**Nothing to Everything by Single Parent Director, Holly Crain**

As we got closer to the house, the sight and smell of smoke became apparent. My mind raced at what it could possibly be. I held my children back and ran for the door, and out poured more smoke.

Until that moment, I somehow had gotten to the point of thinking I had nothing. I thought everything had been taken away. Yet at that moment, I realized how much I had and had taken for granted. Night after night, I had a safe place to shelter my family. Day after day, we all had food to eat.

In those days of single parenthood, I learned many valuable lessons about reliance on the Lord as my protector and provider. He was constantly reminding me to open my eyes to see that:

• When the kitchen filled with smoke, He removed us from the home before smoke filled our lungs.

• When I looked at my rented house, I wondered why my landlord raised the rent; yet, month after month, He provided enough to get us through (every single time).

• When the seasons changed, and I needed clothes for my children, He would move in the hearts of others would bring bags full of really good hand-me-downs.

When I couldn't find the Lord, questions would permeate my mind like, "How am I supposed to make ends meet again this month?", "Will You provide again?" and "Have I already received my fair share?" But there were so many places that the Lord showed up day after day as my Protector and Provider.

The smoke came that day because I had left the stove on and forgotten it. Yet, on that day, our house was saved with barely even a hint of smoke. My eyes were opened, and my heart was filled with gratitude.

**Psalm 107:6-9 says,  6"Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. 7 He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle. 8 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, 9 for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.**

*If we have not met, I want you to know that my name is Holly, and I walked into this church 22 years ago with a 5yo daughter and a two-month-old son in tow. This church embraced me, but more importantly, the gospel and what God did in my life changed this ordinary girl forever! And I know He will do the same for you! He will! Enjoy the SPF ministry and the newsletter, and get excited about what God has in store for you and your children!*

Holly Crain, Single Parent Director

Holly.Crain@HoustonsFirst.org

713-957-7674