



# CHRISTIAN SHELTER

Salisbury, Maryland



## A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2021



### RESTORE UNTO ME MY JOY

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Mr. P.

**D**uring 2015, Mr. P. entered the Christian Shelter for the first time as a gentle man and one of few words. He was a broken man after his wife's death, and he had lost his way. We all know that God can put us back together again, unlike Humpty Dumpty, who could not be put back together again. It's not enough for us to have an awareness of God; we need to be in a relationship with Him as well.

We welcomed and embraced Mr. P. with open arms and God's love. He became one of our many guests. He volunteered his hardworking talents, always willing to do whatever needed to be done around the shelter.

Although Mr. P. struggled with alcoholism through the years (causing a decline to his health), he decided to re-dedicate his life to God with all his heart, soul and mind. One day, he decided that he wanted to see Jesus face-to-face. He became a member of Sinai Tabernacle in Milford, and started living a faith-filled life.

Mr. P. departed from the Christian Shelter after a brief stay. I would often see him at church functions with

his family, and I was glad to report that he was holding strong to his faith.

During 2017, Mr. P. became homeless again, and he awaited his disability to be approved. He re-entered the Christian Shelter for a second time. Even after suffering through kidney dialysis, he persisted in changing his ways. He did not stop fighting the good fight of faith and doing whatever needed to be done around the shelter. Mr. P never complained.

Two years later, he succumbed to kidney failure and cancer, but his confidence was in God until the end. When he was told that he only had a few months to live, he declined further treatment and decided to take his last breath in his apartment located in Seaford, DE.

Mr. P. departed from this life on Friday, November 6, 2020. He died as an example for all of us to behold, in how we should have confidence in God in every situation – especially when threatened by death. Today I recall **2 Corinthians 6-7**, "To be absent rather from the body, and to be present with the Lord: for we walk by faith, not by sight."

During his two stays here, Mr. P. had developed a great deal of respect for Sister Mary Williams, the Senior Administrator for the Christian Shelter. This relationship was so strong that his family members requested that she read the New Testament scripture passage at his homecoming. "It was an honor to do so," stated Sister Mary. He was one of our many success stories.

Mr. P.'s sister sent a thank you card addressed to Sister Mary and the shelter staff. She thanked them for what they imparted upon her brother's life. Mr. P.'s sister expressed how he felt the love at the shelter, and how it gave him the strength to turn his life around in the end.

**Psalms 51:12** – "Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit."



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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE – DON'T FAIL TO PLAN THIS YEAR**

**W**ell, it's 2021. Thank God we are here, despite the many challenges of the year 2020. If there is anything this past year has taught us, it's that, "It is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of the Lord that showeth mercy."

Second, you'll be joyful no matter how much you didn't achieve! This is not saying you won't make genuine, sincere efforts – you will. But you already know that God is committed to helping you accomplish only what truly matters. Remember: we don't plan to fail, we fail to plan.

Many of our 2020 New Year's resolutions and goals were abandoned, while many created new goals centered around only the essential things of life, health, and survival. As we plan our goals for 2021, let us surrender the entire year to God and plan it with Him. The Bible says, in Psalm 37:5, "Commit everything you do the Lord. Trust him, and He will help you." David made this statement not out of trying to sound religious, but based on his own experiences. The Holy Spirit showed me that unless we plan our lives with God, we are not guaranteed success.



*Executive Director  
J. Anthony Dickerson*

Why? Because, "Unless the Lord builds the house, the laborers labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1). No, God is not saying you shouldn't plan your life; neither is He saying you should do nothing and that He will hand you a written paper of things to focus on this year. Not at all.

You must plan your life, but you must do so in recognition of His place in your plan and the things you aim to achieve. There are two crucial things this understanding will do in your life. First, it will keep you attentive to your spirit. As you live your life through the year, you'll be in tune with God's spirit in your spirit. If God reveals any new idea, goal or vision in the process, you'll select it and proceed with it in harmony with what you wrote down as your New Year goals.



**STAFF HIGHLIGHT – SISTER PAULA**



*Sister Paula*

*"If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:"  
Isaiah 1:19*

Sister Paula has held various jobs over the years, but also felt she wanted to do more in the Christian ministry field. So, back in 2015, when a fellow church member encouraged her to come to the shelter, she jumped at the opportunity. She was presented with an option to join the Christian Shelter staff and she took a leap of faith and accepted. In her own words, Sister Paula "stepped out in faith and joined the Christian Shelter staff not knowing what to expect".

Sister Paula loves the Lord and uses her gift of music to encourage people who are having difficulties facing different challenges in their life. This part of the ministry is what Sister Paula enjoys the most as she ministers to the many guests at the shelter. She has an uncanny ability to be able to establish relationships with all of the guests regardless of their back ground! This is a great fit for the Christian Shelter and a true calling for Sister Paula.

*"Also, I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, here am I; send me." Isaiah 6:8*



## VOLUNTEERING

It is most humbling to watch the daily happenings at the Christian Shelter and know within our hearts that it is God who is orchestrating the many actions taking place every day. Individuals from different walks of life give of their time and talents volunteering and being an encouragement to our homeless guests. A wonderful lady, Sister Lottie Harmon, is one of the volunteers that God sent to help us at the ministry. Sister Harmon's husband had been a volunteer for many years, until his passing, and going forward she wanted to "fill his shoes". We welcomed her with open arms and are so glad she is with us.

When asked what motivated her to become a volunteer, she replied that the ability to minister and encourage others was her strength and doing this holds a special place in her heart. "We need to encourage Christian Shelter guests to look beyond their present situation. When we find ourselves in a

dark place in our lives, we feel overwhelmed and it's very difficult to see a way out of the circumstances. When this happens, we need to realize that we can get through it and do better things with our lives."

Sister Harmon stated, "I love working at the Christian Shelter because I have gained strength in my own life working with fellow believers. You are touched as you see other members of the staff, because of their personal relationship with God, put their faith and love into action towards the guests.

We know that our sister has been used by God in many areas of ministry, and we are so thankful that she will be working with the guests of Christian Shelter pointing them to better alternatives in life.



Sister Lottie Harmon

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING  
A FINANCIAL DONATION

PLEASE PROVIDE EMAIL ADDRESS TO  
[glebois0271@gmail.com](mailto:glebois0271@gmail.com)  
TO RECEIVE THIS ELECTRONICALLY



## A NOTE FROM THE BOARD

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,  
what is man that you are mindful of him,  
and the son of man that you care for him? – Psalm 8:3-4*

Each night before bed I walk my dogs in the back yard. On clear nights, I look to the stars, contemplating the vastness and order of the universe, marveling that the God who set those billions of stars in place knows and loves each of us; seemingly insignificant humans. Invariably my eyes are drawn to the northern sky where I locate the Big Dipper, the most recognizable group of stars in the sky. Together, these eight stars move about the northern sky, always pointing to the North Star. Far from being the brightest star in the sky, Polaris does not call attention to itself; but those who find it can use it to find true north, to direct their courses.

As disciples of Christ, we are very much like the Big Dipper: we help others find the One who is True North. Ours is not a solitary task; no single star can point to anything. On the contrary, we work together, and together we help lead others to Him.

And so it is with the Christian Shelter. Together as staff, volunteers, supporters and board, we work together to provide God's beloved children with the light and direction they need to know the One who loves and cares for us all. In the midst of all the distractions of daily life, let us continue to focus on our True North, and let us to continue to help others find The Way.

Carlton Bradshaw

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SALISBURY MD 21804

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### **SHOUT OUT TO ONE OF OUR FRIENDS**

**T**he Christian Shelter continues to be blessed by the generosity of our community. In this issue of our newsletter, we want to give a **Shout Out** to Mast Electric Service. Whether an electric panel replacement on our roof, wiring for the fire alarm system, or needed electrical service to enhance the security of our front entrance door, we are thankful for their good work and advice.

Tim Mast and the Mast Electrical Service family, we appreciate that you are a part of meeting the needs of the homeless folks served at the Christian Shelter.

## **CURRENT NEEDS**

### SUPPLIES

- Laundry Detergent & Bleach
- Toilet & Paper Towels
- Bar Towels (Kitchen Cleaning)
- Disinfectant Cleaning Spray (Pine Sol, Bleach, etc.)
- Cold & Flu Meds for Adults & Children
- Washing Detergent
- Dryer Sheets
- Sandwich Bags
- Deodorant
- Lysol Spray/Lysol Wipes

### FOODS

- Cheese (Sliced or Grated)
- Sugar
- Butter/Margarine
- Breakfast & Lunch Meats
- Cooking Oil & Spices
- Coffee, & Tea
- Water

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**CONSIDER DONATING ONLINE AT  
[www.christianshelter.org](http://www.christianshelter.org)**