

A Friend of Good Works **By Paul Richard**

Harry is a unique friend of Good Works. At one time he was a resident of Good Works, now he is living in a nice apartment in Athens. Harry has a passion to help the poor, though you might mistake him for one who needs help. Harry believes the gospel and Jesus' words that to feed the hungry is to feed Jesus. He also breaks down the stereotypes of who the poor are. Harry does not view himself as poor, but a believer with an obligation to help those who are poor. I have often invited Harry to come to Friday Night Life, but he was just not interested. I suppose he thinks that this is an event for those who need food and he does not feel he needs that help. But I recently found a way to get him involved.

Each year, Good Works holds a special Christmas event for Friday Night Life. This year a special friend of Good Works donated turkeys to all the families that participate. As people left this event, they would be given a turkey to prepare for their Christmas dinner. After picking up 40 turkeys from Kroger in our pickup truck, I realized I had some time before the turkeys would be distributed. I decided to stop by and visit Harry. He was watching some old "Leave it to Beaver" re-runs. I told him about the turkeys that were provided and asked him if he wanted to help me pass them out. He was up off his couch and said "Let's go!"

We got there a little early, so we participated in the activities of the evening. Harry and I got to talk about things that are important to him...the Bible, Jesus and helping the poor. And then we started handing out the turkeys. He had a good time doing this and felt he was doing what Jesus told him to do. He didn't talk much. He passed out the turkeys and I took pictures. It was a good time!

The blessings that came of this I think are an amazing aspect about the kingdom of God that is often seen at Christmas time. At this time of year, people are inclined to think of others as part of their Christmas celebration emphasizing that the season is not about getting, but about giving. They want to live this out in tangible ways. The individual who provided the turkeys had the blessing of helping 40 families in the community. But his gift also gave the opportunity for Harry to give in the measure he was able. Each family received a blessing by receiving the turkeys for their families. And I got the special blessing of seeing Harry fulfill his calling to "feed the hungry."