



the encouragement project

the STORY BOARD

June 2018

ISSUE 18

THE FOLLOW-UP CALL

It is a rare day when I actually answer my phone for a number I don't know. I figure if someone really wants to talk, they'll leave a message and I can call them back. So the fact that I picked up the unknown call that day allowed for a precious gift and blessing from God. It was a lady I hadn't talked to or heard from in more than half a year. You might remember her story that I shared here last fall. Her name is Tam.

The time had long past that I would have expected to have gotten a call from her. Of course, that would be my quick response thinking, and God's timing quite often takes a bit longer than I foresee or sometimes even find comfortable. After I met Tam last November in my mom's hospital room, I prayed for her for weeks, for the strength of her growing faith, and her relationship with her daughter as I had promised. And then I put this request aside trusting that God would continue to work in her situation.

These long months later, God gifted me with the opportunity to hear the answer to prayers long forgotten. When I answered Tam's call, she explained who she was and said she just wanted to thank me for praying for her and her daughter. She said that in the months since we had met, her daughter had gotten out of the relationship that had been so worrisome and harmful and had returned to school to finish her degree. Their mother/daughter relationship had also improved greatly, they talk often, and her daughter has started listening to Tam share more about her faith in Jesus. Tam saw all this change begin not long after our meeting that day in the hospital when we had prayed and cried and encouraged one another. God used those moments to change the course for these two women. And He gave me the blessing of being a part of it. If you prayed for Tam too, see what God has done!

Have you prayed for others without knowing the outcome? Have others prayed for you? Be encouraged to know that God is at work whether we see it in front of us, hear about it at some future point, or move on not knowing how the story progresses. He is so faithful.



For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.

Matthew 18:20

HUGS AND KISSES

It is hard to believe sometimes just how much people are so generously willing to give for others. A few weeks ago, a friend who has been a part of one of our knitting/crochet circles shared that due to some physical issues she was having, she sadly wouldn't be able to knit anymore. It had just become too difficult. But that day she brought with her a garbage bag full of beautiful yarn that she wanted us to be able to use.

Before I left, half of it was picked up by some of the other ladies to use to make warm things for those in need. I was overwhelmed by our friend's generosity! And the next week when I arrived, there she sat... with another large bag full of yarn. "I've just been cleaning it out a little at a time. There's more, too." And there was.

And you know, she was so joyful as she shared this yarn with us. She knew it would be taken up by creative hands and turned into beautiful things that will bless and help others once the weather turns cold again.

We are so thankful for her willingness to give something that means a lot to her for the sake of those who don't have much at all.

Quite often, I look at the shelves in my office that are reserved for yarn and think, "how are we going to be able to provide yarn next week" for those who make things so readily. And then God provides abundantly once again in a way that I never expected. And I am so grateful.

If you have given yarn, money to buy it, or made something that we have shared with a cold someone, thank you! It makes such a difference!

RESPONDING

After reading in the last newsletter of our need for children's books to share with low income young ones and families, we had several donations—some in the form of funds to buy books (which I have done—thrift stores are great resources for good books, making the gift stretch farther), and some books that were collected and brought to us (one friend shared the need with her daughter, who shared the need with those she works with, who shared the need...well, you get the idea. Together, they donated several hundred fantastic books that we can now pass on to kids who will treasure the adventures found within those pages).

Thank you for your generosity!

The need is ever present if you find yourself able to help.



I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Psalm 16:8

THE ENCOURAGEMENT PROJECT is run solely with financial gifts and donations. We greatly appreciate your willingness to be a part of this team. The Encouragement Project is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All gifts are tax deductible.

www.theencouragementproject.org
678 360-1592

stephanie@theencouragementproject.org
PO Box 452 ~ Alpharetta, GA ~ 30009