



GLENWOOD PLAYGROUND



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. Philippians 1:3-6

REV GARY KOERTH

Hope for Renewal seeks to serve, build relationships and share the love of Christ for those living in the Glenwood Corridor in Youngstown, Ohio.

Happy *is he* who *has* the God of Jacob for his help,
Whose hope *is* in the LORD his God,
⁶Who made heaven and earth,
The sea, and all that *is* in them;
Who keeps truth forever,
⁷Who executes justice for the oppressed,
Who gives food to the hungry.
The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners. Psalm 146:5-7

With the 4th of July just two weeks away I have been pondering the word *freedom*. We have all been blessed to live in a country that proclaims freedom and because of that we see many people who are desperately seeking many different kinds of freedom as they try to obtain joy and happiness. Although I observe the world pursuing freedom and happiness with great zeal and effort, true freedom has not been understood or grasped. Psalm 146 tells us that true happiness is found in those whose hope is in the Lord

their God. God holds and keeps the real truth. He administers truth and justice, and gives freedom to those whose are held captive. Ultimately, true freedom is freedom from the bondage of sin and knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Another truth of God's proclamation of setting the prisoners free is that, as followers of Jesus and having been set free from eternal prison ourselves, we are given the honor, privilege, and command to present the incredible message of the Gospel to set other prisoners free. This summer we are praying that God would use the ministry of Hope for Renewal to accomplish the mission of Christ – to set the prisoner free with the message of the Gospel of Christ.

Playground Summer Outreach Picnics: June - October

On June 5th we were scheduled to have our first of 22 picnics at the Glenwood Playground. We have always promised that, unless there is a tornado, we will be

at the playground serving hotdogs and spending time with our neighborhood family. The forecast that day was calling for thunderstorms around the area. Sure enough, most of the time we were at the playground we had rain and occasional thunder. The bad weather didn't stop the neighborhood from coming together to fellowship and share with one another though. About 25 kids and adults braved the weather and attended the picnic.


I sat talking with a young girl as we colored together. Our conversation turned to the topic of what heaven is like. She said, "I don't like to think about that because I don't want to go there yet." I asked her what she thought God looked like, and she said she thought He looked like me and another man there who had gray hair and a beard. When I asked her if she thought God was mean or loving, she answered in a peaceful, quiet voice, "Loving." At the end of our conversation, I told her how much God loved her.

There is a strong expectation in our hearts that we will have many more opportunities to proclaim the love of Christ to children and adults this summer through service and through the strong relationships of trust we are building. Our main desire is to show the love of Christ and to share the Gospel message to our neighborhood family. Please pray that would open many doors!

The second week at the playground was just as awesome, but with beautiful weather and enough adults and kids to eat 125 hotdogs. There were people of all ages all over the playground playing basketball and football, jumping rope, blowing bubbles, eating, and just sharing life together. Please pray for many more incredible times sharing Christ with our family.

Hope For Renewal Ministry Center on Glenwood Ave.

All of the building drawings and plans are in the hands of our architect waiting for a few final changes, and then they will be off to be approved by the City of Youngstown to obtain our building permit. We are hoping that the initial phase of plumbing installation will not be far behind. The café room ceiling has been repaired and primed, and the walls are primed and awaiting final coats of paint. Lights will follow soon as well as drywall work, floor sanding, and the final plumbing work in the kitchen and bathrooms. We will keep everyone updated as to the dates and times of upcoming work days to accomplish these jobs. We would be honored to have you join us!

 I want to extend a special thank you to Austintown Community Youth Group for spending several days painting, patching drywall, and helping to minister at the playground.

Youth Group Hard at Work . . .



A Job Well Done!



Thank you!

Again I want to thank all who have helped financially with the rehab process of the ministry center. There are still some major financial needs yet to be covered as we continue to work on the building and meet other needs in the community. Please consider helping in this way if you are led to do so. You can contact Gary by phone or email if you would like more information.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Final approval of plans, for ample finances and swift completion of remaining building projects.

For the people we meet and minister to – for God's will be done in their lives.

You are important partners in this ministry and we'd love to hear from you . . .



Contact Hope for Renewal

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