



## RESTORATION OUTREACH PROGRAMS

### Christmas Family Blessing 2011

by Lucy Bruser

We are in full swing with planning and preparation for our holiday community outreaches. One of these is our annual *Christmas Family Blessing*. Each year, we identify families in our community who need our hearts and hands to provide Christmas gifts for their children. After the family selection process is completed, we develop a shopping list for each child and recruit volunteers to purchase gifts.

I remember being a child and living in poverty. There were some Christmases my parents could not afford presents or even a Christmas tree. As I reflect on this, I recall the joy I felt on those occasions when our family was sponsored by folks from local churches. Through their love and compassion, each member of my family received gifts, food and warm wishes for a blessed Christmas. Through the love and concern of the body of Christ, we were introduced to the personal and compassionate love of God for us in a very tangible way.

ROP hopes to do the same for about 75 families when we present gifts to the parents at the *Christmas Family Blessing Party* on December 17th. The party will include a time of refreshment and fellowship as well as separate programs for children and parents, including Christmas music and an evangelistic Christmas message.

We would like to encourage you to prayerfully consider partnering with us to share God's love in this very tangible way. If you would like to adopt one or more children, or if you have any questions, please contact Deb Ford at [DebFord@RestorationOutreachPrograms.org](mailto:DebFord@RestorationOutreachPrograms.org) or 303-257-2887.



### The Abundant Life

by Kent Scroggs

In John 10:10 Jesus says, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." I think a lot of Christians go through life wanting to experience more of the "abundant life" Jesus wants to give to each of His children, but not knowing how to do so. They have accepted Him as their Lord and Savior. They attend church regularly. They have a personal relationship with Jesus and even read their Bible and have a "quiet time" almost every day. Yet, that "abundant life" (a life filled with a sense of peace, joy and fulfillment) still seems beyond their grasp. So what's the problem?

I would submit that the answer lies in **servicing God and other people out of a heart of gratitude where He has called and gifted us to serve**. There are three parts to this answer that must all come into play if we are to experience an abundant life.

The first part is to serve God and other people. Of course, it is important to spend time with



God, study his word and grow in our understanding of and relationship with Him. These are fundamental to experiencing an abundant life. But at some point – usually the sooner the better – we need to give back. In Eph. 2:10 Paul writes, *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* God has created each of us for a purpose. And while the specifics may look different for each individual, all believers share the common purpose of serving God and other people.

The second part of the answer deals with the specifics. God has created each of us uniquely with different passions, gifts and abilities. Our challenge is to find the place or places where our passions, gifts and abilities are a good fit. Some might say that aligning our passions, gifts and abilities with where we serve is not important. We just need to serve somewhere. In the short-term, that might work, but not in the long-term. That only leads to frustration and burn-out rather than the joy and fulfillment we seek and God wants for us.

The final part is that we must serve out of a heart of gratitude to God for His love and redemptive work in our lives. God cares much more about why we do something than what we do. And he wants us to serve him with thankful hearts (Col. 3:17). I do not have room here to go into detail, but if you ever need help remembering the most important things you have to be thankful for I highly recommend reading Eph 1:3-14.

I want to conclude by inviting you to consider whether God has called and gifted you to serve the poor through ROP. We offer many opportunities for God's people to serve him and others through our ministry, including a couple mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. We recognize God has not called everyone to serve here, but He has called and gifted all of us to serve him and others somewhere. Your job is to figure out where that is for you. When you do, you will find the "abundant life" waiting there for you.



## Give the Gift of a Lasting Memory!

by Dena Boyce

Remember winters when you were growing up?

Remember having snowball fights with your friends, making forts, and going sledding?

The kids living along East Colfax in Aurora have few opportunities to enjoy these simple winter pleasures. So each year ROP Youth Ministries takes a group of children to the mountains for a tubing trip, and the teens to the snow-capped Rockies for a weekend retreat. Both events become lasting memories and often provide life-changing moments for the kids and teens who attend.

Would you like to give the gift of a tubing day to an inner city child?

Or a winter retreat for an at-risk teen?

It only costs \$40 to give an underprivileged child the thrill of a day in the mountains, and \$120 for a teen to enjoy God's creation in the Rockies.

If you would like to sponsor one of these trips for a child or teen, please contact our Children's Ministry Director Dena Boyce:

303-344-4219 or [Dena@RestorationOutreachPrograms.org](mailto:Dena@RestorationOutreachPrograms.org)

When making a donation, please remember to designate "Youth Snow Days/Retreat" on your check or in the comment box on ROP's web-site. Checks should be made payable to ROP and mailed to ROP, P.O. Box 632, Aurora, CO 80040.

