



Hope Awaits

MINISTRIES

June 30th, 2022

Monthly Newsletter

But now thus says the Lord, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." (Isaiah 43:1)

Many of you have likely seen the series called "The Chosen." For those who have not, I highly recommend it. Each episode has a title, the first being "I Have Called You by Name." The above passage is repeated throughout the episode right through to the dramatic ending. The main character of this episode is Mary Magdalene who is portrayed as a woman of "ill repute" who is known by a different name. The critical moment begins with Jesus calling her by her given name, Mary. In the Gospel according to John, it is when Jesus calls her by name outside the empty tomb that she recognizes Him.

Recently, we had a young man come to Hope Awaits for an intake session. I cannot go into the details of his case, but for various reasons it was decided that it was not the right decision to accept him at this time. We explained this to him and we gave him some direction for what we thought were things he needed to do first. We told him that once he did those things that he was welcome to come back and we would gladly discuss his case again. He accepted what we said and carried on.

Since that time, we have seen him a few times coming to us looking for assistance with food and clothing. The second time he came back, one of the missionaries who was a part of the intake answered the door. When he did so, he said "Hello ____." He called him by name. This young man's face just opened up wide in startled surprise and he said "You remember my name!"

Many years ago, at an academic conference I heard a theologian from Latin America say 'The poor are those who have no name. They are the nameless amongst you, those of no importance, of no status, of no account. Our task is to get to know their names so that they are poor no more.'

I have come to see that each person who comes to Hope Awaits is called by God. Sometimes God calls them here for us to say "yes" to their request to come in, and sometimes it is for us to say "no." This is a mystery, yet I have seen the positive effects in people's lives in both instances. In either case, God calls them by name, and he calls us to know each of them by name.

When we spoke this young man's name to him, it was clear that there was power in doing so. He was somebody, at least to us. He knew we cared because we called him by his name. Mary recognized Jesus when He called her by name. I believe this young man recognized something important as well when we called him by name. What that is we do not know, but clearly he knew that we cared about him and that was surprising enough. I pray that this moment be the beginning of a turning in his life, just like Mary Magdalene, just like all of us when God called by us name, when we knew to whom we belonged.

Phillip
Shelter Care Worker



Glory be to God!

Our Vision

To see men filled with hope and transformed by the love, grace, and power of God.

Highlights

Clients

In May and June, we had 9 men reside at the shelter. Of the 9:

- Four men are still in the program
- One man moved into his own apartment
- Two men chose to leave the program
- Two men were asked to leave

Praise Report

Praise the Lord! Two of the men who are currently in the program are spiritually hungry! They have both been coming out to bible study on Tuesdays and Thursdays and have so many questions that bible study has gone past “lights out” each time. Staff have had the opportunity to share the gospel with both of these men!

In June we also had one man give his life to the Lord!

Client Story

Recently we had a past client return to Hope Awaits for an intake. For various reasons he was denied admission to the program. When the staff declined him entry to Hope Awaits this man become very upset to the point of threatening the staff, trying to keep staff from closing the front door so he could enter, and punching the front door. Thankfully no one was injured and the man did leave. This is a rare occurrence, but sadly from time to time incidents such as this do happen. Please continue to pray for our staff, volunteers and clients – for God’s protection, wisdom, and guidance.

How You Can Help

1. Donate Towards Our Care Packages

Every day people come to our door looing for a care package – this can include food, clothing, blankets, and toiletries. We average over 110 people a week who come to our door for a care package. Currently, we are in need of the following items for our care packages:

- Juice Boxes
- Cheese
- Sandwich Meat
- Fruit / Apple Sauce Cups
- Nutri-Grain Bars
- Disposable Bags

Donations can be dropped off daily from 6pm-9pm

2. Donate Towards Our Current Needs

At the shelter, we are currently in need of:

- Laundry Detergent
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Napkins
- Blankets
- Track Pants

3. Become a Volunteer

Your time and talents can make a big difference in the lives of homeless men, whether you volunteer directly with the clients or you volunteer behind the scenes. Every hour given makes a real difference in someone’s life.

For more information, visit our website:

www.hopeawaitsministries.com/volunteer

Glory be to God!