



PRAISE REPORT **April 7, 2016**

CHOICES THROUGH A VISION

As my business partner and I go to the Movement 5280/Refuge City Ministries Community Center, we have been blessed to see many youth touched by what the facility has to offer. In showing God's love to another person you have to help their mind, body and soul. At times this seems to be a daunting task, because situations arise that may be a life or death situation. This is a testimony of one of those times.

This particular Wednesday started out seemingly normal, as my business partner and I walked into the Community Center. Skip was waiting for us. Before he spoke, we knew there was a serious problem. Skip then proceeded to tell us that one of the youth, Liza, was upstairs in the quiet room, speaking erratically and pacing the floor.. He reported that she has been using "meth" for the last four days and had not slept, eaten or drank any water during this time. When we walked into the room, Liza stated that she was afraid someone was after her and planed to hurt her. She constantly kept looking over my shoulder saying she was seeing someone. After a quick assessment, it was clear that Liza had overdosed. Recognizing that this was a "life and death" situation, we immediately called an ambulance. By God's grace her life was spared and saved, as Liza's experience in the hospital was more amazing than any of us could have expected..

A few months after this incident, Liza came back to the Community Center, and joined our therapy group, clean and sober. She reported a life-altering event that happened in the hospital. While in the emergency room, her heart stopped beating. Liza opened her eyes and all she could see were rocks and bugs. She had never been so scared in her life. As Liza tried to figure out where she was, the bugs began to crawl in her skin. The pain was excruciating. She could feel them burrowing through her body while continually biting her.

Then suddenly, in that moment of pain, everything flashed to a different place. In this place Liza felt at peace. She shared that it was almost like pain, hurt or suffering did not exist; just serenity and unimaginable beauty. At that moment, a voice spoke to her and told her that if she continued down the path she was on, her final destination would be Hell. But, if she would give her life to Christ, she would be able to enter the gates of Heaven.

God blessed Liza with a vision. In this vision she was able to see that she had a choice. Although her upbringing was riddled with abuse and heartache, she still had a choice. She made the choice to give her life over to God, to proclaim His greatness to everyone, to share her experience, and most importantly, to help others. When first meeting Liza, you could see the despair in her eyes. But now, you can feel the life in her spirit. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!!!

Billie Brent

Loyce Burns and Billie Brent are certified counselors who work with the homeless youth at our Community Center every Wednesday.