



Friendship Center for New Beginnings

162 Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822

Fall 2023

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**“SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE, WE ARE TO GROW UP
IN EVERY WAY INTO HIM WHO IS THE HEAD, INTO CHRIST,
FROM WHOM THE WHOLE BODY, JOINED AND HELD TOGETHER
BY EVERY JOINT WITH WHICH IT IS EQUIPPED, WHEN EACH PART IS
WORKING PROPERLY, MAKES THE BODY GROW SO THAT IT
BUILDS ITSELF UP IN LOVE” EPHESIANS 4:15**

We want all our faithful, generous donors to know how deeply we treasure you all, and so we would like to share some of what our wonderful Lord Jesus is doing in the lives of this community, as you continue to faithfully participate in God’s work here! The inside pages of this newsletter are full of testimonies of His grace PTL!

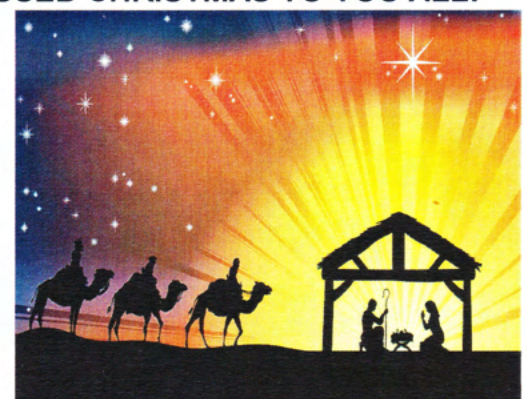
In fact, it appears that God is renewing His church nationwide, as well as all over the world, of course! For many churches, in-person attendance at Sunday services after the COVID-19 pandemic, has firmly re-established itself as the norm.

Further, very many new Bible-believing fellowships have opened in recent years, according to Lifeway Research, an evangelical research firm that studies the church and the culture.

A new study, released in September this year by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research, collected nearly 5,000 responses from 58 Christian denominational groups. World Christian News Magazine reported in October this year, that this research institute had discovered that:

“from 2020 to 2023, overall attendance and giving has risen. One-third of churches have also exceeded their pre-pandemic attendance levels. Adjusting for inflation, congregations are also giving over 25% more money than they did 3 years ago. More than 70% of churches now offer both in-person and streaming services, but the majority of congregants prefer to worship in-person.” God’s church always seeks to strengthen Biblical marriage and parenting skills, and we ask you to pray with us that God will continue to build His church!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!



A client's testimony: "My family has been a part of the Friendship Center family for 16 years when I was expecting my first child. The Friendship Center displays a true spirit of servanthood under Jesus Christ which is what helps so many families to be blessed by them. I've gained much spiritual guidance through this center with the many years of Christ-based studies on parenting, mental health, guidance in my circumstances, etc.

I always had a relationship with Jesus Christ but during my early 20's I drifted away for a short time period. The pink house (Friendship Center) helped me decide what direction I wanted my spiritual growth to be.

I've been able to provide a better life and stronger foundation under God for my family with the support of the pink house. I've been able to further my education thanks to Friendship Center's scholarship funding. I have a job in my chosen career field from my studies of Health Information Technology along with promotions resulting from my education. I am now a Coding and Documentation Coordinator in Hunterdon Health's Medical Records.

There are no limits to what God has in store for His children, as written in Ephesians 3: 20-21,

"Now to Him Who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen"

One of our newest counselors, Ilda Morales, shared recently how God is being glorified in the clients with whom we have the privilege of working. They have shared with her that repeatedly when they come in anxious and confused about the best way forward with some of the many challenges that they face as single parents, they have found that the prayer support and Biblical guidance that they receive here from the Hispanic DVD curriculums on parenting and godly relationships bring them a peace that God sustains in their hearts when they are at home. To God be the glory!

Further, Ilda works with the younger children who come out each Thursday at our local Hunter Hills apartment complex for the weekly sports outreach in their community. Following this, Ilda shares the Word of God with them, and is delighted to find that they have been really listening with their minds and hearts, and she can tell from their answers to her that they are internalizing God's ways and praying regularly for their parents and friends. God is raising a new generation to love and serve Him, and we thank you so much for your vital part in all of this!

Some mothers of these young people have shown a deeper interest in learning God's ways, and so we have decided to start a study group of the Word of God with them each Saturday, in the home of one of the families of our children's "Ambassadors of Jesus" team. This will be a great blessing to the mothers of some of the children in Hunter Hills.

Jesus said " I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" John 14:6



From Pastor Will, hello and blessings,

I would like to thank God first and then thank each one of you for your continued support of this ministry with your resources and also your prayers for our work in Flemington and throughout Hunterdon County. Thanks to the expression of God's love and generosity through your lives, we are able to continue with the privilege of blessing the families that the Lord enables us to reach in our community. Further, for the past few months, we have reached out not only to the children in the Hunter Hills apartments, but God has also blessed us with the opportunity to reach the hearts of pre-teens and teens with the Gospel message of the Kingdom of God.

By God's grace, many of these young people have experienced such a transformation in their behavior, that they have been used of God to draw their parents to attend local churches PTL! For example, we have been ministering to a pre-teen and his mother from the country of Honduras. The mother was sick a few days ago, and this pre-teen invited us to his house to pray for her. He is also inviting her to join a local Bible-believing church family. Glory to God for the message of the Gospel of grace and the love of God, which is leading them to live godly lives which bring honor to the Lord!

On another note about our outreach in the community, about 7 to 10 pre-teens have received our Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and they are participating in weekly classes in the community, because we want them to receive a constant follow up in their lives, for their growth in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Our objective is not only to reach them, but also to strengthen them in Christ and help them to walk steadfastly in the way of the Lord. In fact, some parents of these teenagers in our group, since they have observed the results of God's ministry to them, want to participate in our next marriage seminar, beginning this month.

Also, every Wednesday for the past few months, we have committed ourselves to evangelizing the Hunter Hills community. We arrive at 5:00pm at a central point in the apartment complex, bringing hot chocolate, cookies and the brochures of our FCNB ministry. We invite any who pass by to share any prayer requests they have, and when we have prayed earnestly for God to meet their need, we share with them the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Glory to God, 3 have already committed their lives to Christ, and we invited them to right away join a local Bible-believing congregation.

On behalf of pre-teens, youth, couples and families of our community we thank you so very much for your prayers and support for this ministry outreach to families in our community.

"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God...people will praise God...for your generosity in sharing with them and everyone else." 2 Corinthians 9: 12-13



Please be praying with us for some of the wonderful couples attending our next seminar!

“HE WHO IS KIND TO THE POOR LENDS TO THE LORD,
AND HE WILL REWARD HIM FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE.” PROVERBS 19:17

The Time news magazine of October this year, reported that “The number of children living in poverty in the U.S. nearly doubled in 2022, according to new figures released by the U.S. Census Bureau on September 12, this year, the biggest increase since it began using its current method to count them. In 2021 5.2% of children were living in poverty. In 2022 that figure was 12.4%, or about 9 million children. This was part of a wider rise in poverty recorded by the Census, some of which can be attributed to inflation... child advocates like Bruce Lesley, president of First Focus on Children, stated ‘poverty really does affect every aspect of the lives of kids. It affects kids’ education, their health, their nutrition, and then has negative consequences on things like child abuse and homelessness.’”

Further, rents are up nearly 20% as well. Any of our clients who actually manage to own a secondhand car, face an approximate increase of 18% in auto repair prices from January 2022 through June 2023, according to data collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

It is easy for us to understand therefore how challenging it is for our single moms, and young families, to make ends meet! We wish that you could see the sincere gratefulness in the faces of our moms and their young children as they receive the items of material support that your great kindness throughout the year, especially in this season, enables them to receive. **PTL for you all!**

Being aware that diapers are such a major expense for our single moms, leads us to invite you to consider **asking your church if they may be willing to provide the diapers on just one month for clients visiting our Center.**

Perhaps even if the whole church mission budget is already set, maybe some of your small groups, or ladies Bible fellowships, might feel led to take on this vital service for our struggling young families.

May we ask if you would focus on purchasing boxes (as these are the most economic) of Pampers or Huggies sizes 4, 5 and 6, which we can then divide up amongst the moms on each visit.



As the prices of food and household items have so risen in price this year, we are asking if you would help our moms with gift certificates from Wal-Mart or Shoprite



Top Priority Baby Items:

- DIAPERS – Huggies or Pampers **ONLY** please, as these are best on allergic skins! Sizes 4, 5, and 6 are in most demand.
- *Unscented* BABY WIPES
- Baby wash/shampoo
- Laundry Detergent