



Jesus Loves You Ministry, Inc.

Mobile Outreach Program for the Homeless

Physical Address:

1734 Cedarwood Street
Port Charlotte, FL 33948



Welcome to the Jesus Loves You Ministry newsletter. We continue to pray you are blessed by reading how the Lord is working through this Mobile Outreach Ministry to the homeless of Charlotte County.

Thank you for being “co-laborers” with us through prayer, volunteer hours and donations, both physical and financial. You are all the “arms and legs” of His Work to the precious people we serve, including each other.

Needs: Men’s jeans and shorts - waist 30, 32, 34; insect repellent with Deet; first aid kits; tents (dark color); tarps (8x10 or larger); rope; bottled water; toilet paper; paper towels, jelly (squeeze bottle); small size peanut butter; saltine crackers.

THRIFT SHOP

New Hours of Operation:

Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10am to 2pm

Donation can be brought during hours of operation or other times by appointment.

*If you have large clean furniture to donate, please call and we will make arrangements to have it picked up.

MURDOCK BAPTIST CHURCH

18375 Cochran Blvd., Port Charlotte

We bring a trailer to Murdock Baptist Church the 1st Sunday of each month to receive donations (including unopened non-perishable foods) from 8:15am to 12:30pm. If your church would like us to bring a trailer on a Sunday to receive donations, please contact us at 941-661-8117. Thank you for your consideration.



**2015 has given us so many opportunities to help people in ways we never expected!
5,549 services have been provided to our homeless residents through the month of July!**

Some of these services were funded through a short-term grant which allowed us to help people with needs such as auto-repair, auto insurance and licensure fees. This was a great blessing with “so” many people living in vehicles now. Many are working while living in their vehicles while waiting to get either shelter or an apartment. They come to the building for showers on the days they work.

Many folks have either accepted Jesus as their Savior or rededicated their lives to Jesus. Please keep these folks in your prayers.

Services Include:

*Trips to Doctors’ offices, Clinics, shelter facilities, camp visits and lunch deliveries, Mobile food pantry stops and deliveries
Many have come to know and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior!!!*



Proverbs 19:17 He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again. (KJV)

*For those of you reading this newsletter, never give up on your loved ones who don’t know Jesus yet - A perfect stranger may stop them on the street and tell them “Jesus Loves You” and the Love of God will constrain their hearts!
Truly, your loved ones are set apart for special treatment by the Lord.*

We'd like to introduce you to Gordon. Gordon is 53 years old living in the woods of Charlotte County. Gordon was born into a single parent family of 4 children. His mother left this earth when he was 8 years old at which time he and his siblings went to live with his grandparents.



Two years later they all moved to Florida. He took his first drink at 10 yrs. old and continued through high school along with trying various drugs including marijuana. Through a series of events Gordon ended up in Foster

Care at age 12. He was placed with a wonderful woman who loved him as her own son. But, another tragedy was in his future when she passed away when he was 17 years old. He then became homeless and moved into the woods in East Ft. Myers. Gordon has always worked, including 2 different jobs of 10 years each, until his wife of more than 10 years passed away in 2009. Since her passing he became homeless again and just has not been able to cope with a lot of issues in his life. Gordon did not attend church very often as a child or into his adult years. On May 26th we began a Bible Study for men here at the Jesus Loves You Building. He did not attend the first few Bible

Studies, but the first 1st one he did attend on June 16th he was convicted of the need to repent and ask Jesus to come into his life. When he went back to his tent, he prayed, repented of his sins and *asked Jesus to be his Savior and come into his heart.* Since that day he is attending two Bible Studies regularly at our building as well as attending a local Bible believing church! *He is a new creation in Jesus! 2Cor. 5:17!*

Gordon is also looking forward to finding a job, perhaps in a grocery store. **If any of you know of any job openings, please contact our office at 941-661-8117.** Also please pray for Gordon as he continues to hunger for more of the Lord. I Peter 2:2

Please meet David. David was born in Omaha Nebraska into a 2-parent family with 4 children. He was raised in an upper-middle class family with every physical comfort he might want. Since his father was a drinker, there was alcohol in the house, and David took his first drink at 9. His father was what you would call a "functional alcoholic" who owned his own general contracting business. David "snuck" beer to drink without his parents knowing until age 12 when he was sent to Omaha Home for Boys for truancy due to skipping so much school. His parents could not handle him. Both he and his little brother were in the boy's home for 1 ½ years. During his stay in the Boy's home his parents separated. He knew something had changed in how he felt, but didn't know then that it was what is now called "depression". After he went back home he began drinking again and added smoking marijuana. He looked so old he was able to buy beer at 15 years old!

He quit school in the middle of the 10th grade at age 15. He spent the next 10 years working with his father traveling across America building for a contracted pizza chain, drinking constantly. During this period he met and married his wife, Patricia and started his own tile business.

When Patricia got sick and consequently passed away in 1991, David's life went into a tailspin of heavy drinking and roaming the country for a couple of years. For the next few years he was in and out of work due to his alcoholic addiction and depression. His mom passed away when he was 37, and that was more than he could handle. He noticed when he would try to work, he'd be given instructions and he just couldn't follow them - not due to rebellion; but it was like he was in a daze. He was sneaking alcohol onto the jobs to just get through the day. His life was all about drinking moving from city to city; in and out of homelessness, becoming more depressed and unable to keep a job. His life was like a roller coaster. In March of 2010 he found himself in Sarasota, Florida at a detox unit where he was offered to go to a sober program. He said he'd never tried a sober program and said "yes". Then he got a mental health evaluation and was diagnosed with major depression and PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder). He immediately accepted help with medications and therapy. After nearly a year of sobriety, he went off his meds at a holiday time, drank and had an alcohol seizure. He then went into a 4 month program and went back on his meds.



Jesus Loves You Ministry met David in 2011 and worked with him off and on between 2011 to 2015. He was bouncing between sobriety, the woods, Homeless Coalition shelter and jail. During this time he was approved for SSI (a form of disability). His benefits were suspended for not completing required review paperwork. In June of this year he began spending time at Jesus Loves You Ministry, agreed to go back into mental health treatment, completed necessary paperwork for Social Security and after 2 months his benefits were reinstated. He also started attending a Bible Study for men as well as a local Bible teaching church. On June 16th David asked Jesus to come into his life and became a Christian and to quote David "everything has changed! I've really been born-again, do not want to drink but know *the Lord is my strength. I have hope for my life that I've never had before and am so grateful to the Lord*".

We'd also like to introduce you to Mark. Mark is the youngest of 15 children, and half of 3 sets of twins in his family. He was raised in a 2-parent family in northern



Indiana. One of his parents was an alcoholic and he took his first drink at age 9. He graduated high school, got a good job and married at age 18. They had 1 son who left this earth after a household accident at the age of 8. Mark was able to hold a job, but was drinking quite a bit.

He and his wife were not able to cope with the loss of their son, and ended up divorcing 2 years later. Mark then moved to Ft. Myers, Florida. He got a good job but the grief coupled with hanging out with the wrong friends he ended up in jail and lost his job. When he got out of jail (on probation) he still hung around with the wrong friends, started doing various street and prescription drugs and violated his probation requirements – thus going back to jail. After 6 months in jail his probation was reinstated and he was released. In May of this year he moved to North Port, couldn't find a job, became homeless for the first time and ended up in the woods of Port

Charlotte. On June 18th he came into Jesus Loves You Ministry building for help with a tent and camping gear. On that day he also *asked Jesus to come into his life* and repented of being a sinner. Mark had attended Bible believing churches in the past, but had never asked Jesus to come into his life before. He was baptized on June 28th and his life has never been better. In Mark's words: "I do not drink or drug any longer and have decided to stay in Charlotte County. I love the people in the church I've joined and even have joined the choir. I am a regular volunteer at Jesus Loves You Ministry and believe God has me with family!"

We had introduced you to T.S. in a previous newsletter: After further struggles in her life and several attempts to mend what is called a "toxic" relationship with an abusive boyfriend, T.S. has moved



out of Charlotte County. She is staying with family, attending church and has found a job. Please continue to pray for her to grow in Jesus. You can see her peaceful countenance in the picture - as well as the peaceful surroundings.

These are just a few instances of the awesome things that are happening at the Jesus Loves You Ministry house.



Mark your calendars for the 2015 Giving Challenge on Sept 1 & 2!

This is our 3rd year participating in this wonderful 24-hour challenge. When you donate between 12 noon and 12 noon on those dates, nearly every dollar will reap matching funds! There are special matching funds for those who did not donate in 2014 - so please pray about spreading the word.

The 2015 *Giving Challenge* is made possible by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County and The Patterson Foundation with support from the William G. and Marie Selby Foundation, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Manatee Community Foundation, and the Herald-Tribune Media Group.

There are 3 weekly Bible studies in the building. 1 for women, 1 for men and 1 for both men and women. These studies are running between 10-15 people in attendance.

Please visit our website at www.JesusLovesYouMinistryInc.com

You will find our past newsletters as well as on the "Camper Page" you see the current monthly letter for the homeless.



Are you a THRIVENT MEMBER?

If so, you may donate your CHOICE \$ to Jesus Loves You Ministry, Inc.



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**Watch for our next newsletter as we share more testimonies as to
“What the Lord hath done”**

**We pray you have been blessed by this newsletter as we share what God is doing
through this ministry on the “highways and by-ways” of Charlotte County.**

If the Lord leads you, please send a tax deductible check payable to: Jesus Loves You Ministry, Inc.
Send to: Jesus Loves You Ministry, Inc., P.O. Box 380275, Murdock, FL 33938-0275
Our telephone number is **941-661-8117**

Visit our website!!! www.JesusLovesYouMinistryInc.com

*****If your address label is incorrect in any way, please email: LeslieJLYM@gmail.com*****

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