

Dear family & friends,

The Lord is good. "Good" – it is who He is and what He does. We thank Him for you and your partnership with us in the work of the Gospel in downtown Phoenix. We are encouraged to share with you in this letter ways that we see Him faithfully at work and how He is using your partnership with us to make a difference.

7 YEARS AGO



Seven years ago, Ricky made the trip across country from Raleigh, NC and arrived in Phoenix on August 26 to join the church plant team that would later become Mercy Hill Church. As Ricky was making the decision whether he would go to Phoenix or move to Georgia, one of his church elders asked him the question, "what would stretch your faith the most?" It was in answering that question, that Ricky could see how the Lord was directing him to move to Phoenix. Ricky describes these seven years as ones of great growth in his faith through the highs and lows. God has been faithful to sustain and strengthen Mercy Hill Church and grow Mercy Ministries, but the needs are still great.

Ricky is thankful for answered prayer and what God has brought to his life during these seven years – including meeting Sherrie and now serving Christ together as husband and wife under Mercy Ministries and alongside the Mercy Hill Church team. Thanks to each of you who have been supportive to Ricky – and now to both of us – through your prayers and love.

Please pray for the Gospel strategy God has for us – and His provision – to see all that He has in His transforming kingdom work for our community and city.



As you think about Ricky's story, what is the next step of faith God might be leading you in?

FOOD DISTRIBUTION: ONE-YEAR AGO

God made possible the re-start of our food distribution one-year ago. We were very excited to celebrate the one-year anniversary re-start with our volunteers this month. Over this past year, we are overwhelmed by the thousands of individuals and families who have been served. We are even more encouraged and excited about the Gospel opportunities and the amount of one-on-one prayer that is happening with those who come for food each week through the volunteers God has brought to us.



About a month ago, Priscilla came back to say "thank you." Through some choices she regretted, she lost her means of living, landed on the streets homeless, and stated she had lost all hope. During that time of being homeless, she came to our church several Sunday mornings and waited in line each Tuesday for food. She said, "what you did and gave is literally what I lived on." There is much more that could be told. God in His goodness and love provided her a way out of homelessness and restored her hope. Now a year later, she is working a full-time job; reconciled with her family and children; has a vehicle, which she gratefully emphasized has air-conditioning;

and is seeking to get connected to a local church body near her. In hearing her story, we realize God alone knows the depth of need that comes our way each Tuesday.

Please pray with us for continued Gospel conversations, for deeper needs to be identified and met among those who come for food, and for God's continued work in the lives of the 25-30 volunteers who faithfully serve each week – we love and thank God for them.



In thinking of Priscilla's story, how might God use each of us to take time to listen to the stories of those who are hurting around us, be a friend to walk with them, and point them to the hope in Christ?

HOPE FOR ADDICTION: "I HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH"

Each week, we continue to meet on Wednesday nights for our Hope for Addiction recovery group. We are grateful for the weekly discipleship that is happening through the consistent Biblical teaching where we apply the Gospel to our daily lives.

We are encouraged when ones share with us of the Gospel opportunities they are having with others. Cheryl is one that is consistently part of our weekly meetings. She shared, "two years ago, I wouldn't even look at another person when riding on the city buses. But now, I am talking to people and telling them what God has done for them in Christ!" We are thrilled about this!! God continues to grow a burning passion in us to not just to do the work of the ministry ourselves, but intentionally pray, equip, and teach others to do the work of ministry.



Please pray with us as evangelism and discipleship continues to take place through Hope for Addiction and all of Mercy Ministries.



WEDNESDAYS, 6 P.M. (AZ TIME)

Would you like to join us in prayer at a specific time?

We are praying specifically each Wednesday at 6 p.m. before our Hope for Addiction meetings for God's great work in our community. Wherever you are, we'd be blessed to have you set your alarm to join us in seeking God for the advance of His Gospel and mission.

ONE MINISTRY – THANK YOU

Whether through giving food, providing counseling, meeting for Hope for Addiction, or one-to-one Gospel conversations, and discipleship times throughout the week, God is at work. We could not be here without your partnership. Thank you!! We want to make sure you have been able to see this video which shows how your partnership with us is making a difference: youtu.be/fRv216-hIhM (also on our mercyministriesphx.com website as you scroll down on the "Home" page).

We thank God for how He is breathing life into our own souls and encouraging us to go deeper in Him through His Word – that we might live out His truth, teach others, and be for the praise of His glory. We pray the same for each of us. Together with you!!

Ricky & Sherrie

TO PARTNER WITH US, PLEASE VISIT MERCYMINISTRIESPHX.COM OR CONTACT US THROUGH OUR INFO BELOW:

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