

PLEDGING TO DO GOD'S WORK

**By Barbara Atchley
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This past week, Atlanta hosted a meeting of Baptists from various conventions. It was a Baptist gathering that crossed geographic, theological, ethnic and racial divides. The common ground we spoke of this week was found in the scriptures from Luke and Matthew that speak of our responsibility to those among us who are poor, who are sick, and who are marginalized. To paraphrase a passage from Matthew 25—

And the righteous (also known as the members of Northside Drive Baptist Church) said unto him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or needing clothes, or sick or in prison?”

And the Lord replied,

“Did you not bring warm clothing to give to men and women who are struggling to rebuild their lives?”

And through your gifts to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship you are saving lives by providing clean water in places like Zimbabwe and you are giving medical care to those who are suffering with malaria, HIV/Aids and other diseases.

Do not forget the families who are now occupying Habitat homes that were built through the financial support and the wonderful carpentry skills of Northside Drivers.

And then there is Lifespan that provides, among other services, a Day Club that gives older adults who have limited opportunities for outside socialization a chance to gather and also provides some respite for their care givers.

Or the children of Taliaferro County who received two wholesome meals a day while learning Bible stories and enjoying recreation, music, drama and crafts.

Or.....”

And the members of Northside Drive nodded with understanding.

We’ve been asked to complete a pledge card indicating our support of the 2012 budget. As you look at the blank line don’t look at it as just an impersonal set of numbers, but put a face to the people whose lives will be impacted by your donations this year.

Picture Samantha, a mentally and emotionally challenged teen whose family cannot and will not care for her. She has found love and security. She has found a home on the Brunswick campus of Morningstar Children and Family Services.

Picture the 50 children who each weekday afternoon come to the Andrew P. Stewart Center for tutoring, games and a healthy snack—a place where they can be safe and secure until parents get home from work. They are safe and secure in a place where people sharing God’s love surround them.

Several years ago 9-year-old Daisy whose brown eyes were sparkling as she practiced her math skills on one of the two new computers donated by Northside Drive handed me a note. The note said, “Thank you, Miss Barbara, for the new computers. They are beautiful. **You have a very nice church.**”

Yes, Daisy, we do. We have a very nice church made up of members who care, members who generously share their resources as they share God’s love by meeting the physical and spiritual needs of people around the corner and around the globe. It is a very nice church made up of members who will indeed pledge the 2012 budget.

And the Lord said, “For as much as you have done it unto one of the least of these...you have done it unto me.”

