

## Main Identity

---

**From:** "Mary Craig" <mcraigmin@bellsouth.net>  
**To:** "Mary Craig" <mcraigmin@bellsouth.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 01, 2008 12:10 PM  
**Attach:** ATT00327.txt; ATT00328.txt; ATT00329.txt; ATT00330.txt; image005.jpg; ATT00331.txt; ATT00332.txt; ATT00333.txt; ATT00334.txt; ATT00335.txt; ATT00336.txt; ATT00337.txt; ATT00338.txt; ATT00339.txt; ATT00340.txt; ATT00341.txt; ATT00342.txt; ATT00343.txt  
**Subject:** MCM January 2008 email



(Buddy)



(Kallie)

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.  
 January 2008

“Just a stray.” That’s what the woman across the street called her cat Buddy. Buddy likes to come visit us. Just as darkness descends, he makes his way across the street to the safe place between our house and the garage. I have a place there for him. He’s rarely hungry, but I bring him out a little cat food and some clean water and I have a nice blanket for him to lie on. But one night he showed up with a one-inch gash in his forehead and cuts; so I took him in a cat carrier to his owners to let them know he had been injured, most likely by a raccoon.

This is a very nice family with two or three children. Their house was beautiful, and I could see that they had a measure of care for Buddy. But at first the mommy of the house said Buddy was “just a stray” and that mostly he lived outdoors. I left him with her, and the MCM team prayed for Buddy. The next night Buddy was back and someone had cleaned him up and put some ointment on the wound. Then Buddy went missing for a day or two; but when he returned, we could see that the family had taken him to the vet. He now had stitches and he seemed much better.

I held Buddy for a long time, as I do each time he comes to visit. He’s a beautiful sable brown cat, like a mink coat. Maybe he was a stray, but no longer. He’s still a stranger, though, both to his family and to ours.

We have many former “strays.” Kallie, above, was found on the railroad tracks and brought to us at about 6 weeks of age. She’s part of the family now. She lives inside. She’s neither a stray nor a stranger. She has a home.

**Why do I write this?** Buddy makes me think of those animals and people who are in-between. They’re not fully in any home. They live scattered around neighborhoods. Like vagabonds, they haven’t yet settled anywhere. They seem restless, as if searching for something just over the horizon.

Isaiah 53 says that we are like sheep gone astray. We turn each one to our own way. We live so independently of God and God’s family that we never quite connect or settle in anywhere. Maybe we want to keep our options open. Maybe we just want to be anonymous, like Buddy was until I went across the street and finally found that he did have a name after all. Maybe we don’t like to submit to authority or we carry shame or we can’t overcome the restlessness churning within. Maybe we fear more rejection and find living out there on the streets in the dark makes us less vulnerable to hurt than living inside in the light where we might receive love.

I give Buddy what love I can give him. Kallie, of course, gets more attention. Buddy’s a wonderful cat, friendly, a bit shy, very independent, and with a little worried look that only goes away after he’s held for a few minutes. Kallie’s a small “bullet” who romps around as if she owns the place. Kallie’s name comes from the Greek *kalos*, when stands for the good, the true, and the beautiful.

**What’s it going to be for you this year?** 2008 offers new beginnings, regeneration, renewal, resurrection life, and restoration. Let love in this year. Let the love of God reach deep inside where you live and restore you into the fullness of all that God has for you in Christ Jesus. Let God give you a home. Better yet, let Him be your home.



Our **Barnabas Project** distribution in Homestead, Florida, exceeded expectations as more than a hundred families received toys, school supplies, clothing, household goods, and more. The Greater Mt. Zion AME church organized their part fabulously, with cloth-covered tables, signs, registration, and attention to detail. People ministered to each other, helping some to find work, helping others find needed items, witnessing, evangelizing, and passing out Bibles and Christian books. Thanks for everyone who made this possible with their donations, gifts, talents, time, prayers, and participation. The pictures speak for themselves.





Afterwards, our nine-member MCM team enjoyed the Robert Is Here Fruit stand. There we found fresh tangerines, collard greens, jellies, and all kinds of good-for-you things. In the back, they keep a little zoo, which I personally found very therapeutic. Goats, turkeys, chickens, red roosters, emus, donkeys, geese, macaws, parrots, and some very well-cared-for dogs all had good homes here. Thank you, Ana, Ani, Kroy, Rev. Jim, Dr. Mary, Dale, Rev. Jackie, Steve, and Barnabas Director, David Patten.

We returned home after an afternoon repast at Rosita's, a local restaurant famous for its Mexican cuisine. All in all, it was a worthy mission all to the glory of God accomplished by His grace and in His Name. Thank you to all who participated, to all who gave financially and of tangible goods, and to those who sponsored the event. It takes everyone working together, each doing his/her part, to bring these Barnabas distributions about. We were all blessed!

Christmas at Craighouse is all about giving. Our next main event was our 13<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Dinner and Caroling in the streets. Everyone had a wonderful time, as usual. Though some did not join us after dinner for caroling, we still had hearty souls hit the streets to make Christmas a time of joy and wonderment for many, many families.



2007 closed out and now we're into 2008. This month we continue our regular schedule at Craighouse: Tuesday nights 7:00 p.m. with Rev. Jim Craig taking us into the Greek of the message to the Hebrews; Wednesday nights 7:00 p.m. with Dr. Mary Craig continuing her series "Growing in God's Garden: Live on the Vine;" Friday night Bible Study in Hebrews 7:30 p.m. with worship and ministry of the Holy Spirit following; Sunday services 4:30 p.m. with communion served the first Sunday of the month. Join us for these anointed times. Prayer for the sick, for anointing, for deliverance, and as the Holy Spirit desires is available Sundays after the worship service and Friday nights after the Bible study.

We're growing at Craighouse, so tell your friends and come yourself. We have two special events this month.



**Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>**, noon to 2:00 p.m. **Power Lunch.** Bring your lunch or enjoy a light lunch on us. During this time of sharing, encouragement, inspiration, and growing in faith, we have seen an outpouring of the Holy Spirit like never before...and that's saying something, folks.



**Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>**, we will be having another **Dinner & a Movie** time after the 4:30 p.m. worship service. The movie showing is "A Perfect Stranger." Everyone has a good time and leaves with a sense of the fullness of Christ, not to mention enjoying pizza and good fellowship.



We're also preparing for a mission trip into Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, France, and Switzerland. Please pray for these strategic nations to which God has called us. Most especially, pray that we hear the Holy Spirit and do what He says.



We'll be starting a new Bible study on "The Tabernacle: How to Enter the Holy of Holies and Establish God's Presence in Your Life." This study could very well change you forever! Watch for announcements and plan to be there.



Watch for a new Wednesday night Bible study on **Heaven**. This study will be Scripture-based, not experience-based. There's more than you know about the place Jesus prepares for you!

See you soon at Craighouse!



**Pastors:**

Rev. Jim Craig

Dr. Mary Craig

Rev. Jackie Clanton

