



HOPE FOR RENEWAL MINISTRY CENTER



## Prayer Newsletter

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

REV GARY KOERTH

### Gone Fishin'

*"I'm going out to fish," Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." John 21:3*

I am sure that on Easter morning, in some manner, we all proclaimed "He has risen, he has risen indeed. And as we should be, we were encouraged and celebrated our risen Lord. For the disciple's things were a little different. On Easter morning and during the days that followed the disciples witnessed the risen Jesus. They saw and talked with Him but things were still not on a good path. They were still struggling with how life was going to move forward. Especially Peter who had in his memory the denial that he knew Jesus and was one of His close followers. As the disciples were still together Peter announced, "I'm going out to fish" and the other disciples said, "We'll go with you." And so, they left for a fishing trip. A time to go back to what they knew. A time to just do something! Little did they know that a miracle was waiting for them.

As they fished all night, they caught nothing. Sound familiar? And then a voice from the shore called out, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No, they answered." He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some. When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish". And then John remembered! And said to Peter, "It is the Lord!"

He remembered that exact same miracle three years before when Jesus was with them and called them to follow Him and proclaimed, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." They remembered the miracle, call and mission proclaimed by Jesus for their future ministry. During this time do we remember the miracle call on our lives and the mission that He has called us to? "As soon as Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him and jumped into the water." I wonder what Peter was

thinking as he jumped out of the boat and swam to Jesus?

Was he thinking, "I remember Jesus called my name! I just have to get to Jesus!"

As a challenge, I would like to close with the words that our daughter sent us yesterday. *"I started to wonder how differently I would face each day if I remembered to long for more time and connection with God - to feel that ache of not wanting to end my meeting time with my Father. What if I remembered to cherish each precious minute with Him? We crave connection because He created us to be relational, starting first with Himself. How amazing it is that we can come before Him and fellowship with Him any time, any place. Quarantines and social distancing don't withhold Him from us. Remember to take hold of that beautiful gift and know that you never have to walk alone."*

**Hope For Renewal Ministry Center Update:**

In the last couple of months we have been moving forward with a number of projects. The rough plumbing is all but finished. We are waiting for the gas company to run a new 2" line in from the street. Hopefully that will happen soon. We plan to have the electric work completed as soon as possible. After that we can close in the walls and install the dropped ceiling. The Café/Ministry Room is in its final stages also.



On March 14<sup>th</sup> we were blessed to have a group from Bakerstown E.P.C come for a work day and finish the prep work on the kitchen, bathroom, hallway floors and start the tile installation. When that is finished we will be able to install the bathroom fixtures and some of the kitchen sinks.



Because of the Covid19 restrictions that was our last official work day. Hopefully in the next month or so we can resume work days. We would love to have any skilled and nonskilled workers come and help when the time is safe to do so.

*PICTURES FROM TILE WORK DAY*



**Bathroom tiled!**



**Hallway tiled!**

## Hope for Renewal Neighborhood Ministry

Like most of you, on the first three Sundays in March we worshiped usual. Now we video tape a message and post the link on YouTube. We also have a group text that goes on everyday inviting everyone to participate in discussion and encouragement. As of this week I sense that a lot of our group grows a bit weary. Please pray that God would meet them in their struggles. We also deliver lunch to each of our families every Sunday. We drop off the meal at their house and visit and pray in the driveway. We prayer walk as many days of the week as possible and when the weather cooperates. We had snow on the ground last week! We try to help as many as possible. We see and greet more people than we thought was possible when we walk the neighborhood. We have had a couple of people show up at our door that need food or in a crisis. We do our best to stay safe in these kinds of circumstances. We made a decision to buy some canned and boxed foods early in March that we have here at the house. It has enabled us to bless some people in need. I am amazed how easy it is to still proclaim the name of Jesus even through times that are so difficult. Like many of you we are a bit weary but for the most part still striving to live out the mission that God has given us.



## Summer of 2020

### Glenwood Ave. Playground Ministry:

Back in February I submitted our plan to the Parks and Recreation Department for approval for use of the playground for the summer and fall of 2020. Because of the unknowns for the future start up process we are unsure of when this ministry can start up again. Maybe July or even August, if at all. So, we are praying and thinking through other options so we could still reach out in a similar way to the neighborhood. Keep us in your prayer for this ministry

## Anticipating God's Provision

We are excited to see how God will supply the financial needs of Hope For Renewal in 2020. Would you please consider becoming a new supporter of Hope for Renewal either through a one-time gift or becoming a monthly or yearly supporter in 2020.

Gifts will be used towards the completion of the renovations at the Ministry Center and startup costs and continued support for the neighborhood ministries of Hope For Renewal.

A huge praise and thanks for those who have supported Hope For Renewal in the past and we pray you are led to continue your support in 2020.

Gifts may be sent to Gary Koerth at 2301 Volney Rd. Youngstown, Ohio 44511. Checks can be made to "Hope For Renewal"

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

## Contact Hope for Renewal

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