



Harken House  
Ministry

Lending a hand ...  
Not a hand out.

## Harken House Ministry

79 South Franklin Street  
Chambersburg, PA 17201

T: 717-552-2891

F: 717-251-3163

<http://www.hearkenhouse.org>

# PREMISE AND EXPECTATIONS as a GODLY RESTORATION HOME

## PREMISE:

Nothing happens by accident. We end up under the hand of the law because of our choices and responses to life. Lasting change and redemption will only come by quitting our own agenda and inviting God to take over our lives, listening to Him as children to their Father. Everything in our lives that gets ahead of God will drown out His still, quiet voice. If we get rid of all this noise in our head and heart, have a chance to hear God's voice and experience His change from the kingdom of darkness to becoming a citizen in the Kingdom of God. That is the purpose of Harken House: to help people serious about change to separate themselves from the noise within and without drowning out God's voice, and giving them an opportunity to rebuild a life directed and empowered by Him.

We are disciples of Jesus and we intend to disciple you, (Matt. 28:19-20) so we believe we are to teach you to "be followers of God as dear children" (Eph. 5:2). This is done first of all by being an example of how citizens of God's Kingdom live, and secondly, by teaching you how to live that way. For this reason, our expectations say, "as a ministry", meaning staff and residents alike. Following are some expectations to build a foundation upon the teachings of Jesus in practical ways for our lives and to chart a straight path for your life through this program. References are given below each expectation to point you to the Bible teachings we are trying to follow. These expectations will be a blessing to you if you view the teachings of Jesus as gifts given out of God's love, to call us from the treachery of our own ways to walk in the blessing of Holiness. Jesus said we must repent of our past life to receive God's power to enter His Kingdom and become holy like He is. As a ministry we are here to lead you and help you walk that journey!

## EXPECTATIONS:

**Accountability** - We all must submit to a body of believers (church brothers). We as a ministry submit to the brotherhood at Chambersburg Christian Fellowship. We ask that you submit to us as a ministry. (Eph. 4:11-14, I Pet. 5:5)

**Spiritual Nurture** - As a ministry, we believe we must participate in frequent fellowship with other Christians and feeding on God's word if we are going to grow in being like Jesus. You are expect to participate in daily personal quiet time, daily group devotional time at Harken House, any worship services/seminars/Bible studies or Fellowship meals scheduled by Harken House, and to fellowship with a local church at least on Sundays. (Psalm 1:1-3, 17:4, 119:9, Acts 2:42, Heb. 3:12-14, 10:24-25).

As staff, we attend a conservative Anabaptist church. You don't have to go to our church, but in this world of easy grace, you must comprehend that just uttering a prayer (as too many would have one believe that is all that is required to make you a Christian), is far short of what our King commands us to do to change our allegiance; from the kingdom of this world to the true Kingdom of God. We ask that you attend a church that practices Jesus' teachings (Bible teaching church) as shown in Matt 5-7.

**Respect for Each Other** - As a ministry, we will always treat you with respect. We expect the same in return toward everybody you encounter. (Luke 6:31, I Pet. 2:10).

As a ministry, we will not strike you or fight in any way. We expect you to observe the same standard toward others refraining from any form of physical violence while you are at Hearken House. (Matt. 5:43-45, 10:16, Luke 6:31, Rom. 12:19-28, Phil. 2:15). As a ministry we will speak kindly to and about everyone, even in correction. Verbal abuse or violence will not be permitted. As a ministry, we will not gossip about you or the reason why you are here. You are expected to show the same respect to the other residents of Hearken House. (Luke 6:31, Eph. 4:29-32, Col. 3:8).

**Honesty** - As a ministry, we will not steal or lie, but rather work so we have to share, and be purely honest in all our words and dealings. (Eph. 4:25,28, Col. 3:9, Rev. 21:27)

**Responsibility** - As a ministry, we believe we must work to eat. If you are on public assistance, we will find you something to do. Man is in his best condition when working. We will work to provide for our own needs and to contribute to society rather than being a liability to others. (Gen. 2:15, Eph. 4:25, I Thess. 4:11, II Thess. 3:10-12) .

If we owe someone money and do not pay it, we are stealing. As a ministry, we must pay all of our debts past and present. We may check your credit to promote this ideal. If you have debt, you must cooperate with us in making and following through with a repayment plan.

Part of your responsibility it to fulfill all of the stipulations of your parole or probation. We will have zero tolerance for not complying with these stipulations.

**Purity** - As a ministry, we want to live in purity in our hearts and actions, honoring God's design for sex to be exclusively between a man and woman in a true marriage and guarding our hearts against anything that could lead us to dishonor ourselves or others. While you are here as a single man, please abstain from lewd or immoral behavior (this includes pornographic or suggestive literature in any form and homosexuality). We are here to support you in this battle and fight together with you in areas where you are tempted! (I Cor. 6:9-11, Col. 3:5-10, I Thess. 4:1-8, Heb. 13:4).

As a ministry, and by Jesus' own words, we believe marriage is between one man and one woman for life, and that all subsequent unions while the first partner is living in adultery. Hence God's will is for reconciliation to the original partner God joined you to, or celibate separation. Please don't ask us to help repair a marriage that God does not condone. We would be happy to help you repair the relationships God has given you that have been estranged or destroyed. (Matt. 5:31-32, 19:3-12, Mark 10:2-12, Luke 16:18).

**Television** - Due to the content and influence of the overwhelming majority of television programming we will not watch secular television, movies, etc. while at Hearken House. (Ps. 101:3, Phil. 4:8, I John 2:16).

**Music** - As a ministry, we will not listen to many music styles such as rock, pop, R&B, rap, heavy metal, or secular country music because of the message being communicated in the music and lyrics. All music must have up building message both in music and lyrics and is subject to censure by the administrator. (Psalm 40:2-3, Eph. 4:29, 5:18-20)

**Substance abuse** - As a ministry, we refrain from the use of harmful or behavior altering substances including drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. We have zero tolerance for the use or possession of alcohol or drugs. If we have reason to question whether you are under the influence, we reserve the right to have you tested. If you have a tobacco addiction, we expect you to begin and follow through with our program to enable you to end it. If you have a

weakness in any of these areas, please be open about it. We are here to help you fight and overcome these things, not simply to be enforcers. (I Cor. 6:9-12, 19-20).

**Weapons** - As a ministry, we follow Jesus who suffered rather than harm another, and so we believe that firearms and knives (other than for food preparation) are not for self-defense, but to be used as tools for hunting and fishing. They are not to be brought into Hearken House at any time. If you are a felon on parole, or on probation, it is illegal for you to possess firearms. (Matt. 5:43-45, 10:16, Rom. 12:19-28, Phil. 2:15).

**To the person that has been referred to Hearken House Ministry:**

Hi, my name is Patrick Matthews, Administrator of Hearken House Ministry. What home I grew up with in the Philadelphia area was fragmented at best. Before I was in my teens I bombarded with rejection, violence, sexual perversion, and substance abuse. I chose to respond by being a tuff guy and drowning out my hurt with sex, alcohol, drugs, and violence. This led me down a path that destroyed my relationships and eventually landed me in prison. I had enough “silence” from these distractions to begin to hear God call me to his love and change. After I got out of prison God lead me to people who showed me His love and have been helping me discipline my life away from my destructive patterns and the world and toward godliness. The program of Hearken House is simply a compilation of the things that God has used to help me change. It’s not a walk in the park but it has changed me and will change you.

Again, I want you to know this is what it took for God to change me and now, through Hearken House Ministries, I want to make it available to you.

If you just finished the statement of do’s and don’ts, you might be thinking, “This is impossible!”

As a ministry we are looking those people who are done with the fruit of their lives and their efforts to change or compromise and now have come to the point of desperation and are willing to commit themselves to God’s way. In order to be ready for God’s help you will need to take the responsibility and the blame for the failures in your life. This program is not going to feel good to your ego. You will need to want change bad enough to divorce yourself from that ego of yours that keeps putting you behind bars, in a rehab, or on the streets, or at odds with everyone around you. Then you will be ready for the first step towards your recovery through the power of Jesus Christ because God resists the proud but gives grace- His presence and power to the humble! (I Pet. 5:5-7) I believe in second chances, so if you are done with yourself and ready to make changes your life, please fill out the application sign all documents, and send them back to:

**Hearken House Ministry**

79 South Franklin Street

Chambersburg, Pa 17201

or have your counselor email them to me at [patrick@hearkenhouse.org](mailto:patrick@hearkenhouse.org).

-Sincerely,  
Patrick M Matthews

---

I have read and agree to the above Premises and Expectations:

NAME (PRINTED): \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Suggested Outcome Goals**

- Taking personal responsibility for past actions.
- Establishing foundational concepts of Christian faith for grounding upon exit.
- Developing independent living skills.
- Services including coordination of basic needs (ID, medical, food).
- Achieving sustained continued abstinence from harmful behaviors through Christian fellowship.
- Participating in appropriate counseling.
- Maintaining a healthy support network.
- Avoiding negative influences.
- Developing personal financial responsibility through credit building.
- Maintaining a healthy daily routine for long term success.
- Opportunities to develop community relationships through volunteering.
- Compliance with court-ordered requirements.
- Obtaining employment.
- Obtaining permanent housing.
- Locating a Bible based church home.