



1st Quarter 2023

Dear ,

Is it just me or is 2023 racing by at break neck speed? The rapid pace reminds me of the importance of making life count and pausing to reflect on what God has done. That is what this quarterly update is about...a time to pause, reflect, and thank God for His goodness and faithfulness. I hope that you find these letters encouraging as we simply could not do what we are doing without partners like you.

I wanted you to know about the nursing students that come each Thursday for our Outreach event. If you have been following then you know that each Thursday Cultivate Initiative brings in their shower truck and portable laundromat. Portland Rescue Mission comes with their Hope Van, and our Freedom team cooks lunch for our community. But did you know about the nursing students from Concordia University? They are awesome! We have many people around the church with little or no health care. These students along with their instructor are so full of love and compassion and it is such a joy to see how they respond to the needs that come through our door. Whether it is hygiene support, wound care, or some other issue, they are here; and they are a treasure.



A year and a half ago we launched our H2O (Hope to Overcome) recovery group. For many years it broke my heart to see people; many inside the church that were battling life controlling issues without the consistent support they desperately needed. Our H2O Tuesday group has help meet this important need! People are finding a place to belong, a place to be vulnerable, and a place to find the power of Christ to help them walk in their recovery.

Many of you know that my hobby is Whitewater Rafting. It's interesting how God is using this "hobby" to touch lives with His love. I am a part of a national organization called "Team River Runner". They seek to serve Vets, wounded, disabled, or otherwise by getting them out paddling on rivers. I serve the Portland Chapter. Recently we hosted an event for 25 veterans from 4 different states. We housed them for a week and took them on some of our favorite rivers. Our Freedom crew did all the cooking! I think that sometimes our relationship with Christ is better caught than taught. After a week of our freedom crew serving them, they caught that something is very different about these people who pour out there lives serving simply because the love of Christ compels them.



It's through the generous donations of partners like you that help make what we do possible. Thank you!

God Bless you! In Him, Pastor David



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