



*Grace
Place
Ministries . . . "Ordinary People Serving An Extraordinary God"*

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FOCUS

OCTOBER 2016

Goodness knows that there are lots of things that get our attention these days! Politics! Extreme weather! News events of terrorist attacks and school shootings! Family, financial and health issues! We can't deny that all of these "distractions" can steal our peace and joy if we allow them to do so. Therein lies the battle of the mind and soul . . . to keep our focus on what??

The definition of focus is, "to fix or settle on one thing; concentrate: to focus one's thoughts; to fix one's eye so as to make a clear image." I have to confess that I can get so distracted with ministry, world events, social security and the IRS, aches and pains, etc. that I lose my focus on the Only One Who has the answer to all of the questions and situations that we have to deal with. We do have a choice as to what we focus on as the main thing. We must keep the main thing, the main thing. And you ask . . . what is the main thing?? I believe that the main thing is beholding Jesus and becoming more like Him! We behold Him in the Bible. We behold Him in worship and by spending quiet time with Him. We behold Him in each other. There is a saying that "what you focus on, you empower." It is our choice!

In Matthew 14:28-32 we read about Peter walking on the water. "Meanwhile, the boat was far out to sea when the wind came up against them and they were battered by the waves. At about 4 o'clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the water. They were scared out of their wits. 'A ghost!' they said, crying out in terror. But Jesus was quick to comfort them and said, 'Courage, it's Me. Don't be afraid.' Peter, suddenly bold, said, 'Master, if it's really You, call me to come to You on the water.' Jesus, said 'Come ahead.' Jumping out of the boat, Peter walked on the water to Jesus. But when he looked down at the waves churning beneath his feet, he lost his nerve and started to sink. He cried, 'Master, save me!' Jesus didn't hesitate. He reached down and grabbed his hand. Then He said, 'Faint-hearted, what got into you?'" (The Message Bible)

In 1922, Helen H. Lemmel wrote this simple yet profound song which I have been singing a lot lately:

TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS

***O soul, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior, And life more abundant and free!***

***His Word shall not fail you—He promised; Believe Him, and all will be well:
Then go to a world that is dying, His perfect salvation to tell!***

Refrain:

***Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.***

Hebrews 12:2 in The Message Bible says it this way: "Keep your eyes on Jesus, Who both began and finished this race we're in."

I believe that we are all called to walk on the water! By faith, nothing is impossible! Daniel 11:32 says, "But the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits." Here's the key . . . to walk on the water and do great exploits . . . we must keep our focus completely on Jesus!! Nothing is impossible to him who believes!

Let's get out of the boat!!! Love you all! *Rhonda*



THANKSGIVING MEAL

Thanksgiving meal will be served on Wednesday, **November 23rd.**

Christmas meal will be served on Wednesday, **December 21st.**

We will need the following food items, cooked and ready to serve for 400 meals:

- Sliced Ham & Turkey**
- Sweet Potato Casserole**
- Cakes and Cookies**
- Green Bean Casserole**
- Rolls**

If you or your organization can help in preparing & serving for these wonderful holiday meals, please call us at **(318) 361-9702** and let us know how you want to participate! Thank you!



WE ARE NOW RECEIVING THESE DONATED ITEMS:

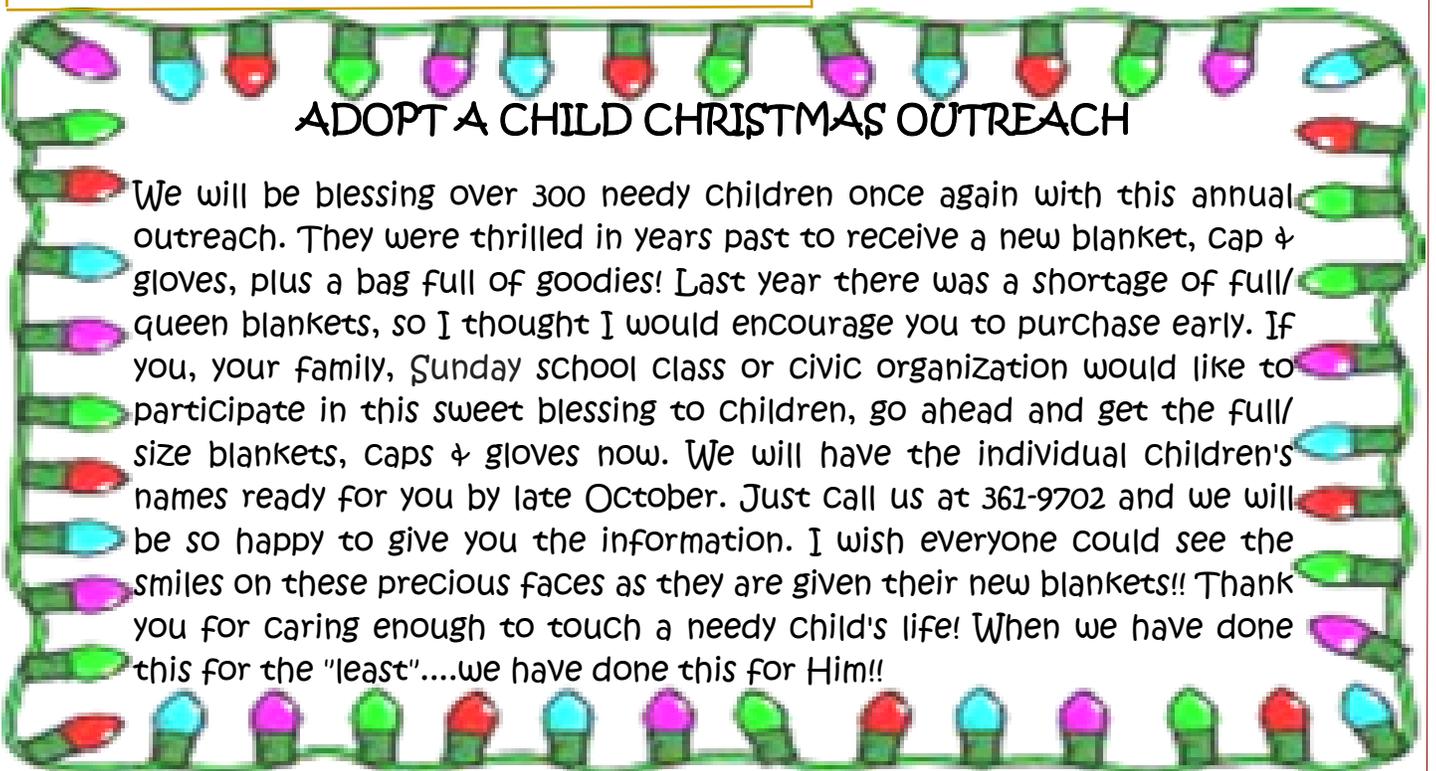
Winter clothing & shoes for men, women & children.

Blankets, linens, bath towels & household items such as dishes, pots & pans, furniture.

Canned goods & dry food products (pasta, rice, dried beans, Mac & cheese, etc.)

Umbrellas & ponchos

Devotional & Sunday school materials, Bibles



ADOPT A CHILD CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

We will be blessing over 300 needy children once again with this annual outreach. They were thrilled in years past to receive a new blanket, cap & gloves, plus a bag full of goodies! Last year there was a shortage of full/queen blankets, so I thought I would encourage you to purchase early. If you, your family, Sunday school class or civic organization would like to participate in this sweet blessing to children, go ahead and get the full/size blankets, caps & gloves now. We will have the individual children's names ready for you by late October. Just call us at 361-9702 and we will be so happy to give you the information. I wish everyone could see the smiles on these precious faces as they are given their new blankets!! Thank you for caring enough to touch a needy child's life! When we have done this for the "least"....we have done this for Him!!