



JULY 2025

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* His Place *Hosanna Home *Harvest Thrift Store *Missions & Outreach
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God Is Blessing The Ministries of His Place and Hosanna Home Where it Matters Most, In The Lives of Our Men and Women

We Were Pleasantly Blessed by The Alabama Baptist (largest newspaper in our state) Covering Our Last His Place and Hosanna Home Graduation. Please read the article below.

His Place and Hosanna Home offers 'bigger purpose' for those overcoming addictions

His Place, a one-year residential program in Opelika founded in 1986 by Evangelist Rick Hagans and his wife, Kim, aims to help men overcome addiction. A companion ministry for women, Hosanna Home, opened in 1996.

* May 9, 2025 by; Grace Thornton



Rick Hagans (front) with some of the His Place graduates from May 3.
(Photo courtesy of Rick Hagans)

His Place and Hosanna Home offers 'bigger purpose' for those overcoming addictions

Dakota Smith's story starts in a way that many people in Alabama might find familiar. His grandfather was a Southern Baptist pastor. He grew up in church. And at age 8, he made a decision at Vacation Bible School to follow Jesus.

"I had a pretty sheltered home life," Smith said.

But in college, that shelter began to fall apart. As he started his junior year headed toward med school one day, his parents began having serious marital problems.

"I got really depressed," Smith said. "I started drinking to kind of cope with depression. My grades started slipping; I started missing class."

Eventually his dad suggested he take time off and move home, but when Smith did, everything came to a head. His parents divorced. They filed for bankruptcy and lost their farm, their homes and their vehicles.

"I was on my own and had to fend for myself," Smith said. "I started working entry level jobs and started smoking marijuana. I just felt like I didn't have a lot going for me, and I stopped trying. I became homeless."

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

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(Alabama Baptist News cont...)

From there, it was a “slippery slope,” he said, and one day he was pulled over by the police and arrested when they found hard drugs in his car. He bonded himself out, but after two weeks in rehab, he was back out on the streets. “I had nowhere left to go,” Smith said.

Turnaround

But then someone recommended he try His Place, a one-year residential program in Opelika founded in 1986 by evangelist Rick Hagans and his wife, Kim. The program aims to help men overcome addiction and build a relationship with God. A companion ministry for women, Hosanna Home, opened in 1996.

Smith decided giving His Place a call was the best plan he had — and on May 3, he graduated from the program with 16 other men and three women from Hosanna Home.

“I’ve been sober for a little over a year,” he said. “I’m back in college and working full time at a doctor’s office. I’ve really seen a complete turnaround in my life.”

Hagans said one thing that has been interesting about the past few graduating classes is that more than half of them grew up in church like Smith did.

“In the past, many would be from a really rough background,” Hagans said. “It’s not that way anymore.”

Many of the His Place and Hosanna Home residents attended church in childhood, then “begin to experiment with drugs and the experimentation took them further and faster than years ago,” he said.

They also often begin using drugs sooner — as young as 12 or 13.

Relationships

That’s Blayden Woodall’s story.

“I started doing drugs and alcohol when I was probably around 13,” he said. “When people closest to me started dying, I started doing harder drugs.”

Then two years ago, his best friend died of fentanyl, and “it killed me with him,” Woodall said. “I started doing fentanyl. I got to where I couldn’t live life without doing it — I was doing 200 to 300 pills a week.”

But when he was arrested on drug charges, a cellmate recommended he read the Bible, and something clicked. “When I got out, I had been planning on getting as many pills as I could to kill me. But now I wanted to do something better for my life,” Woodall said.

He went to His Place and “fell in love with it.”

“It’s gotten me to a better relationship with God and opened up opportunities for me,” he said. “I’m enrolled in school right now and just loving life. I hate the steps it took me to get here, but I love where I am. I know it’s for a bigger purpose.”

Hagans said it’s been amazing to watch Jesus change lives at His Place and Hosanna Home. He loves visiting churches around the state and sharing the stories of how God is at work.

He said he doesn’t want to sugarcoat it — it’s hard work to overcome addiction, and not everyone makes it. “We buried 12 men and women last year who overdosed, committed suicide or were murdered,” Hagans said.

New calling

But there are many stories of those who do. Seven men who have come through His Place are now pastors. And many of the women who come through Hosanna Home see God at work in their lives in a big way too — like Shanita Wright, who graduated May 3.

Wright came from a broken home and grew up with her father. During her teenage years, she followed the influences around her down a darker and darker path.

Then at 19, she found herself in an abusive relationship. “I started dabbling with cocaine to numb the pain,” Wright said.

As time went on, things got worse — she left, then got in another relationship that pushed her to drug use. She found out she was pregnant, then found out she had HIV. Day after day, she sat in tears.

Finally she “gave birth to my beautiful baby boy ... although he was born premature, he was born HIV free,” Wright said.

But then DHR instructed her to give up custody after drugs were found in his umbilical cord.

“My heart sunk into my chest, as I was upset with myself over my choices, and 24 hours later I released custody to my cousin,” Wright said.

She ended up at Hosanna Home, where she said month by month she got better. It was a bumpy road, but on May 3, she graduated.

“Within my time here, God has restored my family and my health,” she said. “I am currently showing undetectable results (for HIV) ... and I visit with my son twice a month. This August, I will be two years sober.”

For more information about His Place and Hosanna Home, visit harvestevangelism.org.



Dear Friends,

Last year Rick and I began discussing some changes we felt were coming up for Hosanna Home. Those conversations were halted when I hurt and broke my back in July, ending up with back surgery and continued treatment for severe osteoporosis (ladies, PLEASE take care of your bones!). This last year has been an especially difficult one, therefore it has been a year since he and I really went any deeper in those thoughts, prayers and plans.

This past month we were finally at a place where we needed to make these changes and decided to go ahead and go for it.

I am here to announce that as of June 6 I am no longer the Director of Hosanna Home.

I have many emotions about this change, but I have solid convictions that this is the right decision, both for myself, our family and for Hosanna Home.

Now let me explain...

So much has happened with my back health, being with my parents during the last few months and especially weeks of my dad's life, and the aftermath of both of these; I was away from Hosanna Home a lot. It became obvious that the staff there were carrying the biggest load to keep the home and program running smoothly. They, Christine Sullenger, Melanie Russell, Krikket Sanders, and Jessica (Gator) Ramage, are amazing and did everything to make sure the ladies and the home were well taken care of. They were exceptional at keeping it all together. They will continue to serve and work with our ladies at Hosanna Home.

What God had begun to put in Rick's heart and mine was that it was time for me to step aside from the day to day running of the house and step into a new role; Chaplain/Spiritual Director of Hosanna Home.

It is a big change. It is one that we both have prayed about and both feel and know is more lined up with my own spiritual gifts and calling.

I have known since I turned 40 (a long time ago...) that my calling is to "Disciple women to follow Christ."

That "calling" had become so wrapped up in the details of running the house and maintaining it's function, beauty and charm, that the Spiritual needs of the ladies were often swept aside. The details overwhelmed the need.

This needed to change.

After much prayer and discussion, Rick presented me with an option: "Would you like to become the first ever 'Hosanna Home Chaplain/Spiritual Life Director'?"

As my heart grappled with the "unknown" my heart leapt with the "knowing" that this was indeed what I should be doing and needed to do.

I realized as soon as he said it that this was right. My emotions took a bit longer to calm down, after all, I have loved being the director. I have loved the relationships that have developed during the 4 years I have held this position. But...this is what Hosanna Home needs from me. This is what my husband/boss is asking of me. This is what God has called me in to and is equipping me for. And after praying about this, I realize this is what I need to be and become.

So how could I say anything but, "Yes!"?

We are all still working through exactly what this will be and what my "job" will look like.

The things I know are these:

- * I will have more time to be teaching the ladies more about who God is and how to be-becoming more like Him.
- * Rick and I will be working closer together to provide the spiritual atmosphere in the Home and lives of the ladies.
- * The time I am able to be at Hosanna Home I will be able to focus on the spiritual needs of the ladies and children rather than the structure of the program (leaving that to others).
- * I am excited to be able to spend more time in my own personal Bible study and prayer time and also to devote more time to research the bible studies I will teach the ladies, to be able to pour into them on a more purposeful level.
- * I will be more available to travel and speak to ladies groups/meetings/events etc...This has been one of the things I haven't been able to do much of and I do love it. (If you're interested, call or message me 334-740-1645).
- * And, I will be more "here" when I am with my family. Not always having to keep my phone right beside me in case there's something going on at Hosanna Home that only "I" can attend to (or so I believed). I will be able to spend the time freely with my husband, my children and my mom.

It will be a time of transition for a bit, but we have already begun that process. Even before it was official, we knew there were changes coming.

We are trusting God to lead us all into what He has coming for Hosanna Home and for each of us.

Please continue to pray for all of us at Hosanna Home. We are still a family, a team and we are each still pursuing all that God has for us to do to "Disciple women to follow Christ- and to show them His love for them. Thank you our dear friends for always praying for, standing with, and supporting us in the ministry God has put before us. You are appreciated and we love you.

In His Service,

Kim Hagans



You can keep up with His Place, Hosanna Home, Harvest Evangelism and Rick's Ramblings each week on Facebook Live (Pastor Rick Hagans) every Friday afternoon at 2pm (cst) "Rambling With Rick: Hitching, Hiking and Hoboing; Life Lessons From Life's Highways."

All our previous "Rambles" can be found on Facebook at Pastor Rick Hagans or Rick Hagans' Facebook page.

ITEMS NEEDED:

1. LAUNDRY SOAP, DRYER SHEETS, NEW WASHING MACHINE and DRYER. We do A LOT of laundry. His Place has 50+ men. Hosanna Home has 20 ladies and 5-7 children, sometimes more. That comes to 150-170 loads of laundry each week. The washers and dryers are almost always running from the time the men or women wake up until they are all in bed. We run out of soap...and our washers and dryers wear out.
2. FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. It's that time of the year. If you have any fresh fruits of vegetables left over from your harvesting, His Place and Hosanna Home would sure appreciate anything fresh.
3. 15-PASSENGER VAN. We've driven our "best" van to New Jersey and Pennsylvania, twice this summer. Kenny and 8 of our men are up there now, helping Pastor Winchester (Hagans) in Toms River and then in Philadelphia with the Baptist Resource Network. Neither trip was easy. I (Rick) was so beat up and broken from all the jerks and jolts that I was in the bed with my back for a week, literally. With my walk across Idaho and Oregon coming up soon (September) we're hoping and praying for a new (or at least a better) van. I'll be living in the van for the month+ as I walk.
4. Hosanna Home is in desperate need of 2-3 computers and printers. The ones we have in all 3 of our offices are old and out of date. They are slow and takes so much time to get done all the paperwork we have to do. There is a lot of computer work we have to do daily to make sure all the ladies and children get and keep what they need. We all have Apple phones and other Apple devices, so Apple computers would be easiest to share our work, but as long as all the computers are the same operating system we would be good.



His Place and Hosanna Home are able to minister to 70-90 men, women and children every month because every month friends like you support us. We couldn't do what we do without friends like you!

Please consider making a donation this month. An investment into the lives of our men, women and children,

You can give: online at harvestevangelism.org. You can mail your donation to Harvest Evangelism, PO BOX 2888, Opelika, AL 36803. You can give through our NEW VENMO account or using our QR Code. Or drop your gift off at our office (1750 Opelika Road Suite C, Auburn, AL 36830).



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