

Grillin' for God

By Michelle Deuling

What a fun month we had as we were "Grillin' for God" every Friday in August. Grillin' for God gave The Ladder an opportunity to reach out with thanks to our community by gifting those who stopped by with a grilled hot dog, chips, a drink and dessert.

We served more than 400 hot dogs, which were provided by Mac's Meats. They also provided Coke Zero, Diet Coke, Sprite, AHA, and bottled water. Thank you, Mac's Meats!

Lots of compliments were heard concerning the wonderful desserts provided by Aimee Walsworth, Jan Sexson, Carol Bitson, and The Ladder youth and volunteers. We are grateful to all who made the delicious cookies and brownies for us. Alex Crowder was one of the youth who participated in the Summer Breakout service project, where they baked nine dozen cookies that were served at Grillin' for God the following day. He said that the hard work and strain on his hands from all the mixing of the cookie dough made the cookies taste even better!

For the first two weeks of August, the father/son duo Ricky and Rusty Thomas handled the grill; Jason Tanner grilled with Elijah and Brandy Dashiell to close out the month. Noreen Campagna did a wonderful job as the Grillin' for God overseer. She not only did all the prep before the teams came in, but she helped with clean up and had a kind word for everyone who came to enjoy the meal. Romee Fox assisted in the kitchen, and then made her way outside to help pass out food or whatever task needed done. Thanks, Noreen, Romee and grill crews!

We also want to thank all of you who drove and walked through or decided to join us for a meal inside. You all made August a special month as we thanked God for you.



L-R: Rusty, Ricky, Michelle, Romee, and Noreen served up dogs, chips, and desserts with a round of smiles!

Back-to-School Prayer Walk/Drive

By Sue Beckman

It was Monday. The excitement was building. Teachers were making final preparations in their classrooms, students came in and out seeking to discover who their teachers will be, the football and soccer teams were practicing. School was set to begin the following day!

Ladder staff, volunteers, students, a parent and a teacher came together to pray. We traveled to the bus garage, administration office, and each of the four schools to pray over our teachers, school personnel, students, and their families. We have witnessed the Lord moving in the lives of our Huddle students as they are reading the Word and encouraging one another to walk in obedience to the Lord. This day, several joined us to pray over the school. One huddle student even brought her mom!

At the high school, one of the teachers joined us to walk the halls and pray over each classroom, teacher and their students. We stopped to talk to one of the custodians. She LOVES the kids. She is grateful for her job. She battles multiple sclerosis and asked that we pray for strength for each day. We were able to talk with her about Jesus and pray that she would receive not only his strength but his forgiveness and salvation!

It is no longer Monday, the day before school begins. But the excitement continues to grow as we see the Lord working in the lives of students, families, teachers and school personnel. Please join us as we continue to pray and trust the Holy Spirit to draw many to a life-transforming relationship with Jesus.

Safety Training

By Cathy Zoulek

Safety is something that we take seriously at The Ladder. It is important to us to make sure that our staff and volunteers are properly trained, so they know what to do if they are ever put in dangerous situations. On Monday, September 28 and Wednesday, September 30, Deputy Michael Phillips was at The Ladder to train staff and volunteers to handle active shooter situations. He went over the "Run, Hide, Defend" tactics that should be used if an active shooter situation would occur—not only at The Ladder, but any time or place that they may be involved in an active shooter situation. Staff and volunteers also did some Abuse Risk Management training. The training included understanding how offenders operate, watching for warning signs, and taking action. We hope that we will never be faced with these dangerous situations at The Ladder, but if we are, we want our staff and volunteers to know what to do, not only for their own safety, but for the safety of everyone that comes to The Ladder.

TheLadderCommunityCenter.com
Just a click away!

SPIRITUAL WELLNESS: Join our prayer team, learn more about Jesus, join a support group, worship, or attend a Bible study.

PRAYER GUIDE: We currently have a back-to-school prayer guide on our website. Please pray with us!

ONLINE GIVING: Did you know you can now give to The Ladder online and via text messaging? Use a credit card, debit card, or bank account (ACH). You can even set up recurring giving!

WISH LIST: Our Wish List is on our website too! It contains monetary donation requests and item requests.

EVENTS: Discover all the great activities and events The Ladder offers the families, youth and adults of our community!

KIDS HOPE: Make a difference in the life of a child by mentoring one hour a week during the school year.

NEWSLETTER: Check out current and past issues of our newsletter!

LIVE WELL

Pursuing God's best in mind, body & spirit

But God, Part 2



By Sue Beckman

If you have been receiving our newsletters, you will know that in our last edition, we considered two important words in the Bible: **but God**.

Let's recap

Throughout the Bible we see **but God**, or **but Christ**, or **but when**. It's a word that changes our course. Things seem to be going one direction, but then, they are going another.

Something was lost, **but** now it's found. Someone was dead, **but** now alive. A person was blind, **but** now can see. There was no way, **but God** made a way. **But** is a word that introduces the intervention of God. God intervenes and it changes everything. All seems hopeless, **but God**.

Consider Joseph's words in Genesis 50:20 (CEV): "You tried to harm me, **but God** made it turn out for the best so that He could save all these people." All seemed hopeless for Joseph, **but God!**

So that

Often in Scripture, **but God** phrases are followed by **in order** or **so that**. Consider the Apostle Paul, a brutal murderer of Christians, who was confronted by Jesus on the road to Damascus. He writes about it in Galatians 1:15-16a: "**But God** chose me and called me by his marvelous grace. ...it pleased him to reveal his Son to me **so that** I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles."

If you are a Christ-follower, you have a **but God** moment. Paul writes this in Ephesians 2:4-5: "We were dead in our trespasses **but God**, because of

the great love with which he loved us, made us alive together in Christ—it is by grace you have been saved."

God pursues us, rescues us, calls us his own and changes our course from death to life. It may have happened in an instant (like the Apostle Paul) or it may have happened over time, but at some point you have realized that you were dead in sin, but God made you alive in Christ.

If you have a **but God** moment, you also have a **so that**

But God, so that. God called Paul by his grace **so that** Paul might preach Jesus among the Gentiles. In 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, Paul stated it this way: "Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. He died for everyone **so that** those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ."

Our **but God** moment isn't **so that** we could build our own kingdoms. Our **but God** isn't **so that** we could pursue a life of comfort and security. God's intervention is intentional. God's intervention is purposeful. If God has pursued you and you have been rescued and saved by Christ, there is an intention—a purpose—that God has in redeeming you.

We are saved not just from something but to something

The Bible makes it clear that we were forgiven of our sin and brought to new life in Christ for the

very purpose of living out our days for Him. We were bought with a price **so that** we can join Christ in saving the lost and expanding the Kingdom of God. We were redeemed to be influencers for the Kingdom of God.

Brian's article on the front page of this newsletter speaks of God's grace upon Greg McDonald. God used him to influence many for Christ. At Greg's funeral, the pastor shared that, several years ago, Greg came to him and spoke these very words: "I was a mess, **but God** rescued me from addiction and mental illness **so that** I may give the hope found in Jesus to those who struggle with the same."

In simple terms, that is why The Ladder exists. It's a place for people to experience a **but God** moment. They may have come hopeless, but they experience Christ and their lives are changed forever. But The Ladder is also a place for Christ followers to live out their **so that**—their life-long purpose in influencing and expanding the Kingdom of God.

We are thankful for the many volunteers who come seeking to give to others, to pray for others, to love others, to tell others about Jesus. They make a difference. God is pleased that they desire to live out their **so that** for His Kingdom. He is at work, and if we have breath, we have the privilege of living out our days for Him.

What is your **but God, so that**?

We encourage you to know and live your **but God, so that**. You can even write it down below, cut it out, and post it someplace where you will be reminded each day!

BUT GOD _____

SO THAT _____

Thank you to all who have already returned the RSVP card enclosed in the last newsletter. In an effort to update our records, be good stewards by eliminating unwanted mail, and respect your wishes, we ask those who have not yet responded to let us know if you would like to continue receiving the newsletter.

CALL THE LADDER AT 231-259-0211 OR EMAIL MICHELLE DEULING, OUR OFFICE MANAGER, AT MICHELLE@THELADDERCOMMUNITYCENTER.COM

When you contact us, please communicate any changes in address, phone, or email and whether you prefer to receive a printed copy via the postal service or digitally via email.

It is our highest priority to give God the credit for what He is doing at and through The Ladder. Thank you for your support!

