



VOL. 1 ISSUE 1 · SPRING 2022

Masterpiece

MINISTRIES OF ARKANSAS

A newsletter of the
Women's Transformation Home

But God...

BY BRENT FURR

Hello dear friends, I am writing you to inform you of where we've been, where we are, and where we are going. Let me start from the beginning. Back on one fateful afternoon driving home, I was listening to a Christian Radio Station that had two ladies at a Christian broadcasters meeting in California talking about joining with local bodies of Christ in Christ Centered drug and alcohol transformation. It peaked my interest, but the fact that they were broadcasting from California made me think, that there is no way they would be able to work with me and our church. But God is all knowing and had this plan in place when our church was built in the nineties and long before I ever stepped behind the pulpit. Come to find out the two women were from a Christ Centered Transformation Home for Women in Conway Arkansas known as The Harbor Home for Women, and were looking to join in the effort to help other churches and Christians to join the fight

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Fish Fry & Bake Sale Auction Fundraiser

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against this epidemic that has taken over and destroyed the lives, families, and communities of so many. They were a part of an organization that was born by an amazing former Pastor for over 40 years who had his own tragedies due to addiction in his family, and turned to bring the true freedom from addiction that is only found through a loving relationship with Christ Jesus. His name is Dr. Larry Pillow and his organization is WeCan Ministries, and it includes Christ centered transformation homes for men and women. I called the director of the Harbor Home the following Monday and the rest has been history. We began with a meeting at our church and our church members were on board from the very beginning. This isn't our church's ministry; this ministry belongs to our whole community. We then had a town hall meeting and had around 50 residents who were interested in also joining in this fight, and from that first meeting and several that ensued, we formed a start up team made up of different concerned and loving individuals who wanted to see freedom given to people trapped in addiction as well. It has now been a little over a two-year journey and to say that it has been a rollercoaster of highs and lows, is an understatement. Our first project as a startup team was to begin to get the word out throughout the community and other local churches and businesses to inform everyone what we were doing and of our vision. That was met with mixed returns, because of the stigma of addiction and the shattered lives and burnt bridges those trapped in it have left behind. Many people don't want anything to do with addicts and don't believe there is any hope for them. They have witnessed over and over the same individuals struggle to get clean and sober, but without lasting change. We have also been taught to believe from a worldly perspective, that there is no cure for addiction and that it is a disease that can only be controlled through right decisions, meetings, self-help, and medication. But WeCan has a different approach to addiction recovery, and we don't even use the word recovery, because true freedom from addiction isn't a recovery process. It is a complete transformation that is only found through a loving relationship with Christ Jesus! Jesus is recorded by John in his gospel account in John 8:36 as saying, "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you are free indeed." And Paul writes in Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." The difference with WeCan and Masterpiece Ministries of Arkansas compared to the normal view of addiction, is we stand on what scripture says

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Raised \$6,827

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED THIS FUNDRAISER WITH THEIR ATTENDANCE AND MONETARY GIFTS, SILENT AUCTION ITEMS, FOOD DONATIONS, LIVE AUCTION ITEMS AND VOLUNTEERING OF THEIR TIME TO SERVE! THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU!



about it, and how to cure it. Addiction is a consequence of the fallen sin nature of man. Addiction can only be cured through the power of the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit by identifying with Christ Jesus through faith in His death, burial, and resurrection! Ephesians 2:10 tells us, "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago." Secondly, as a startup team, we needed to find a facility in order to house the women who would come into our transformation program, because we are a one-year program broken up into two six-month phases. The first six months are about coming into complete freedom from addiction through Christ Jesus and being identified in Him alone. Phase two is about regaining their lost lives that addiction and sin has stolen through continued Christ centered curriculum, clearing their names in the court system, repairing broken relations with family and friends, and being able to return to the workforce a responsible, dependable, and productive member of their communities. We researched and visited several options and had one facility in the works, but it wasn't meant to be. And finally settled on taking a part of our church which was a big Fellowship Hall and dividing it up into bedrooms to house our residents. That is where we are now! We are currently in construction and have all the rooms framed, sheetrocked, painted, and are close to having them finished. We also have an area just off the bedrooms that is right now a patio but will be transformed into a shower/bathroom area for our women. And we have a trailer that attaches to our church which will house our Den Mother, who will live in the home and be responsible for watching over the home and women. The Transformation Home will also have an operations director who will be responsible for the day-to-day operations, itinerary, teaching of curriculum, job responsibilities etc. She will have a personal secretary that will assist in answering the phone and keeping the home well equipped with all the needed essentials in order to run smoothly and properly! All our staff will be believers in Christ as is our Board of Directors, and all volunteers who will help teach curriculum or play a part in this ministry in general. We have also rented a building in Mena, Arkansas that will house our ministry store. This will serve two purposes. It will not only provide a job for our women, but also it will help bring in funds to help support our home and get the word out about MMOA! But this will still not be enough. That is why you are receiving this newsletter today. We at MMOA are nothing more than a mission to addicts. And like any other mission, we need the support of the body of Christ! We are appealing to you to search your hearts and visit with your members to pray about how you could possibly help and join with us as we bring the Gospel of Christ Jesus to the least of these. If you have already joined in partnership with MMOA, then you have our most heartfelt gratitude, because we would not be where we are and where we are going without you! We have a projected date set for opening this year and will be having a "Housewarming Shower" to help bring in supplies that the women will need. We at Masterpiece Ministries of Arkansas can't thank each of you enough and for the time in reading this newsletter! I hope if you may have any questions, you will feel free to contact us. You may reach us on our Facebook page at Masterpiece Ministries of Arkansas or on our website www.mmoar.org



Progress on the Women's Home



God's Gracious Provision

BY DAVID ROUSE, TREASURER

Dear Friends of Masterpiece Ministries of Arkansas,
I am so glad to report that the Lord has continued to provide for our needs through the generous gifts of individuals, businesses, and churches. The first deposit of \$160.00 was made to our checking account on February 4, 2020. The balance of that account as of September 30, 2021, was \$32,630.85. Total deposits during that first eighteen months amounted to \$43,977.55. Our expenses over the same period were \$9,886.07.

Where did our funds come from? We held two fundraisers: BBQ and Yard Sale with proceeds totaling \$7,573.00, and a Fish Fry that earned \$6,482.00. The grand total for those two events was \$14,055.00. We have also received other donations large and small, some on a one-time basis and others monthly. Total donations of this sort since that initial deposit on February 4, 2020, are \$29,922.55. The fundraisers and donations together account for the \$43,977.55 mentioned above.

Regarding expenses, most are for the following: legal fees, cell phone, storage rental, publicity/postal, Redeemed Boutique rent, fundraising, furnishings, and a soil perk test. However, renovations to the residence have been by far the largest cost we've incurred. To date, the bedrooms are coming along, and we've started on the large bathroom which will also serve as a laundry room with washers and dryers. We have beds, mattresses, and pillows ready to go in a storage building that was donated to us.

The Redeemed Boutique represents another significant step forward and came about when we accepted an offer to rent space in Mena for \$300 a month. The Boutique will be a nice resale store which will also provide another source of income once it's up and running.

Unlike our income and expenses which we're able to account for very accurately, we haven't tried to track the hours our volunteers have donated, but they are considerable and translate into a significant savings financially. Also, our volunteer's hard work has helped keep us on track to reach our goal of opening a Christ-centered transformation home for women. Therefore, despite all the challenges, we've kept moving forward, sometimes slowed down but never stopped.

And speaking of challenges, our original opening date was projected to be August 31, 2021, but with delays caused by COVID and septic tank problems, we've had to push that back. Please pray that we'll be able to open this year. We've already been contacted by addicts and/or their family members, all seeking help to throw off the bondage of addiction.

Finally, to all of you who have donated money and/or time, thank you! You have made sacrifices to help us help others. Praise God and again, thank you! Blessings!

D.O.T.S. Trip

Monica, Trinna and Candace had an opportunity to travel to Daughters of the Other Side last May to tour their Women's Home. Founder and Director, Sharon Hughes and her staff gave the ladies the grand tour and were so hospitable. They were in the middle of their major fundraising event as well as surprise guests from The Whosoever's group comprised of Sonny Sandoval from the popular Christian metal band P.O.D., Brian "Head" Welch, former guitarist of the nu metal band Korn and others.

The ladies heard wonderful testimonies from the women living at the home, saw the daily operation and returned with a wealth of helpful information to get our home ready for our first resident.



"I prayed for this life."

Monica Bridges

We are a Christ Centered Transformation Home located in Pencil Bluff, Arkansas

Partner with us to change lives and restore families!

Your support and donations will enable us to help women who want to break free from addiction. Your generous donation will fund our mission and women's transformation home. You can make a one-time donation or become a monthly donor.

All donations are tax deductible.

GIVE ONLINE AT WWW.MMOAR.ORG

CONTACT US:

WWW.MMOAR.ORG

OR WWW.MASTERPIECEMINISTRIESAR.ORG

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Recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Hope & Freedom in Christ

BLESSED TO SERVE

My name is Monica Bridges and I'm the Vice President of MMOA. First, I just want to thank God for never giving up on me. Without His grace I wouldn't be here today. He has opened so many doors these past few years. Looking back to five years ago I would have never thought this would be my life. My passion in life is to help women find hope in Christ. Meeting them wherever they might be in life and helping them find resources and worth again. I get messages, mail, phone calls every week sometimes more often. Through my own recovery I have gained some pretty special people as friends who are always a phone call away. Together we have helped women and a few men to get the help they so desperately needed by referring them to Christ-centered transformation homes in Arkansas. I've also been able to help a few women from Oklahoma and one woman from Texas. MMOA has provided Montgomery County inmates with faith-based books and Bibles as well as visits and phone calls and Thanksgiving food baskets. Also, I had the privilege to work beside WaySeekers Ministry and the wonderful founder, Amy. My husband and son, along with my mother-in-law's kids have been a big part in the process of MMOA when it was only a prayer. I'm so very blessed to be a part of this ministry. I look forward to getting open and lovingly helping women find freedom in Jesus Christ!

REDEEMED + RESTORED = TRANSFORMED LIVES



Redeemed BOUTIQUE

We are excited to announce our new ministry store located on Highway 71 North in Mena next to Arvest Bank. We plan to open in late Spring. The store is in the green building that joins Mountain Pawn & Gun. It will be filled with nice gently used clothing, shoes, accessories, home decor, kitchenware, toys and more, including wooden furniture and crafts made by women in our home. STAY TUNNED!



Our first Tent Sale fundraiser was a HUGE success! We raised \$7,573.00! Thank you to everyone who supported!



2022 Events

ALL EVENTS TBA
CHECK WWW.MMOAR.ORG &
FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM PAGES
FOR DATES AND TIMES

Spring Tent Sale

Summer Fish Fry

Housewarming & Grand Opening

Fall Gala



Startup Team formed in 2019

In loving memory of
Morgan Paige Hopper

OCTOBER 14, 1992 - AUGUST 3, 2020

Morgan was a very important part of the founding of this ministry. She served as a member of our startup team and contributed to the early stages of our vision to help those trapped in addiction.

She helped us get to where we are today.
We miss her greatly and pray for her family.

