

Living Water Ministry News

January 2020
Volume 29, Issue 1

CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY

As we are past the holidays with a new decade upon us, what better way to start than for the believer to be reminded of a glorious truth: "... Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27b, NKJV). Paul wrote the church at Colossae and said that God had willed to make known to them, Gentiles, a rich mystery, or something not formerly revealed (v. 27a). The saving purpose for Gentiles was only hinted at prior to the coming of Christ. This redemptive plan has now been clearly manifested in the incarnation, life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The question is, do we live out of its fullness, or in practicality is it still something hidden?

"Christ in you" speaks of the mystical union believers enjoy with Christ, which gives us hope for time and eternity. What is biblical hope? It is not, "I hope it does not snow today," or "I hope my son memorizes his catechism answers." But rather, it is a certain expectation that we will receive something promised. We, Christians, thus hope in the Lord, who can do all things but lie, and has our well-being as the apple of His eye. Hope is the anchor of our soul (Heb. 6:19).

The hope of "glory" surely speaks of heaven. The believer has been sealed with the Holy Spirit, which is a down payment guaranteeing our inheritance of heaven (Eph. 1:13-14). Home, heaven, where there is no sickness, sorrow, sin, or death, is a promise that enables believers to hold to the things of this world loosely.

There is also hope for the path to glory. Our pilgrimage is often fraught with heartaches, falls into sin, wearisome battles against indwelling sin, and the broken and strained relationships that saved sinners living in a fallen world often find themselves entangled in. This is where living out of our union with Christ is vital. Just as Christ really died, so too has the Christian died to the power and penalty of sin. Just as Christ really arose from the grave, so too has the Christian arisen to walk in the newness of life through the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 6:3-4). Every promise in God's Word is "yes" to us (2 Cor. 1:20), no temptation is too great (1 Cor. 10:13), and trials and tribulations are tools in the Master's hand to conform us unto the image of Christ (Ja. 1:2-3; Rom. 5:1-5).

Believers are blood-bought children of the Most High and nothing can separate us from His persevering love in time (Rom. 8:37-39), nor rob the sublime certain expectation of heaven to come (1 Cor. 2:9). Dearly beloved, whatever befalls you in the year ahead, live out of this truth: "Christ in you, the hope of glory."

*"... Christ in you,
the hope of glory.
Him we preach,
warning every man
and teaching every man
in all wisdom,
that we may present
every man perfect
in Christ Jesus"
(Col. 1:27-28, NKJV).*



Serving Men Paroling from
Prison and At-Risk Youth

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Warren W., Alumni Resident

LIVING WATER MINISTRY NETWORK

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU

TO THE

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET

CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY

Tuesday, March 24, 2020,
6:30 p.m.

English Hills

Event Center, Ballroom

Living Water Ministry Network

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Registered 501(c)3 Non-Profit

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- March 21, 2019: Annual Banquet; 275 in attendance
- June 17, 2019: New Website Launched
- September 30, 2019: Pastor Jim and Linda Bright take on new ministry roles
- October 1, 2019: Greg Oliver becomes new Executive Director
- The Ministry served 26 men. Two residents purchased a home together. One resident moved home to help his parents. Other residents were able to move to homes with family and friends. One resident is renting his own apartment. All these residents are able to support themselves with employment and are active in their church. One resident made Profession of Faith; another resident was baptized. Praise God for how He is working in the lives of the residents of the ministry.

THANK YOU PASTOR JIM AND LINDA

As shared by Pastor Jim in the September newsletter, LWMN is in a time of leadership transition. The LWMN Board would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Pastor Jim & Linda for their leadership over the past 12 years. They were instrumental in taking the ministry, started by Carl Gunn, and developing it into what it is today. Carl Gunn began the ministry in 1990 with a passion to reach and encourage men in Muskegon Correctional Facility. He brought them the Word of God and led the men in Bible study. The Brights were Carl's neighbors, and Carl was excited to share his passion with them. This is how Pastor Jim & Linda became part of the ministry.

Under the leadership of Pastor Jim & Linda, LWMN purchased four ministry homes so that approved applicants had a place to live. They became the loving arms of Jesus to the aged and get involved there. They helped the men with health and transportation needs, assisted their resumes, filling out the application process and created the Ministry Home Policy. Due to the strong emphasis on discipleship, the ministry has an eight percent recidivism rate (men not returning to prison) compared to the State of Michigan's average of 31%.

*Thank you Pastor Jim
and Linda Bright...*

The Brights were good managers of the ministry's resources as well. The homes LWMN purchased have all been paid for, so the ministry is debt-free. The residents give a monthly donation to live in the homes and this enables new residents to reside in LWMN without financial concern until they are also able to contribute. The success of the residents is evidenced as many of them were able to purchase their own homes when they left, and some have married Christian women and begun life renewed. Truly, "Those who are in Christ are a new creation. The old has gone, the new is come" (2 Cor. 5:17).

As both Pastor Jim & Linda have said, LWMN will always hold a special place in their hearts and they will continue to share about the ministry to those they come in contact with. Thank you Pastor Jim & Linda Bright for your faithful work and giving us a wonderful platform on which to continue to build the ministry for the glory of God.

IMPACT OF LIVING WATER MINISTRY ON MY LIFE

It has been over two years since I aged out of Bethany Christian Services, but I still remember how uncertain and unprepared I felt. Thinking back, I now realize how much I lacked the most basic skills for living as an adult.

I came to know Pastor Jim Bright while I was living at Bethany. After learning of my situation, he offered to let me stay at one of the Ministry homes. With the help of LWMN, I was able to obtain many legal documents like my high school diploma, birth certificate, and Social Security card. LWMN taught me the importance of keeping appointments and organizing my budget. The residents helped to teach me how to take proper care of personal hygiene, laundry, cooking and cleaning.

As time went on, I became close friends with one of the residents. We started attending church together and having personal Bible studies. Eventually, I was baptized into the family of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. As I approached my 21st birthday, I was able to obtain my drivers license and purchase my own car with money I had saved. Together with this friend, we purchased a house together. WOW! God has been so good to me.

I have a very bright future ahead of me and I know God is with me. I have learned the importance of daily prayer and Bible study, even bringing my Bible to work to read at lunchtime. This is just one of many ways for me to stay close to God. Thank you so much, Living Water Ministry.



See our Extreme
Ministry Home
Makeover
project on
GoFundMe.

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ministry-home-extreme-
makeover](https://www.gofundme.com/f/ministry-home-extreme-makeover)