

Greetings & Blessed New Year!
In everything give thanks; for this is
Christ Jesus God's will for you in



January 2017

Greetings!

As we transition into a new year, I am filled with gratitude for the passing year of 2016 because of the faithfulness of God. God is faithful and true in everything that He says and does. We can count on the promises of God in the Bible to be absolutely trustworthy. God has demonstrated His promises through your faithfulness to pray, donate, and volunteer and is in essence the very reason we are able to fulfill the command to care for the poor. In this new year; staying in the place of gratitude is our source of



strength and joy to "stay the course". We experienced Godly teamwork in 2016, and it has truly been a beautiful witness of unity as churches, agencies, schools, etc. work together in service to God.

1 Thessalonians 5:24

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will continue to be faithful.



Unity of Spirit Through the Bond of Peace

The volunteer's charge is to help to



change lives and reduce suffering. We ask God for His guidance in helping others so that we can be a part of the restoration and means of support in order that they can be who God intended for them to be. We trust Him after we have sown; Who causes the ultimate growth & change in individual lives. As we sow seed and water; it may be another that imparts and witnesses the miracle of change; and this is the heart of unity. This kind of unity strengthens our communities.



Psalm 72:12 For he will deliver the needy when he cries for help, the afflicted also, and him who has no helper.

The Basement provides an atmosphere where families are valued and where some of the most vulnerable feel a sense of security. In the midst of our family night meal with its various activities; there are some who have come with hidden hurts and pains but remain silent in them. We acknowledge God always as the foundation of the ministry and because of this; He reaches the souls in desperation, silences the atmosphere and gives that moment of help in time of need, that peace that stills the clamor of the mind and that love that embraces acceptance to that loneliness. It's the longing waited for; it's when God comes.

She was robbed of everything; car, money, TV, even her daughter's kindle. Through this trauma she was able to trust God to help her and because of your donations we were able to provide assistance with basic humanitarian needs.



Psalm 41:1 How blessed is he who considers the helpless; The LORD will deliver him in a day of trouble.

The Basement Outreach Ministries belongs to the Lord. Our outreach is about God's power working in us and through us to do the exact work He has called us to do in our city.



During our Thanksgiving and Christmas meals Pastor Eric Brown and Pastor Tim Stow shared beautiful messages that led several persons to repentance and healing. This is the reason God sent His Son to humanity.



God knows, sees and hears everything. In God we trust and rely on; it is only His intent, His plan we desire for The Basement Outreach and through our dependence upon Him our mission to serve is others complete and fulfilling.



During the holiday season we often wonder "how will we provide to the many people that will come through the doors or call for help this year"; we trust God! Thank you for your generosity and obedience! We feasted at the table of Lord with provision left over to give to others in need after our holiday meals!

Luke 14: 12-14 Then Jesus said to the man who had invited Him, "When you host a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or brothers or relatives or rich neighbors. Otherwise, they may invite you in return, and you will be repaid. But when you host a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind, and you will be blessed. Since they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."



Greater YGST Wisdom CT
Pastor Jeff and Andrea Swogger
Thank you Greater YGST Wisdom for the many turkeys and dressing bags and the personalized wrapped gifts for many children.



We are grateful for God's gifts given through His people. Thank you Fire Foe for the children's toys and WGH Key Club for blankets, books, and gift cards. Thank you Chuck Neff and Difference Makers, Steve MacKenzie, Jim Ryan for preparing meals and providing turkeys, the McDonald's Men's Group for ongoing support for the Tuesday evening meals, Fowler Community Church for your faithful monthly meal and the many gifts cards.



Every day we have an opportunity to live for Christ. A smile, a bag a food, time, gift, etc. are ways to reach a broken soul for Christ. Thank you, Julie and Molly for investing time and resources to make blessing bags for Christmas.

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Divine Assignment

This young man came up to me at the Sahara II and said "Pastor Julia, do you remember me?" I did not until he shared that he was walking the street very depressed and did not have money to get diapers for his child. I remembered then that I picked him up and took him to Family Dollar, talked and prayed. He said at that moment he was at his lowest and then I came by and said to him "I usually don't pick up guys without someone with me but I sensed that God told me to stop and pick you up". This was an EMT stop for the young man. He has been sober, working and has visitation with his children.



Queen Esther said in the bible, "I will go to the King, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish".

I will go to the street and pick up a stranger when the Lord directs even if it's against all reason. And if I should suffer for it, I suffer. There is no striving under a heavy burden of self-effort, but to walk in the knowledge of His love and He will provide what is needed during each person encountered that needs help. We are all just vessels; and He does all the work through us.

Peace of God



This couple was facing many challenges. They shared that an adult child who recently was released from prison returned to the streets and some health problems that was a result of military service. We provided food and had the opportunity to pray. The gentleman experienced peace during prayer that calmed his soul and then a large smile come over his face. They had no food and were very grateful for the delivery to their home.

Romans 14:6 having nutritious food to eat and having shelter to live in are blessings from God.

Go Home



They were walking the street in the dark and I pulled out cheeseburgers and lots of candy. Not the best food but it was better than being hungry! One young boy said, "my mom went to jail today". I

got out of the van and talked with them about safety, prayed, gave another cheeseburger and asked them to go home. I prayed for the gentleman that was with them and as I prayed he said he once followed God but strayed away and thanked me for the prayer.

Can't Read Ahead



We spend a lot of time planning out things in our lives but the truth is we can't read ahead about our life story to see the conclusion. I walked up to these two young men in a very old truck. I asked them where they think they would spend eternity. "I don't know, I haven't really planned that far ahead" When I shared that it's not possible to know the future of what is ahead of our lives but our choices and actions do dictate our destiny. We talked about giving up the things that are not good and living a life with God. They both smiled wide when I shared that as big as the universe is with the millions of people, God noticed them. Also that, God showed His love towards them by orchestrating the night to talk with them. They received prayer to help them chose God and Family Dollar gift cards for basic personal care needs.

The Light



Matthew 4:16 The people who live in darkness have seen a great light, and for those living in the shadowland of death, light has dawned.

As I drove through a local neighborhood I stopped and asked two young men if they would like a turkey for Thanksgiving; they said no but know of a person who would. I followed them to the apartment and when I got out of my car I decided to bring in two turkeys. As I went into the apartment I was greeted by men, women and children. There was a lot of activity going on in this apartment, but in the midst of it the Lord's Light broke through and suddenly a few of them asked for prayer and help. One woman not shown above was struggling with depression and after talking and praying she wept and the peace of God comforted her. I also had donation of children clothing in the van that happened to be the exact sizes of the children and bagged groceries to give. At the end of my visit they knew it was not about me that came by but it was God who shined the Light to help them break through the darkness.

The picture above shows everyone smiling, this is because they said the Name "Jesus" that brought about great joy!

Time to Get Up



When Jesus encountered the sick and poor, He first did not offer food, medicine, money or clothing and He did not even counsel them. Jesus demonstrated His power to heal to restore lives completely.

I received a call "we have no food". That evening when we took food into the home, before anything could be shared about the Basement, I heard "PRAY!" As I prayed for this man, his head dropped and shared that he stays to himself most of the time since the death of his 31 year old son several years ago. He said "I used to get in trouble but I don't do that anymore". He wiped his eyes; "It's time to get up now and leave the grief with God". God's presence will continue to help him set aside grief.

Praise Him!



When we arrived unexpectedly with a turkey and groceries; she immediately began to sing "Praise Him O Praise Him, thank you Jesus, Praise Him".

A New Life

Even when it seems the darkness of addiction prevails, even when drug addiction of the young and old alike go to any length to get a high, even when... there is still hope.



I have been privileged to go out on the streets with Tammy, I met my match! Hope comes because together when agencies, churches, individuals, etc. are working hard in the community to save lives; there is always hope!

But I'm also excited about another day of HOPE!. It's that day when King of Glory calls His children home. On this day we will meet thousands of people who struggled with addiction, prostitution, etc. because they called on Jesus to save and deliver them. This will be the NEW LIFE!

Romans 6:4

Therefore we have been buried with him through baptism into death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may live a new life.



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Start Somewhere



Colossians 4: Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity

More than 34,000 children in the tri-county area live below the federal poverty level in four children in the valley go to hungry.

It's a silent reminder to those around us and a visible reminder to all of us that every good and perfect gift comes from the Father above.

Food and Toys



Prayer, Food and Toys



"I LOVE BUTTERFLYERS!"



Food and a Hug



Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him



The Basement Outreach Ministries is truly thankful for each and every donation. There is no amount of money too small and in-kind donation that cannot be utilized, given or donated to someplace and someone in need.

We are especially grateful to the individuals, churches and businesses who have faithfully donated financially in 2016. Thank you to the Mission Endowment Fund of Living Lord Lutheran Church, Missions Grace Fellowship Church, the Community Development Block Grant Committee, Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, Trumbull County Board of Commissioners and Litco International for monetary contributions. God knows the need; thank you so much!

Your donations are a sacred trust and we pledge to utilize your contributions the most effective way possible.

Make A Difference Day



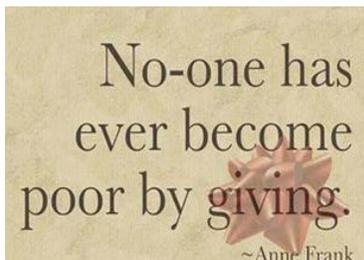
WGH Key Club collected food throughout the neighborhood and donated it to The Basement.



Not only did they collect a huge amount of food; but also sorted and went out to distribute the food to those in need.



And then they came to The Basement to serve! What an amazing group of young people. Thank you Karen Massari for your coordination in making this happen!



Thank you Lieutenant Marvin Hill for sharing at our October Fall Fundraiser!



“LIFT UP YOUR EYES AND LOOK ON THE FIELDS; FOR THEY ARE ALREADY WHITE FOR HARVEST.”
JOHN 4:35



The Father knows what we need at the Basement Outreach before we ask Him. Matt 6:8 Thank you for being the answer to what we need to reach our community!

Men in Recovery Giving Back to the Community



Thank you volunteers!!



A very special thank you to Fowler Community Church, First Church United Methodist and First Community Church Of Leavittsburg for your dedication to prepare meals each month. We thank God for you! We are grateful to your partnership so that together we can reach a harvest through Christ Jesus. Thank you also for all the in-kind donations of blankets, food, hygiene items, etc. Thank you Howland Machine Corporation, Mary Cole & the Art & Drama Club, Rose Ministry and His Hands Extended Ministry for the in-kind and monetary donations for the holiday season.

Our gratitude is to you and our thanksgiving to God that He sent you to help us do good works for others. It is the Lord who gives us the strength to serve, to give, and to work. Through a spirit of gratitude, our work is light and the Lord opens the way for us to share the Good News.

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Thank you Sub Zero Mission!



Sub Zero Mission was started mostly by veterans, so there is a significant concentration of finding veterans to get them connected to services they have available but might not be aware of.



The volunteers of this organization deliver sleeping bags, tents, jackets, gloves and other warming items to homeless in northeast Ohio and other regions from November into March.

Dedicated to the Veterans and the Homeless

What's Ahead in 2017!
God's Refuge Place



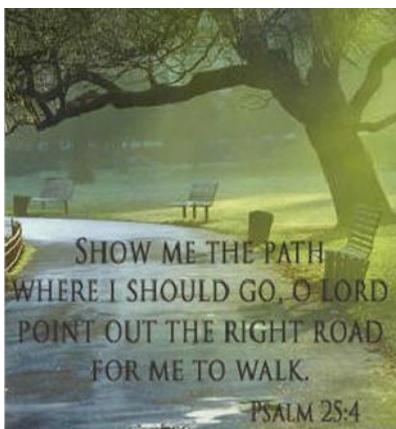
A special thank you Mike Sams!

A special thank you to Brian Ellis!

Thank You to All the Donations!



AND THE ULTIMATE THANK
YOU TO GOD! HE IS FAITHFUL



God knew that 300 Warriors were enough to accomplish the task assigned to Gideon. Gideon made his choice to follow God's call and bring deliverance to his generation. How can you support THE REFUGE PLACE?

As a God-selected, faith-filled warrior in Gideon's Army, you are partnering to support a home that is based on the Biblical Foundation of Jesus Christ to help women struggling with addictions. This home will give the love and compassion for hurting women along with a biblical perspective and teaching for healing and deliverance. The plan for each woman will be based on transition into the community or transition to alternative residential recovery program. The women at THE REFUGE PLACE will experience stability and longevity in sobriety as they build a foundation of recovery, have a sense of community, learn life skills, and ultimately become the women living the life that God had originally intended for them. Please prayerfully consider becoming one of "Gideon's 300." Gideon's Army partners support THE REFUGE PLACE by enlisting and committing to give a:

- \$300.00 - One time Contribution
- \$100.00 - Three Month Contribution
- \$ 50.00 - Six Month Contribution
- \$ 25.00 - Twelve Month Contribution
- \$10.00 - Thirty Month Contribution
- \$ 1.00 - Daily Contribution

CHRISTMAS MIRACLE!



By Janice Walton

I am writing this testimony about a miracle that happened for our family 3 days before Christmas. I am a wife who had been working with only 1 income in the home due to my husband who has not been able to work for 3 years due to a severe back injury. During the course of the 3 years we have faced losing everything, home, exhaustion of 401 K, nothing left. My husband did not get approved for his total disability so he tried to go back to work in which only lasted 2 weeks due to making matters worse with his back injury so he had to quit his job. Because of the situation, I had to work overtime to pay all of the bills to at least keep a roof over our head. We have 2 Children at home Elijah 14 & Destiny Joi 12. During the first week of school this year both children ended up in Akron Children's Hospital with severe cases. It was really devastating. I was not able to miss any work at all sick or not I had to keep focusing on our situation in which it motivate me to continue working to help keep a roof over my head.

I had no choice but to take off work while my children was in the hospital so I talk with a social worker at Akron Children's Hospital and asked if there was any help for my bills while I had to stay with my children in the hospital. The Case Worker gave me a list of organizations to call. Never had to this before so I just left messages. The next day, I received a call from Pastor Julia Wike of Basement Outreach and she was so kind and sweet and prayed for me and said that God was with me. They blessed our family. I was so grateful and thankful to God that I couldn't stop shedding tears. We finally after then got a call from my husband Attorney about his disability case in October and gave us good news that a court hearing was set for him in February 2017. We had been waiting 2 years for a court date so we had something to look forward to. The motivation was getting better for me to continue working overtime to help make ends meet but it still wasn't enough to cover bills. On November 21st we had to file Bankruptcy Chapter 13. It was horrible. I had to come up with extra funds to pay for filing fees. With all of the stress from that I finally broke down. It was overwhelming for me. I fell into depression. After filing Chapter 13 I was depending on my job to still have overtime available because Christmas was coming up. But all of a sudden the first week of December my job announced that there was no more overtime available. I kept saying that God will make a way, he will. As of yesterday I still had no money and no Christmas for my kids.

On Wednesday December 21st 2017, we had to sit the children down to let them know that we could not have anything for them for Christmas. They started crying really bad. My heart just sunk. I then decided to call Basement Outreach to see if they had anything left for Christmas for my Children. Pastor Wike was so gentle and let me know again that everything will be okay she said that "GOD IS PROVIDING THE GIFTS FOR YOUR CHILDREN AND TO CELEBRATE CHRIST GOODNESS WHEN YOU FOCUS ON HIM YOUR MOURNING WILL TURN TO JOY. GOD IS TAKING CARE OF THIS DAY FOR YOU LET GO OF DISCOURAGEMENT AND THANK HIM FOR 'WHAT HE IS DOING'". Thank You Basement Outreach for showing our family true love thru Christ and we will never forget "THIS CHRISTMAS MIRACLE!!!!"

After a home visit of giving food and toys this young boy closed his eyes and said a prayer to thank God.



The Basement Outreach Ministries gives thanks to God in remembrance of you. Thank you for your prayers, friendship and love towards all of us; you are part of our family.

Pastor Julia Wike