

from
darkness
to

light
CELEBRATING GOD'S
WORK OF REDEMPTION

MARCH 2020
NEWSLETTER

HOPE
FOR
addiction

WEST VIRGINIA

By Kessach Lester, WV Group Leader

God has blessed our Hope for Addiction meetings in West Virginia. We started our group in October, meeting in the foyer of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church. Two people who were former addicts, plus our leadership team that Liz trained in August were in attendance. The meeting went well with biblical truth about addiction taught, as well as how to live drug-free in Christ. All were encouraged by this modest start, and resolved to go forward in reaching as many as possible in our area with the good news of victory in Christ.

Our meetings are on Thursday evenings, so for Thanksgiving, we served a complete Thanksgiving meal and over 25 came. Several of the attendees came from a faith-based recovery home in Charleston, WV.

In December, more people attended after hearing about Hope for Addiction.

God really blessed us, and one young lady heard the gospel and gave her heart to Christ! After hearing the truths of the gospel, another woman who had known the truth but was not living for the Lord, rededicated her life to Christ, and they both were baptized in early January! They have been attending the meetings, going to church, and are growing in their faith in Christ.



Attendance continues to steadily grow. The weekly discussion guides have touched hearts. **God is using His Word to draw both leaders and attendees closer to Him, helping us to fight daily temptations.** There is a growing spirit of unity as people are staying for fellowship after the meetings, are sharing openly about their struggles, and are praying together. **It is wonderful to see the transformation as former addicts trust in God to live sober and drug-free.**



FREEDOM UNLOCKED

FOR FREEDOM CHRIST
HAS SET US FREE...
GALATIANS 5:1

CHOSEN BY GOD
NO LONGER A SLAVE
CHILD OF GOD
NOT FORSAKEN
NOT FORGOTTEN
FREE

By Liz Beck

Last year, more than 70,000 people died of opioid overdose. **The culture is desperate for answers.** Three years ago, I shared about "Safe Injection Sites," and it was shocking to think our culture would ever embrace a place where people could get high while being medically supervised so if they overdose, Narcan could be administered, keeping them from dying. This month, our nation's first "Safe Injection Site" opened in Philadelphia. This is the **desperation of our world.** As someone who lost someone I love to overdose, I understand the appeal, but this is definitely not an answer. **The best the world can offer is to simply keep people from dying.** At Hope for Addiction, we **give people a reason to live...** And not just live, but meet Jesus who sets them free.

We care for the practical needs of people transitioning out of a life of addiction, but it is only part of the solution. You see, we do need to care for practical needs – budgeting, job preparation, counseling, support, etc., **but people also need to understand what Jesus did for them.** The gospel (good news) we proclaim is that He died and rose again to set them free and give them a new life and a new identity. For so long these men and women have been identified by their past:

THE FAMILY THEY GREW UP IN
THE THINGS DONE TO THEM
THE THINGS THEY HAVE DONE
ABUSE, ADDICTION
THINGS THEY ARE AFRAID TO TELL

BUT IN CHRIST THEY ARE NEW.

THEREFORE, IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST,
HE IS A NEW CREATION.
THE OLD HAS PASSED AWAY;
BEHOLD THE NEW HAS COME.
2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

This is what your partnership will accomplish... helping people who struggle with addiction meet **Jesus who has the power to set them free.** Together, we are bringing hope around the country to those who don't even realize they can have hope. As believers, we are all on an amazing journey to spread the hope that is in us because of Jesus. Thank you for partnering with us in the fight to bring true freedom in Christ to our dark world.

NOW THE LORD IS THE SPIRIT,
AND WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS,
THERE IS FREEDOM!
2 CORINTHIANS 3:17

ADDICT CHOSEN
ALCOHOLIC NO LONGER A SLAVE
HOPELESS CHILD OF GOD
WORTHLESS NOT FORSAKEN
ALONE NOT FORGOTTEN
FREE

SO IF THE SON SETS YOU FREE,
YOU WILL BE FREE INDEED.
JOHN 8:36

God's Word speaks of freedom. In Christ we are no longer slaves to the things that bind us. The enemy, the father of lies, is keeping people bound and thousands are literally dying in hopelessness. Those who struggle with addiction are given an identity.

ADDICT
ALCOHOLIC
HOPELESS
WORTHLESS
ALONE

Yet Scripture says the opposite. Hope for Addiction believes the promises of Scripture and brings the hope of the cross every day to a dark and dying world. Addicts, no longer. People now identified in Christ are:

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