

December 2023

Garden Gleanings

A monthly publication of the Garden Community Church

Christmas Happenings

Christmas activities started before Thanksgiving with the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. The youth group shopped with money donated from church people and were able to pack 135 shoeboxes. A total of 164 shoeboxes from Garden were dedicated and donated on November 19. Continue to pray for the children who will receive the boxes and the message of Jesus.



The 3rd—6th grade Garden Kids had the opportunity to bless the residents of Hickory Homes with Christmas Carols on Wednesday night December 6th. The Garden Kids were also able to shop for their families at the Garden Kids Store, where they could use their GK Bucks that they had earned throughout the year to buy presents for their family.



More Christmas Events

56 people attended our Senior Adults Christmas Party on Thursday, November 30th. BK Barbeque and Catering provided our food of Grilled Chicken, Herbed Potatoes, Green Beans with Bacon, Dinner Rolls, and Mixed Berry Cobbler with Ice Cream for Dessert. An evening of visiting and singing several Christmas Carols was enjoyed by all. Marlo Becker's, Gary Huxman's, and David Janzen's were in charge of the planning.

The Youth Group had their annual Christmas Party on December 13 where they had Ginger Break house competitions.



There are more festivities to come...The Children and Adult Choir will be singing Sunday morning December 17 and the Adult Choir will be singing at our Annual Christmas Eve Service. Take the time to slow down and worship our Savior during this busy season of celebrating our Saviors birth. Merry Christmas!!

Bridal Shower

A come and go bridal shower was held in honor of Erin Miller on November 18 at the Backside of the church office. Erin & Preston are planning a January 20 wedding at Emmaus Church. Pray for Preston and Erin as they begin their lives together.



ADULT/CHILD PRAYER MINISTRY

Karlee Kohls—Art & Cindy Huxman/Steve & Mandi Crist

Art & Cindy—It has been fun to see Karlee's personality blossom and grow this year. We pray that she will blossom and grow in her love for the Lord.

Steve & Mandi—It's a blessing to pray for Karlee and her family. We pray for safety, protection and that she will grow in the knowledge of God her creator.



Abigail Quick—Mary Friesen/Theo & Joan Rempel

Mary—It has been my privilege to pray for Abigail as the Lord prompts me. I pray that she will give Him first place in her life as Lord and Saviour. May she continue to grow in her knowledge of Him.

Theo—Abigail, it's been a pleasure to pray for you and the rest of your family, as I observe you and your family I see how God is answering our prayer to bless you and keep you in His care.



Mia Baughman-White—Scot & Jenny Loyd

Scot & Jenny—We love the opportunity to pray specifically for Mia and her family. It has been such a joy to interact with her and get to know her better. Daily seeing Mia's sweet picture is a great reminder to lift her up as she navigates the challenges of each new day.



Eli Williams—Ron & Emily Sundquist

Ron & Emily—Eli's picture is on our fridge and reminds us to pray for him everyday. He is a good kid and he has a very unique childhood growing up in two different cultures. We pray he will grow in his relationship with the Lord.

Jaycee Sommerfeld—Carolyn Wohlgemuth/Julia Renich

Julia—It is a delight to pray for Jaycee. I pray that the Holy Spirit will draw her to Jesus and that she runs after Him in her life.

Carolyn—It has been a privilege to pray for Jaycee. She is such an ambitious busy little lady, I pray God will keep her safe and that she will grow to know Jesus and love Him early in her life. She is so bless to have such a loving family.

Sommerfelds—We have greatly enjoyed having prayer warriors for Jaycee. It's really neat to know there are people specifically praying for Jaycee Maye.



Vonnie's Views

This is my final installment about the prayer format I've recently used: ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, & Supplication). I printed the acronym on a single sheet which I fill out every Wednesday morning to pray for the coming week. The ACTS format is helping me to pray in a more focused way. This month I'll focus on Supplication.

Supplication is not a commonly used word in everyday language! What is it?

- The dictionary defined supplication as "the action of asking or begging for something earnestly or humbly."
- Strong's concordance identified the Hebrew word for supplication as *tachanun* which means "earnest prayer: entreaty, supplication."
- Strong's concordance identified the Greek word translated supplication as *deesis* which means "a petition: prayer, request, supplication."

My definition of supplication: bringing earnest, focused requests to God for the purpose of asking him to move in the situation we are concerned about. Or to put it very simply, supplication is a call to God for help.

What's the best way for me to present my problems, concerns, or needs to God? Do I suggest to God how I'd like to see them resolved? Is it best to simply mention them to God? To help me grow in my supplication, I've examined prayers recorded in the Bible—how did those people pray? What did they pray for when they presented concerns to God? How can I emulate them?

Jesus: In Hebrews we learn that Jesus prayed with deep emotion asking fervently to be spared from the cross. And his prayer was not answered in the way he asked. God heard his prayers and said "no" to Jesus and "yes" to our salvation. Jesus yielded to God's greater purposes. Because of that we have salvation and a Great High Priest who understands every human situation we face. From this I learn that I'm free to bring any request to God, and with deep emotion. I also learn submission to the will of God. *While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God. Even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. In this way, God qualified him as a perfect High Priest, and he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him. And God designated him to be a High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.* (Hebrews 5:7-10)

The persecuted church: Faced with prison and death, the early church pleaded with God: *And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus.* (Acts 4:29-30) They did not ask for the persecution to stop or for a new government that would be more sympathetic to Christianity. They asked for bold faithfulness go God for Kingdom advance.

The Apostle Paul: Paul recorded several of his prayers for the church in the epistles. These prayers are models of how to pray for deeper things for our brothers and sisters in Christ. *I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.* (Ephesians 3:16,18-19) Paul is not praying for a smooth life for them, he's praying that they will encounter God and access all the glorious, unlimited resources God has for believers! He prays that they would understand and experience the love of God so that they would be made complete and access God's power for living.


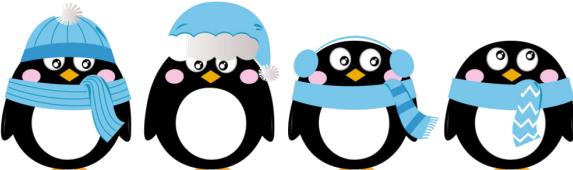
There are many prayers throughout the Old and New Testaments. These prayers guide us in our supplication. God is delighted to hear our requests. We have a God Who leans in and listens intently to our deepest desires. A God for whom nothing is impossible (Genesis 8:14; Luke 1:37) and who answers perfectly out of His sacrificial love for us (Romans 8:31-32)!

Hear my prayer, O LORD, give ear to my supplications: In thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness. Psalm 143:1 (NKJV)

JANUARY

Prayer Calendar and Memory Verse

Memory Verse: I Corinthians 6:19-20—Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 Pray the Holy Spirit would enable you to walk in purity before God.	2 Praise God for redeeming your life from sin, bondage and death.	3 Pray for hearts of gratitude - for the obvious and not so obvious blessings.	4 Pray for development of retreat center in Brazil.	5 Pray God's sustaining grace for caregivers.	6 Pray for Brazilian churches working towards their own church building.
7 Pray we leave church with a high exalted view of Almighty God.	8 Pray for the man who will come to be our next Pastor.	9 Pray the Holy Spirit would help you to stop and think before you speak.	10 Praise for the Wed night teachers in preparing the lessons.	11 Praise God that you have been forgiven - never lose the wonder of that.	12 Pray for Joe & Denise as they establish a new normal & new roles.	13 Pray God Himself is the light that lonely, hurting people find in the darkness.
14 Ask God to bring forth much fruit through the Sunday School classes.	15 Pray those on church board are led by Holy Spirit & not personal preferences.	16 Pray everyone who enters Café y Grace senses the presence of the Lord.	17 Pray the Holy Spirit would give you the words to share Jesus Christ with someone.	18 Praise God that you are warm and safe - then pray for those that aren't.	19 Pray for marriages that are in a hard place right now.	20 Pray the children of missionaries grow in their understanding of God.
21 Pray for young adults who are seeking to serve God with all their hearts & minds.	22 Pray the Holy Spirit would minister to the spirit of believers in nursing homes.	23 Pray Peter and Rachel know what to hang on to and what to release.	24 Pray for those faithfully fixing Wed. night meals to have joy in the service.	25 Pray the Holy Spirit opens your eyes to scripture you need to obey.	26 Praise God He has a better plan for us & our loved ones than we have for ourselves.	27 Ask God to show you what He wants of you in living a holy life.
28 Pray we each have a growing hunger for more of God's word.	29 Pray we are beneficial to each other & don't cause others to stumble.	30 Pray the Holy Spirit guides you in making all your decisions.	31 Pray for those listening to Harvest Radio & All Nations Radio.			

GUARACIABA NEWS

James and Angela's up-date

Celebration

Sandwiched between Thanksgiving and Christmas is this wonderful time of gratitude for all of God's blessings and the celebration of His coming to earth as a child for our redemption. What a joyful season!

His manifold blessings

-The men's meeting continues to bring maturity to their lives.

-The purchase of property for the Guaraciaba church.

-making good progress with the cabins at Point of View .

-God was really at work at the last prayer retreat.

-Married life has been a real blessing!

-Faithful team of financial and prayer supporters!

-the photo above is of those who went forward at the prayer retreat dedicating their lives to serving the Lord! Pray for courage, for each one.



Prayer Retreat

For months we had been planning and praying for the prayer retreat that was set for the first weekend in November. For our scriptural focus we had five studies on 2Chronicles 7:14 "If...My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Our prayer focus was then quite naturally based on this verse as well, humbling ourselves, seeking His face and confession of sins. We also usually have an evangelistic focus and this time it was the village of Bom Gosto where Lucas (James' nephew) and his wife Crislany do Bible reading with several families. We visited each of the 140 homes and gave them a Bible saying Lucas and Crislany were willing read it with them and orient them in their reading. They already have many requests for Bible reading and other reports of people reading on their own! Pray for the salvation of many.



December 2023

As we sit here at the computer thinking what can we share with you this year, the word "JOY" comes to mind. We have so much to be joyful/thankful for, let us share some of those things that have brought us joy.

MINISTRY

Our Church: It would be good to be able to say that our church continues to grow (That would be great JOY!); but that isn't true, at least in numbers. The Lord removed four individuals from our midst: in March He called Dallas home to heaven, and so his wife and son moved to Iowa City in June. Dallas was moderator of the church and his wife, Lisa, for years had been in charge of crafts for our vacation Bible School. Their son also helped in Daily Vacation Bible School (DVBS), as did Dallas. Linda also moved out of the area after the blind man she was caring for passed away as well. That hit our DVBS staff hard, but one of the ladies that has helped us the previous years had a knee replacement just before DVBS started, so she could not attend. That was 5 of our staff!!! BUT GOD IS FAITHFUL!! In April a new family of four walked through the church doors and have not missed a Sunday since! To add to the blessing, Angie said to Eloise that she is a "crafty" person and would be happy to take over the crafts for Bible School. A high school girl that used to come to Kids' Bible Club asked if she could come out and help, a lady that presently helps with one of the Kids' Bible Clubs said she would love to help, and the grandmother that came along with her grandkids was willing to help too. And two young ladies from church, both certified teachers, said they could help part time. YES, the Lord provided and we had a good DVBS the last week of June with an average attendance of 22. What a JOYFUL time. (We miss the migrant workers' children who have not been here the last couple of years.) We are thankful for the two couples, the two single older men, a single lady, and the family of four who are faithful in attending, so most Sundays we are 13 in attendance. **Pray we will continue to be faithful to Him.** We miss the children who used to come but haven't been back since summer break, pray that they will return.

Kids' Bible Clubs: These kids bring us so much JOY as they come to club each week. We were able to begin these again the first week of September, one on Mondays and the other on Tuesdays. The ladies who have helped us the last years, on Tuesdays, continue to be a vital part of our program, providing snacks and crafts. We have some new students this year. There are four faithful ones on Monday and they are joined with three others on Tuesdays. **Join us in praying for more kids to come.** Sure wish you could hear them sing, that would bring you great JOY.

Care Centers: We continue to go to the Care Center in town each Monday evening for a Bible study. We started out not having to wear masks but the last month we have had to put them back on. We go in to the Care Center about every six weeks to do the Sunday afternoon chapel service as well. We also go into Williamsburg, about 12 miles away, to do their Sunday afternoon chapel service every couple of months.

PERSONALLY

Health: We thank the Lord for the health that He has given us. Yes, we are aging and we can tell that. Last December Eloise spent a couple nights in the hospital while the doctors were trying to get her heart regulated – she was diagnosed with A-fib. We thank the Lord that it hasn't been causing any problems; however, in the process it was discovered that she has a hyperthyroid and we are trying to get that taken care of. What JOY we receive when the blood tests she had in early October came back normal, and the end of November the endocrinologist said "I'll see you in a year." The visit with the oncologist the middle of November brought JOY as she said "I'll see you in six months," all looks good. Edwin had a few cancerous spots removed from his skin, but his check-up in September said all was good.

Family: It was good to get together with all the Harder siblings in August. It was a short visit but extra special because there were two from the next generation present. One of my nephews was there with his wife and three-day old little girl. A great nephew was there with his wife as well!! The Harder family continues to grow as there were a couple of weddings and additional births, (not sure of the number for either). We have not gotten together with Edwin's sister who is in Oregon, but talk to her on the phone every so often and she is doing well.

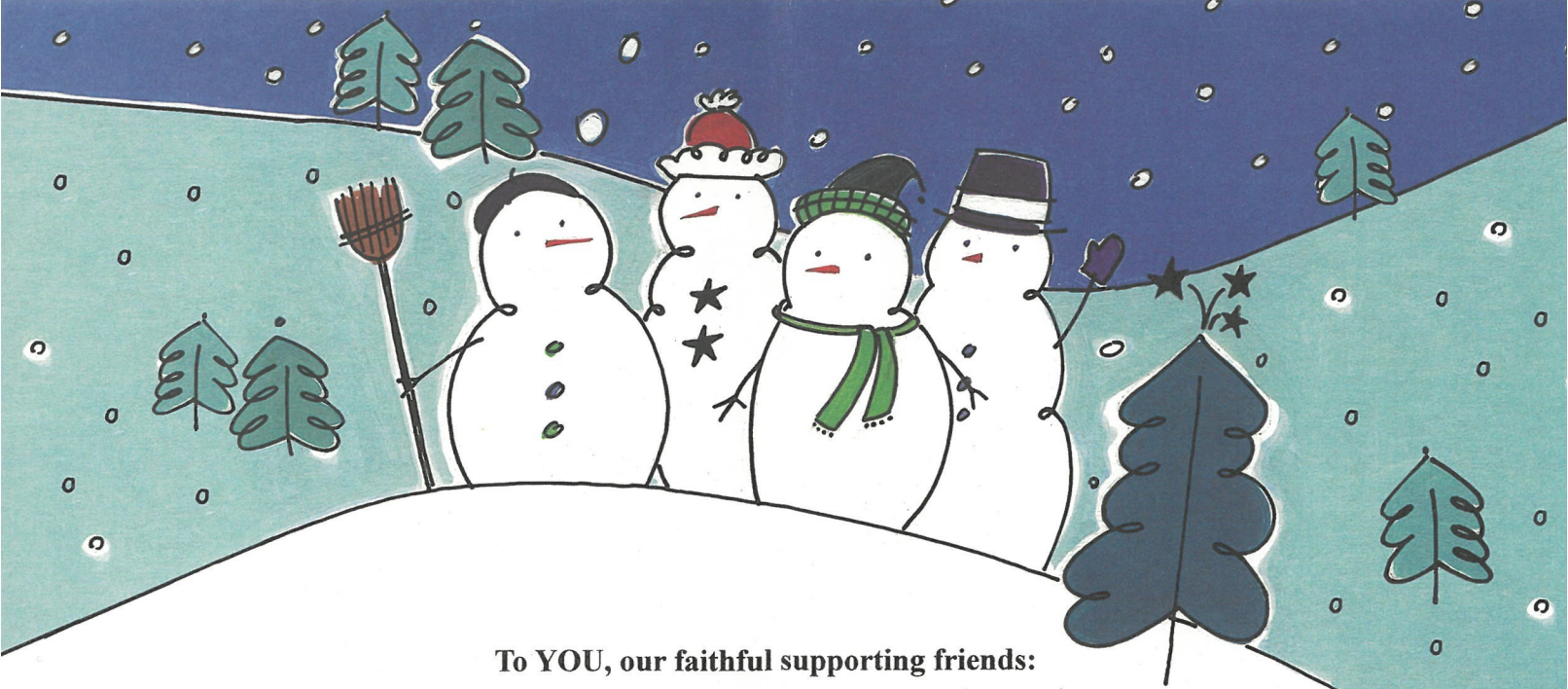
The Lord has opened opportunities to witness for Him in other ways. Edwin has been able to conduct a couple of funerals for people not connected with our church, one was even a Jewish one! The other night we were in a restaurant that we often go to, and as the waiter set our order on the table he said, "Before you pray, can I ask you to pray for something." He then shared about a "family situation." No, he wouldn't even profess to be a Christian. That same evening a gal that was sitting with her grandfather welcomed us in, she will frequently greet us when we meet her out in public. She asked Eloise if she knew that she was a senior in high school. Eloise said yes she did and then the girl asked if we still go to church. Eloise and Addi visited for a while and the conversation ended with Eloise getting Addi's mother's phone number and later in the week called her to see about Addi coming out to church. She has been out once, great JOY, but each week there has been a good reason for her not to come. **Pray with us that she will begin to come.** Mom said she, personally, used to go to church and knows that she should start going again. **Pray that maybe she will join Addi in coming out.** Dad is a truck driver and often out on the road.

We trust that as you look back over 2023 there will be many JOYFUL things that come to mind. Wishing you "exceeding great joy" as we celebrate the miracle of His birth and as we anticipate what the Lord will do in 2024.

Edwin & Eloise

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To YOU, our faithful supporting friends:

Here is a **BIG THANK YOU** for helping us in our ministry through R.H.M.A. Both in the way of prayer and also financially. Again, we thank you so very much.

How quickly things can change! Let me share a recent experience with you. Our Thanksgiving praise and fellowship service was such a blessing; especially for Connie and myself. Each person who attended took their turn, sharing a very recent and personal testimony. We just couldn't do this with a much larger group! Our church was a **HOUSE OF PRAISE!** Then.....in just a few days, our church would be a **HOUSE OF HURTING PEOPLE.** I won't go into the details but to say almost every one attending had some severe problems and were 'suffering people'.

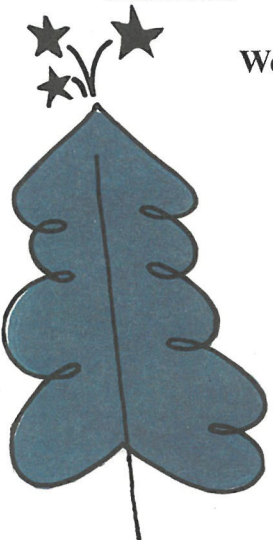
I had just started speaking from the Book of Philippians. You and I both know that it has as it's theme, **JOY** and **GLADNESS** and so much 'encouragement' What should I do? First, I moved a podium closer to our people. I asked our men on the board to be a part of a circle for a time of prayer. We prayed for each person and their special need. I did have a short time to bring some thoughts from Hebrews 12:1,2 and II Timothy 4:5-8 You might take a few minutes to read through these verses. It is almost one week later, as I write our letter. There has been several answers to our prayers already!

This is only a small part of this rural church ministry. It is plain for Connie and me to see just why the Lord has brought us to this area and this struggling church here in Southern Missouri!

We do wish YOU a very special Christmas holiday and blessed New Year.

Love in Christ Jesus,

Chuck & Connie Myers





*For unto you is born in the city of David
a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.*



*Let the miracle of Christmas
fill your heart with warmth and love*
*Thanks for the prayers & support from Garden
Church - We pray for you!*
*Chuck & Connie
Myers*



Merry Christmas

from New Hope Shelter

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

What a year it has been. As I think of 2023, the faces of all the people we have served go by—several hundred, each with their own story. Some of you interacted with some of them personally. Many of you supported us in one way or another during the year. We couldn't have done it without you.

We were all lulled into thinking that Covid was gone—completely. When we go to the grocery store, we don't see people with masks smiling at us with their eyes. In fact, Covid isn't gone. During the year we had several outbreaks. Fortunately, it was not like the original strains which were intense. While mild, we experienced disruption several times during the year.

On Friday, March 24th we broke ground on the new building at 308 South Meridian Road in Newton. In April dirt work started and it has been non-stop ever since. Hutton Construction and its subcontractors have done an awesome job.

I would also be remiss if I didn't mention our Staff. Through it all they have served diligently. I want to say a big thanks to them.

We Love You, Brian Bisbee

Some of You Have Asked ...

Last month I told the story of the man who walked 28 miles from McPherson so that he could find a place to stay at the New Hope Shelter. He is now working full-time at a Construction job and is progressing well.



You will not be getting too many more updates. We are packing and sorting on January 13th and moving on January 27th. Can You Believe That?

We need Packing Boxes. Please drop them off anytime. We will use them in our big move. Please pray for us in the process as it is a huge undertaking. Thanks.

DON'T LET THEM GO TO WAIST

Bring us your leftovers from that Holiday gathering, Business Lunch, Dinner, or Family Reunion. We will use them for our lunches. If you need more information, please call 316-283-7711

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your support of New Hope Shelter through in-kind gifts, your time as a volunteer, financially, in prayer and in so many other ways I have not mentioned over the years. We are indeed a place of healing and the restoration of Hope, and you have been a huge part of that.

A resident I will refer to as “J” came to us about three months ago. A relationship with an abusive boyfriend had crumbled. Her daughter was in foster care. She was jobless and destitute. She had been involved in criminal activity, was in the throes of addiction and had only one way to look from the bottom—and that was up.

She wrote this very insightful statement about the condition of her life, “Your placement here saved my life.” That is a role the New Hope Shelter, with your support, has played in the lives of many.

It is easy to cite statistics on how many people we have sheltered and how many meals we have served. We have those statistics. However, they mean little when compared to the desperate need we had to address in the life of J. She also wrote the following statement that was very direct and raw, “Don’t give up on me — I can do this.”

What has she achieved in the past three months?

- She is substance free and has a strong commitment to being so.
- She has sought the support of resources in the community like NA.
- She has spent hours experiencing the support of volunteers and staff.
- Visitation has been restored with her daughter and talks are taking place about restoring custody.
- She has gotten a full-time job. She works hard at a dirty job and comes home every day with a smile on her face.
- She has managed her money well and saved enough to get into her own place with her name on the lease.

We haven’t given up on her. Neither have you. It is only with your support that this amazing life change has taken place. J’s life has been saved and her Hope is being restored.

As the year ends and we prepare to move into our new building at 308 South Meridian in Newton, we need your help in finishing this year strong and in launching into next year. There are many more people like J who will be calling for help. Can we count on you to contribute by check or online through our website at www.newhope-shelter.org?

Thanks in advance for your help,
Brian Bisbee
brian@newhope-shelter.org

*Current
Needs
List*



Laundry Pods
Pine-Sol
All-Purpose Cleaner
Lysol Spray

Toilet Paper
Napkins
Paper Towels
Toilet Bowl Cleaner
Salad Dressings

Our mission at New Hope Shelter, Inc. is to provide a sanctuary for those experiencing homelessness in Harvey, Marion, McPherson and Butler counties by uniting the local church into a nurturing community which restores hope through a growing relationship with Christ.

It is through the love of Christ we share with those in need of hope.

Executive Director - Brian Bisbee
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