



SUMMER OUTREACH AT GLENWOOD AVENUE PLAYGROUND

# Hope for Renewal

## Prayer Newsletter

*Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank God every time I remember You. In all my prayers for you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who has begun a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

REVEREND GARY KOERTH

Greetings Friends,  
With the New Year, Cindy and I and the Hope for Renewal Board have been evaluating and seeking God's voice as to the vision and plan that God has for us in the Idora Neighborhood. I want to share with you a Scripture that God has given to me as a glimpse of what God desires for us and our ministry.

### **II Corinthians 5: 17-20**

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

First, I am overwhelmed and praising God that He has made me a new creation in Christ and that He has taken on my sins to never hold them against me again. This is the foundation that I desire to hold close in my heart in this new year that is before us.

But this passage further challenges me of the mission that God has placed upon our hearts because of His great love and mercy through Christ. For because of the work of Christ in us we have now been given a ministry of reconciliation! Literally it says that Christ will work through us to proclaim the powerful message of Christ's love and forgiveness as though it were Christ Himself making the appeal through us. This is my prayer and challenge for myself and our ministry as we prepare for the ministry ahead of us this year.

### **Building Update!**

So much has happened since our last newsletter . . . A new roof, four new furnaces, five new doors, brick work

on the front window, security lights and security system, electrical upgrades and other work have been completed on the Hope for Renewal ministry center. Thank you to YNDC, C.S. Lewis Institute and the EPC Church family for their work days this year!

Although much has been accomplished we still have a long way to go. We will inform all of you of special workdays for specific jobs that will be scheduled to be done in the coming months. Still ahead will be new floor installation, plumbing, drywall work, painting, a new kitchen and bathroom in the upstairs apartment and design and building of bathrooms and a commercial kitchen downstairs. We would love to have you come and share in the ministry of rehabbing the ministry center.



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**Ministry Updates:**

The 2017 Summer Outreach Nights at the Glenwood Playground came to a close with our annual Fall Fun Fest on Oct 31<sup>st</sup>. Your incredible donations of candy helped provide 208 bags a candy for the children of the neighborhood. Although the temperature was in the 40-degree range we had over 200 children and adults come for a meal and activities and some candy and an incredible night of building community. Thank you so much for your help to make this night an incredible outreach that ended an awesome summer at the playground.

We also were able to provide ten Thanksgiving meals to families in the neighborhood and also to reach out to three families with a Christmas blessing for their children. Again, we thank everyone for their generosity and participation and prayers!



*Thanks to Nick's Welding for providing this great train for our Fall Fun Fest!*



*We fired-up the grill every Wednesday afternoon as long as the weather held, and made new friends with students as they got off the school bus, with neighborhood basketball players and with Idora residents.*



*Idora Friends*

## Prayer Requests

### Please Pray:

- As we seek to hear God's voice for the ministry vision for the spring as summer and beyond.
- As we continue to meet and ministry to families in the neighborhood.
- For open doors to share the Gospel message.

### Contact Hope for Renewal

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*Face painting fun for everyone!*