

# Forgotten Ministries Newsletter

February 2022



February is the last stretch of being open for the Mercy House Winter season! We're excited to share with you in this month's newsletter some of the things God has taught us as staff this season! We've had some beautiful sunny days, perfect for working out in the garden and playing outside with the kids. We have also had some freezing snowy days when we have to focus more on inside work, and sometimes staying home for the day.

One word that comes to mind when thinking back to the month of February is "perseverance."

"More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces

hope," - Romans 5:3-4

In the same way that experiencing pain through training for a marathon allows you to run further and be stronger, experiencing spiritual suffering produces spiritual strength and endurance. We're able to withstand the enemy's blows with more strength if we have been trained and built the spiritual muscles to take them. Let's face it, if a life with Christ is feeling easy and carefree, we should probably ask ourselves if we've stopped training for the fight. Sometimes the training comes without us seeking it but rather being willing to take on whatever the Lord might throw at us as a strength test! Let's all continue to ask God to whip us into shape for the spiritual battles to come.

# Mercy House

With the season coming to an end, we'd love to look back and examine our hearts to see what the Lord has taught us through the ups and downs. Here are some of the Forgotten Ministries staff reflecting on what they've learned.

Maddie England says its taught her patience, selflessness, laying her life down for others, and serving people how Jesus would serve them rather than responding in anger.

Katy Lentz says it has taught her how to be stronger in her faith and have a closer relationship with God in prayer.

Autumn Bradley says it has taught her how important it is to die to herself daily and to live out the great commission even when it's hard. And how much prayer it takes to protect against the enemy when he comes against us.

Kip Fiegel says it has taught him to engage with people and open himself up to people more.

Tristan Bradley says it has deepened his understanding of grace, mercy and thankfulness.

Brandon Croley said that the Lord has taught him patience and love this year.

Curtis Lentz says that the Lord has taught him Patience and thankfulness through the Mercy House this year.



Jacob England says it has been especially humbling for him during the Mercy House this year.

Becca Robinson said she has learned that the spiritual battle is real in the Mercy House. Sometimes she feels it through not always wanting to be here. But whenever the spiritual darkness is recognized and we cover the place in prayer, it really makes a huge difference!

Jeremiah Herrian says that any time it's snowing or cold he is so thankful to have a warm place for the guests to come. And it's always neat by the end of the season to see how people's hearts become more receptive to the gospel.

## Memphis Mission Trip

In February some of the Forgotten Ministries team headed off for Memphis, Tennessee for a mission trip. The team went to a Send Relief tour where Jeremiah was able to share with the attendees of the mission trip on the topic surrounding missions. One of the teams started off at an apartment complex where they set up a grill and handed out hamburgers and had the opportunity to pray with each person. There were so many people receptive to the burgers and prayer that the team actually had to go out and buy more hamburgers! They started with about 250 hamburgers and later had to buy 200 additional hamburgers. Praise the Lord! The second team was at a different apartment complex where they were able to do a flooring project, play games with the kids who live there, and also gave out a free BBQ chicken meal!

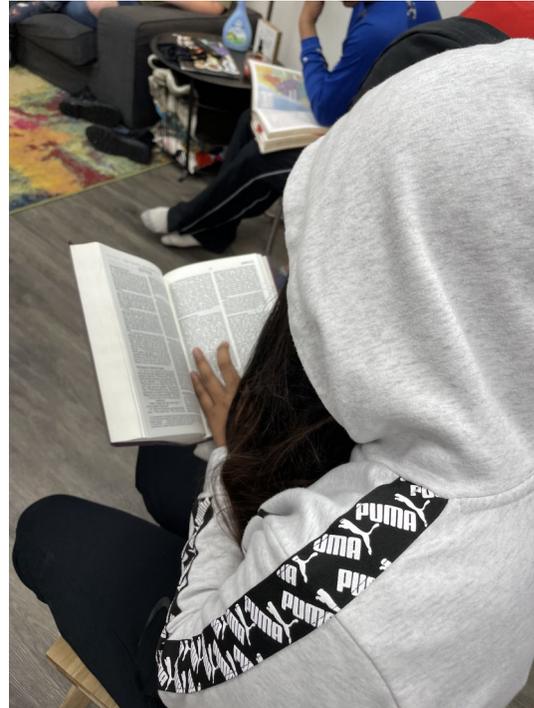


The director of a women's program in Memphis took some of the team to a place called "crack alley." Becca Robinson, Director of the Kids Program, remembers seeing needles everywhere, and learning that someone had been shot in the area just the day before. When they arrived to a run down house there, about 20 people flooded from the house excited to see Tisha, the womens program director. The team was able to give them hamburgers and share their testimonies and pray with the people. They were all so thankful. Becca says it was like bringing the light into a dark place.

## The Bridge Youth

The youth staff are always praying and brainstorming different ways they can teach the kids the gospel and help them to fully understand it. The beginning of this month, the staff taught the kids about Galatians 5 and 6. Specifically verse 5:16 which says, “but I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”

A big struggle for kids their age is not wanting to surrender the fun, sinful things in their lives in order to pursue Jesus. They wanted to teach them that once you are born again, you are doing the things God wants you to do, and you die to your fleshly desires, that it will be much more natural to not do what your flesh wants you to do.



To further explain this, the youth played a little game as an example of what it looks like to be led by the Spirit rather than your flesh. They set-up a little pathway with different obstacles in the way and then they put a blindfold of them one at a time. Then they had to walk through the path and try to avoid hitting an obstacle. It didn't work. They would hit an obstacle every time. But then one of the staff held their hands and actually led them through the path and helped them to avoid the obstacles, showing how the Spirit helps lead us through life avoiding the sin that tempts us. It seemed to finally click with the kids minds and they understood the importance of walking by the Spirit!

## Kids Program

The kids program adopted a new mascot this month! Its name is Royal, Roy, or Leroy. The kids program invested in the bearded dragon so that the kids could have something to care for and also make them smile while they are in the Red House for Kids Camp and kids activities. The kids program director, Becca, has also continued caring for the Kids Program chickens and pigs and ducks. The chickens have now started producing lots of eggs again that are able to feed the Forgotten Ministries staff and anyone else who may need them.



## Oasis

This month there has been a lot of the Oasis men who have been helping at a construction site for a house they are working on. The house needed a lot of internal work, such as drywall, mudding, and restructuring the interior of the house. The house also needed the wooden floors refinished. This is a big project that has been keeping the guys busy and learning during this month! The oasis men have also been playing a big part in the renovations being done in the Paradise Garden. They have been helping to build the raise beds, the gazebo, and do concrete work as well. We are thankful for all the helping hands they provide!



It is always so exciting and encouraging to see that God is moving in the hearts of the Oasis men. This month, while Forgotten Ministries was visiting Garland Road Baptist Church, Jeremiah shared a message that shook a couple of the new Oasis men. They were moved by the Holy Spirit to repent and turn their lives to Christ! Be praying for them as they begin this new journey with Jesus! This is an instance that goes to show that the Holy Spirit is the only thing that can change someone's heart at the end of the day. But when the Holy Spirit moves, it is so powerful!

# Paradise Garden

Always exciting times in the Paradise Garden! There have been lots of new raised beds made that go along the pathways. There has been other cosmetic construction underway to continue to beautify the Garden! And the biggest project lately has been the construction of the gazebo that will have picnic tables underneath it and serve as the perfect place for bible studies, worship, and fellowship to happen in the middle of the garden. All the garden projects have been able to teach the Oasis men and some staff busy and able to enjoy the nice sunny weather some days, and also teaches people new building skills. The garden is growing in beauty and continues to be a place of peace and refuge from the storms of life where anyone can go and seek a



## T-Shirts

The T-shirt business is still practicing and training to become their best at printing before opening up to any outside orders. They were able to get some helpful pointers from the woman who taught the screen printing class that some of the staff attended last year in Dallas. They have also been using the order of new mercy house pajamas as practice to print sweatshirts, pants, shorts, and t-shirts. With certain issues fixed now, they are getting closer to printing more and bigger orders. This month they will be printing t-shirts for the upcoming disc golf tournament fundraiser for the kids program that will be happening March 6th.

The new lead Pastor of Emmanuel Baptist church in Enid, Dr. Shonn Keels, came to do a tour of Forgotten ministries. The t-shirt business staff were happy to show him around the t-shirt building and help him to see how we screen print t-shirts, and even let him do one himself! Giving tours is such a cool way to show people an inside view of what all we do to help support the different ministries and the missionaries within Forgotten Ministries.