



Hope Awaits MINISTRIES

October 12th, 2018

Monthly Newsletter

Hello Partners, Emily Gray here!

I'm currently serving as a missionary with Hope Awaits, and this month I've been given the privilege of sharing some of the experiences I've had thus far in the ministry. With this opportunity I would like to share two things that the Lord has been revealing to me and a significant prayer request of my own.

Firstly, God has opened my eyes to how truly blessed I am to have the community that I do in my own life, and how I've taken them for granted. A quick call from my parents to see how my week is going, prayer support from friends at church whenever it is needed etc. - you name it and the Lord provides someone at every turn to help me along the way. While the men we serve have temporal needs that we (along with other agencies) meet, it astounds me how much their lives are changed by the presence of community in their lives (it is how God designed us to live). Whether it is how we as a staff all care about them and are concerned for what is going on in their lives or the community of people that support the ministry through donation of time, money and food, (that includes all of you amazing partners) it all significantly and knowingly impacts the clients. In September we had a client arrive who had been

abused, disowned, and had lost everything he owned due to circumstances beyond his control - including his daughter, marriage, family home of 30 years and his business that he built. He had been working to rebuild his business and could not find safe, affordable housing but said that homelessness was not his greatest struggle; it was the emotional and spiritual trauma that he was working through after everything he had experienced. We could not get through the intake forms because he was so emotional about how we cared for him as he shared with us and that we were willing to walk alongside him through all of this. He said he has felt so alone for so long, the idea of a caring community was overwhelming for him.

Secondly, the Lord has been emphasizing to me how He is always at work, not just in the organized times like Bible studies, but more often than not in the "mundane" tasks we get to do together with the clients. The majority of the opportunities that I have had to speak a word in season have been while doing the dishes, cooking meals, or helping them with their homework. For example, while helping a client with his homework one night I could see the weight of stress on his shoulders was not just from school. I confronted him about it and he shared about a family situation that he had encountered

Glory be to God!

“I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; and I will glorify your name forevermore.”

– Psalm 86:12

earlier that day and how it was one of many family stresses that were contributing to his anxiety - distracting him from his already stressful workload. The conversation continued and the Lord revealed the root of one of his family issues, and myself and my co-worker Ty had the opportunity to speak the truth of God’s word into the client’s heart, cut off the lies the enemy had been speaking to him, help him walk through forgiving the people that had hurt him so deeply, and spend an extensive time in prayer with the client. He not only received it all with gladness, he was able to sleep soundly that night (for the first time in a while). Praise be to God! I just want to encourage you all with what the Lord has been encouraging me with, wherever the Lord has placed you each day, do not lose sight of the truth found in Isaiah 50:4 (NKJV)

“The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens me morning by morning, He awakens my ear to hear as the learned”.

Finally I would like to share something I’ve struggled with/am slowly growing in since we opened - doing client intakes. Not only do we have to ask difficult questions and decipher if what they are sharing is true information but we need to decide if this person is the right fit/willing participant for the program we run. So many factors play into this decision, and once it is made; if a mistake was made and the client lied (and turns out to be dangerous or unwilling) it leads to even trickier/dangerous situations. Also, turning anyone away (despite the reasoning) is difficult to do, my heart breaks for each one of them.

My prayer everyday (and something I would ask for your prayers in too) is that the Lord would:

→ Grant me peace as we do intakes

→ Grant me wisdom and discernment to decipher truth from lies in all circumstances

→ Reveal what His will is in every situation

Romans 12: 2 (ESV)

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect will of God”.

James 1:5 (ESV)

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”

While there are many more things I could share, I will have to save them for my next letter to you all. Thank you so much for all of your continued support, I thank God for each and every one of you daily and lift you up to Him. Without you all as partners this ministry would not be possible. God bless you all for how you bless us!

In Christ’s love,

Emily

Glory be to God!