



Hope Awaits

MINISTRIES

Monthly Newsletter

January 3, 2014

GLORY BE TO GOD!

Board of Directors

Nicole Millage

705-494-5465

nicolemillage@hopeawaitsministries.com

Stephanie Burns

705-367-4202

stephanieburns@hopeawaitsministries.com

Michelle Bowman

705-987-3207

michellebowman@hopeawaitsministries.com

John Pace

705-386-2764

johnpace@hopeawaitsministries.com



Monthly Update

We hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Despite us all having some time off to spend with family over the holidays, there was still a lot that occurred in December. One of the most exciting events was that of receiving our Incorporation Papers. Although it had seemed like we had been waiting for a long time for our papers to come back, it actually took them just under 6 weeks. This may seem like a long time; however they told me that it would take 6 to 8 weeks, so we actually received them a bit earlier than expected. Another praise God moment through this was when I spoke to a gentleman on the phone about the papers. A gentleman from the government called me to inform me that there was a mistake on my papers. When I got this call I thought that they would send the papers back and we would have to start all over again. However, the gentleman actually offered to fix my mistake for me, and then granted us our incorporation status. Now that we have our incorporation status we officially have the name of our homeless shelter: Hope Awaits Ministries.

The next step we had to take after receiving our charitable papers was to send in our charitable paperwork. It has now been three weeks since those papers were sent

“THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES AND RECOVERING OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET AT LIBERTY THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, TO PROCLAIM THE YEAR OF THE LORD’S FAVOR.”

– LUKE 4:18-19

in, and we are continually praying that they will be approved quickly. The government says that it could take anywhere from two to six months for these papers to be returned to us. However, we know that they will be returned to us in God’s perfect timing!

During December we have also been preparing for our launch. We have continually been planning and preparing more documents that we will need in the future. Our business plan is being edited for the second time now, with each stage bringing us closer and closer to it finally being completed. We have been working on making our website and filling it with the content that is needed. Our mission statement and statement of faith are both in progress, and should be completed sometime in January. Also, now that we have our Incorporated status we have been looking at various bank’s that we could use. And will be opening a bank account in January.

One of the other exciting happenings in December was our getting another board member; John Pace. We knew John from the Salvation Army’s Café ministry on Sunday nights. He has a big heart for those in need and makes a good addition to our team.

Another answer to prayers was seen when I attended a housing and homelessness partnership board meeting in early December. At this meeting, one of the ladies from another service provider in North Bay told a story about how she has

nowhere to send men in need. The Crisis Centre is the only shelter that is open to men. However, due to the fact that they also house women and children at the same facility, there are many men whom they are not willing to take. On top of that, they also give preference to women and children. The fact that the other service providers not only recognize, but discuss the need of a men’s shelter is an answer to prayer. We had been praying that God would show the other service providers that there is a need for a men’s shelter; and clearly it is in their minds that what we are doing is needed within the community.

We want to thank you for your support and prayers for this ministry. They are greatly appreciated! God bless!

Meet Our Board Members



For those of you who don't know me, my name is Nicole Millage. About a year and a half ago I felt God calling me to open a Christian homeless shelter in North Bay. At that time I was just going into my fourth year of University. Although I knew this was what God wanted me to do with my life I didn't actually start working on this mission until this past summer. Since then so much has happened, I have a board of directors with individuals who are eager to help, we have become incorporated, and so much planning has been done. I have also gotten to know many of the people that we are going to be serving through the shelter. I am excited to see what God has in store for this shelter, and how He will change people's lives!



My name is Steph Burns, I'm 23 years old, happily married to my best friend Mark Burns and I work as an office administrator and youth director at Greenwood Baptist Church in North Bay Ontario. I'm originally from the North, Kapuskasing Ontario specifically. I moved to North Bay for university 5 years ago and fell in love with the city and its people and haven't been able to leave since. When I was in university, I worked part time at country style downtown and that's when I was first exposed to and made aware of the homeless and less fortunate in North Bay.

God laid such a burden on my heart for the homeless, addicted, and mentally ill and now it's been roughly 4 years that I've been investing in that population. I've organized and run countless homeless dinners and have volunteered a lot in serving them in many different ways with a variety of organizations in North Bay. I've seen God at work in so many of the individuals that we've been able to develop relationships with and I look forward to seeing what else God has in store. The more I go the more I realize how important the poor, needy, fatherless, and widows are to God our Father. The Bible teaches us so clearly that at least a portion of our faith's integrity is measured by our heart, care and concern for these people, which only motivates me

more in this whole project. This homeless shelter can seem like such a huge undertaking, but a good friend of mine reminded me that the only thing that is huge is God himself. He spoke the earth into existence, therefore bringing this homeless shelter to life is truly nothing for him. All he needs is an obedient group of people that are willing to follow him in whatever he asks. We want this homeless shelter to shine Christ's light to everyone, not only the homeless but to the city and individuals in it as well. I just want to thank all of you who have been continually supporting us and this project in prayer, there truly is nothing that could be more appreciated. I look forward to journeying this adventure together as we give glory to God! This is all so exciting and I cannot wait to see God at work amidst this population! And ultimately to see these people's lives transformed by the powerful truth of the gospel!

Glory to God!



My name is Michelle Bowman and I'm an avid hiker, outdoor enthusiast and forestry technician. Over the summer, God placed it on my heart to organize a community dinner. I enlisted Nicole's help to organize and oversee the preparations for the dinner. I don't recall how long it was after that when Nicole shared her vision with me about the Christian homeless shelter. I honestly did not know what I was getting myself into, but I was onboard right away. I truly believe that God places us in situations that we don't fully understand so that we look solely to Him for guidance; we are led to not depend on our own understanding. In time, God reveals His plan for us. For me, it was not until I stepped out in faith, knowing that God would give me the wisdom, the strength and the encouragement to go forward, that He began to reveal His plan for my life. It has been a life-changing and humbling journey so far and I look forward to seeing what God's plan is for the future.