



Hope Awaits

MINISTRIES

Monthly Newsletter

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GLORY BE TO GOD!

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Monthly Update

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Nicole Millage. Just over one year ago I felt God call 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 is what God wanted me to do with my life I felt scared, and a part of me didn't want to do it. However, even though I was scared, I knew that I had to do this, and that if I followed God's leading for my life it would be the best thing ever! So I followed God's leading and here I am, in the process of opening a Christian homeless shelter in North Bay.

Since this is my first newsletter I will recap everything that has gone on so far. At the beginning I went around to different service providers in North Bay that work with the homeless to see if they thought that North Bay was in need of a new shelter. Throughout this time I was continually praying that if this was God's will for my life that people would respond positively. God answered that prayer. Almost everyone that I talked to thought that this was a great idea, and that North Bay really needed this.

Now in University I took business administration, so you'd think that I would be all set for this. However, they never

‘FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD, I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME DRINK, I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME, I WAS NAKED AND YOU CLOTHED ME, I WAS SICK AND YOU VISITED ME, I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU CAME TO ME.’ THEN THE RIGHTEOUS WILL ANSWER HIM, SAYING, ‘LORD, WHEN DID WE SEE YOU HUNGRY AND FEED YOU, OR THIRSTY AND GIVE YOU DRINK? AND WHEN DID WE SEE YOU A STRANGER AND WELCOME YOU, OR NAKED AND CLOTHE YOU? AND WHEN DID WE SEE YOU SICK OR IN PRISON AND VISIT YOU?’ AND THE KING WILL ANSWER THEM, ‘TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, AS YOU DID IT TO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE MY BROTHERS, YOU DID IT TO ME.’

– MATTHEW 25:35-40

really teach you how to start your own business, especially a charitable business. So I had to do a lot of research to try and find out what exactly I had to do. During this phase I was praying that God would lead me to someone who could help me because I had no idea what I was doing. It was at that point that I found out that the city of North Bay has a free service to help people start their own businesses. I had a meeting with a lady there, and she pointed me in the right direction.

Through my research and meetings with people I determined that I should find people to join my team. I wanted people who not only loved God, but also had a passion to help those in need. Enter Michelle Bowman and Stephanie Burns. Now I have two young professionals on my Board of Directors that are not only willing, but wanting to help with this mission. These two ladies have been such a blessing from God as they help me stay on track, plan what the shelter will look like and how it will work. I am still in need of a few more people for the board, but I have no doubts that God will provide them.

For those of you who don't know, there is a lot of paperwork to do when starting a business, like a lot. One of the biggest things I have to write is our business plan. This is a document that provides all the information you'd ever need for your

business. Information such as how you're going to operate, how many employees you're going to have, your advertising and promotion methods, and much more. It is very difficult to plan out an entire business and how it's going to work when you haven't even started yet. But God is faithful and he is guiding us through it.

In September the three of us (Michelle, Stephanie and I) took a trip to Orillia and Toronto to visit two Christian homeless shelters. On this trip we gained a lot of information about how homeless shelters operate, and what kinds of things we should be thinking of. It is so great to see how God works. We visited two different shelters, and they each gave us completely different information. The shelter in Orillia gave us lots of information on operating a shelter, and what we'll have to consider once it's up and running. The shelter in Toronto gave us lots of information on starting a shelter, and things that we have to consider in the planning stages.

I have also had the opportunity to get into contact with most of the service providers in North Bay that work with the homeless or low income population. Through various correspondences I found out about, and was invited to attend the meetings of the Housing and Homelessness Partnership Board. Employees from many of the service providers in North Bay are part of

this board and attend these meetings on a regular basis. At the beginning of each meeting they go around the table and everyone introduces themselves and says what's going on with their business. As I was at these meetings I too got to share. So now they all know who I am and that I'm in the process of starting a Christian homeless shelter in North Bay.

One of the other big steps that have occurred this October is that we submitted our paperwork to be incorporated. That paperwork is now in the hands of the government. It is supposed to take them 6 to 8 weeks to get back to us about whether we're incorporated or not, but with God you never know. I could hear back anytime!

Stephanie, Michelle and I have also had the opportunity to get connected with the homeless and low income individuals of North Bay. We all regularly attend a dinner hosted by The Salvation Army for those in need. Every Sunday night that's where you can find us. At these dinners we strive not only to serve them their food, but also take the time to talk to them and get to know them. Building these relationships with them will greatly help us once the shelter is up and running.

For those of you who have never gone out and served the less fortunate I strongly encourage you to. They are all such wonderful individuals. They are so much fun and they love to talk to anyone who will listen. If you find somewhere where you can go and serve them in your city, believe me, you won't regret it!

There is still a lot of work ahead of me and my team; but when you look at the big picture it's not that much. I mean God

created the entire universe, a homeless shelter is nothing for him!

Thank you all for your prayers! God bless you,

Nicole Millage