

CHRISTMAS GIVING

We've been given the greatest gift on earth with the birth of Jesus. Through His birth, God showed the extent of His love for us, a love that is sacrificial, present, and life-giving. Jesus is called Emmanuel, God with us. He meets us where we're at and doesn't leave us there. Life with Him would not be possible without His first sacrifice to dwell among us. Christmas is a season that repeatedly serves as a reminder of God's greatest gift in Jesus.

As Christmas approaches we are gearing up for a season of remembering the impact of Christ's birth in all of our ministry programs. The Christmas parties for our kids and teens consist of serving a special meal, doing a Christmas activity, hearing the good news of Jesus, receiving a New Testament Bible from the Gideon's, and receiving a gift. At SOS, we are on mission to extend the love of God in tangible ways. With the effects of COVID-19, we plan to provide gifts for entire families who wouldn't be able to experience it otherwise. This is done through the generosity of our community and ministry supporters.

We are continuously challenged through our ministry to extend the love of God in tangible and sacrificial ways during these times and we ask that you join us! We cannot do this without the generous stewardship of our community and supporters. Would you consider partnering with us this Christmas season? Details for how you can do so can be found on the insert. Thank you for extending God's love towards the kids, teens, and families in our ministry!

CELEBRATING NEW LIFE

Friday, October 30th, was an evening for celebration! During our Friday Night Worship Service, we had the privilege to welcome and baptize 9 brothers and sisters in Christ! Those individuals and families who were baptized were reached through our Teen Ministry, Women's Ministry, and Men's Ministry! Our ministry leaders were able to be right there next to them as each person publicly proclaimed Christ as their Lord and Savior to the entire Friday Night crowd. We are so thankful the Lord lets us at SOS have a front row seat as He changes the lives of these people and brings them hope, healing, and abundant life. Here are some of their stories.

One of those baptized was a man participating in the Vocational Training Program. He had spent time in prison where he first gave his life to the Lord, but found himself continuing to backslide into his old habits and lifestyle. He recognized his need and knew he needed to find a way to provide stability and make a better life for his wife and little girl. Seeing commercials for SOS and the advertisement for the Vocational Training Program, he felt "this is a place that understands me." Going through the Vocational Training program this fall has been an answer to prayer. The skills he has learned in plumbing make him more employable despite his record. The encouragement and teaching on the topics of Biblical leadership through scripture study he received through the program brought him, along with his wife, to publicly declare Christ as their Lord and be baptized.

Among those who were baptized was a woman who had been radically transformed by Christ and left her homosexual lifestyle. She had experienced sexual

abuse from her family, and involved herself in gangs, drugs, and homosexual relationships since early on in her life. A few years ago, after a close call with a heart attack, she accepted an invite that same day from one of the SOS ladies to come to the Arise conference. It was there that she found Christ, love, acceptance, and hope. After 3 years, she was excited to finally be baptized. This passionate follower of Christ brings many people who come from the homosexual lifestyle to Christ the same way she found Him; bringing them to the Arise Women's Conference and introducing them to SOS. This transformed woman now boldly declares all that Christ has done for her and the hope that is found in Him.

We are thankful to have a front-row seat as God changes lives!

Also from the Women's Ministry, was a woman who found the Lord through the mentorship of an SOS woman. She was a wife and mother of boys and dearly loved her husband. However, when her husband passed away, she struggled as she grieved over his passing. Carmen was given her contact info and began to meet with her and walk with her through her grief. Over the course of a year, this woman continued to hear the gospel from Carmen and began to heal from her loss. It was through Carmen's investment and sharing in her life that she recognized her need for the hope and saving power only found in Christ. Finding joy and healing since her husband's passing, her new found joy fills her life as she vocalizes her faith on social media, connects her friends to SOS, and generously helps those in need. It was with joy that we at SOS welcomed our sister in Christ and celebrated God's work in her life as she publicly professed her faith through Believer's Baptism.



Christmas Gifts 2019



Baptisms - October 2020



Men's Home Graduation



Women's One Day Retreat

ONE DAY TOGETHER SOS Women's One Day Retreat

Saturday, November 7th, the SOS Women's Ministry had their annual Women's Retreat. Due to the limitations of Covid-19, the SOS women recognized it was better to have one day with each other in God's house than to not fellowship at all. Hence, the day's theme: "One Day Together" referencing the words from **Psalm 84:10, "Better is One day in your house than a thousand elsewhere."** We were blessed with the company of **80 women** who enjoyed this set-aside time to fellowship together, relax and have fun, minister to each other, and encourage one another in the Lord and in life.



The morning began with breakfast followed by worship. The speaker for the day was Rachel from Joy Pottery, who's story resembles those of our own SOS ladies. All of our ladies commented how they related to her story in one way or another. Rachel spoke to the women of the work God does in our lives using the example of the potter and the clay God provided us in scripture. She demonstrated the truths from this example using her own story and the clay in her hands to bring home God's message.

The women joined together in circles of 8 to talk Heart 2 Heart. The loneliness and isolation caused by Covid-19 showed women need other women for support and to minister to one another. The ladies used this set aside time to share personal stories, be open, transparent, and vulnerable with the other women so the need and pain bottled up inside could get out and healing could enter. There were many stories, tears, and many women were able to be first-hand recipients of the love of Christ and hear the Gospel in a way they understood. Games and crafts were a fun way to complete the day! The ladies enjoyed the conversation and fellowship as they created decorations and ornaments out of pine cones. We thank the Lord for His blessing and goodness to us for providing our women with the love and support of each sister in Christ and the opportunity for them to gather together both in person and virtually!



DID YOU KNOW?

Last year, as a part of SOS Ministries' annual giving of Christmas gifts, **OVER 335** kids and teens and **15** families from our programs received presents! It is because of the generous donations of people like you that we are able to be the tangible expression of the gift of Jesus Christ.



Supporter Highlight

Since the beginning, First Baptist Bryan has been a faithful friend and dedicated supporter of SOS Ministries. During the early years of ministry, First Baptist Bryan graciously opened their doors and let us run our ministry programs in their building. Since then, First Baptist Bryan has continued to play a huge role in helping us bring hope to the hopeless: buying Christmas gifts and throwing holiday parties for the at-risk youth in our ministry, building and repairing essential parts of our ministry facilities, and partnering with us to meet the tangible needs in our community. We are grateful for First Baptist Bryan's generosity and all this church does to serve Bryan-College Station.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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| Nov 19 | ASP Thanksgiving & Teen Thanksgiving Potluck |
| Nov 20 | Volunteer Banquet |
| Nov 30 | Children's Ministry Christmas Party |
| Dec 3/4 | ASP Christmas Party & Vocational Training Plumbing Graduation |
| Dec 8 | Women's Christmas Party |
| Dec 10 | Teen Ministry Christmas Party |



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