

LIFE Community Case Study Impact

LIFE Community Leaders: Bill & Carol Heart

LIFE Community Members: Ted Boil, Harriet Vin, James & Victoria Kim, Elizabeth Nyakairu, Ethan & Ethel Sage, Jeff Saravi, and Ashley & Andrew Responsive.

Background: The Stoneham LIFE Community began last January 2009 and thoroughly enjoyed the *Spiritual Autobiographies* Series, which took them through April. They did a brief study of Galatians and met three times over the summer for back yard BBQs. This past fall they began meeting again twice a month and choose to follow the fall series, *Life Is Doing Good*. To help with this they all purchased and read Richard Sterns' book [The Hole in Our Gospel](#).

The Challenge: With each sermon preached and chapter read from the Stern's book, the members of the Stoneham LIFE Community have sensed God's direction to partner together to do something for others. For the last three meetings they ended their nights in prayer asking the LORD what He wanted their group to do. They all agreed to come tonight and be ready to act on the LORD's leading.

The January LIFE Community: Bill and Carol were very excited to see what God has in store for their group. They had prayed for each member individually and prayed that they would be able to do something significant. Bill greeted Ted at the door, and he began sharing an idea of helping tutor the High School kids with disabilities at Stoneham High. He already talked to the school and was sharing some possibilities when Harriet showed up. She went right for Carol and explained how she had been serving at Arnold House Nursing Home and there was room for the whole group to volunteer there. In walked in James & Victoria talking with Elizabeth and shared about an idea to help single mothers in the area (which was really appealing to Elizabeth because she was raising her two 2-year old twins by herself). Then, on their heels were Ethan and Ethel who were listening to Jeff's plan to have the group paint the town hall that's in poor condition. Carol refreshed the coffee and Bill invited everyone to take a seat. He thanked the Sages for bringing the goodies. They all sat down.

Bill asked Elizabeth to pray for the group and their time together. She did. Then Bill said tonight is the night for us to see what the LORD wants us to do for others so we are the hand and feet of Jesus. He shared a few quotes from Richard Sterns, when Ted enthusiastically asked them all to join him tutoring the High School Students with disabilities. Jeff cut in and said it would be great for us to paint the Town Hall. Ethan thanked them for sharing and said not everyone would be able to tutor and the painting project would not last long enough and he paused then

suggested that “we can adopt five orphans through World Vision. Each week we can pray for them, write them letters and send supplies when needed.” Carol praised out with glee at the idea. Harriet said that seems so far away, can’t we do something locally and something ongoing and she suggested the Arnold House Nursing Home. Victoria looking at Elizabeth said the best thing we could do is work where we have been and that is with single mothers. We can baby-sit, collect money, clothes, and supplies for single mothers in Stoneham. James included we could change the oil in their cars and help with house repairs.

No one was letting the other person talk, Bill kept trying to bring everyone back together and Carol let for the kitchen to pray.

The Solution: What would you do as the leader of this group?

Questions:

1. What do you do with all the ideas? How do you bring everyone together around one idea?
2. How can you build unity without people taking sides or champion his/her own idea?
3. Do you wait for another meeting to decide or act now?
4. What criteria do you offer to help the group decide which service to undertake?