



DECEMBER
2024

*Putting God's love into action...
where the action is at!*

THE MINISTRIES OF HARVEST EVANGELISM INCLUDE:

- * His Place
- * Hosanna Home
- * Harvest Thrift Store
- * Missions & Outreach
- * Hagans' Pulpit & Teaching

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Do you remember your favorite Christmas gift from years gone by? A bicycle? Or perhaps a ball? A special doll or a teddy bear? For some of you perhaps it was a puppy or maybe even a pony.

Whatever the gift was, it's probably gone now. But, I bet, the memory remains. Some gifts last a lifetime. The best, last longer.

Christmas is a time of giving and remembering. Even God gave His greatest Gift at Christmas, His Son. We'd do best to recall it all.

The writer of Hebrews mentions a gift and it's giver:

*"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness, that he was righteous, **God testified of his gifts**, and by it, though he is dead, he still speaks."* (Hebrews 11:4)

Abel's gift was not just a lamb, but the faith in his sacrifice. His gift was great, the finest of his flock, but it was somehow more than that. "**God testifies of his gifts.**" Even now, thousands of years later, "though dead, he still speaks." Indeed a gift worth giving and worth remembering.

Abel's gift was a foreshadow of another Lamb that would come in a manger, on that first eve of Giving, millenniums and a million years ago. He was the Lamb sacrificed "before the foundation of the world". That Lamb that would be sacrificed. And for those who believe in the miracle of Christmas, it is counted unto us through Grace, by faith, in Christ as righteousness. What a Gift.

I hope you all know the true story of Christmas. I hope you understand and appreciate, as much as we mortals can surmise, the Gift that God gave...and keeps on Giving.

We thank God for His Gift...And for yours.

Merry Christmas!



Harvest Contact Info:

PO Box 2888, Opelika, AL 36803 334-742-0777/ 334-332-3932(Rick) HarvestEvangelism.org
His Place (Kenny-Director): 256-868-0281 Hosanna Home (Kim-Director): 334-740-1645
Follow us on Facebook: Pastor Rick Hagans; Rick Hagans; Hosanna Home Christian Recovery, His Place; Harvest Evangelism; Harvest Thrift Super Center

Hosanna Home Graduates Share Their Testimonies...

Please read and rejoice with us as we share with you the testimonies of two of our December graduates. They are the LIVING PROOF that what we do, what you give toward and what God has established here makes a difference.



Hello my name is Niki. I am 40 years old and have lived in the Auburn/ Opelika area for 10 years. I grew up in Atlanta with a Christian mother and a Jewish father. Because we lived closer to my father's side of the family, they decided to raise me and my sisters Jewish.

I would say we had a fairly religious upbringing. I went to Hebrew school, was Bat Mitzvahed and Confirmed, and I always felt I had a close relationship with God. Growing up, my mother was extremely strict and sometimes abusive, and so in middle school I started rebelling, experimenting with drugs and alcohol, skipping school and having sexual relationships. I spent my highschool years on probation and in and out of YDC.

I needed to find a direction for my life, so at 20 I decided to start culinary school, but then at 21 my parents divorced and I got my first 2 DUI's.

Then at 23, I had my oldest son. I've always called him my "Angel-bug" because becoming a mom changed me. Or that was what I told myself. For the next several years, I did the family thing, getting married and having 2 more sons, but never really quit drinking or smoking marijuana. I just wasn't getting in trouble for it.

After my divorce 10 years ago, I moved to Lee County and depression took a major hold on me, and my drinking got out of control. I would get arrested, deal with probation, but keep living a functioning life. It wasn't until I had a falling out with my entire family that my life started spiraling much more quickly. Most people didn't know the inner demons that I fought daily and how most nights I would cry out to God much like David when he said

"Be gracious to me, LORD, because I am in distress; my eyes are worn out from frustration—my whole being as well. Indeed, my life is consumed with grief and my years with groaning; my strength has failed because of my iniquity, and my bones waste away." Psalms 31:9-11.

But I would get up the next day and do it all again. In November of last year, I finally hit rock bottom sitting in a holding cell after flipping a truck with my youngest son in the passenger seat. I cried out to God to please help me! And He did!

Lamentations 3 says..."I called on your name, LORD, from the depths of the pit. You heard my plea: Do not ignore my cry for relief. You came near whenever I called you; you said, "Do not be afraid." You championed my cause, Lord; you redeemed my life."

I called Ms. Kim the following week, and she told me that she would save a bed for me. It took me 5 weeks to tie up loose ends and to arrive, but once I did, it did not take long at all for a complete change to occur within myself. I quickly learned that Jesus fulfilled the prophecies in Colossians 3:11

"In Christ there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all."

I was saved on a Tuesday night in February making me a Messianic Jew. I am stronger, healthier and happier than I have ever been. Most importantly, I have come to realize how faithful and forgiving God truly is, and how He really does answer prayers. He says in Isaiah 43

"Do not remember the past events; pay no attention to things of old. Look, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it? Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert."

My children are going to have a mother they've always deserved and to know that they can trust me, and that I can trust myself. I am excited to see how much more can be accomplished and just what God has in store for me in the years to come. Thank you!



My name is Amanda Ingram, I am 40 years old and from Valley, AL. My parents split when I was 3 so my childhood was rough. Me and my 4 siblings were always going back and forth between parents. At the age of 10, I was sexually abused by a neighbor in the projects we lived in with my mother.

When my father found out that information he called DHR on her. DHR placed my siblings and I in the care of my grandmother. My grandma was a wonderful woman of God, who had us in church on the regular. 5 years into being raised by my grandmother, she passed away from breast cancer. I was truly devastated and questioned God on why He did not save her. We then moved back into my mothers custody.

My father was only around when it was convenient for him. I look back and recognize I never got to have a childhood because I spent a lot of time raising my siblings.

At 19, I got pregnant with a son. His father and I decided to get married and went on to have 4 more children. Over the years, my then husband would become a raging alcoholic, and physically and mentally abusive towards me. I started using methamphetamine to "get over" what was going on in my life.

Every time I got high, I felt guilty. When my kids would ask to play with me, I'd say things like, "Mommy will be back in a little while," but it wasn't until morning that I'd actually come home.

After a couple years my children were taken away by DHR. They were put in foster homes and then into their father's care, which was now my ex husband.

After losing the kids and the divorce my world started falling apart. I started using harder than ever. First I was smoking the meth and then I progressed to shooting it up.

Fast forward, I spent a couple of more years in addiction until I got arrested for possession of Methamphetamine. At the time I thought everything was over but I did not see yet that God had a plan.

I was bonded out by my current husband and came willingly into Hosanna Home. 4 months into my program I received news my mother had passed away at the Lafayette nursing home, only a mile down the road from Hosanna Home. The worst part was I was told she passed away 3 years prior by my sister. This brought on an overwhelming sense of confusion, hurt, and guilt that she had been so close and yet so far away. I never got to see her there. She never got to see me saved and sober. I then had to mourn my mother for a 2nd time.

The staff at Hosanna Home made sure I knew how loved I was by them and by Christ during that season. I was able to attend her funeral and have closure.

Matthew 5:4 says "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

Since then I have restored my relationship with my family and most importantly, God who has led me through the valleys and the mountains. I learned to look at and love myself the way God does, I'm His precious daughter. I came into Hosanna Home November 18th, 2023.

Today... I have completed my 1 year! I am a Hosanna Home graduate!!!

I have been accepted into the graduate program and will stay an additional 6 months. I am enrolled in GED and have gotten several certificates in forklift driving and manufacturing. Hosanna Home may just be a building or another program to some but to many it is a refuge for new life. I will leave you with my life verse **John 15:5**

"I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in

We've been blessed to have our His Place men and Hosanna Home ladies share in a lot of churches this year. In all honesty, every single time we've shared at a church the people and pastor have gone on and on about how it has blessed them. One 96 year old deacon replied after a service where we shared, "This has been the most significant spiritual event in my life." It was "significant" to us too.

We'd LOVE to come share at your church in 2025. If you're a pastor, call us. we will come. If you're not a pastor- tell your pastor that you'd love for His Place and Hosanna Home to come share. It'd be a blessing for all.

Forty + churches we shared at in 2024 would all tell you so.

ITEMS NEEDED

1. **VEHICLES:** We have 21 men and ladies graduating this month. Several of them need a vehicle (job, church, school, life...).
2. **VAN:** Our best van blew up on our recent trip to Texas. We have 50+ men at His place and 3 15-passenger vans. You do the math. Somebody stays home only go to church.
3. **CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR OUR MEN AND LADIES:** We have 50+ men at His Place and 20+ ladies at Hosanna Home. We'd love to give them a gift bag for Christmas. For some of them, we are the only family they have. Toiletries, socks, candies/sweets, devotion books, anything at all would give them a Merry Christmas.
4. **CHRISTMAS, PRAISE/WORSHIP, BIBLE READING CDs:** We know that most people don't use CDs and CD players anymore. However, we are getting a new sound system (Thank you Lakeview Baptist Church) in Hosanna Home that can play CDs. We are going to be able to hear them throughout the entire Hosanna Home. We would love to be able to play and hear the Bible being read as well as music.
5. And as always, we can use **LAUNDRY SOAP AND TOILETRIES.**

Would You Consider Giving A Special Christmas/Year End Donation

As this year ends, we can testify, "God has met our every need". We can also humbly, honestly admit, "It's been tight. It's been close".

What we can also share is that we saw more Ministry this year, than ever. We served over 100 men at His Place. The homeless came in and out so often it's hard to keep count. What we can count is the number of men who've graduated... 37! That's an all-time record. That's 37 men, "Saved- Sober-Sanctified-Serving"; that's our goal. That's the gospel!

It's been an unusually special year for us at Hosanna Home, full of highs and Lows. The low point of the year for our ladies was Miss Kim breaking her back (in 5 places!). That was the low point for all of us. Then... after nearly 6 months she's so much better! That's surely been the High Point for all of us. To see the high of Kim's healing with six months of watching our ladies serve her, serve God, and serve each other. They got it! They got the truth. We've been teaching them. And they're learning to live out that truth.

Five of our Hosanna Home ladies will be graduating this December. We knew they were going to make it, months ago. When the gospel changes you and you start living for Jesus, you've graduated from your previous life of hopelessness and addiction.

We need your help to see these types of victories. We need your help to go on. Would you please consider an end of the year donation to the Ministries of His Place and Hosanna Home? Would you pray about what God would have you do? Then no more... no less.

We are all here because God saw to it that we too could live "Saved-Sober-Sanctified-Serving". The true gift of Christmas keeps on giving.

Merry Christmas!

