Red Cross to complete the final requirements of their Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) course. I had completed most of the training material during a previous visit and was here today to complete the driving portion of the course to get my certification which will allow me to drive the vehicle for their Mobile Meals Program. During the course I got to work with and get to know my teacher (Joe). He is a Vietnam vet who has been volunteering for the Red Cross for 12 years now and has been on many disaster relief operations. He started volunteering as a way to pay back the Red Cross for helping him get to his mothers funeral when she passed away suddenly while he was still active in the Marines during the Vietnam war. This was a gift he never forgot and was something he promised he would payback when he got the chance. On my way home I made a visit to my dad. I had noticed during my previous visits that the carpets in his apartment were dirty, so I decided earlier in the week that I would drop by and shampoo the carpets for him. I also brought along some more tomatoes from my garden since he enjoyed the ones I had brought him previously. I finished up my visit with him by dropping him off at the local Wendy's restaurant so he could get some lunch before traveling back home. Along the the way home I came upon a man asking for help on the street corner. His name was Jeff. He told me he was a Vietnam vet who had come on bad times and needed a little help. I gave him some money and a Bible to let him know that all the answers to his problems are within it. He thanked me and told me he had recently lost his own bible when the backpack he owned was taken...At the beginning of the day I felt so blessed by GOD for all that he has given me. By the end of the day I felt even more blessed knowing that HE lead me down a path where I could connect with strangers and share the blessings HE has given me with those in need.*

07/21 - *Today I welcomed a good friend (Donnie) into my home for a couple days. Donnie and I use to work together in the computer industry. We have been good friends for 12 years now. As an avid motorcyclist, Donnie is making his way across America on his motorcycle to visit friends, family and enjoy GOD's country along the way. We had a very good visit as we ate, drank and shared our views and stories of life, politics and faith. Good friends do not come along very often, and I consider Donnie to be one of the best. I thank GOD for giving me the opportunity to cross paths with such a good person and allow me to share my home and blessings with him.*

07/30 - *Today I spent the day volunteering for the Phoenix Family Housing Organization's Mobile food pantry. Together with Karen (the Service Coordinator), Kim (and her 2 children) and Angela, we unloaded food brought in by Harvester's, and helped distribute the fresh vegetables, fruits and drinks to the seniors living at the Palestine Housing apartment complexes located in the urban core. Although I have been volunteering here for several months now, I made a point today to personally get to know some more of the residents, and so today I met Ms. James, a very nice lady who always wears her hair in pigtails. Ms. Bursch, who is very friendly, thin in stature and uses a walker, and Ms. Scott who just turned 75 yesterday and who generously offered me some of her left over cake. It was such a blessing to be able to connect with these wonderful people today and to let them know that someone cares about them. It was also a joy knowing that we are making a positive difference for the many seniors who are benefiting from this service.*

07/31 - *Today I made a special visit to the local Salvation Army to donate some toys and*

miscellaneous children's items that I had just sitting in my garage and no longer needed. Along the way I picked up my 81 year dad so that he could experience the joy of giving to those less fortunate and to also take him to the grocery store. Each day is an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life, and today I was blessed to be able to do just that!.

AUGUST 2012:

08/01 - *Today I signed up to volunteer for "[Project Homeless Connect](#)". The Project Homeless Connect model was created in 2001 by San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom to engage people who were homeless back into the community. It has since grown into an event that has been held in many local communities throughout our nation. Project Homeless Connect 2012 is being held October 19th in my community and is designed to unite service agencies, churches, civic groups, and businesses providing a variety of services that include birth certificates, mental and chemical health care screening, employment training and placement, medical and dental care examinations, haircuts, photo ID assistance, housing, free clothing, free lunch, and more. Guests of the event will be partnered with volunteers to identify and access necessary resources, explore previously unused benefits and enjoy lunch together. This is a perfect opportunity to help give hope to those in need in my community!*

08/02 - *Today I spent the morning shift volunteering at Harvester's Food Pantry Volunteer Outreach Center helping sort and repack donated food items that will be distributed to the many hungry children, seniors and families in our community. Harvester's is one of the many great organizations that is making a difference in peoples lives by giving hope to those less fortunate and is one of the many organizations I contribute to as often as possible. Today I got to work with and get to know one of the new volunteers (Henry). Henry is a 21 year old young man who happened to be there today to meet his community service obligations ordered by the justice system. Apparently he had gotten into some trouble while attending college at the University of Missouri. Never the less, he is a bright young man who still attends college and has goals and aspirations for his life. I also got to see my friend James who continues to come to Harvester's several times a week despite being homeless. He gave me an update on his life and we encouraged each other to stay strong in our faith. I am so blessed to be able to contribute my time helping others, but just as important is getting to know people, sharing our life stories and the message of hope through faith in Jesus Christ. I continue to pray each day the GOD will allow me to continue my mission of helping others to realize their potential through the power of Faith!*

08/12 - *On Friday (8/10), My wife and I welcomed our 8 year old niece (Tori) into our home for a weekend stay over. Tori is a such a wonderful little girl and we really enjoy having her stay with us whenever we can. On Friday, my wife, son and I took her to the Missouri state fair and had a great time together. We also spent the rest of the weekend time cooking, playing outdoors, playing games and even had a picnic in the park together. Children are so great. They represent such innocence and hope for humankind. My wife and I are so blessed to be able to share our lives and our home with her as she grows up to hopefully be a bright, respectful and confident young woman.*

08/14 - *Today I welcomed a good friend (Donnie) into my home. Donnie just completed his motorcycle journey across America, visiting friends, family and enjoying the wonders of this beautiful country. He needed a place to rest before completing his journey back home to Tennessee, so I was more than happy to oblige. We met with some old friends (John, George and his wife) at a local restaurant and had a good visit together reminiscing about the old days when*

we use to work together, talking sports and discussing life. Good friends do not come along very often, and these guys are the best. I am truly blessed to be in a position to be able to help out friends and share my journey of faith with them.

08/15 - *Today I made a visit to the local Salvation Army to donate some more miscellaneous household items from my garage that I no longer need. Along the way I picked up my 81 year dad so that we could share the experience and joy of giving to those less fortunate and to also take him to the grocery store. Each time I make these trips, my dad always tells me how he really enjoys the time that I spend with him. This makes me feel good and so blessed that I am able to have the opportunity to make a difference in his life and the lives of those in need. It was a good day!*

08/20 - *Today I spent the day volunteering for the Phoenix Family Housing Organization's Mobile food pantry. Together with Karen (the Service Coordinator) and Angela, we unloaded food brought in by Harvester's and helped distribute the fresh vegetables, fruits and drinks to the seniors living at the Palestine Housing apartment complexes located in the urban core. As we were awaiting to unload, I was introduced to Mr Charles Matthews, a resident there. We made small talk about the weather, how nicely he was dressed and the fact that he had the same last name as mine. He is a very nice man. When the food truck got there, I took extra time to provide a smile and words of encouragement to every resident while I was helping them to get what they needed. It was such a joy to be able to connect with these wonderful people today and to let them know that someone cares about them. I could see how much it meant to them to have someone pay attention to their needs and have someone to talk to. I feel so blessed knowing that we are making a positive difference for the many seniors who are benefiting from this service.*

08/28 - *I spent the morning shift volunteering at Harvester's Volunteer Outreach Center, sorting donated food items to be sent out to the many hungry children, seniors and families in our community. Today I got to work with and meet some new volunteers, like George, who is a 57 year old married father of 2, who lost his brother recently and is currently between jobs but decided to come to Harvesters today to give back some of his time to those less fortunate, and Alan, a recent graduate of KU who was there today to make use of some idle time, and Fehni, a young african-american woman who I did get to learn much about, but I could see that she had a caring heart. I also sat and talked with my friend James, who continues to come to Harvesters several times a week despite living in a homeless shelter. It was fun getting to know these new people, build new relationships and learn about their lives. I learned that there are a lot of good people out here and all of us, no matter what age, race or economic situation have something in common. It is a natural desire to want to help others when their in need.*

08/29 - *Today I made another visit to the local Salvation Army to donate over 100 pieces of clothing that I no longer needed. Along the way I picked up my 81 year old dad to share in the experience, as I often do when I am making donation trips. The rest of the day was spent by taking my dad to Burlington Coat factory to pick him up a winter jacket, driving by the old house where we grew up as kids, a trip by the church where my mom got baptized, a trip by the grocery store to get him some groceries and then dropping him off at Don Bosco for his daily luncheon routine. During our outing we also came upon a homeless man sitting at a local gas station where I stopped to use the bathroom. He asked for spare change. I gave him hope by giving him a bible and a Gatorade to quench his thirst. My dad is getting old. He is alone and regretful for his life's choices and I know he really enjoys getting out and spending time together. I feel like I am in the best position to be able to keep him strong in his faith and show him that someone still cares about him. It is the right thing to do. Each day I wake up I thank GOD for the blessings HE has given me and look for opportunities to make a difference in someones life. Today, I was*

blessed to be able to do just that. It was a good day!

SEPTEMBER 2012:

09/03 - *On Friday (09/01) my wife and I welcomed her sister and family into our home for Labor Day weekend. We spent time together sharing our children's company and reminiscing about the times we had growing up together. It was great to relax and spend time together and share our blessings with those we love.*

09/10 - *Today I spent the day volunteering for the Phoenix Family Housing Organization's Mobile food pantry. Together with Karen (the Service Coordinator) and two new volunteers (Tonya & Dillon) from the Phoenix family we unloaded food brought in by Harvester's and helped distribute the fresh vegetables and drinks to the seniors living at the Palestine Housing apartment complexes located in the urban core. It was great to see all my senior friends again and show them how much I care about them. Senior citizens are special people with special needs. Many of them are on fixed incomes and cannot purchase the fresh vegetables and fruits that we provide for them, which makes this service so important. Seniors are also lonely and often forgotten by their families which is why I always take the time to listen to them and pay attention to their needs while I am volunteering. Sometimes a simple conversation or helping hand makes them feel special and lets them know someone still cares, And when I see that smile on their face it lets me know that I am making a difference in their lives!*

09/14 - *I started the morning volunteering my time at Harvester's Volunteer Outreach Center helping sort donated food items to be distributed to the agencies that help feed the many children, seniors and families in the community who would go hungry if not for the services of this amazing organization. While there, I met several new people like Jerry, a retired doctor, Doris and her husband, and Dorothy, all are regular volunteers who are either retired or just love giving back to the community. It was great getting to know them and sharing our lives with each other as we worked together. In fact I found out that Dorothy used to work at the same company I worked for many years ago. When my shift was over I headed to the local Salvation Army to donate some clothing items from my garage. I picked up my 81 year old dad along the way and we shared in the experience of giving. Then I took him to the grocery store and dropped him off at a local restaurant so he could grab a hamburger before heading home. Earlier in the week, I had purchased a music CD of Vera Linn (an actress/singer whose recordings were popular during WWII) that I brought along to give to my dad, and some tomatoes from my neighbour's garden, both of which I knew he would really enjoy. He was so thankful and appreciative. What a great day of sharing and giving back!*

09/21 - *Today I headed to the Bartle Hall Convention Center to participate in a volunteer food collection event being sponsored by Harvester's Community Food Network. This event was scheduled to collect much-needed and high quality food that was left over from the Sam's Club food show being held at the Convention Center. Our job as volunteers was to help collect the left over food and help load it onto trucks for shipment to Harvester's Volunteer Outreach Center for sorting and re-distribution to local agencies. Unfortunately, when I arrived I discovered that the volunteers were not needed because the work had been completed by members of the food show and they already had 4 trucks full of food loaded and ready to go. This was a little disappointing since I was looking forward to being apart of this special event, but the opportunity allowed me to meet some very special volunteers, spend time learning a little about their lives and why they volunteer and build relationships with some good people. Even though we did not get to help out, Ultimately the goal was accomplished and hundreds of pounds of food will now get to the people*

that need it the most. Once again, I was reminded that there are so many great people out there that care and are willing to help those in need. I am blessed to be able to play a small part in helping one of the great organizations who's mission of stamping out hunger in our community is making a tremendous impact!

09/24 - *Today I spend the day with my 81 year old dad. I picked him up from his apartment and took him to his 6-month checkup at the local VA hospital. He had blood work done, was examined by his doctor and is in very good health for his age. As I was waiting with my dad I couldn't help but notice the number of aged veterans who were there. Many were handicapped, and many showing inner scars that were written on their faces through their wrinkles and expressions of sadness. It was sad to see. But I felt hopeful in knowing that at least they have a place to get the healthcare needs and services they deserve. When we left the hospital, I took my dad to the pick up some groceries and we headed to a restaurant for lunch. Hamburgers are my dad's favorite. It was great day to honor my dad, be there for him and let him know someone cares. He, like so many senior citizens today feel lonely and forgotten. Through my personal mission, I hope one day to personally provide the compassion and services that our deserving senior citizens in our community need.*

OCTOBER 2012:

10/01 - *Once again, I spent the day volunteering for the Phoenix Family Housing Organization's Mobile food pantry. Together with Karen (the Service Coordinator) and two volunteers (Tonya & Dillon) from the Phoenix family group, we unloaded food brought in by Harvesters and helped distribute the fresh vegetables, fruits and drinks to the seniors living at the Palestine Housing apartment complexes located in the urban core. Every time I participate in this wonderful service I try to personally connection with someone new at the senior centers. Today I was able to meet and get to know Ms. Houston, a feisty lady who offered a helping hand when we were unpacking food for distribution, and Ms. Burk, who is a shut-in whom I met while delivering her food package to her door. Ms. Burk is a fragile, yet spry woman who loves the Lord. We exchanged kind words and expressed our love in our Lord and Savior and I left her door with a smile on my face and a warmth in my heart knowing God's spirit is with us both. It was a great day of giving and seeing the tremendous impact this great organization is having on our senior communities. I'm blessed to be able to play a small part.*

10/03 - *I started the morning, once again, volunteering at Harvesters Volunteer Outreach Center helping sort donated food items to help feed the many hungry children, seniors and families in the community. While there, I met with the Volunteer Service Coordinator (Laura) for a tour of the facility and learned a little more about how this organization works. What an amazing service this organization provides! I also met and worked alongside a new volunteer (Jennifer), a very nice young woman who was there for the first time volunteering. I discovered that she grew up near where I live and was planning on getting married in June. She told me that she had organized several charity events in her community before and just loved to help those in need and give back. What a blessing she is. I also got to see my friend James. We spoke, updated each other on our lives and as we so often do, gave each other encouragement to stay strong in our faith. He too is an amazing inspiration. Once again, I am truly amazed at the spirit and goodness of people. But the day was not over, As I made my way home, I decided to stop by to visit a family friend (Chuck) who lives alone and has very little contact with his family or friends. Chuck is very special to me, as he was a companion of my mom for many years before she passed away, and watched over her during the early stages of her battle with cancer. So I*

decided to drop in to take him to lunch, spend some time with him and let him know someone still cares. After it's all said and done, I feel so blessed to be given these opportunities today to make a difference in the lives of others. God is great!

10/06 - *Today I picked up my dad for a trip to visit my mom's grave site. It was emotional for both of us as we shared the memories of all the good times we spent with her while she was alive, But it was also a special time to connect with my dad and learn about the times they spent together, how they met, the people they knew and how much my dad really loved her. On our way back home I took him to the store for groceries and stopped by the local Wendy's to have lunch together. My dad is getting old and is starting to show all the signs of his years. He has regrets for all the bad choices he has made in his life that have caused him to be lonely and isolated from our family. I am blessed to be in a position to be there for him, show him forgiveness and help him grow in his faith. It was a good day to honor my dad and let him know someone still cares.*

10/17 - *Today I took a trip to the local Salvation Army to drop off several boxes of household & kitchen items that I no longer use. Along the way I picked up my 81 year old dad to share the experience, then took him by the grocery store to pick up some food. It was a great day for giving thanks to my heavenly father for all He has done for me and sharing my blessings with those in need.*

10/19 - *Today I spent the day volunteering for "[Project Homeless Connect](#)". This very special event hosted by Johnson County Cares (JO CO Cares), an alliance of community nonprofits and concerned citizens, was designed to unite service agencies, churches, civic groups, and businesses providing a variety of services that include birth certificates, mental and chemical health care screening, employment training and placement, medical and dental care examinations, haircuts, photo ID assistance, housing, free clothing, free lunch and more to imminently homeless and homeless individuals and families in our community. Guests of the event are partnered with volunteers to identify and access necessary resources, explore previously unused benefits and enjoy lunch together. The event was held at the University of Central Missouri and the turnout of volunteers was astounding! People really do care. I was given the assignment of being captain of food service, to setup and manage lunch for our guest. I had the opportunity to meet so many great volunteers; Shirley, who helps run the Nehemiah Feeding Project, a non-profit that helps feed the hungry in the community, Roary, Elissa & her Mom, Jamarco and his family, Kala, Liz, who was apart of the leadership team that helped organize this event and of course all the UCM student volunteers. What an amazing group of people doing great things for our homeless community. I cherish the relationships I was able to make with the volunteers and guest, and feel honored and grateful that the Lord has allowed me to make a contribution to the lives of those in need.*

10/22 - *Today I spent the day volunteering for the Phoenix Family Housing Corporation Mobile food pantry. Together with Karen (the Service Coordinator), Tonya, Dillon and a new member from the Phoenix family group, Melanie, we unloaded food brought in by Harvester's and helped distribute the fresh vegetables, fruits and drinks to the seniors living at the Palestine Housing apartment complexes located in the urban core. Today I had the opportunity to connect with several of the residents. I helped Ms. White and several others package up their food and carry it to their carts. Delivered packages to Ms. Pounder and Ms. Parker, who are shut-ins, and had the opportunity to greet all of residents who I care so much about. Unfortunately, I learned that we lost four of our residents recently due to illness. However, it was comforting to know that we are making a difference in the lives of these seniors by giving them nutritional foods that they would not normally have access to and giving them the attention they so deserve.*

10/25 - Today I spent the morning volunteering my time at Harvesters Volunteer Outreach Center helping sort donated food items to be distributed to the agencies that help feed the many children, seniors and families in the community who would go hungry if not for the services of this amazing organization. While there, I met several new volunteers like Chris, a very special young lady who recently graduated from college and was volunteering for the first time to share her passion for helping others, and Cassandra, or "Cc" as she liked to be called, who was a very genuine and warm hearted young woman who comes to Harvester's every week to volunteer her time helping others despite having to work, attend college, raise 3 children and caring for two dogs. I also got to see some old friends like James, Laura and the many workers who make this organization run so efficiently. They all call me by my first name now :). I am truly blessed that our heavenly father has given me the opportunity to connect with so many special people. What a great day it was knowing that I am playing a small part in helping feed the many hungry people and families in our community.

NOVEMBER 2012:

11/01 - Once again, I spent the morning volunteering at Harvesters Volunteer Outreach Center helping sort donated food items to be distributed to the agencies that help feed the many children, seniors and families in the community who would go hungry if not for the services of this amazing organization. Today, I met a new volunteer, Melanie, a very nice young woman who recently moved here from Florida to help out a friend. This was her second day working at the VOC and she enjoyed very much helping out the community while she was in town. I also got to see some old friends like James, Chris, Frank and the many workers who make this organization run so efficiently. On my way home I stopped by the Senior Community Center to have lunch with my dad and took him to the store to pick up some needed groceries. All in all it was a good day knowing that the Lord has given me with these opportunities to share my blessings with those in need and connect with some very special people.

11/07 - Today I spent the morning delivering and setting up promotional material at several local grocery stores for the upcoming "Check- Out Hunger" event. This yearly event is sponsored by the Retail Grocers Association in collaboration with Harvester's Community Food Network, and utilizes scannable coupons at each check-out line to help raise awareness and money to feed the hungry throughout the community. I am honored to be able to play a small part in this effort, and be able to share my time helping those in need. Our goal is to surpass the \$404,000 that was raised last year. What makes this effort so special is that Harvesters is able to provide five meals for every dollar contributed. This is amazing!

11/10 - Today, My wife and I purchased toys, school supplies and hygiene items for [Operation Christmas Child](#) - The worlds largest Christmas project of its kind which sends shoe boxes of gifts to needy children around the world. This year round project of International relief and evangelism is organized by [Samaritan's Purse](#), a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization that has been providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world since 1970. We are excited to be apart of this effort and look forward to following our packages as they reach there destination, and into the hands of a needy child. What a wonderful way to share God's message of hope and let a child know that someone cares!

11/16 - I started the day by making a trip to a local church designated as a drop-off point for [Operation Christmas Child](#) - The worlds largest Christmas project of its kind which sends shoe boxes of gifts to needy children around the world. My wife and I had purchased toys, school supplies and hygiene items earlier in the week for two very special children and we are very

excited to be apart of this effort. I dropped the packages off along with a special prayer that these small gifts will give hope to a special child somewhere in the world...

My next destination was to meet and have lunch with a very special family friend (Chuck), who lives alone and has very little contact with his family or friends. Chuck is very special to me, as he was a companion of my mom for many years before she passed away, and watched over her during the early stages of her battle with cancer. This is a debt I can never repay. We had lunch together at Red Lobster and had pleasant conversation about life and our struggles. I left him with a promise to contact him more often to check on his well being and provide comfort for his feelings of loneliness and isolation. Something that many seniors struggle with today...

Next, I took a trip to the local Salvation Army to drop off over 200 household items that I no longer need. These items can be sold to help support the local community and fund the many services that this great organization provides....

From there I picked up my dad from the local Senior Community Center and together we went to the local Walmart so he could get some much needed groceries and supplies. We had spoken earlier in the week and he expressed the need for fitted sheets for his bed, so I brought along several sheets to give him. We had good conversation along the way and I tried to provide some comfort for his feelings of loneliness and isolation that he too feels, and eventually dropped him back off at his apartment...

I ended the day by signing up for an upcoming volunteer event serving Pre-Thanksgiving dinner to seniors living in a low income housing community located in the urban core. This event is sponsored by the [Phoenix Family Housing](#) organization, a very special non-profit organization that I support and look forward to helping out...

Although today was an extraordinary day of sharing my God-given blessings and expressing my faith by helping those in need. Somehow this day does not seem to bring with it the joy and peace I normally feel. I don't know why but my spirit feels weak and my mind distant, however, I will continue to seek comfort in God's word and pray that God will renew my strength and spirit to serve His purpose.

11/19 - *Today was an amazing day for realizing God's hand in making things happen for His purpose. Let me explain. I started the day as usual, working on bible and entrepreneurial studies, then decided at the end of my studying that maybe I should contact the Service Coordinator (Kamisha) at the Phoenix Family Housing organization to get more information about the upcoming Pre-Thanksgiving dinner volunteer event being held tomorrow. At first I thought maybe I'll just wait till the morning, but then something told me that I should call now. When I called and spoke to Kamisha, she advised me that she was on the other phone line with the suppliers at that very moment and they were telling her that they would not be able to provide the turkeys for this years event. This meant that she was likely going to have to cancel the event unless she could somehow get them. Well, it just so happened that I had a dear friend of mine (John) who had mentioned to me a week earlier that he was interested in donating turkeys for a good cause and was wondering if I had any recommendations. At the time I told him that I would come up with some options and let him know the next day, since we were meeting for dinner together the next day anyway. At dinner the next day we had several old friends attend and I somehow forgot to give him the options I had promised. But, as it turned out, this sequence of events lead to us getting the turkeys needed from my dear friend to allow this special event to happen as expected. What a blessing. I cannot wait to meet and serve the seniors at tomorrow's event and show them that someone cares about them. God works in amazing ways!*

11/20 - *Today I spent the afternoon volunteering for the Phoenix Family Housing organization serving Pre-Thanksgiving dinner to residents at the Gateway Townhomes, a low income housing*

community located in the urban core. Together with Kamisha (the Service Coordinator), Inika (Kamisha's sister), Regina (the dancing and Jesus loving resident) and Michelle (a member of the Phoenix Family home office) we served over 50 residents. During the day I got the chance to meet a few residents like Arthur, a long time resident who struggled for many years while taking care of his mother, but now lives on his own at the complex. You could see the struggles and difficulties he has gone through in his life by just looking at his face, but he was so grateful and happy that we were there so he could have a hot meal. Over the past few months I have had the opportunity to volunteer at several low income housing complexes, and the one thing that I notice at each site is the sense of community that exist among the residents. Even though they have very little and struggle everyday with the difficulties of life in the urban core they always seem to look out for each other, and somehow they find a way to stay strong and hopeful. What a humbling experience it is to see those with so little be so happy and grateful. I feel blessed and thankful that I had this opportunity to connect with some very special people and share my time serving them.

11/21 - I spent the morning volunteering at Harvesters Volunteer Outreach Center helping sort donated food items to be distributed to the agencies that help feed the many children, seniors and families in the community. Today, I met and worked with two new volunteers, Katlyn and Daniel. I also got to see some old friends like James, Don and the many other workers who make this organization run so efficiently. There were more people volunteering today than I have ever seen, it reminded me of an ant colony by the way everyone was so focused, working so hard and efficiently. It was amazing. Once again, it was a great day knowing that the Lord has given me this opportunity to share my time and blessings with those in need and be able to connect with some very special people.

11/25 - Today was a blessed day and yet another example of God's hand making things happen for His purpose - As my wife and I were on our way to our weekly cleaning job I brought up the subject of a case of Bibles I had purchased several months back. These bibles were purchased as gifts to give to people I come into contact on a daily basis who I feel are struggling or in need so that they too can share in God's message of hope. Although I had given away a few of them to some very special people living on the streets in the past few months, I had not given away any recently, and since we are in the midst of the Holiday season I was mentioning this to my wife. All of a sudden, as we exited off the highway and approached the traffic signal, I see a homeless woman sitting there asking for help. It was at this moment my heart warmed up with compassion and joy, knowing that God had a reason for our paths to cross. I stopped and asked her if she would like a bible and she cheerfully said "Yes". I left her with the message that "all the answers to your problems can be found in there" and gave her some change as I left the intersection. I did not get her name or story as I normally do, but somehow I feel that our paths were suppose to cross at that moment and I felt like God just used me for something special.

11/26 - Today I took a trip to the local Salvation Army to drop off over 70 children's toys from my garage that I no longer need. These items will be sold to needy families and help fund the many community services that this great organization provides....Along the way I picked up my 81 year old dad from the local senior community center, where he goes daily for lunch and activities, so that he too could share in the joy of giving. From there I took my dad to the VA hospital for a scheduled appointment and then to Walmart to let him pick up some needed groceries. I am so thankful for this day and God for allowing me to be in a position to share my time and blessings with those in need.

DECEMBER 2012:

12/03 - Today I spent the day volunteering for the Phoenix Family Housing Organization's Mobile food pantry. Together with Karen (the Service Coordinator) and Melanie, we unloaded food brought in by Harvester's and helped distribute the fresh vegetables, fruits and drinks to the seniors living at the Palestine Housing apartment complexes located in the urban core. Today I had the opportunity to connect with several of the residents. Like Ms. Houston, one of the more feisty residents who doesn't waste time letting you know how she feels, but a wonderful lady none the less. Ms. Cobb, who helped us get everything organized since we were missing one of our regular volunteers (Dillon) who was out today due to a death in the family. She is such a wonderful, sweet person who loves her shoes. She told me that she would be celebrating her 81st birthday tomorrow, but didn't show or act her age at all. I also got to know Melanie a little more, she is an employee of the Phoenix Family who recently got hired to replace Angela. What a great story she has, growing up she had gotten pregnant at an early age and felt that she never had the resources available to her during this very difficult time in her life which inspired her to get involved in social change. She would eventually earn her Masters degree in business and looks forward to making a difference in the lives of others, what an inspiration. I also had the opportunity to hand delivery food packages to all the shut-in residents. It was such a rewarding experience connecting with each of them and feeling their genuine appreciation, you could tell they really appreciated the support and love we were giving them. What a blessed day.

12/06 - Today I spent the morning volunteering at Harvesters Volunteer Outreach Center helping sort donated food items to be distributed to the agencies that help feed the many children, seniors and families in the community. Today was a slow day with very few first time volunteers, so I spent the day connecting with the "regulars" like James, Don and Ron. I was surprised to see an old friend (Tanasha), a very bright and talented young woman who used to work as the Service Coordinator for the Phoenix Family Housing organization, another great organization that I volunteer with. She now works for Harvesters as Volunteer Coordinator. We talked a bit and I let her know how good it was to see her again, and how happy I was for her to be working for Harvesters. Once again, it was a great day knowing that the Lord has given me this opportunity to share my time and blessings to help those in need and be able to reconnect with some very special people who are making a difference in the community

12/13 - Today I completed the final updates to the Leap Of Faith Movement website. My hope is that the new look, added social media interfaces and blog platform will help spread the word of Faith and inspire and encourage others to re-dedicate their lives to God and begin expressing their faith with acts of love. For it is only when our FAITH is expressed in acts of love that we truly exemplify the fullness and spirit of FAITH and begin to experience what it means to have the true joy and peace in our life that our heavenly father wants us to have. I thank God for giving me the patients and inspiration that it took to make this happen. It is all for His glory!

12/21 - Today I went to visit my 81 year old dad, and together we made a trip to the local Army Surplus store. This is something he has been wanting to do for some time and he asked me to take him. My dad really enjoys anything related to the military, it reminds him of the good times in his life when he was a sailor in the Navy during the Korean war. He reminisces about my mom and growing up in a time much different from today. It makes him feel good. As I have said several times before, my dad is estranged from our family because of things he has done that ended up splitting our family up and leaving our family in shame, but he has asked for forgiveness and suffers from his past mistakes everyday. He lives by himself in an apartment in the cities core, and although he makes daily trips to the local senior community center for lunch and companionship he, like so many seniors in the world today, suffers from loneliness, despair

and regrets. Although he has made mistakes in his life, he has been forgiven through his acceptance of God's grace and promise of salvation through his faith in Christ and I feel so thankful to God for allowing me to be in a position to be there for my father, to honor, love and encourage him in his faith. My hope now is that the healing process can begin with the rest of my family and together we grow together in faith and love.

12/26 - Today I made a special visit to my 81 year old dad and family friend (Chuck). I took them both Christmas dinner plates for them to enjoy. Both live alone and did not get the chance to get out on Christmas day so I thought I would lift their spirits a bit and let them know someone cares for them. It seemed liked the right thing to do.

12/27 - Today I spent the afternoon volunteering for the Phoenix Family Housing organization by helping deliver boxes of food to the residents of the Palestine Apartments, a low-income senior community located in the urban core. Together with Karen (Service Coordinator) we helped delivery over 40 boxes of food provided by Harvesters Food Pantry as part of the Commodities Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), which is a federally backed program that works with state and local agencies to improve the health of low-income women, infants, children and elderly people at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA foods. I have been volunteering almost a year now with the Phoenix Family organization supporting the residents of the Palestine apartments, and the residents I have come to know and love. It was great seeing their smiling faces today and showing them that someone cares for them. I am truly blessed and thankful to God for giving me this opportunity.

12/31 - Today a very dear friend of mine (Chuck) passed away from complication of pneumonia and blot clot in his lungs. Chuck was a close family friend and companion of my mom for many years, he cared for my mom during the early stages of her cancer and was always there for her when she needed him. After my mom's passing I had visited him often. We would have lunch together and reminisce about my mom and share each others company. I was there for him during what would be his final hours and I was shocked and saddened by his sudden passing. Although it is a difficult end to what had been a very positive year, I am thankful for the memories and impact this special person had in my life, and I pray that he is now able to experience true joy and peace together with my mom and our heavenly father. I'll miss you Chuck!

END OF YEAR SUMMARY

This year was a very special year, a year that has allowed me to focus on the renewal of my mind, body and spirit to which I have come to realize my God-given gifts and purpose, a purpose that has marked the beginning of a new life that has been filled with hope and promise through my renewed Faith in Jesus Christ.

The year was also filled with accomplishments. Accomplishments, not of my own doing, but accomplishments that God has inspired me to achieve because of my acceptance of His gift of grace and salvation through Faith in our Lord and Savior - Jesus Christ, accomplishments that were the direct result of the spirit of FAITH that now lives within

me that could not be contained, but could only be expressed through acts of tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness and LOVE, acts of FAITH that allowed me to reach out to the community, charitable organizations and the world to help feed the poor and hungry, to help the homeless and weary, and to donate my God-given gifts and resources to help those in need, but most of all allowing me to spiritually connect with strangers and loved ones and exemplify the fullness and spirit of FAITH so that they too could realize the power and glory of our heavenly father.

This year was also marked with spiritual lessons letting me know that no matter how righteous we think we are or how many good deeds we do, we are all sinners. For it is God alone that is in control and we need to realize that we are only here on earth for a short time and we need to enjoy each day like it is our last. We also need to humble ourselves each day, give thanks to God for the blessings He has given us and take time everyday to grow in our relationship with Him, but most of all we must use our God-given gifts to express our love for one another by living our lives as examples of how the power of FAITH can change our lives.

As I look forward to the coming year I feel a sense of renewed HOPE and confidence that God is with me and that He will fulfill my purpose as long as I stay patient and endure in my FAITH.