

# CHRISTIAN SHELTER UPDATE

CHRISTMAS 2018



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE CHRISTIAN SHELTER IN SALISBURY, MARYLAND

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

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## **DARKNESS TO LIGHT**

*“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them has the light shined”*

After two years of struggle in a relationship that brought her much abuse, fear and darkness, Ms. B finally seized an opportunity to flee. She came to Christian Shelter with her 6-month old baby determined to make her way by herself whatever the cost. Within two weeks Ms. B was able to get a full time job in a local chicken processing plant and begin saving her pay. Working long, hard hours, caring for her baby and paying off delinquent bills left her by her husband made the road to independence long and hard. However, with the Lord's blessing and strong support from the Shelter staff, Ms. B was able to save enough to manage security deposit and first month's rent on an apartment of her own. One week after leaving the Shelter Ms. B stopped by the Shelter with a grin as big as all outdoors to let us know she was doing well and to give thanks to God and her friends at the Shelter for helping her out of darkness and into the light.



# PEOPLE FROM EVERY NATION

*“You purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”* (Revelation 5: 9)

She was tiny and shy and spoke not a word of English. Fortunately three of her five beautiful children ranging in ages from 1 to 13 had learned English in school. The eldest served well as interpreter during the checking in process at Christian Shelter. Ms. C came to America as a migrant farm worker in Florida. She was married and moved with her husband to Virginia. They settled there raised a family and lived as farm workers for the next 13 years until her husband was suddenly deported. Ms. C was left to raise and support their five children on her own with nothing but a 3rd grade education and very limited job experience. In keeping with her patriarchal culture Ms. C was accustomed to staying in the home, caring for the children. Contact with the community outside the home was taken care of by her husband. With her very limited education she never learned to speak English. Suddenly she found herself with a load of responsibility for which she was not at all equipped.

When in desperation she was told of available migrant farm work with living quarters in Maryland, she

quickly left with her five children only to discover that the migrant camp was closing for the season and there was no work. By this time she had been homeless for seven months, sharing very meager, cramped quarters with migrant friends, and finally being placed by Social Services for a weekend in a local motel. When her time and money ran out she was referred to Christian Shelter, or rather with her prayers of desperation God guided her to Christian Shelter.

Here in God's Shelter Ms. C. and her children have been friendly, cooperative guests, willingly pitching in to help with chores around the Shelter well beyond the call of duty. Even 1 year old Miquel eagerly pitches in. Together the family enjoy the Shelter devotions each evening. With God's loving guidance and help from a caring Spanish speaking social worker named Maria this homeless family will eventually be placed in stable housing and work found for Ms. C. Please pray for this precious family.



## “THE SUN SHALL NOT SMITE THEE BY DAY”

*“The Lord watches over you – the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun shall not smite thee by day,”* (Psalm 121: 6)

This time of year, when the bite of winter begins to creep in, donations of all kinds come pouring into Christian Shelter. “I imagine this must be your busiest time of year,” many people say. Surprisingly the statistics show that it is during the cold winter months that we house and turn away the lowest numbers of homeless people. It is the hot summer months when all the Shelter beds tend to be filled and the largest number of homeless people have to be turned away for lack of space.

The reason for this phenomenon is that it is during the cold winter time that public awareness of and sympathy for the homeless is highest. Especially during the holidays far more resources are available for them. In the heat of summer, when people's minds are on balmy breezes, beaches and vacations the homeless are easily forgotten, helping resources tend to dry up and homeless people are more likely to turn to emergency shelters for help. As a Shelter guest once put it, “When it's cold you can always put on another coat, but when it's hot, what do you do? Answer: turn to the Lord who “watches over you.”

# WE ARE NOT ALONE IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST HOMELESSNESS



Administrators of the Christian Shelter are actively involved with leaders of about 30 agencies working with homeless people in Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset Counties. The Homeless Alliance of the Lower Shore (HALS) brings colleagues from public and private service organizations in the Tri County area to coordinate our efforts, support one another and develop new approaches to helping those struggling with homelessness and bringing resolution to the homeless problem in our area. This larger group of dedicated workers meet together monthly to plan and share, while smaller committees meet more often to tackle specific problems. Some will work on efforts to prevent “at risk” people from becoming homeless. Others may work on resources to get homeless people into stable housing as soon as possible. Still others work on developing low income housing resources, or helping the homeless to overcome the causes of losing their housing.

Generally the many causes of homelessness can be grouped in three categories

- 1) Those who through no fault of their own run into a temporary crisis such as sudden, unexpected illness, family break up or job shutdown. These will usually require a minimum of short-term help to get back on their feet.
- 2) Those who, because of medical, mental health or aging problems are not able to keep up with the growing cost of housing or maintaining a steady job or income sufficient to pay the rent every month. These will require more long term supervision and assistance.
- 3) Those who refuse to accept responsibility or choose a self-destructive path or a rebellious lifestyle. These must run to the end of their rope or encounter the life-changing love of Jesus Christ.

Underlying these three groups is the constant growth of housing costs in the light of much slower growing incomes, especially for people with limited education and job skills. For the past 15 years HALS has been supporting the folks on the front lines in the many different organizations and agencies working hard to stem the persistent problem of homelessness. While many of these organizations depend on limited government support and human wisdom, Christian Shelter has always depended on the powerful purpose, provision and love of God. “For unto us a child is born. Unto us a Son is given. And the government shall be on His shoulders, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Halleluiah!

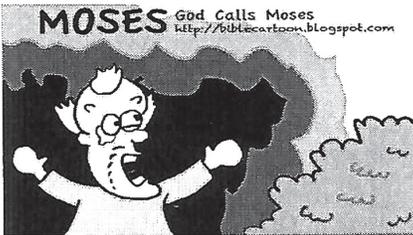
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CHRISTIAN SHELTER, INC.  
334 BARCLAY STREET  
SALISBURY MD 21804

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## IS GOD CALLING YOU?



Christian Shelter is in need of committed Christian Night Staff Counselors. That would be men and women who are active in leadership in a local church, with work experience at a supervisory level, preferably working with disadvantaged people. This is a paid position involving 15 hour shifts with overnight supervisory responsibility at Christian Shelter. Meals and overnight quarters are provided. If you believe God is calling you to such work, please contact Mrs. Mary Williams, Administrator at 410-749-5673 or email [maryw@christianshelter.org](mailto:maryw@christianshelter.org) for information and an application.

## MOST URGENT NEEDS

### SUPPLIES

- Laundry detergent
- Bleach
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Bar towels for kitchen cleaning
- Spray cleaners (bleach, pine)
- Cold & flu meds
- Wet/dry vac
- Floor polisher/buffer

### FOODS

- Sugar
- Butter/margarine
- Lunch & breakfast meats
- Cheese (sliced, grated)
- Ground beef
- Salt, spices
- Italian seasonings
- Coffee, tea
- Cooking oil

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