

HOPE HAVEN NEWS

SUMMER HORIZONS 2024

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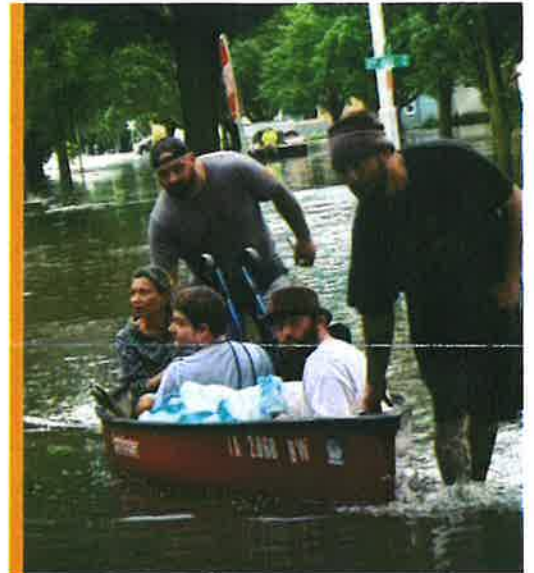


AFTER THE FLOOD

AN UPDATE FROM MATT BULEY | CEO

When the sun went down on June 21, 2024, there was no way to anticipate how much was about to change in the hours ahead. The rising waters all over our service region turned quite suddenly into historic flooding. The power of that water can be understood by witnessing the aftermath it left behind. It claimed the life of one of our employees, overpowered eight community living facilities that were home to 50 residents, three offices, the International Ministries wheelchair warehouse, and did significant damage to 48 employees' homes - 17 of which are a total loss.

Our employee who died, Kyle Kreykes, was nearing his 25-year anniversary at Double HH Manufacturing. No one can remember him missing a day of work. He could run about every machine we have. More than that, he was a son, a brother and an uncle.



It's stunning to write that and then say it could have been worse, but it could have been. In Rock Valley, one of our employees tells the story of escaping the flood with her husband, whose health meant they couldn't get out on foot. They drove in the dark of night towards higher ground, but the waters were rising too quickly. The engine stalled as water rose up the car door outside. She thought, "this is it, we won't make it." Defying all logic, somehow she got the engine going again. They resumed their journey - got a little further. A second time, the car quit. Turning the key must have felt like an exercise in futility, but by some miracle, it started again—long enough to get them out.



The floodwaters struck Spencer later that morning. In one part of town, we have two employees who live adjacent to a Hope Haven home. One across the street and one next door. When the rescue boats came, both said "no, don't stop here, pick up our residents first." They were standing on their roofs watching cars and all sorts of things float by when they spoke those words - the words of heroes.

Throughout the first weekend, our Community Living teams

were able to find alternative housing options for those who were displaced. Whispers of Love, Hope and Joy in Sioux Center called us and offered several housing units—the timing of construction lining up perfectly with our sudden need. We have also just finished building a new home in Spencer, which was not affected by the flood. We are purchasing another. We will continue to move from temporary housing into permanent housing, as we are able.



On the north portion of our main building in Rock Valley, once the waters subsided outside enough, we walked in to find the standing water that many of our neighbors saw in their homes and schools. When you see that water, and mere remnants of the business that was conducted there, it's hard to know where to begin. On our own, we couldn't do it. Then came the volunteers—by the hundreds. Hours freely given by the thousands. All the wheelchairs for Hope Haven International Ministries had to come out so they could be cleaned and the building could be stripped and cleaned, then they came back in. Some of our volunteers gutted properties within days so we can save them. Others tore down buildings and then hauled them away. We simply could not have gotten as far as we have already without them.



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In the aftermath, we have begun to smile at the words “silver linings.” We keep noticing them. Those volunteers who have come in droves. The church member who refused to leave an employee's basement full of river mud and ruined items. The task was not for the faint of heart, but he went and found more volunteers until the job was done. The Walmart employee who learned our Spiritual Support Manager worked at Hope Haven, told him he'd pray for us, then came back and said: “Just as the Rock River overflowed and caused much destruction, the River of God through the Holy Spirit will flow and cause alignment and restoration.” We have been surrounded by the power of community and the power of God.

We acknowledge a truth these days: just because a character in a story doesn't like the direction the plot is going, that doesn't mean there isn't an author. We have an author in the Lord our God. He is perfect, He is perfecting us, and we trust him. There is no floodwater that can overwhelm Him. We grieve and shed tears, and we hold to Him and to each other. Hope Haven is strong, and as so many other believers have learned before us: in suffering we are made stronger.

Rock Valley Main Building & International Ministries Warehouse

- Offices in the north part of the building had 10-12 inches of water and can be refurbished.
- The south part of the facility did not have any water damage.
- 2.5 feet of water in 30,000 sq ft warehouse which contains 2,081 wheelchairs (975 refurb and 1,106 pediatric kidchairs, many of these are salvageable.
- Estimated damage to wheelchair and parts inventory: \$250,000 to \$350,000.

Rock Valley

- (2) 12-bedroom units – both total loss.
- 5-bedroom home – total loss.
- 4-bedroom home which we had to evacuate, but it is currently being repaired.
- 32 residents had to be evacuated. Some are now in the Whispers of Love, Hope and Joy in Sioux Center, some in other apartments and available spaces in Rock Valley.
- 4 vans and 1 maintenance truck – total loss.

Spencer

- 4 residential homes were evacuated with 18 residents in total. Some were emergency evacuations by boat, staff and residents wading through waist deep water. 2 of those homes will be a total loss. Some of these folks went to stay with family, and the rest are staying in available beds in our other group homes in the area.
- Office building on Grand Ave total loss. Approximately 2.5 feet of water throughout.
- 4 vans – total loss.

Sheldon

- Offices in the basement of Peoples Bank were flooded.
- Housing totals: 50 units affected and 38 will not be salvageable.



CENTER of HOPE

August 2024

Center of Hope Newsletter

Sowing Seeds of God's Love...Physically and Spiritually

Flooded by Adam Hofer



As the rain fell, I could see the water rise. After hours and days fighting the water, there were times when I felt hopeless as if my efforts were of no use because the water kept coming. However, after dealing with the water for a week, the crisis was over. All I feel now is gratitude for the help I received. Yet, when I was going through the crisis, I was flooded with emotions, and I was confronted with a simple truth:

We all experience floods.

Recently, I brought a homeless man to the DMV to get an ID. Like so many others, this man would need an ID to be considered for employment, even at temp agencies. From our perspective, the solution is simple: Get an ID! However, this man had internal floods, thoughts and worries, building up in his mind. How am I to get to the DMV from the homeless shelter without transportation? If I get an ID, will someone steal it again? How am I to pay for the ID? Should I even

try anymore? As I drove him the fifteen minutes to the DMV, I could not help but think how long it would have taken him on his own. When we walked into the DMV, we waited in a line. After getting our service number, he needed to fill out an ID application. As he looked at the application, I could tell he was getting frustrated, and yet again, he was flooded with emotion and was noticeably angry. I asked him what was wrong. He told me that he was unable to see the application because he lost his glasses. Yet again, another "flood." And when I read off the questions, he was unable to think straight due to lack of sleep. We handled it together. Within 40 minutes, he spoke with a DMV worker and faced additional challenges. All that mattered was we left the DMV with an ID and found our way back to the homeless shelter. What took us an hour would have taken him half a day! Unfortunately, the ID was one of many hurdles for him to overcome to climb out of poverty, which often puts him in a

state of hopelessness. The waters of life keep coming!

The reality is many in our community live with continual internal floods that make them wonder if the waters will ever stop rising. Maybe they experienced trauma as a youth and are continually flooded with thoughts of distrust. Maybe a felony charge left them in a state of fear for what the future may *not* bring. Maybe anxiety leaks into their mind and without ever being shown how to regulate their emotions in healthy ways, they are overwhelmed with it.

The question to consider is this:

Who or what do you cling to when floods come? Often if we aren't careful, we cling to the unhealthy. However, my hope is that you cling to God knowing full well that this flood will pass and that there is more to look forward to than the floods behind us or are currently facing. Unexpected floods like a stolen ID or a water-infested basement are nothing compared to the peace that God can bring! As we face our floods, cling to Him and reflect His love and kindness by helping others with their floods. I am thankful we have a God who walks alongside us through our floods. We are called to do likewise.

"Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings" - Psalms 61:1-4

HELP US HELP OTHERS



Clothing and Bicycle donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

1905 E 8th Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Clothing Ministry How does it work?

The Center of Hope exists to walk alongside people to promote physical and spiritual health, and ultimately change our community one life at a time. Part of our mission is to walk alongside our struggling brothers and sisters as they embark to get back on their feet from poverty. Clothing, for many of us, are items that are relatively easy to get. However, for many who are struggling financially, clothing costs make life difficult for themselves and their households. Our Clothing Ministry addresses this community need in two ways:

First, we offer free clothing through our Mercy Ministry program to individuals and families who are in crisis. Additional free clothing is available for those transitioning out of prison and struggling households. We understand that people fall within different stages of poverty alleviation (relief, rehabilitation, and development). For those who fall within the relief stage, providing free clothing is responsible and beneficial. Much of our clothing donations go through our Mercy Ministry program!

Second, we offer highly affordable clothing options for those who want to "stretch their dollar." We offer this service to give dignity to our guests for they earned it themselves. There is NO SHAME, just DIGNITY. Our prices are unbeatable (approx. 50% of most thrift store prices!). People often come for clothing. Yet, they leave with a friend for our Care Center pastors' offices are right in our Care Center with an open door policy!

So how can you help? DONATE CLOTHING AND WINTER GEAR!! We rely on your clothing donations as we care for our struggling brothers and sisters in Sioux Falls and beyond. We accept donations of clothing, winter gear, bicycles, backpacks for people transitioning out of prison, and hygiene items Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.

Let's Connect – Mission Moments, Pulpit Supplies, and MORE!

Out of our gratitude, we want you to know that we value our partnership in ministry. If you are a pastor, elder, or deacon of a church, do not hesitate to reach out to us if you need pulpit supply help or if you want us to update your congregation on what God has been doing at the Center of Hope. We would love to join you for worship! All for HIS glory and honor.

Mission:

The Center of Hope exists to walk alongside people, to bring spiritual and physical health, and ultimately to change the community one life at a time.

Vision:

The Center of Hope encourages and mentors people with the hope of redemption through Jesus Christ. Our focus is holistically addressing physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of individual that can only come through creating relationship and accountability. We work in partnership with community organizations to engage in a consistent and positive interaction with guests.

Principles:

1. All people are created in God's image.
2. Self sufficiency
3. Holistic Ministry
4. Reconciliation
5. Partnering to Serve

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Center of Hope appreciates the gifts In Memory of – Lillian Meints, Ferdinand Tilstra, and Marian Phelps

Your Gifts SPREADS HOPE:

Stock or Commodity Gifts—Talk to your financial advisor about gifting stocks and commodities to the Center of Hope.

Make it Double—Check with your employer to see if they will match your charitable contributions to the Center of Hope.

Be a Sustainer of Hope—A monthly gift will bring stability to individuals and families. Give online at: www.centerofhopesf.org

In-Kind Gifts—Winter clothing for all ages, adult and kids bikes.

Financial Update

Fiscal year runs from April to March, for the year 2024-25

April—To Date. Income
\$113,749.69

2023-24 Budget Need
\$409,672.04

Help us save on postage by receiving your newsletter electronically! Send your email address to info@centerofhopesf.org Also, please let us know if we need to update your mailing address.



Cornerstone Prison Church Newsletter

As you come to him, the living Stone - rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him - you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says:

"See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious **cornerstone**, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

1 Peter 2:4-6

September 2024

EXPANDING THE KINGDOM FROM THE INSIDE -OUT

"Living the Good Life"

Last weekend we held a special service in the visit room. It was a smaller gathering. Really just a handful of volunteers, a few guys and about a dozen of their family members. But as that group of about 25 people with no instruments and no sound system sang in the basement of a prison the praises rose and relationships were reinforced. Some of our guys don't see their families much, many of them have only sang with their spouses or the kids in their life a few times this decade. The opportunity to praise the Lord and hear his Word together is truly a gift to experience, even in the basement room of a prison set up for visits nearly 50 years ago without many real updates to the setting.

That evening we reflected on Titus three. There Paul had charged a young church leader working in a harsh environment to continue to guide people in fruitful living. There is a strong reminder that what really kept us locked down and enslaved was our pursuit of various vices, but that the loving kindness of Jesus has freed us to live a good life. We remembered together that our good works do not save us, but that they are a natural outcome of a life that has truly been made new in Jesus. This was a great opportunity to share with family members how a handful of our guys had led talks on being a New Creation at the Faith Fellowship Weekend the month before. We heard multiple testimonies of guys inside the prison who had an old life stuck in sin, an old life stuck in a prison cell, but then found a new life in Christ that has more joy, freedom, and wholeness than either of the earlier seasons of their lives. It is a beautiful thing when people devote themselves to doing good in a harsh place and put the transformative power of the Holy Spirit on display. Renewed individuals show the power of the resurrection and the possibility of a fruitful, good life even in a place where it would seem no spiritual fruit could grow. A couple of the amazing expressions of fruit growing in the prison have been times of prayer as we pray out individuals

who are completing their time with us. Twice this summer we got to take time in our worship service to have our leaders and mature Christians pray over guys they had encouraged, mentored, and disciplined. Individuals who may never leave the prison prayed boldly for the Holy Spirit to strengthen and sustain their brothers through the transition to life on the outside. It is a wonderful thing when we get to say goodbye to brothers knowing they have a new life marked by good works and God's strength as they go into a new chapter of life after their incarceration.

If you would like to come and experience a Cornerstone Prison Church worship service we can still accommodate groups and have many Friday afternoons available for groups to visit us in the fall. Whether in person, or through prayer be encouraged to join us in celebrating the good life God gives, by devotion to good works and intentionally distancing ourselves from that which kept us enslaved to worldly passions.

Pastor Scott

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Give your gifts to Cornerstone Prison Church

Enclosed is a \$ _____ gift for Cornerstone Prison church

Please use for () General Fund () Bibles & Materials () Cornerstone Barnabas

Name: _____ Email _____
Address: _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Please make checks payable to *Cornerstone Prison Church*

Donations are tax deductible.

Donations can be sent to:

Cornerstone Prison Church, c/o David Vande Kamp, Treasurer
801S. Gordon Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57104