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SEPTEMBER
2021



MEET
TOYA

KALAMAZOO GOSPEL MINISTRIES

STORIES OF HOPE



Pastor Michael L. Brown

President/CEO

*The Spirit of the Lord GOD
is upon Me, Because He has
anointed me to preach good
news to the poor;
Isaiah 61:1*

I want to take this opportunity to talk about something I don't often mention. Generally, my letters have focused on the guests that we serve, the challenges they face, and the diversity of the life changing programs we offer at KGM. I also try to make it a habit to thank our many partners that make this ministry possible. They are vital to the success of KGM.

Today however, I'd like to talk about the men and women that make up the Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries team. On all of our campuses, KGM, KDC, Simple Treasures, Rescued Treasures and Rescued Wheels, the staff that care for our guests continually go above and beyond. They are committed to bringing the life changing message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost and hurting in our community at all costs.

Often-times, the personal ministry that members of our team provide goes completely unnoticed. No one sees the team members who, following their regular shift at KGM, will go to hospice and sit with a guest through the

night, to provide companionship because KGM is the only family they have.

The next day, that same team member shows up for their regularly scheduled shift ready to give 110%. We don't often talk about the staff person who, on their own time, visits guests who have been hospitalized to read them a scripture and pray with them because their family may live in another state. That team member who prays passionately with the parent of a sick child, all while having a sick child at home themselves. There are the team members who sign up for special events, picnics, and other outings, just to make sure that the guests have a variety of fun things to do during the summer. And then there is the weekly zoom prayer time, every Monday, where staff meet and pray for our guests, volunteers, partners and community. These are some of the many ways our team cares for the guests outside of their normal work hours.

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**In July
You
Provided**



4,296

Nights of Stay



10,619

Meals Provided



128

Guests Served At KDC



“He has a purpose for all of us. We may not see it, but we have a purpose.”

Meet Toya

As a single mother of five boys, Toya’s life seemed to be an uphill battle. While living in Detroit, it was hard to get the help she needed to take care of her family while she worked toward the living expenses they needed. “Before the mission, it was a constant struggle.” Eventually, Toya had no other option but to move herself and her children to Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries.

For almost 7 years Toya fought to make things work out for her and her family. Staying in motels, at friend’s houses, and other areas, but nothing seemed to work out.

Finally, in 2017, Toya thought she was heading in the right direction. She had housing for her family, and they were out of the mission. But through a set of unfortunate circumstances, she and her family had to move back into the mission in September of 2020. This was such a heartbreaking time for Toya, but she chose to think of her children first. Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries was the safest place for them to be.

Now almost a year later, Toya has seen immense blessings come out of her time in the Gospel Mission. Toya stands firm in believing that God has not forgotten about her and her family. “He has a purpose for all of us. We may not see it, but we have a purpose.” Recently, Toya got a full-time job in the ministry’s kitchen. She shows love for others in the food that she cooks. Even though Toya always thought that she would move back to Detroit, she feels called to make it work here in Kalamazoo. Soon, Toya and her youngest sons will be moving into transitional housing for the next year.

Toya hopes to own her own business one day. She is so grateful for all the resources offered to her at the Mission and is constantly praising God for all the ways that He has blessed her and her family. “I try to be obedient to Him and I keep praying to Him and giving Him all the honor glory and praise because He’s been with us this whole time.”

Gaining Identification With the Help of KDC

Another very important aspect of what Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries has to offer is KDC. KDC is a ministry site located on the Northside of Kalamazoo, and is available to anyone in the community who's having a hard time making ends meet.

One very important resource is Identification Recovery. IDs are a convenience that many of us take for granted on a day-to-day basis.

It is hard to imagine not having your social security card or birth certificate whenever you need them, but sadly that is a reality for too many people. This is where KDC comes in. For those who are struggling to find a job, enroll in school, or pay for housing resources, one of the first steps is to maintain proper identification. This can be anything from a Michigan ID, driver's license, birth certificate, or even a social security card.

Without these, it is next to impossible to get out of a financial crisis. KDC has helped in recovering 553 IDs from 2019-2021, even during the pandemic. Of those 553 IDs, some are even international. Through KDC, one of our community members was able to obtain a recovered certificate all the way from Greece.

Thanks to your support and donations, KDC has been able to help all these people and will be able to continue to bless many more who are in need.



Children's Ministry Summer Fun

SPLASH PAD

NATURE CENTER

WATER DAY



Social Enterprises

At Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries, we offer a variety of community resources; all of these resources filling a need in the lives of our guests and community. One vital aspect of our ministry is the social enterprises. This encompasses two thrift stores, Rescued Treasures and Simple Treasures, and Rescued Wheels, an auto sales ministry.



These stores do more than sell clothes, housewares, and vehicles. 100% of the proceeds benefit Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries in multiple ways. The revenue generated from these enterprises provides food, clothing and life-giving programs. With life skills at the core of what we offer, these ministry sites provide training opportunities for our guests. Those who participate, gain customer service experience, warehouse organizational skills, and automotive detailing. In turn, this provides a quality reference for guests when applying for employment.

"Lives are continually being changed through these ministry sites, and we are looking forward to expansion in the future," says Reverend Keisha Gardner, VP of Enterprises. "We are always in need of volunteers who have a passion to help people develop the essential skills to be successful in life." When you donate to one of these sites, you are providing a way for people to rebuild their lives in the midst of difficult circumstances.

RESCUED TREASURES

A MINISTRY OF KALAMAZOO
GOSPEL MINISTRIES 

269.383.1044
524 N. Burdick St
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

SIMPLE TREASURES

A MINISTRY OF KALAMAZOO
GOSPEL MINISTRIES 

269.492.7335
3721 S Westnedge Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

RESCUED WHEELS

A MINISTRY OF KALAMAZOO
GOSPEL MINISTRIES 

269.743.1288
524 N. Burdick St
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Pastor Brown's Letter Continued

Our team members recognize the value of these special relationship builders because over 1/3 of our staff were at one time guests of this ministry themselves.

They have been in some of the same situations and are very sensitive of the need for real relationship, aside from just doing their "job." They understand that "caring" is an action word, just like "love." They know that when you truly love someone you go above and beyond the norm, to help them feel valued. This is the amazing team that God has assembled at Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries, to care for those who desire real life change.

This letter is a celebration of the unsung heroes of KGM. The team of ministry professionals who continually demonstrate, what God can do with a group of ordinary people who have a passion to serve others.

As you read this letter, please take a moment, and pray that our God will continue to give them strength, wisdom, and compassion as they faithfully, relentlessly, share His love with those He sends our way.

Volunteer With Us

- **IDEA Center**

Volunteers are needed to help teach, tutor and lead our guests through GED, Career Development, and Technology Skills courses. This is a long-term opportunity as each session of classes lasts 10-12 weeks.

- **Rescued Treasures**

Volunteers help receive community donations of gently used clothes, shoes and household goods, along with sorting and organizing them and displaying them out on the sales floor.

- **Maintenance**

Volunteers who are handy and willing to assist with whatever's needed from unclogging toilets to mowing lawns to hanging drywall would be a great fit to help our maintenance team.

If you feel called to volunteer, contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Matt Furrow, at **269.345.2974 ext. 203** or **mfurrow@kzoogospel.org** to get started.



KGM
269.345.2974
info@kzoogospel.org
448 N. Burdick St. Kalamazoo

KDC
269.344.7333
info@deonsconference.org
1010 N. Westnedge Kalamazoo

