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Helping the Hurting and the Homeless in the Name of Jesus Christ

June 2024

I just love the lyrics to the song, How Great is Our God: "The splendor of a King, clothed in majesty, let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice. He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide and trembles at His voice, trembles at His voice. How great is our God, sing with me, how great is our God, and all will see how great, how great is our God." The greatness and goodness of God have made such a huge impact on my life. I stand in awe of what He has done for our family. I am amazed at how our Lord continues to work through our staff to help those who come to the Norfolk Rescue Mission.

I wish I had "before and after pictures" of our newest group of Disciples. Through our Savior's love, their lives are taking a turn into a new direction. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone." (Isaiah 9:2)

We currently have four participants in our **New Life Program** and I want to share a little about each one. Our senior Disciple is a young lady who came so lost and had no idea who she was. She had lost her identity and was confused by what her flesh was telling her. The enemy had deceived her, and she began to believe those lies. She has been in discipleship for 6 months now and is growing into a beautiful young Christian lady.

We have a lady, straight out of prison, who had no confidence in herself or that she could even be successful on her own. She has reconnected with her family, attends church regularly, and has even joined their choir. She had been given much instruction in the Word as a child, and God is now bringing those lessons forward and helping her apply them to her heart, rather than simply store them in her head.

Another gal had come many times for meals and regularly promised to check-in, but would never commit. She has finally checked-in and has even now joined our discipleship program! When not in class, she spends almost all of her time working in landscaping and gardening on campus. She has made the Hope House so beautiful and welcoming with manicured beds and glorious flowers. She has passion in her work and is thriving as she turns her life around.

There is currently one male disciple who is regaining his health and is such a hard worker. He has been living in a game of tug-of-war (not as a player, but as the rope). Christ has been pulling him toward a new life, but his addiction has been pulling hard toward bondage. Please pray for him to surrender fully to the Lord and find lasting victory in Him.

These four individuals all have a different testimony but they have all made a commitment to walk out of their old lives and into **NEW LIFE**. This is all possible because of the goodness of God and it is awesome to see His grace and mercy in their lives. Total transformation has begun and it gives such purpose to why we do what we do.

He brought me out into a broad place; He rescued me, because He delighted in me. 2 Sam. 22:20 ESV

Ministry can get discouraging however because some who come don't want to be rescued. Our staff faithfully serves, like the sower in Jesus' parable, casting out the seed of the Gospel to all who come. Our prayer is that the shallow, rocky and weedy soils can one day be softened by the good news and receive the seed. We are encouraged by Paul's words, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28, NKJV). Please continue to pray for our Disciples and all our guests.

We are regularly seeing more and more people attending our meals. Our dining room ministry provides Christian hospitality three times a day and a Chapel message every evening. There are times that our shelves run low of various items, but God always faithfully provides. Our biggest needs right now are 45-gallon trash bags, drink mixes, disposable cups and dessert plates. Thank you for all the donations you give daily. We are off to a busy summer and it is so rewarding to head into this season with a stocked pantry.

We are always looking for volunteers to work in our donation shed; sorting incoming items, organizing and stocking shelves. We receive many bags of clothing daily that need to be sorted and displayed. Our Hope House dorm has a room that needs new flooring and the walls need painting. If you have a youth group who is looking for a project, we have several possibilities of where you can be plugged in; please call me and we can set up a time for you to come by.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12)

The **Annual Book Sale** will be held on **August 22-25, 2024** with setup beginning as of Monday, August 19th. There is a tremendous amount of labor needed to put on this amazing event. We need help hauling dozens of tables and hundreds of boxes of books. We need help setting up the sales floor and merchandising tables. We need help with carry-out services for big purchases, and we need a great amount of help with clean-up at the end. Please call Pastor Will to sign-up to help with this event.

Pray for our staff, as we remain faithful and vigilant in our ministry to share the Love of Jesus. We are few but mighty and the Goodness of God is so present in our daily lives, our families and our jobs.

In Jesus Name.

Kram Fr

Roxann Fox