



CHRISTIAN SHELTER

Salisbury, Maryland



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2022



I WILL SURVIVE

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“I will not die, but live and will proclaim what the Lord has done.” **Psalm 118:17**

Our testimonial for our summer edition is about Ernie Bonnaville who decided he would not die from his past decisions. He wasn't going to let life cheat him out of a victorious life. Ernie and his daughter were living in a hotel when he ran out of money, so he had no choice but to come to the Christian Shelter.

When he came to us during July, 2021, he had no place to live because he couldn't pay his rent and he owed Delmarva Power more than \$1,000. Ernie was depressed and hopeless but he was determined not to die in the wilderness. He wanted to live and survive every attack the world was throwing at him.

As is our policy with those entering the Shelter, Ernie turned what money he had over to the staff. After all, he didn't have much but wanted to be sure what he did have would remain safe and available to him once he completed his stay. But his goal was to become independent and he made many sacrifices to do just that. He believed in the power of prayer and in having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. “Without a relationship with the Master, you can do nothing,” Ernie said. So, with the help of Shelter staff, he developed a plan and then worked his plan.

After leaving the Shelter, he saved his money and paid off the balance owed to the electric company. He applied for housing with a new landlord and was excited about the move, but unfortunately it fell through. He didn't give up. After all, the race isn't always won by the swift or the strong, but to the one that endures to the end (**Ecclesiastes 9:11**). He put “Plan B” into action, applying at a local apartment complex. They eventually approved him. “Yes, thank Jesus!” he exclaimed. Ernie was so excited to have achieved his goals. He wanted to show his daughter that by putting God first, determination and hard work will pay off in the long run.

Ernie's success reminds us that the person who invests in themselves, focuses on a goal and holds God close, can succeed. It also reminds us of the lesson instructed in **Proverbs 3:5-6**: “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”



Ernie Bonnaville and his daughter Miyah

Christian Shelter, Inc. mailing address is:

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Phone: 410-749-LORD • Fax: 410-860-8992
www.christianshelter.org

This shelter
was planned, built &
is provided for by...
GOD
through
His people



Discipline is defined as “training expected to produce a specific character or pattern of behavior.” Discipline is not part of the sin nature, but it is a natural component of the Christian life. In fact, almost nothing of any significance in our lives is ever accomplished without it. Spiritual disciplines can be described as those behaviors that augment our spiritual growth and enable us to grow to spiritual maturity. This process of spiritual growth and development begins to take place the moment a person encounters the risen Christ and comes to Him for salvation. When a person’s carnality reaches the point of rejecting the Christian faith, many things can happen. Financial, emotional, social, and mental difficulties are just a few things that could catch up with them. If they live in persistent rebellion against God, God is going to discipline them. “We had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they discipline us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness” (Hebrews 12:9-10).

The purpose of spiritual discipline is for two reasons. First, it is to bring us back to Him in reconciliation. He does not discipline in vengeance or because He is angry. Our parents disciplined us the best they could, but God disciplines perfectly every time. He knows everything. Secondly, the purpose of spiritual discipline is the development of our inner being, that which has been transformed by Christ at salvation. Redeemed believers have experienced the total renewal of the whole person from within, involving differences in thought, feeling and character that may be slower to be evident in our outward behavior. This is what Paul had in mind when he spoke of taking off the “old self” and putting on the new, “which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator”.



Executive Director
J. Anthony Dickerson



SHORT STREET RENAMED AS “CHRISTIAN SHELTER WAY”

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalm 118:24

On April 27, 2022, Mayor Jake Day along with a number of other dignitaries held a brief ceremony to rename Short Street that runs next to the Christian Shelter as “Christian Shelter Way” to honor the 42 years of service the Christian Shelter has provided to the homeless and most vulnerable population in the Salisbury community. Also on hand for this wonderful event was Mr. Ed Wilgus who was one of the original founders of the Christian Shelter back in the late 1970’s. He along with David and Joann Grier, Robert Marshall, Carl Webster, David Powell, Dale Watson, Rev. James Riley Sr, Claudia Riley, Edwin Thress and Billy Gene Jackson were considered to be the founding members of the Christian Shelter. It was only fitting that Ed was on hand to actually do the unveiling of the sign 42 years after he helped in the creation of the Christian Shelter. Mayor Day did a short presentation for the crowd that gathered for the ceremony and thanked the current board members, staff and volunteers on hand that day for continuing the great work of the Christian Shelter ministry that was started so many years ago.

In the photo attached are left to right Mayor Jake Day, Gus Lebois-Board Member, Mark Thompson- Board Member, Ed Wilgus- Founder, Jane Hoy- Board Member, Bryan Murfree- Chairman of the Board, Ted Evans- Emeritus Board Member and Anthony Dickerson- Executive Director of the Christian Shelter.





Old buildings require lots of care and maintenance, and often will deliver undesired surprises. That's certainly been the case with the Christian Shelter's main building. During the past year, a new challenge arose when clues emerged that something big was buried beneath the sidewalk along Barclay Street – something very big. After doing some investigation, it became clear that a 1,000-gallon underground fuel tank was placed there years ago.

To get the story about this intriguing discovery, this newsletter's editor went to Christian Shelter board member Jeffrey Downes for answers.

CS: It's surprising that something so large as this tank could lie beneath the surface with no one knowing about it. How did you learn it was down there?

Downes: Down in the shelter's basement I could see old copper fuel lines leaving the basement and going outside, below the ground level, yet they had been cut within the basement space. There was also a one-inch, steel vent pipe rising about 18 inches above grade. This suggested that a tank was buried below.

CS: What was the next step in tracking this down? Was there any danger in having the tank there, possibly with explosive fuel inside?

Downes: I knew that long ago there was a #2-fuel-fired boiler in the basement when the building was a shirt factory. They used the boiler to feed the hot water radiators to heat the building. I also knew that the fuel-fired boiler had been abandoned well over 20 years before. Where that boiler once stood, there was now a natural gas-fired water heater. By this point we were pretty sure that there was an underground fuel tank, so we went back outside with a probe, and sure enough, we kept hitting something, presumably the underground tank. We just did not realize how big it was until we got the excavator on-site to begin uncovering the tank. It turned out to be a 1000-gallon tank!

CS: That's quite a discovery! What came next?

Downes: Once we were certain that an underground fuel tank was there, I reported this to the Shelter's Executive Committee. Abandoned underground fuel tanks are a big deal, and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) takes them very seriously. We didn't know if the tank leaked fuel or contaminated the surrounding soil. If the fuel had leaked into the soil and under the adjacent sidewalk and street, it would require excavation of those areas, which is very expensive. We could have ignored the tank for another 20 years, but the Lord gave us no peace about that! So, we hired Chesapeake Environmental Services, LLC to excavate and remove the tank, knowing that it would cost \$8,000 at a minimum,



UG Tank - Ready to Lift Out

and much more if contaminated soil was encountered. Praise the Lord, no contaminated soils were found.

CS: So how did this story end?

Downes: We received an invoice for about \$12,000 from Chesapeake Environmental Services (CES), and then they told us that the charge would be forgiven! They wanted to donate their work as a gift to the Christian Shelter. CES even paid \$800 from their own pocket to hire the Environmental Technician and the Maryland Certified Tank Technician who compiled the written report for submission to MDE, as required by Maryland law. We owe David Banks and Beau Williams a huge debt of gratitude for the work that CES did for us.

After the tank was removed, the sidewalk was replaced and the site appears like nothing ever happened.

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334 BARCLAY STREET
SALISBURY MD 21804

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BOMBAS CO. DONATES SOCKS



The Christian Shelter has been blessed to have received new socks for the past three years from Bombas. Bombas donates socks to homeless shelters and other non-profits. Because of their annual donations the Christian Shelter provides each family and each single guest with two or more pairs of socks. The Christian Shelter is also blessed to share these socks with other local ministries, shelters and non-profits. A great "Shout Out" goes to the Bombas Giving Team for their help and care for our homeless guests. Thank You!

CURRENT NEEDS

Eggs	Coffee
Milk	Sanitizing Wipes
Bottled Water	Laundry Detergent
Breakfast Meat	Sandwich Bags
Lunch Meat	Quart Bags
Plastic Cutlery (Fork, Spoon, Knife)	Gallon Bags
Paper Cups	Toilet Paper
Sugar Packets	Wash Clothes
Creamer	Towels
	Paper Towels

**PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS
TO RECEIVE ELECTRONICALLY**

**CONSIDER DONATING ONLINE AT
www.christianshelter.org**