

Children's sermon: February 28, 2010

"Heartland begins"

Did you enjoy your "journey" up here? ... looking forward to the story? ... or the toys??????

Oh, the song you heard as you "journeyed" up here ... who sings it???

What group? time is up!@!! You don't know? ----- the group is JOURNEY!!

I tried to give you a hint ... but you didn't get it.

Oh, well ... you have asked me ... HOW DID HEARTLAND CHILDREN'S HOME get started??

Since Mike and Ruth Schwartz are here today ... it's a good time to tell their story.

Ruth is a nurse.

Mike is a welder.

They decide to move from California to Texas ... and they want to do something "different."

Funny ... they would always carry a big "net" with them ----- they call it their LOVE NET.

On their way to Texas ... they meet a young kid named Quinton.

He is sad. He is lost. He has no family ... nowhere to go. He feels like he is falling through the air all by himself. As he falls through the air ... Mike and Ruth catch him in their net.

"Quinton ---- come and stay with us."

The same thing happens down the road.

Sally is lost. She is also sick and alone. She feels like she is falling through the air all by herself.

She is afraid ... until she falls safely into Mike and Ruth's net.

"Sally ... be not afraid ... you can stay with us."

This keeps on happening ... kid after kid.

Ruth and Mike look at each other ----- WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?????

WE NOW HAVE 12 KIDS!@!!

When they get to Texas ... they find a small farm.

They build a house ... with lots of room ... full of love.

These kids are safe ... they are loved ... they are happy.

HEARTLAND CHILDREN'S HOME IS BORN.

God's love for us is like a big net.

We may feel alone ... forgotten ... sad ... sick ... afraid.

But God is always there.

And --- God needs places like HEARTLAND ... to do his loving work in the world.

God needs you, my friends. Each of you is like a net ... holding people who need some love in their lives. Would you like a net? ... your very own? ... to catch those who are falling ... and need to be reminded ----- there is a lot of GOOD out there in the world.

Part of that "good" is YOU.

Here is a net. And here is one of God's children who needs your love!!