



Life Saver Ministries
83 Middlesex Street
N. Chelmsford, MA 01863
(978) 251-8191

December 2017/January 2018

Dear Life Savers,

Do you remember the movie *2001: A Space Odyssey*? It came out in 1968, predicting technology at the beginning of the next century. Well, 2001 came and went without most of that technology. In 2017, for Christmas, I received a *little bit* of that technology. Remember HAL, the talking computer? No, I didn't get Hal. I got Alexa. Hopefully, it won't try to kill me.

From what I hear, this little hockey puck thing can do some pretty marvelous stuff. I use it as an alarm clock. I say, "Alexa, wake me at 7 a.m." Alexa then says, "Alarm set for 7:30 a.m. tomorrow." At 7 the next morning, I hear a 2 tone beeping sound, and I groggily say, "Alexa, alarm off." The beeping stops. I can also say, "Alexa, snooze," and get 10 more minutes of rest. Even if that's all it does, it's pretty cool.

The second morning I had it, I woke up at 6:30 and couldn't, for the life of me, remember the name I was supposed to say to make the thing work. Ashley? Amanda? Annette? I lay there for about 10 minutes trying to remember the name and finally got up and hit the off button, before the beeping started and I couldn't stop it. Apparently, that wasn't the off button, because 20 minutes later Cathie yelled out, "Kevin, your Alexa thing is going off." Oh, right, Alexa. I went back to the bedroom and said the magic words to turn it off.

You can ask Alexa any question you might have, and get an immediate answer. I thought I'd give it a test with some random questions. I started with some easy ones.

How do you find the hypotenuse of a triangle? *The hypotenuse of a triangle is equal to the square root of the sum of the squares of the other two side lengths.* What's the square root of 2? *The square root of 2 is 1.41421356237.* How far is it from Boston to Houston? *Boston is 1,600 miles (2,580 kilometers) from Houston, as the crow flies.* What was the score of the 2017 Super Bowl? *In Super Bowl 51, The New England Patriots defeated the Atlanta Falcons in NRG Stadium in Huston, Texas by a score of 34 to 28.*

Not bad, Alexa. Let's try some more.

What day of the week was June 4th 1952? *June 4th 1952 was a Wednesday.* Why do birds migrate? *Here's what I found on the internet: Food scarcity/availability is the number one issue that predicts whether a species of birds will migrate.* What is the weather in Philadelphia? *Mostly cloudy and not as cold. Snow and ice late in the p.m. Untreated surfaces will be slippery.*

All very useful information. I think I'll get more personal.

Where am I located? *You are 0.95 miles (1.52 kilometers) northwest of the center of Tewksbury, Massachusetts.* Not even close. What is the definition of curmudgeon? *Curmudgeon means a crusty irascible cantankerous old person full of stubborn ideas.* She got me there. What is the phone number for Kevin Coffey in Groton MA? *Based on the zip code, the closest coffee is at Starbucks in Wilmington, MA. Phone number 978 658-2541.* Everyone has coffee jokes, and she still thinks I'm in Tewksbury.

Here are 2 of my favorite answers.

How many words are there in the Gettysburg Address? *President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in 1863 consisted of 272 words in 10 sentences.* How many letters are there in the Gettysburg Address? *Gettysburg Address's number of characters is 18.* Good one, Alexa.

Even though Alexa got 2 out of 3 of my personal questions wrong, her track record is pretty good; but she couldn't answer a few that I easily found on Google.

What was the score of the final Red Sox game of the 2017 season? *Sorry, I don't have that information.* How do you pasteurize milk? *Sorry, I'm not sure.* What does it cost to register a motorcycle in MA? *Sorry, I don't know.* At least she's apologetic about it.

I'm sure I'll discover more wonderful things Alexa can do, as time goes on and I ask an eleven-year-old how it works. In the meantime, I'll get up on time for work and have immediate answers to earthshattering questions that that arise, such as: What is 7,512 divided by 18? What's a good name for a dog? and What came first, the chicken or the egg?

2001 was 16 years ago. That doesn't seem possible. It was also the 10th anniversary of Life Saver Ministries and the 4th anniversary of My Father's House. December 2017 marked the 20th anniversary of My Father's House. That doesn't seem possible, either.

When I look back over all the years of this odyssey called Life Saver Ministries, I see faces. I see the faces of young women who look very nervous, and often frightened, as they come to their interviews and then move in with a bunch of strangers. They have a lot of unanswered questions about what living at My Father's House is like and what the future holds for them and their children.

After a while, I see these same faces, as they realize that God brought them to a place where they are loved and accepted for who they are, and that their dreams of a future for themselves and their children just might be attainable. The fear and anxiety in their faces is replaced by smiles and determination.

I see the faces of little children, many of whom have never had a stable home, readily accepting the love and caring of the staff and volunteers of My Father's House. I see them smiling and laughing and sleeping well, because they know they are safe and loved.

I see the faces of My Father's House Graduates, who have gone on to higher education, support themselves and their children with jobs that they worked hard to obtain, and in many cases are now happily married, who are fulfilling the dreams they once thought were impossible for them. I see the faces of their children, who are now of all ages including young adults, who have grown up in homes where they were loved and well cared for.

I see the faces of all the people who have made this ministry possible: the faces of the amazing staff who have been so faithful in caring for, and sharing their lives with the young families God brings to our door; the faces of the volunteers, who have freely given of their time to work with these young moms and their children, to baby sit, to provide transportation, to help with schoolwork, to be a friend when needed, to serve on our board, to mow our lawn, and do so many other things to make this ministry work; and I see the faces of all of you, who have financially supported us for these many years. You are all so vitally important to this work of the Lord. Cathie and I love and appreciate all of you so very much. God bless you all.

As our 20th year of My Father's House comes to a close, I want to thank everyone of you who were so generous in your Christmas and year-end giving. Your generosity, along with everyone's year-long faithfulness, not only enabled us to pay all of this year's bills, you gave us enough to make up last year's deficit, as well. We can now enter our 21st year without a deficit hanging over us.

I think back to my childhood. We didn't have much money, but my parents always made Christmas very special for my 3 sisters and me. They did their very best to give us the things we had in our letters to Santa. My birthday is in January. Being so close after Christmas, my parents didn't have a lot left over for my birthday presents. As a parent, I realize and appreciate just how much my parents sacrificed and gave me, with what little they had. But, as a kid, I felt gyped.

I mention this because, at the beginning of every year, donations drop off drastically. I know many are stretched tight this time of year. Believe me, I appreciate just how much you, our faithful supporters, sacrificially give of your limited funds. I don't feel *gyped*, by any means. I'm *very grateful*. The difficulty I face is that our bills don't drop off at the beginning of the year. In fact, they increase. As an example, it just cost us \$929 to fill our 2 oil tanks to keep our moms and children warm. In the first few months of the year, our bills are always much higher than donations. Please keep this in mind and help as you are able. Thank you for being there for us. God bless.

We are looking for a few new board members.
If you are interested, please email me at kcoffey@mfhouse.net.

Tickets are now on sale for our 4th Annual Comedy Show.
Seats are limited. Don't wait until the last minute.
You won't want to miss it.

Comedy Show
BIG LAUGHS
FOR
LITTLE LIVES
Friday, March 9



For Tickets: mfhouse.bpt.me

In His service,
Kevin
Kevin Coffey