



September 2017

Lift your hands toward Him for
the life of your young
children, who faint from
hunger at the head of every street

(Lam. 2:19b)

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God's grace so powerfully at Work...

(Acts 4:33b,34a)

The man stared for a moment at my wife, Beverly, and asked as she handed him a prepared lunch, "I bet you just feel sorry for me?" "No," she replied, "I care about you."

Several months ago, in a letter of gratitude to contributors, I told a short version of the lady who came to the Village from California where she had been living on the streets, mostly under bridges for 14 years. She had been brutally assaulted and had very few possessions. Part of responding to her many needs was the need for glasses. With support from the local Lion's Club, our Village advocate shared about the resident's delight when the doctor of optometry aligned both lens of his machine and she shrieked out, "I can see!" Months with us here at the Village, through counseling and mentoring, by participating in Celebrate Recovery programs, after receiving medical treatment and disability income, and by experiencing our unconditional love and being in a safe environment... she is now in her own home. (If you follow us on Facebook, we posted a picture of her in her home last month.)

Don (name changed), his wife and two children were staying at the Motel where we and other groups take out weekly meals. He had lost his job and was being evicted from the location. Soon he and his family were living in their automobile at a nearby lake. Thanks to funding from Mercy Hospital benevolence, the family was given money to move into a rental home. Last month Beverly and I had the privilege to encounter him and he told us: "I want to thank you all for what you did for us. I am the manager now at a fast food restaurant and would be pleased to give you a free sandwich if you would drop by. I am also working a second job and our family is getting back on our feet."

Recently I read (Washington Post, 08/03/2017), "Christians, especially white evangelical Christians, are much more likely than non-Christians to view poverty as the result of individual failings." The survey showed that "53% of white evangelical Protestants blamed lack of effort while 45% blamed circumstances." Following the article, there was a link to another story about the Mayor of San Antonio, Texas who was quoted as saying that the root cause of

Village News



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Aim for Advocacy - Thank You

Last spring we asked the community to help us kick-off the fall with a Bang and with your help we hosted a very successful 2nd Annual AIM for Advocacy Fundraiser. We could not have done it without our amazing sponsors, volunteers, board, and staff. Your support will allow us to provide women and children in crisis with access to the programs and services they need to be successful on their journey.

We want to thank Shyla for her courage in sharing her story during our morning program, we are thankful for her and pray for her continued progress towards her goals.



Back to School at the Village



Thank you to those who donated back-to-school items for the children at the Village. Your generosity provided each child with all the school supplies they needed, fresh haircuts, and back-to-school clothes. Everyone has had a great start to the school year, including one of the adult residents who resumed classes at NWACC this fall.

- Martin Family
- Lindsey
- Tiffany
- NWA United Way – Fill the Bus
- Kathy Farrell
- Southside Church of Christ
- First Baptist Pea Ridge



Staff Member Spotlight

Adrienne Engle is no stranger to the mission and work of Restoration Village, having been connected to the Village for almost 20 years. Adrienne joined the staff in February 2017. She serves as the Residential Coordinator and works closely with Marcy our staff Advocate by providing programmatic support and transportation. Adrienne also oversees resident and house management. Adrienne's warm smile, positive attitude, and dedication are just a few of the attributes that make her such a wonderful staff member! We are so blessed to have Adrienne as part of the team! .



Thank You Cox Charities Foundation

Thank you to the Cox Charities Foundation for selecting Restoration Village as one of the 2017-2018 grant recipients. Through your support, we will be able to provide programs and services for some of the most vulnerable members in our community, women and children in crisis. We could not serve our residents without support from our community partners like the Cox Charities Foundation and the dedicated employees who make the giving of the grant possible.

Stars of Hope

We are already making plans to bring holiday cheer to the women and families at the Village. We invite you to participate in our Stars of Hope holiday program. **Giving back is easy, you can adopt an adult, child, or family from our stars of hope and we will share that individual or families wish list with you.** Donations will be accepted throughout the year. We welcome participation by church, civic, and school groups. To find out how you can bring hope to a women and or family at the Village, please contact Cie Cochran at cie@restorationvillage.net .



Have You Seen our New Video

If you haven't see the new Restoration Village video, be sure to visit our website at www.restorationvillage.net We work hard each day to share the mission and vision of Restoration Village with members of our community. The monthly newsletter is one of our favorite ways to share the new and exciting things God has allowed us to do at the Village. Our new video is a great way to share the great work we are doing with friends and colleagues with one easy click! We hope you enjoy it as much as we do. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Kyle with Kleber Video Productions for all of his hard work recording and editing the videos.

Continued from Page 1

poverty in her city was because of: “Broken people. Particularly broken people who don’t have a strong relationship with God.”

Rick Perry, former Governor of Texas (12/9/2014) is quoted as saying, “Biblically, the poor are always going to be with us in some form or fashion.” Representative Roger Marshall, Kansas, (March 3, 2017) argued against a Medicaid expansion with: “Just like Jesus said, ‘The poor will always be with us’. There is a group of people that just don’t want health care and aren’t going to take care of themselves.”

There are others who say, “The poor you will always have with you,” but what does the passage say and mean: **“Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, ‘Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor.’ But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, ‘Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.’”** (Matt. 26:6-12)

In this passage, Jesus quotes a portion of Deuteronomy 15:11 and the disciples would know as any Jew would know, when a part of the Torah is used, the hearer finishes the verse, phrase, etc. (called *pardes*, or calling to mind the extended meaning of the text) and in this verse, “There will always be some among you who are poor. **Therefore, I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor**

and needy in your land.” Verses 4-5 in Deuteronomy say, “There should be no need for poor people among you...if you would fully obey the Lord your God and are careful to obey all these commands...” Moses is chiding the Israelites, you aren’t obeying and thusly “I command you to be openhanded....”

Whenever I hear someone say, “The poor you always have with us”, I cringe, at their weak excuse to not do anything. We all have a mutual responsibility that will constitute a just society. To blame others, most often falsely because we do not know their story, for things over which they have little or no control is a deception

“God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them that there were NO needy persons among them.” (Acts 4:33b,34a)

that keeps us complicit. And they display their ignorance of the passage and what Jesus was saying to the listeners.

As illustrated in the opening paragraphs of the newsletter and the example from Acts 4, one of the secrets toward diminishing poverty is through **relationships**. When individuals who made it out of poverty are interviewed, virtually all cite an individual who made a significant difference for them. The relationship must be present, but tasks

need to be referenced in terms of relationships. The further the struggling and poor get away from being “people just like us,” the easier it is to forget they are - people also.

Next time you attend church, or read one of our newsletters, or see a person in need, remember: **“If anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him?”** (1 John 3:17)

Relationships, a long-term shelter, ministry outside of the Village property, have and do make a difference. We are grateful to those of you who have not closed your heart to those in need.

