

MISSION POSSIBLE



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We Believe that Matthew 25:31-46 is a modern day commandment.

McDowell Mission Ministries Is a Christian ministry dedicated to impacting the lives of people in personal need by providing shelter, counseling, and practical economic assistance in the name of Jesus Christ. We serve McDowell County for the Lord Jesus Christ.

We survive on the generosity of its people, churches and businesses.

REMEMBER THE POOR

The latest headlines underscore how vulnerable we all are. We all watched in horror as the 27 foot tsunami wave rushed through northern Japan carrying cars, trucks, houses and people to destruction and death. Japan, one of the most earthquake ready nations in the world, wasn't ready for the destruction it experienced and is continuing to experience even as I write. People often find themselves in the same dilemma.

People, even the best prepared people, often find themselves in situations that overwhelm them. Such is the case for many of our clients. They thought that they had everything under control and then whammy life hits them with a tsunami. Sometimes the tsunami is of their own making (bad choices or bad habits) and others times it is caused by circumstances beyond their control (spouse leaves, factory shuts down, illness, or a family member dies).

Because the scope of the tragedy in Japan is so great the world's attention is tuned into their needs, rightly so. Nevertheless I feel it is a shame that the media

doesn't give the same attention to the plight of the people living right here in McDowell County or in neighboring counties across our state. Homeless is homeless whether it be caused by a tsunami or a factory closing and so is hungry.

The Apostle Paul saw the pain in Jerusalem brought on by natural disasters and public policy. His response was to try and do something about it. He was direct in his appeal to the churches he visited or intended to visit and he did not hide his intentions behind clever ploys. He simply stated the truth of the need. He further stated that he expected every Christian to give as they have purposed in their heart. He did not tell them how much. He didn't apply pressure of persuasive tactics. He simply reminded those he visited and wrote to what God had to say about giving and caring for one another. He also sought by every means available to him, to assure those that did give, that their money would be used for what they intended when they gave it.

I feel the same way. It

should be no secret to you that the Mission needs money. We do. Many people give and because they do we are still here after 18 years. But money is needed if we are to continue to meet the needs of the growing lines of the hungry that come to us for food - over 270 food boxes per month. We need funds if we are going to keep our shelters up and running housing an average of 43 people per night. We need funds if we are to continue helping those who come to us for benevolence assistance - 272 last year. We need funds if we are to keep a witness for Christ in our prisons.

So I remind you God wants you to remember the poor. Paul, in an autobiographical passage wrote, "And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision. Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do." Galatians

2:9-10 (KJV)

What does it mean to "remember?" Often times in Scripture, the word "remember" does not refer to something pertaining to memory, but to action. An example: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." (Exodus 20:8) To "remember" is to "keep" or "observe" the Sabbath. It's constructive, not merely cognitive. Another example: "He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David ... to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant ..." (Luke 1:69,72) God hadn't "forgotten" His covenant then looked at his Day-planner and suddenly "remembered" His covenant. To say he "remembered" is to say He acted on His covenant by sending Jesus, the "horn of" our "salvation." And it is precisely this sort of "remembrance" God has in mind when He conveys to us our need to "continue to remember the poor." So "remember the poor," act on what you believe - do something for them. It will make both you and God happy. God Bless!

Rev. Bill Warren

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Volunteers Keep the Christian Clothing Center Hummin and Helping



Volunteering is, in effect, an expression of concern about something or somebody other than oneself. It's about putting in the time, effort and commitment to help fellow men, women or animals or to contribute towards a cause that you feel passionate about. It's also about having the determination to put your values and beliefs into action with a view to improving the quality of a person's life or the quality of a situation. Did you know that the Christian Clothing Center is staffed by some of the greatest volunteers any organization could ask for? Every month 15

or more volunteers give between 245 and 275 hours of labor. They meet and greet, sort, clean, and keep the store humming.

They are joined daily by men from the John Thompson Center who keep the donation box empty and the Haiti truck full.

The volunteers work with passion and love because they believe they are in some small way making a difference in the lives of their fellowman. They choose to work at the Christian Clothing Center because the needs are so great and the labors are few.

April is the month that we honor these faithful individuals for their tireless work. It is also the

month that we encourage others to join the team. If you have a passion to help the poor and 4 hours per month that you can give, then you are the kind of person that we are looking for. Volunteer Applications can be picked up at the Clothing Center anytime we are open.

I close with a quote from John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement..

Wesley said,
Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.

Kathy Leis

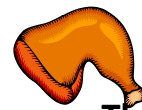
TOP TEN NEEDS

1. CONDITIONER
2. FEMINE PRODUCTS
3. SHAMPOO
4. 1ST AID SUPPLIES
5. DEODERANT
6. TOWELS & WASH CLOTHS
7. DISHWASHING LIQUID
8. CLEANSERS
9. ZIP-LOCK BAGS
10. PILLOWS

PLUS ONE

TYLENOL/IBUPROFEN/
HYDROGEN PEROXIDE

ALRIGHT SO ITS



Thanks for your support of our Port-a-Pit Chicken dinner we raised \$3,791.46



TIME TO REV'EM UP AND HEAD ON OUT TO OUR 3RD ANNUAL CAR SHOW GREENLEE BAPTIST CHURCH 5967 US-70 WEST, OLD FORT MAY 21, 2011 FROM 2PM - 5PM



Car Entry Fees:

Pre Registration until May 1st 2011 \$10.00
Registration Day of Show \$15.00

For Additional Information Contact :

Mindy Anderson 828-659-6490 or 828-460-0323

Make checks payable to:

McDowell Mission Ministries

Judging starts 4 PM Awards for:

- Best of Show,**
- Peoples Choice,**
- Kids Choice,**
- Top Ten,**

Participation Ribbons for all entries.

Food & Fun for all
Door Prizes

50/50 tickets

Goody Bags



Wreath Relief is here to help you with your generous support.

They are one of our great sponsors.

IDOL IMPRISONMENT

CHAPLAIN DANNY HAMPTON



There he was, the consuming waters of his own rebellion now seeming to hold his destiny within the grasp of their tumultuous and unyielding rage. How had he allowed things to get to this point? Why couldn't he, why didn't he just swallow his pride? Suddenly out of the midst of the cold violent embrace of his circumstances he found himself swallowed up into a prison of chilling darkness and fear unlike anything he had ever known or in his worst nightmares ever feared. Jonah had just been eaten alive!

From the certain torture of a watery dungeon Jonah found himself facing a fate worse than death. How long would it take? How much torment would he have to endure before, before the end? Overwhelmed, disoriented, breathless, exhausted, sick, disillusioned, hopeless, broken, and frantic from the furor of his ordeal, Jonah makes one last desperate move -- he decides to pray. This prayer, however, was not the prayer of a rebellious man. It was not the prayer of a proud man. It was not the prayer of a man aware of his own "righteousness". It was the prayer of a man who had just come face to face with his true estate and found himself desperately wanting and helpless. It was the prayer of a man who, in that moment, saw and understood reality more clearly than ever before. From the unfathomable prison of a great fish's stomach, Jonah suddenly found true perspective. God is "GOD," and he is not!

No amount of protest or self-pity was going to deliver Jonah from his underwater prison. His only hope was the honest confession of humbled recognition. In Jonah 2:4-7, Jonah prays, "...I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple. The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O Lord my God. When my soul fainted

within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple."KJV

It was at this point in His prayer that Jonah then makes the most honest and yet perplexing statement in His prayer. In Jonah 2:8 Jonah confesses the realization that the very prison he had been banished to on the outside was the result of a prison that held him on the inside. Jonah cries out in his prayer, "*They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.*"KJV The word translated "vanities" in the KJV is from the Hebrew word, "hē-bēl," which is also translated "idols". The confessed "lying vanities" of Jonah's heart were idols that held his heart in captivity.

What "vanities" or "idols" could Jonah be referring to? He wasn't yet talking to Ninevites. He, himself, was not an overt idol worshipper; he was a prophet of God. Or, could it be that he was an idol worshipper of the worse kind? Could it be that Jonah did not worship an idol on the outside, an image fashioned by human hands? Rather, is it possible that Jonah was referring to an idol he worshipped on the inside, an idol fashioned by the human heart, an idol made in the image of "self"?

God had come to Jonah and asked him to take a message of conviction and salvation to Nineveh and Jonah's immediate response was to run away from God. Why did Jonah run? Could it be because of his idol worship? Is it possible that by running rather than submitting, Jonah was exposing his own imprisoned heart that desired to hold onto the idols of its own mindset and prejudices towards the "terrible heathen sinners" in Nineveh rather than submitting his entire heart posture to God's perspective, desires, and ultimately, commands? Was holding onto the idol of his own self attitude more important to Jonah than honoring God's heart? Was the

main idol that Jonah worshipped the worse kind of idol, the idol of "spiritual pride"? It was spiritual pride that imprisoned the hearts of the Pharisees leading to the instigation and consummation of Christ's crucifixion.

Out of the broken desperation of his situation, Jonah confessed to God the idols he was clinging onto and chose the better way -- the way of grace. In Jonah 2:9 the Bible says, *But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.*" KJV While still in the grasp of his underwater prison, Jonah releases his rights and demands, and embraces by faith the reality of true salvation -- it only comes from God, God's way, on God's terms. The prison walls inside of Jonah's heart began to crumble. Jonah began to worship God in spirit and in truth. He began to sing songs of thanksgiving in the midst of humbling and overwhelming circumstances. Jonah's prayer turned into worship and his worship became his prayer.

God's response to Jonah's humble worship is recorded in Jonah 2:10. The Bible says, *And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.*" KJV Jonah found deliverance from his prison in the midst of detestable methods. Jonah found himself right where God desired him to be all along. God is quite creative in the way he works in the lives of his children, don't you think?

In Isaiah 57:15 the Bible says, *For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*" KJV

I have the amazing privilege of working with men who are in a literal prison. I am seeing God bring His

"Salvation" and freedom to the humbled hearts of men whose prisons on the inside led to their imprisonment on the outside. As these men are casting down their "idols" God is lifting up their hearts.

Just as God is being faithful to these men, He is also being so incredibly faithful to me. Serving Christ in a prison has been and is being used by God in my own life. His Spirit is constantly pointing out areas of fleshly struggle that are vulnerable to becoming imprisoned idols within me. I find myself daily in need of renewed spiritual awakening and transformation. In many ways I am, we are like Jonah. We are running in so many directions and swallowed up by so many concerns and circumstances in life. Are we allowing the attitudes and opinions of our hearts to become idols in our lives? Could we, in our most sincere moments, be guilty of allowing spiritual pride to influence our perspectives towards others and towards God in our perceptions of Him and His ways? Every day we find ourselves battling entanglement within the seaweed of life, battling being consumed within the bowels of a sin nature and a sinful world that is destined to destruction.

The way in which God delivered Jonah may not be pretty but it is far better than the alternative. Though the ways of God's deliverance and salvation may at times be frustrating and confusing to our needs and understanding, it is better to be vomited into life rather than digested into to death, don't you? God's Blessings!



FRIENDSHIP HOME FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN

Homeless: lacking a permanent place of residence

Shelter: a structure that provides privacy and protection from danger

Friendship: a cooperative and supportive relationship between people

Home: the social unit formed by a family living together

If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up.

I have seen the heart of homeless people. I have seen many who have troubles you and I could never imagine and they still manage to have big hearts for others that are having tough times.

- I have seen a mother, who has worked all day, who has laundry to do, a crying and sick baby, schoolwork to complete; who is exhausted. Yet she still finds the time to ask me how my mom is doing.
- I have seen a new resident that has been abused, has no job, no education, no self-esteem, and is sobbing tearfully because she has no where to go, no clothes, and thinks there's no hope, when another resident that has been sick herself steps in and offers her shoes, a coat and other items to make things a little easier.
- I have seen a resident and her son leaving us after a year walk down the hall to say their good-byes. How hard it is for them, as the toddler walks down the hallway waving and smiling the sweetest smile and mom is being hugged by not only old but new residents tears coming to their eyes because they are leaving family. And even though she is happy to be leaving, she feels sadness as she leaves the comfort of the people she has known for so long
- I have seen residents prepare a birthday meal for a resident who thought no one would remember her birthday.
- I have seen residents all pitch in to get a child in need school clothes or Christmas presents.
- I have seen residents stop by to visit a resident that was ill to visit and see if she needed anything then bring her food, drink, mail and later pick up her dishes and trash.
- I have seen a resident that has only just met the other run to her aide when she was in need, offering her a shoulder to cry on.
- I have seen a resident help another resident learn how to work the computer to apply for a job and even give them a lead of a job they applied for already.
- I have seen a teenage resident help tutor older residents that were struggling to get a GED. Their help making the difference between a pass or fail.
- I have seen residents offer to babysit children for moms so they can pursue their education or to get to work when daycare is closed.

It is visions like these that make me glad that I am part of the McDowell Mission Ministries team. I feel that each of us (staff & residents) touch each other and when we have been touched we are no longer the same. In all my years at the Friendship home I have not seen a day when the women and children did not try to help each other or have a kind word for someone in need. Have you looked into your heart lately?

A RETURN TO BASIC GOODNESS

A few days ago, I was talking with one of our supporters about ice cream flavors. He mentioned Jack Frost's Pineapple. Once a Chef, always a Chef, I suggested that if he would add candied ginger, and almonds to his base compound it would enhance the ice-creams flavor even more. He smiled and told me, that was a little "big city" for these parts. I understood what he was trying to say. So our conversation progressed to talking about basic goodness. McGuffey's, a Restaurant chain, was built around the motto—"Return to Basic Goodness" The motto came from the McGuffey readers which were introduced in schools in 1836 and are still used in some private schools to this very day.

The John Thompson Center is about helping men return to basic goodness. For many of our clients life has become complicated and core values have been lost, such as: going to church, learning to appreciate the goodness around us, and goal oriented living. Helping them to rediscover or discover for the first time basic goodness is a process which takes time and patience and involves often times taking one step forward and two steps backward. Always our hope, for the time that a client spends with us, is that we can plant the seed of basic goodness that will one day germinate and take root. Sometimes we don't have to wait long. Some clients just get it quicker than others. When they do we get to share the joy of their rediscovery. Such is the case with two young men who are working on their GEDs, and one will start at McDowell Tech this spring. Two clients have stabilized enough that they have been able to move into housing and independent living. Three of our clients have landed full time jobs. Others are at various stages in their disability claims process. Many are just waiting and as they wait, we are working helping them spring clean the garbage out of their lives. Helping them to return, helping them to restore the basic goodness that they somehow lost

Thank you for helping us to make this possible. Thank you for your basic goodness. whs