



# CHRISTIAN SHELTER UPDATE

AUGUST 2019



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE CHRISTIAN SHELTER IN SALISBURY, MARYLAND

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## REBUILDING THE WALLS

*“Come let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem”* (Nehemiah 2:17)

After 90+ years of weathering, the east wall (facing Barclay Street) of Christian Shelter has become, a periodic hazard for our guests. It seems that every time we get a heavy rain blowing out of the east or northeast, the water is able to penetrate that porous east wall, causing water to seep in around windows and entrance and exit doors. Although this doesn't happen very often (perhaps 4 or 5 times a year), it can create a messy and unhealthy situation for our guests occupying the four family rooms along that east wall. By God's good provision through His people and some wise planning by the Shelter Board, we are now able to begin rebuilding the east wall.

The initial step in this work required the replacing and resetting of all the window and door frames on the east wall.



The next step required the removal of two large oak trees that have long graced the front of the Shelter, and more recently grown to cover most of it including our chimney cross.



The final step in the process will involve sealing the exterior of the wall with a waterproof, plastic coating.

# KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH YOU

“*Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.*” (1 Samuel 3:9)

By God’s grace we want to communicate the good news of what He is doing for His hurting people here at Christian Shelter as effectively as we possibly can. To this end we are in the process of implementing a new computer program called Donor Perfect. This will help us reach and respond to our community quicker and more efficiently. We hope you will be noticing the improvement soon.

## We’ve heard from you!

One Update reader writes, “Thank you for the wonderful newsletter. How God is blessing the Christian Shelter. Praise the Lord. Let it be so.”

Another reader writes, “I want to thank you all for the many years of discipline, determination, love and dedicating your life to everyone that walks through your doors. I’m sure most of them feel there is no hope, no future and no love. It is your obedience to God and your faithfulness in their difficult times that they find hope. Our Bible is a book of hope, and when I receive a letter from your staff, I always see that God’s Word is what our people are receiving. God bless each and every one of you.”

In our February issue of The Christian Shelter Update we told a harrowing story about a guest, “Ms. Melody”, with a child and a serious drug problem, being taken from the Shelter by police. The article ended with a positive report of progress in drug rehabilitation from Ms. Melody herself. We have recently heard from a friend of hers that she is living with her son in an apartment in Snow Hill, drug free and very active in Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church. She sends us her praises to God and thanks to Christian Shelter for saving her life.

Another Shelter guest, a young woman with serious mental health problems was referred to the Shelter by concerned neighbors. They saw that she was completely overwhelmed in her living situation with a Father who was reportedly verbally abusive and threatening towards her. After two weeks in the Shelter, surrounded by God’s loving care, she was accepted into a Christian Rehabilitation Program in Talbot County. She called recently to tell us she was doing very well in the Program and wanted to thank us for our kindness and help. We thank God for the opportunity He gives us to serve people in need.

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**WHO AMONG YOU IS WILLING?** Every Thursday morning, when the Mother’s Parenting Group is going on here in the Shelter (9-11 AM) there is need for someone to supervise the children of those mothers (normally 3 to 6 children ages 2 to 10) during that time in the Children’s Room. Please call Brother Jim Barnes at 410-749-5673

## “FEED MY SHEEP” *(John 21: 17)*

We take these words as our marching orders at Christian Shelter. In fact we believe that God planted this wonderful place here in this troubled neighborhood in Salisbury with the intention of planting His love where there was the greatest need. While we may not have answers to the many and complex problems people in homeless crisis bring through our doors, we know the One who does. Our job, introduce them to Him.

One of the most wonderful ways we have of doing this is through an hour of evening devotions, every night, for all the guests. Twenty-four pastors and leaders from area churches volunteer to come into the Shelter on a weekly or monthly Devotion Time. Several of have been ministering for many years. One faithful has been leading Devotions the Shelter first opened Devotion Leaders bring the fervor, some with more with humor and some with News of New Life in Jesus invitation to receive that



schedule and lead a these Devotion Leaders God’s Word to our guests couple, pictured below, every Friday night since in 1980. While some Word with evangelical subdued teaching, some music, all bring the Good Christ with prayer and an New Life.

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## A GLIMPSE OF GLORIOUS LIGHT

*“Come and see what God has done, how awesome His works in man’s behalf”* *(Psalm 66: 5)*

There are some conditions we seem powerless to change, but thank God, He is not. Such was the case with a young mother with two children and a third on the way. She had managed to survive living with her aging grandmother, who took care of the children while she worked at a local Dollar Store. The hammer came down when the Grandmother was hospitalized with a stroke and Ms. P had to leave her job. After six months of temporary housing with relatives, Ms. P ended up homeless on Christian Shelter’s doorstep. Added to her challenges as an unemployed, single mother was the fact that her 5-year-old son lived with autism, a condition that isolated him in a lonely little world by himself, unable to communicate with or relate to anyone else.

Ms. P looked forward to the time when her Grandmother successfully completed physical rehabilitation and was once more able to be united with her family. Meanwhile, God has a place and a plan for her and her children at Christian Shelter. It has been a delight to see the hand of God working in this family, especially the troubled 5-year-old son. We have seen God’s love drawing him out of the prison of autism, from sullen silent withdrawal from Shelter staff and guests to timid, tentative reaching out for a hug from Sister Mary and smiling and clapping his hands in Devotions. God was not powerless to bring the light of His love in Jesus into that boy’s darkness. Glory to God!

RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED-SEND TO:  
CHRISTIAN SHELTER, INC.  
334 BARCLAY STREET  
SALISBURY MD 21804

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
Salisbury MD 21804  
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## BY THE NUMBERS

In The first 6 months of 2019 a total of 489 people were housed at Christian Shelter. Of these 157 (32%) were in families, and 144 were children. In the month of June alone, 78% of our guests were in families. It seems that the number of families in homeless crisis is growing.

During the same period that we were housing 489 people, however, we had to turn 176 people needing shelter away (many in families). With this growing number of homeless people coming to our doors, our resources are being stretched to the max, including staff. "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." (Matt. 9:37). With more Night Staff we would be able to serve more people in the Shelter. Supervising and ministering to 50 to 60 homeless people through the evening and night is a big responsibility. It is also a salaried p/t or f/t position If you think Jesus may be calling you into this harvest, please call Sister Mary Williams at 410-749-5673.

**OH BY THE WAY, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER IN 2020, PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS.**

## 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

**PLEASE CONSIDER A FINANCIAL GIFT  
TO CHRISTIAN SHELTER.**