



## Baptists for Life Of Central Ohio

3417 Palmetto St.  
Columbus, OH 43204



Spring 2015

### Unexpected Turns

By Becky Rickard

It was a regular Tuesday at the Maternity Resource Center. Just like they had done for many years, the Douglas family arrived around 9:00 am to begin sorting through donations and stocking the MRC for ministry to families in need. Steve had a list of baby furniture items to repair and also had some jobs to complete around the church. However, something about this week on January 13, was different. Steve had noticed that his hands and arms were weak. As the day progressed, so did Steve's lack of muscle strength. When they headed home, he suspected what was about to happen.

By the next morning, Steve lost all strength in his legs and was soon in the Emergency Room at Mt. Carmel Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. After some tests and procedures, the doctors confirmed what Steve had known all along. He had Guillain-Barre Syndrome--a disease that could result in complete paralysis in a matter of hours. As the virus moved throughout his body over the course of a few hours, Steve was unable to touch, move or even breathe on his own. The next 13 days in ICU would take the family on a journey that no one would want to face. Steve was placed on a ventilator and as a result received a tracheotomy and feeding tube.

Each day as the family waited and prayed by his bedside, they weren't sure if he would survive. Their only hope was to trust the Lord and HIS plan...whatever that might be.

Steve was moved to the step down unit at the hospital. He was still unable to move, eat or breathe on his own, but he was gaining awareness. As time went on, Steve was able to communicate with his family with a wink and slight movements were visible in his feet! He was weaned off the ventilator and what a great day it was when he was able to finally say a word to his family!

Today, Steve works each day to recover from the virus that ravaged his nervous system. He is in a rehabilitation facility going through aggressive physical therapy and is now able to eat small amounts of food. He has gained some movement in his legs and arms, and is still making progress each day. As we have visited Steve & Sheryl, there is one message we have heard them say many times. "The Lord is in control and even though we don't like this and don't know why, He is still in control and we trust His plan." Faith and strength from God's Word is what has gotten the family through this difficult journey. And it is this same faith that will get them through the days ahead as Steve continues to recover.







Steve & Sheryl have given much time to the MRC ministry and have shown deep compassion for the clients. The ministry has been well-maintained by them for many years. Yet, in this time of Steve's illness we are reminded of God's provision in many ways. First, God has provided life and breath to Steve. He is gaining strength and movement and making progress each day! Second, God has supplied for the ministry that Steve & Sheryl so deeply care about by providing volunteers and donations to keep meeting the needs of the clients.

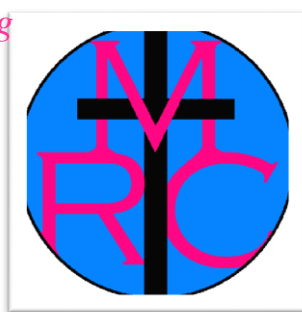
This rough journey over the past few months has shown God's goodness in a deeper way and for that we say, "To God be the glory!"



# Prayer and Praise

*The one thing everyone can do is pray. Please remember us using the requests below as you partner with this ministry in prayer.*

-  *PRAISE that there have been 4 salvations this year*
-  *PRAISE that enough funds were received for the next billboard*
-  *PRAISE for our partnership with the Diaper Coalition*
-  *Pray for the Teen Lock-In on May 8<sup>th</sup>*
-  *Pray for our GEMS training meeting to be held in late Spring*
-  *Pray for the BFLCO budget for 2015*





## William and Shirley Abernathy

William Abernathy, Sr. went to be with the Lord on February 26, 2015 following his wife, Shirley, who died four days previously.

As in life where the two served together, they passed into Heaven within days of each other. Both had worked in the MRC. William was often the “face” of the MRC that most clients and volunteers first encountered. For 25 years, he served on the board, as a field executive, and was active in the MRC until late 2014.

Both were members of Immanuel Baptist Church, were Pastor Abernathy retired as senior pastor. Memorial services were held a week apart and each were marked by the love and devotion they held for their Savior Jesus Christ.

We thank both for their years of faithfulness.



## Partnerships that Change Community

*The MRC appreciates the CDC (Columbus Diaper Coalition)*

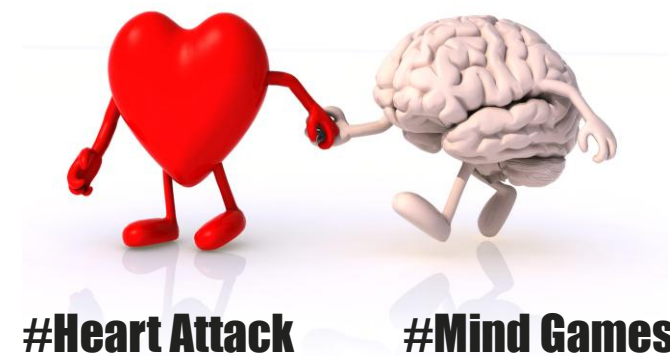
Columbus Diaper Coalition and the Maternity Resource Center have joined together to help provide for the needs of clients in the MRC. The Columbus Diaper Coalition is a local non-profit Columbus organization that is dedicated to providing diapers to families in need in Central Ohio and does so by partnering with fellow organizations. According to their website, Columbus Diaper Coalition’s mission is “to provide diapers to families who are suffering from financial difficulties. We know that every gift, no matter the size can make a difference in the lives of babies and their families. At the Columbus Diaper Coalition we believe that access to diapers is a basic human need, and that something as simple as a fresh clean diaper can provide health and happiness to families and babies in need.”

They, just like the MRC, rely on donations to meet their needs.

Members of the Columbus and surrounding communities come together to help meet the needs of the families who are in need, by donating diapers. In return the CDC partners with other organizations and gives the diapers they receive so they can in return provide for the families they contact.

As a partner with them, the MRC is able to complete an order form each month for diaper needs and the volunteers at the CDC will deliver diapers to the MRC and try to fill the need to the best of their ability. This is such a huge blessing that God has provided. Because of this new partnership and the donations received from wonderful people in the community, clients will receive even more diapers for their children.

God never ceases to amaze or provide!



## Teen Lock-In 2015

Friday May 8<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 7:30pm-1:00am  
Start @ Fellowship  
Baptist of Dublin  
End @ Skate Zone 71  
Speaker: Tara Winter  
(Cedarville University)

**Cost: \$22 if pre-registered by Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> or \$25 at the door**

**\*\*We are collecting wipes this year for the Maternity Resource Center\*\***

## How Can You Help?

**The monthly partner program allows you to provide funds that will be used to purchase items for mothers and their children**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 a month can purchase needed items for one baby

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 a month can provide needed items for an expectant mother & her baby

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 provides furniture for babies

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00 monthly meets clothing and furniture needs for an entire family

\_\_\_\_\_ I can help with a one time donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes! I can make a difference by giving each month.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make all checks payable to BFLCO and mail to  
Maternity Resource Center of Central Ohio  
3417 Palmetto St.  
Columbus, OH 43204*

**For questions about donating clothing, blankets or other baby items contact  
Email - [give@bflco.org](mailto:give@bflco.org)  
Phone - 614-272-7038**



**It's Re-enrollment Time!!**

Sign up to donate at [Kroger.com](http://Kroger.com) with account #91595