

The Storehouse

Issue No. 1 | July 23, 2021



Our partnering churches at work loading fresh fruit and vegetables for community distribution. Picture: *Members of Gates of Prayer.*

What is *The Storehouse*?

The Storehouse is a monthly newsletter dedicated to sharing the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ. The name "The Storehouse" derives from the scripture in Deuteronomy 28:12, "The Lord will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless every work of your hand; and you will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow."

**"THE LORD WILL
OPEN FOR YOU
HIS GOOD
STOREHOUSE..."**

**"...TO BLESS ALL
THE WORK OF
YOUR HAND;"**

Through our ministries, God has blessed us to be able to start weekly Bible Study classes, to host monthly AA meetings, to establish Thursday morning and evening devotional/ prayer time, to administer the Lord's Supper on a monthly basis, and establish a Prison Ministry which includes sending cards and correspondence to those that are incarcerated.

With this newsletter we aim to lend comfort, hope, and a helping hand to those in need. No matter who or where you are, we welcome you to The Storehouse.

**"...YOU SHALL
LEND TO MANY
NATIONS, BUT
NOT BORROW."**

-Deuteronomy 28:12

Our Ministries

The Gathering Place-Beyond the Walls, Inc

The Gathering Place's mission is to empower, elevate, and encourage, uplift the spirits of those who come in our presence and to give each person a reason to hope. It is said human beings can live for forty days without food, four days without water, and four minutes without air. But we cannot live for four seconds without hope. Hope is what we give through Jesus Christ.



Visitors from the Brookdale Warming Center leading worship.

Our motto is "Come-Grow-Go! Bringing Others". The ministry is not about Religion but Relationships, it is not about Coercion but an invitation for all who would like to come, it is not about Failures but Fellowship, it is not about our bondages, guilt or shame, but A Way to Freedom, it is not about False hope but An Everlasting Faith.



Our first baptismal candidate and our first couple married within the ministry.

The Gathering Place-Beyond the Walls, Inc ministers at two locations: Loaves and Fishes, a 501(c)3 ministry, and at Pruitthealth Senior Living Facility on Zebulon Road. At these locations, we provide weekly Bible Study, praise and worship, morning and evening prayer/devotions, and deliver a message of Hope, Encouragement, and Inspiration.

35 FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT, I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO DRINK, I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU INVITED ME IN,

36 I NEEDED CLOTHES AND YOU CLOTHED ME, I WAS SICK AND YOU LOOKED AFTER ME, I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU CAME TO VISIT ME.

-Matthew 25:35-36

Matthew 25: 35-36

Feeding the Hungry: *Physically and Spiritually*

This ministry focuses on feeding both spiritually and physically. Our efforts have been enabled by the partnerships newly formed and those in-place over the last years. More recently, with COVID coming and the impact it initially had and still has, we spearheaded a partnership with the Macon Rescue Mission and three other churches to provide over 250 boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables for a time period of about eight weeks; totaling about 2000 boxes. Some of the boxes were delivered to the homes of families who were unable to come and pick up boxes. This was a huge success! We also were called upon to be a part of a three person team to continue the services at Loaves and Fishes when COVID set in and other organizations made a decision not always due to there on but had to close. This three person team was tasked to maintain the level of services already established by the ministry. This included doing clients' laundry, providing groceries, taking in food donations (we were so blessed by the generous hearts of people), providing showers, preparing daily meals (this was an add on as we knew the needs of our client base). We added a small library as the local library closed due to COVID and we knew we had readers. Donations flooded in with books and magazines of all kinds. His resulted in over 100+ books. This was a blessing as COVID was/is both a mental as well as emotional stressor and for many reading was therapy. I also, implemented the "God Is Bigger" theme. We purchased bracelets and provided to over 100+ clients, donors, and staff as a reminder that God is Bigger than the battle they fighting whether Corona virus, financials, family, addictions, etc.. We also ensured as the Spiritual Advisor on staff that the gospel messages of hope, and encouragement was added to meals, groceries, and put in laundry bags when picked up. We introduced an evening devotional and prayer time-yes, during COVID maintaining the CDC precautions put in place.

The ministry started a Sunday and Tuesday Bible Study, Praise and Worship Prayer Time. On Sundays, we facilitate a Sunday Morning Walk In the Word. We have seen huge blessings coming out of these sessions. People maturing in the Word, people turning from just reading the Bible for information but for transformation! We have conducted over 75 sessions! We also facilitate a Tuesday Walk in the Word and again we have seen tremendous outpouring of God's mercy and grace.

We have conducted over 75 sessions here as well. With the precautions in place we are able to conduct Bible Study outdoors at Loaves and Fishes and we have been able to conduct over 40 Thursday Walk In the Word since we were given the go ahead to start ministering outside with CDC precautions enforced.

Spiritual Drink

We ensured our clients had both physical and spiritual drink. We supported the efforts of ensuring our clients had the basis essential such as water. We take it for granted that everyone has access to bottle/fountain water. Due to COVID many people, just needed at times a cool bottle or cup of water. This ministry made an effort to ensure water was put in the hands of those coming by the ministry. This resulted in over 300 bottles thus far put in the hands of those on the street, under bridges, abandoned warehouses, etc. We also ensured monthly that the Lord Supper was administered. We had people coming by on their way to work to participate in the Lord Supper for many of them their churches were closed and by us providing this service it continued that connection of "Do This In Remembrance" for them. We administered over 200+ sacrament cups. This includes the Senior Living facility as well.

Fellowship

We believe that fellowship is a critical piece of this ministry. We have hosted and sponsored several events i.e. "Yes, Jesus Loves You". This event was held at the Pruitthealth Senior Living on Zebulon. It was well attended and the residents were provided candies with "Jesus Love You" and balloons as well with the same inscription. We provided a message that coincided with the theme of the day as well. We have hosted several celebratory events downtown such as Loaves and Fishes Breast Cancer Walkathon honoring one of Loaves and Fishes past employees who succumbed to cancer. The message of the day was "What the "c" Word Cannot Do". We had a great turnout for this event culminating in lunch. Those participating were some without permanent shelter, others from surrounding senior living apartments, etc. The family of the deceased was in attendance. Testimonies were also a part of this service event. As a matter of fact each holiday is celebrated with a message coinciding with the holiday along with lunch. Over 150+ has been served during these special outreach services.

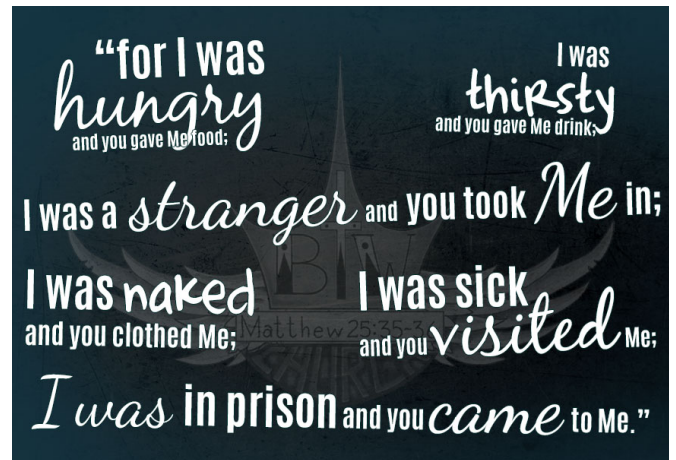
Matthew 25: 35-36 (cont.)

Clothing the Naked

We are so thankful to our friends and families over the years who have committed to supporting us in the area of clothing the naked. We have individuals who have donated over 50 pairs of men trousers and shirts, and belts, tee-shirts, shoes, suits, jackets, coats etc. These items were placed in the hands of the neediest persons. We have started a monthly give away of underwear, socks and T-shirts, hygiene items, etc. for men and women. We are providing over 50+items a month to those in need. We are finding new homes for those clothing items donated.

Visiting the Sick and Convalescent Homes

Prior to the onset of COVID, we visited our Senior Living facility at least once weekly. Our role there was to provide an uplifting praise and worship service along with an inspiring message of encouragement and comfort. Since COVID and the restrictions placed on Senior Living facilities, we have been able to continue providing messages of hope and food items for their recreational/game time. We not only minister to the residents but also to the caregivers at the center. Our visits to the hospital were also impacted by COVID but we packed LIFT bags and delivered to the hospital for those we knew. The LIFT bags included Bible, Daily Bread quarterly devotional booklets, card from the ministry, inspirational message, Psalm 23 bracelets, snacks, etc. Our lifts bags were provided to over 50 people. During the Easter season, we provided over 1500 items to 3 PruittHealth facilities. This was a blessing to show the power of love for so many from so few.



Scribe Ministry (Behind the Walls)

We must remember people in prison are still people, made in the image and likeness of God. No matter what they have done, they deserve the opportunity to hear the Word of God and find the Truth of the message of Christ. This ministry is intent on leaving no one behind even if they are behind the walls. We focus on a correspondence effort where we send cards, letters of encouragement on a monthly basis to those incarcerated. We ask family if they have someone incarcerated and they would like us to correspond with them they provide us the contact information and we immediately get a letter introducing ourselves to them. Thus far we have sent over 50+ cards. We have been able to assist the reentry of many back into the community. We are also a part of the Macon Reentry Coalition where the mission is to enhance public safety by reducing recidivism of returning citizens by continuing efforts to foster new partnerships through continued collaboration, communication and advocacy in partnership with federal, state and local agencies, faith-based organizations, other non-profits and private persons.

Testimonies

Word of the Month

perseverance

[pur-suh-veer-uhns]

steady persistence in a course of action, a purpose, a state, etc., especially in spite of difficulties, obstacles, or discouragement.



John "Kuk" Ogletree receiving the keys to his new apartment.

John "Kuk" Ogletree

Mr. Kuk as he loves to be called is an example of perseverance. I met Mr. Kuk about two years ago at Loaves and Fishes Ministry during one of our Bible Study session. Since that time he has been a faithful attendee and supporter. He always helps where needed; if it is passing out the Bible Study material, pencils, pens; Bibles Mr. Kuk is Johnny on the spot. He even comes early to ensure the room was set up prior to COVID.

However, one of the things Mr. Kuk would ask us to pray for was a place of his own again. Due to many turns of events in his life to include his wife passing away in his arms, he has had to battle his own challenges/crises. But it never left him, that he wanted his own place again. We set out on this journey together, with sometimes Mr. Kuk living in abandoned warehouses, under bridges, etc. But finally we were able to get his name on a local senior living apartment complex. His name remained on the waiting list for over a year. There was such a long waiting list. During that year + wait we were able to get Mr. Kuk in a month to month motel which got him off the streets into a renovated affordable room with running water, bed, and other amenities, etc. but we kept our eyes on the goal-permanent place of living. We received the call from the apartment complex and we jump for joy! But there was a waiting period because the apartment needed some work and the contractor hired to the work within weeks passed away. Yes, another waiting period. We continued to encourage Mr. Kuk don't throw in the towel; keep waiting this is going to come through. Well! There were delays upon delays but Mr. Kuk kept waiting with the attitude "I have a place to live". Yes, you guessed it...the day came when we got the call that said move in day is.....! We notified family in Kansas who we kept posted! We all were excited and once the word was shared with the ministry donations came flooding in everything from pots, pans, dishes, utensils to sheets, sofa, paper products, detergent, etc. Love was not just talked about but was demonstrated. Acts of kindness and compassion was the words of that day. As you can see in the picture, the day happened Mr.Kuk getting the keys to his new apartment. That day was nothing but praise! A man who overcame difficulties, obstacles and sometimes discouragement lives in his own place and cooks some delicious meals in his own kitchen, sleeps in his own bed; showers in his own showers and kicks back and enjoy his favorite television programs. Thank you Lord, for your many blessings!

Upcoming Events

Month of August

- 19th- AA Meeting
*651 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
(Loaves and Fishes)*
- 26th- Labor Day
Celebration
*651 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
(Loaves and Fishes)*
- Tuesdays- Walk in the
Word
7:00PM (EST)
6:00PM (CST)
*Study of Proverbs
(605)-475-4000
Access Number:224301*
- Thursdays- Walk in the
Word
9:00AM (EST) Morning
Devotional
10:00AM (EST)
3:00PM (EST) Evening
Devotional

- Sundays- Walk in the Word
10:00AM (EST)
9:00AM (CST)
*(605)-475-4000
Access Number:22430*



Thursday Walk in the Word at Loaves and Fishes.

Special Thanks to all who have donated their time, resources, and talents to ensure the Lord's work is accomplished through this ministry.