

Family Fun Night!

Wednesday, July 24th

Boyden Centennial Park

5-8 pm

Grilled pork burgers from Siouxland Pork
Producers

SDSU Ice Cream Truck

Play games, eat ice cream, and have an
awesome summer evening!

Freewill Donation for Boyden Awana & Vacation Bible School



Sponsored by the Boyden Association of Churches



HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

Siouxland Habitat for Humanity is welcoming applications for its new Home Repair Program. The program is to help homeowners maintain their homes and keep their community thriving. This program offers needed home maintenance and repair to existing homeowners who meet income eligibility guidelines.

Seeking to put God's love into action. Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.



Projects for Consideration

The program's focus is exterior work and accessibility to preserve your home and your ability to live in the home.

Projects can include:

- Accessibility modifications like ramps, level handles, and door modifications
- Roof and porch repair/replacement
- Siding/soffit repair and painting
- Driveway and sidewalk repair
- Landscaping and tree trimming

We offer a hand-up, not a hand-out.

Eligibility Criteria

Do you think you or someone you know may qualify for Habitat's Home Repair Program? If so, here are some of the qualifications that will be considered.

Willingness to Partner



Families are required to complete a minimum of 8 hours of "sweat equity" (volunteer labor) by the completion of the repair project.

Demonstrated Need



A need for exterior home repair must be demonstrated in order to qualify for home repair.

Own Your Home



You must own your home and it must be your primary residence. You must also be current on your property taxes and your homeowner's insurance.

Income Level



To qualify, an applicant must fall within certain income parameters and be able to make affordable monthly payments.

Family Size	3/2024	Maximum
1 person		\$40,080
2 people		\$45,840
3 people		\$51,540
4 people		\$57,240
5 people		\$61,860
6 people		\$66,420
7 people		\$70,980
8 people		\$75,600

How Do I Apply?



712-255-6244



1150 TriView Ave., Sioux City, IA 51103



office@siouxlandhabitat.org



www.siouxlandhabitat.org



Slowed By A Load by Adam Hofer

A simple thing as a container of grease can open our eyes. A bold, middle-aged man once walked into the Center of Hope Bike Ministry rolling with him his black Kent bicycle, which like him saw better days. Yet, the bicycle was well-loved by this man because it was all that he had. In our initial conversation, I learned he biked to Sioux Falls from New York City and had been living on the streets for quite some time. He did not desire to live as most. Rather, he was perfectly content at that time to be a homeless traveler enjoying life on his bicycle. After a summer working with him on his bicycle and enjoying conversations about Jesus and life, he told me that he was going to start biking south to escape the winter months. He gave me a small container of grease to use on the bicycles we restore for guests. "Why give me this grease?" I asked, "You may need the grease in your travels." He replied, "The weight of the grease would slow me down." His response made me pause, and Paul's words in Philippians 3:13-14 rang true in my heart: **Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.** Often, the loads we carry, regardless of how small the load might be, slow our momentum in our pursuit of Christ.

Earlier in Philippians 3, Paul wrote that he counted everything as a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus (3:8). Everything else was dung to him. To describe his pursuit of Jesus, he

spoke in a language that the Philippians would have understood. He spoke as if he was a runner "straining" forward to win the prize, which was to know Jesus fully. The Philippians were quite familiar with the Olympian games. Hundreds of thousands of people every four years came together to



watch the best of the best compete against one another. The most anticipated event was the running race, which was one of the first events of the games. The name of the whole Olympics that year would be the name of the victor of that race. And Paul uses this language to describe the significance of knowing Christ!

As nonprofit pastors who meet with our guests one-on-one every day through our pastoral counseling program, we have found that one of the reasons why many of our guests struggle with a variety of forms of

poverty is that they carry with them a load they were not meant to carry. Maybe a death in the family led them to addiction on the streets. Maybe a trauma from their youth continually haunts them, crippling them in their adult lives. Maybe the shame and guilt of being an absent parent led them into isolation. Our hearts break for our brothers and sisters who feel trapped and hopeless because of the heavy loads they have accumulated over the years. Yet, we remind them that their identity is not in the brokenness of their pasts. Rather, their identity is ahead of them in Jesus! With Christ, reconciliation can happen! With Christ, healing will happen! With Christ, the loads we carry don't feel as heavy because you recognize that He hung on the cross with those loads heavy on His heart. When we recognize that reality, we can strain forward with intensity to Jesus for He and He alone paid it all for us to live life, not in our brokenness, but in Him.

Forgetting what lies behind means that every day is a fresh start. It means that we must focus on our present walk with Christ and not look back at our past brokenness. The pains of the past are no match to the fulfilling future you will have with Jesus.

Questions to consider: **How badly do you want to know Jesus? Are you "straining" forward in your pursuit of Jesus or are you always looking back at your past? What is slowing you down in your pursuit of Jesus? Are you keeping your eyes on the prize?**

Exciting Changes at the Center of Hope:

1. Expanded our open hours!! We are now open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.
2. Expanded the clothing options we offer in our Care Center to include more seasonal clothing items.
3. Increased services for those transitioning out of prison (e.g. increase clothing provisions for free clothing, resource backpacks, comprehensive felony-friendly landlord and employment lists, etc.)
4. Expanded our Mercy Ministry program to better provide free clothing for households in crisis and people transitioning out of prison.
5. Started an Interview Clothing program to provide professional clothing items for those facing unemployment to better their chances of obtaining employment.
6. Hired Brian Narcomey back to be our Outreach Coordinator/Pastor to become even more radical in our approach to share the Gospel in Sioux Falls and beyond!
7. Started a weekly Bible Study at Bishop Dudley Hospitality House. Pastor Brian will be leading the study, which will revolve around recovery and God's Word. In addition, Pastor Brian will have office space at the shelter following the bible study to meet with our brothers and sisters on the streets one-on-one to talk through their emotions, spiritual walk, recovery, and more!



Annual Breakfast Fundraiser—You are Invited!— Saturday, June 15— 8:00am-11:00am— First Christian Reformed Church

Start your Father's Day weekend with pancakes at First Christian Reformed Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota (2901 E 26th Street)! You are invited to our 3rd annual Breakfast Fundraiser! All proceeds will benefit Center of Hope ministries,

which includes the Center of Hope Free Evening Clinic, Geared-To-Empower Bike Ministry, Free Pastoral Counseling, Earn-Your-Way program, Clothing Ministry, and MORE! Our Breakfast Fundraiser will consist of a FREEWILL DONATION pancake breakfast, silent auction (in-person and online), door prizes, and inflatables for children. We would love to see you there!

Want to pray for our guests? Receive weekly prayer request emails by contacting Adam Hofer via email at adam@centerofhopesf.org!

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, Marian Phelps (Brett Rockvam's mother), Warren Lee Post, Dennis Ihnen, and Marlene Sinning.

Your Gifts Change Lives:

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

Financial Update

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

April—To Date. Income
\$52,942.14

2023-24 Budget Need
\$407,488.04

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.

New Roots Review

June 2024

Being the Odd-Man-Out by Fred Wilgenburg

I'm no John the Baptist, nor an Elijah, nor an Apostle Paul. While we are of the same family—of God, I have never been persecuted like those three biblical giants. However, I have felt like the “odd man out” at times, which John the Baptist experienced as one wearing camel’s hair and speaking a challenging message (Mark 1:3-8), which Elijah experienced as he felt alone, fleeing King Ahab, Jezebel, and their people (1 Kings 19:1-18), and which Paul experienced as his new siblings in Christ didn’t trust him, and the Jewish people wanted to kill him (Acts 9:19-31).

I am inspired by John the Baptist, Elijah, and the Apostle Paul, as well as others, who promote vital, but unpopular ideas and truths. Regarding what? I’ll get to that a few paragraphs below. During 2020, the year of Covid-19, were you amazed, as I was, by the science and medical communities? Facing a daunting pandemic, and with the whole world watching, they worked together as well as possible in developing vaccines in record-breaking time. That inspired me to study and research in getting better in my field—Gospel ministry; I pursued a DMin degree.

But what would be the focus of my DMin? Unlike a PhD or ThD, which are typically more academically rigorous, which usually take longer to achieve, and which produce more professor- and research-type of people, a DMin is focused on practical outcomes for ministry, and is more project-based. My DMin, which included doing numerous surveys, reading several books, giving presentations, and interviewing people, was all geared toward answering this question: *“As studies show that the influence of the Gospel is steadily declining in the US, what are the motivating factors for people, both believers and non-believers, to dialogue more at a spiritual level, including about the Gospel, and which need to be understood by Christian leaders to effectively encourage the common occurrence of Gospel conversations, therefore being cause for the Gospel to become increasingly influential?”* Here is a shorter version: *“What things motivate people of all backgrounds to dialogue at a spiritual level, and which should be understood by Christian leaders so they can encourage it to happen more?”* To me, that is super important, based on these troubling statistics: A) The “Religious None” group, including nothing-in-particulars, atheists, and agnostics, is now the largest religious group in the US, at 26%, recently edging out Evangelical Protestants who have held steady at 25% for the past 13 years (*Pew Research*). B) Eighty percent of those who attend church one or more times a month believe they have a personal responsibility to share their faith, but 61% have not told another person about how to become a Christian in the previous six months (*Lifeway Research*).

Back to the three biblical giants mentioned earlier.... John the Baptist preached about repenting of sin and seeking forgiveness. While many did and were baptized, we can imagine that the religious authorities did not appreciate this spiritual outlier. Ultimately, John called out the sin of Herod the tetrarch, and he was executed. Elijah confronted King Ahab as the nation of Israel—God’s people—had fallen so far from God that there were over 850 prophets for other gods. One hundred of the Lord’s prophets were hidden, or they would have been killed (1 Kings 18:13,19). The Apostle Paul was beaten, stoned, imprisoned, shipwrecked, and ultimately executed for bearing the truth of the Gospel (2 Corinthians 11:24-27). Standing on, and proclaiming truth, —>



**NEW ROOTS
MINISTRY**



Venky got his driver's license on his first try. When his wife comes from India in a few months, he wants us to help her.



(continued...) they were the odd-men-out. As I highlight those

Donations are always appreciated!
Gifts can be given through the mail, or through our website—
www.sfnnewroots.com/donate/

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Saint Francis in beginning what would soon be called “the miracle of the cornfields.” Dr. Mayo’s sons, Will and Charlie, along with other Catholic sisters, who served as nurses, then took it to a whole other level as they sensed their responsibility to improve health care in the US. They did innovative things for their day—traveling extensively to learn new surgical procedures, becoming a selfless training facility, putting patients first in everything, improving medical records of patients, collaboration of physicians of different specialties, and bringing pathology laboratories next to surgery rooms to quickly learn about the malignancy of tumors during cancer surgeries. Well before retirement, the Mayo brothers, seeing they and their families had enough money to live on by then, deeded the extra they had, along with future wages, to the world-renowned, non-profit Clinic.

As New Roots Ministry encourages and empowers the 60+ new American pastors and churches we work with, whose main struggle is often being spiritually relevant to their younger generations who are teased by their new American language and culture, so I encourage each of us blessed Jesus-followers to realize that “the ball is in our court.” We have terrific news, and an even better “Lord of the harvest” (Matthew 9:38), “whose got the whole world in His hands.” As we actively, thoughtfully share our Gospel more, instead of feeling intimidated on the sidelines, we as the Church can profoundly help turn things around in the world. Like John the Baptist, Elijah, and the Apostle Paul, like the science community facing Covid-19, and like the Mayo Clinic, let’s be fulfilled as “Christ’s ambassadors” (2 Cor. 5:20), and as “God’s workmanship” (Ephes. 2:10). The world is desperate for Good News, and for the Church’s vitality.

But how? If you are in the Sioux Falls region, consider joining us for Everyday-Ambassadors Practicum—sfnnewroots.com/our-ministries. (If you live elsewhere but may be interested, we’ll share our curriculum.) Consider hanging out with us, shopping in stores and visiting with the merchants who are of other faiths, which can be enlightening and fun. Consider being a volunteer driving trainer, and rub shoulders with kind, appreciative people of other faiths and backgrounds. (Or, consider starting this kind of program in your community.) If you have a few minutes, listen to podcast conversations that we put up on this webpage to get ideas for Gospel outreach—open.spotify.com/show/4WxAH1KgXGIX6Pm8nKwcXJ.

statistics mentioned earlier, I often feel like the odd-man-out. Many believers and pastors do not seem concerned, even somewhat indifferent; our daily lives are full enough, with little room for rubbing shoulders with those who may be lost, and our own congregational issues are already all-consuming. But, rearranging and reprioritizing our seemingly full “plates” will likely bring us helpful freshness and tasty spice.

I recently read *The Mayo Clinic: Faith, Hope, Science*. In Rochester, Minnesota, in 1883, Dr. William Worrall Mayo teamed up with Mother Alfred of the Sisters of

What is New Roots Ministry?
It’s “a springboard for new Americans & their churches.” This is done through workplace chaplaincy (we provide chaplaincy at Smithfield Foods & we train & place bilingual chaplains on commercial farms), through Timothy Leadership Training, through hosting special educational events, through empowering new American pastors, leaders, and their churches, through offering unique Service Opportunities—serve in, or visit, stores owned by new Americans, then hear their stories, through helping people navigate the American system and achieve their goals, like education, through driver training for new Americans, and through Everyday-Ambassadors Practicum.



It was fun sharing the pulpit at a church with Kedir & Tsegenesh, a married couple originally of Ethiopia. They were both the first Jesus-followers in their families, leaving Islam as young adults.



**YOU ARE MAKING
A WORLDWIDE
DIFFERENCE**



People are engaged in
God's Word



Christians are trained
to share God's Word



Churches are planted
around the world

People across Nepal and throughout the world are grateful for you and your support!

Share the Gospel with a World in Need

Right now, people around the world are finding hope in Jesus because of your generosity. Thank you. You're helping people in more than 50 countries to have the Bibles they so desperately crave. Whether it's war, poverty, or persecution, people everywhere are experiencing heartbreak. Yet, believers are persevering. They are spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ in their communities. And you're part of it.

Amid such hardships, people are hungry for the hope of Jesus. The Lord is growing His Church. Even in some of the most unexpected places, you are equipping Bible study leaders, church planters, and Bible-based Literacy teachers. Thank you for making an eternal difference around the world!

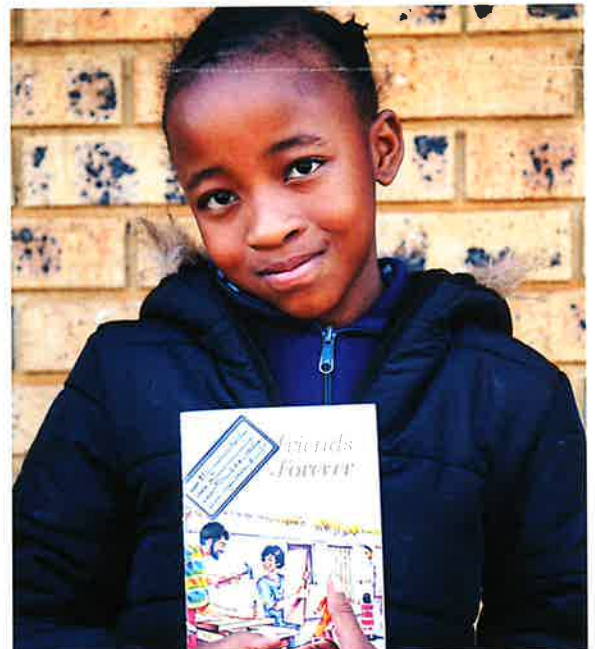
God's Word Transforms Lives and Communities

In many ways, when you meet Moloisane (pictured) she seems quiet and meek. But as soon as she speaks, it's clear she is wise beyond her nine years of life. She says boldly, "When I'm older, I want to be president."

This future president of South Africa calls the Orange Farm Township home, an informal settlement about 26 miles from Johannesburg. There, she's been studying God's Word through a Bible League Bible study for children at her school. Moloisane loves growing in faith and learning more about Jesus through God's Word. And she can't contain her excitement when she talks about the materials you're providing.

She gushes, "God is also the only hope we have in this world. If God wasn't here, life would be so difficult. So I love this book because it teaches me about the Word of God." Through her Bible study, she has learned to be more confident in herself and to love others.

Moloisane is grateful for you. She knows the materials and training you're helping to provide have the power to transform the next



Continued on next page

God's Word Transforms Lives *(continued)*

generation of South Africa and around the globe. She says confidently, "I think if we all had these Bible study booklets or a Bible, you know what kids would be like? They would behave well. This country would be a better place. I want the world to be a better place."

Though those living in Orange Farm face hopelessness like unemployment and poverty, this young girl has a much brighter future because of friends like you. Thank you for your faithful support. You're helping so many like Moloisane to know Jesus. You are a blessing!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Haiti is experiencing one of the worst crises in its history. Please pray for the people across this nation, especially those living in Port-au-Prince where nearly everything is paralyzed. Pray for Bible League's leaders who have had to flee their homes to save their lives.
- Praise God for the 200 prisoners in Ethiopia's Hossana Prison who recently completed Bible League's Bible study program. Pray for them to continue growing in faith.

Join Others in Making an Eternal Impact for Christ



When you join hands with the Bible League Volunteer Ambassadors to pray and provide Bibles and training, you bring the hope of Christ to communities worldwide. By God's grace and the power of His Word, each \$5 Bible you provide today has the power to transform a life. A family. A community. And as lives are transformed, God's Church will grow—on a global scale! You will help make disciples around the world, just as Jesus commands. Thank you!

More people in places like Ghana have a church in their community, thanks to you.

Faithfully serving more than 50 countries worldwide



Serving the under-resourced Church with Bibles and training to transform lives worldwide through God's Word.



**THE WORD
IN ACTION**
BIBLE LEAGUE PODCAST

Listen to *The Word in Action*—a podcast about how God's Word is transforming lives around the globe. You'll hear from people who are spreading the hope of Jesus each day. Explore new stories each month of how God is moving in the lives of kids, persecuted believers, church planters, and so many others.

Subscribe, listen to, and comment on your favorite podcast app, or tune in at: bibleleague.org/action-podcast