

## SHARING TRUTH

by Tracey Vande

Kevin issued a challenge to our church, that we are to be “on mission” to *Pray, Serve* and *Invite*. We have seen many opportunities to do that within the walls of our church, but what about outside these walls?

A strong example of how to do this is Scarlett Rigsby. A year ago Scarlett had a passion for ministry that reached beyond the walls of Hebron to the people in our community. As a former camp director and dog owner, Scarlett had seen how a dog could be used with children who struggled with behavioral issues. As she began praying about how she could use a dog to meet the needs of others outside our walls, she also asked the Lord to give her a name for the dog. “I wanted the dog to have a name that would represent an attribute of Christ and His unconditional love for us,” she says. The Lord reminded her of the verse where Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6).” *Truth* was a perfect name to describe who He is. In January 2010, the Golden Retriever Truth was born and soon afterwards, Scarlett founded *Nothing but the Truth* ministry. *Truth* is currently in training to be a therapy dog, which will allow Scarlett even more opportunities to share Christ.

Another aspect of the ministry is “Gift of Truth”, a very similar program to “Gift of Hope” which Hebron sponsored a few years ago. The focus is on doing something for someone else, expecting nothing in return. It is intentional, mission-minded living. One “Gift of Truth” opportunity that presented itself this year was by divine appointment. Scarlett met a lady who indicated that she was living at a local extended stay hotel due to financial difficulties. During the course of the conversation, Scarlett learned about a Wednesday morning Bible study that took place at the hotel. She wanted to learn more about this ministry opportunity. When Scarlett visited the hotel office, she met a fellow believer who lives and works at the hotel and who sees this as her mission field. Through developing a relationship with this godly woman, the Lord opened the door for Scarlett to develop plans for a Thursday night Bible study. Scarlett learned that some who stay at the hotel are transient, but many are considered homeless, because they do not have a permanent place to live.

Nothing but the Truth ministry has also provided after-school snacks for the children as a “first touch”, as well as a giveaway of breakfast biscuits and coffee that were distributed to the women along with a flyer about the upcoming Bible study. The Bible study currently meets in one of the hotel rooms and is steadily growing. A hot meal is provided for the residents, but they are not required to attend the Bible study to receive the meal.

During the third week of Bible study, one lady felt safe enough to open up and share that she had been abused when she was younger. This opened the door for two other women to share their stories of abuse and to assure her that she wasn't alone. These two Christian ladies shared God's love with her and encouraged her to know that God is always there for her.

“My Own Little World,” a song by Matthew West, has meant a great deal to Scarlett. She states, “My eyes have been opened to the needs that are right in our own backyard. It's easy for us to get in our own little world and not see the needs around us, but we're called to not be in our little world. We're called to share God's love with those around us. When we began the Bible study at the extended stay hotel in March, we had four people attending; last Thursday night, we had 14 in attendance. They look forward to us coming to spend time with them every Thursday night and I enjoy spending time with them and seeing how the love of Christ meeting simple physical needs can change a life.”

Nothing but the Truth has many opportunities to partner in ministry to touch the lives in our community. If you would like more information on how you can get involved, go to <http://www.hebronchurch.org/ministries/adults/women.htm>

