



Lifelines Outreach Ministry Email Newsletter

www.lifelinesoutreach.com

September 24th, 2010

lifelinesoutreach@gmail.com

Lost and Found

In Luke chapter 15, Jesus teaches in parables about the "lost" in the presence of sinners, tax collectors, Pharisees and teachers of the law. In the first parable, He talks about finding a lost sheep, joyfully carrying it home, then sharing the news with His friends and celebrating the sheep's return with them. He goes on to say, "there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous persons who do not need to repent". Likewise, in the parable of the lost coin Jesus says, "there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents". Thursday, September 23, 2010, was the day Jesus and His angels rejoiced as Ezra Dobbins repented (returned), and was added to God's Kingdom.

The absolutely coolest thing is we were given the privilege of watching God work this out in His way and His timing. On top of that, we were able to celebrate/rejoice just as was happening in heaven!

Ezra had been coming to Lifelines Outreach food and clothing ministry for several years, receiving decision counseling on each visit. Each person on file may come two times in a calendar year and this was Ezra's last time for 2010. He was the last person to be let in the registration area on this very busy day. He had to wait there a long time before seeing a counselor. He fidgeted and asked tons of questions as he waited. The LORD was obviously working on him. When his turn finally came, he was put with Johnie Arrowood as the other three counselors still were busy with other folks. (God obviously had orchestrated these events for His purposes). Johnie was still talking with Ezra long after our other guests had left and we began to clean up the area and put away the clothing racks. It was then that Ezra finally submitted to Jesus and was saved!

The story doesn't end here. Johnie had stayed, doing and saying however Jesus led him even though he was late for an appointment elsewhere. So, Ezra, this "new creation", was brought to others of us. It was learned that he lived at Madison Towers where we had begun a new Bible study about six weeks ago with the purpose of discipling believers to become everything God intends for them to be. We meet on Thursdays at 12:30 for lunch with Bible study to follow. We asked Ezra to join us. He came. And so, a half hour after becoming a Believer in Jesus, Ezra comes to his first discipleship study. When he walked in I introduced him to the others as the newest member in the Body of Christ. Everyone started clapping spontaneously and all of us there celebrate with the Jesus and His angels that one of the lost has been found! Only God could make all this happen! *-Joe Nahler*



Ezra Dobbins on the left.

Madison Towers Bible Study group yesterday, on the right.

