

Mary Craig Ministries

May 2016

“The Privilege of Serving Christ”

Putting on a Barnabas Project Distribution takes a lot of work on the part of many, many people. It seems like our workers just show up with a big Budget Rental Truck packed with banana boxes from Publix along with items like tyke’s bikes, children’s outdoor picnic tables, artwork, mirrors, folding beds, etc., but in fact this truck loaded from top to bottom, front to back, is the result of six months of collecting, sorting, and even cleaning items given for donation. Look:



Rev. Jim Craig taking a photo break from unloading the truck along with



helpers...

who take the

boxes, sort items, place them on tables, and then help people find lots of “free stuff.”



This distribution was held at Mt. Zion AME Church in Belle Glade, Florida, a farming community near Lake Okeechobee. From Craighouse© it is a 1 ½ hour drive each way, but car-pooling and eating together after the distribution makes it fun. Amanda even got community service hours required by her school.



Here she is with her mother Lilliana (left) and Noelia (right). For Lilliana and Amanda, this was their first time participating in a Barnabas Project distribution. Lilliana remarked, “Awesome experience!” She was surprised by the poverty level so fairly close to West Palm Beach, but noted that the house of worship was well-maintained and the church staff were friendly and attentive. And that’s right. It doesn’t happen at Mt. Zion without Sandra S. She’s the organizer, and we found out she had also been Class President during her high school years.



Here’s David, our Barnabas Project Director, and Sandra S., with Pastor Jim.

It was also Emma’s first time helping:



Here she is on the right, having a great time. I told her she had to “sell” the free stuff, so turns out she is really good at it.

Barnabas works so well because we’ve been doing this since 2003 and have great teamwork. Here’s Dave, Dale, Gladys, Marcia, Steve, and Wanda.





The success of the Barnabas Project depends first upon the grace of God. It is a privilege to watch Him work as we serve Christ, who had compassion upon all kinds of people and who came not only as the Messenger of Good News of salvation, but as the Message, the Messiah, the One sent by the Father to save by living the life to which none of us could ever measure up and by taking the penalty for sin, giving God both the obedience and the glory He deserves as Creator/Redeemer. To show His approval, God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus is alive, and so are His own.

Barnabas is also dependent upon those who give so freely the “free stuff” we distribute into communities needing tangible hope, encouragement, and tangible help. So we want to thank especially Publix Supermarkets and so many private individuals who gave so graciously.

Wanda B., above, noted: “A school teacher was delighted to gather toys for an autistic class treasure box as well as books for advanced readers and art supplies. One woman, who was enthusiastic during the opening prayer time, was thankful to receive clothing and other things for her nineteen grandchildren. A man, who prayed for us before the start of the Barnabas free distribution, found an artistically created item that caused him to remember the numerous beautifully crafted items made by an Asian group, while waiting in a camp, that led to their being accepted as refugees in the country. The Church was blessed to receive china and crystal for decorations and use at their location functions.”

Happy were we to give. Happy were these to receive.



Serving Christ gives purpose to our lives, and we are privileged to do it. We do it with joy because we have found salvation in Christ and the blessing of eternal life in Him. Beyond that, though, we must acknowledge the joy of being submitted to the sovereign will of a Heavenly Father. God the Son rejoiced through God the Holy Spirit because of the will of God the Father. With Jesus, we must come to that place to say, “I delight to do Your will, O God.” (Psalm 40:8)

Thank you for giving gladly, generously, graciously, and as the Holy Spirit guides. For more on the Barnabas Project, go to www.marycraig.org/Barnabas .

In His Name, for His glory, by His grace,

Mary Craig

Mary Craig, D. Min.

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has enabled me,
For that He counted me faithful,
Appointing me to His service; ...
And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant
With faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.
The Apostle Paul, 1 Timothy 1:12, 14

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