



CENTER OF HOPE

October 2024

Center of Hope Newsletter

Sowing Seeds of God's Love...Physically and Spiritually

Imprisoned Inside by Adam Hofer



Recently, I had the honor of speaking at a re-entry conference within the walls of the South Dakota Penitentiary. As someone who cares deeply for those in prison and helping them transition back into society when they are released, I could not pass up the opportunity to speak to a chapel full of my imprisoned brothers and to spend a day with them behind the walls. Even though I thoroughly enjoyed speaking with them and eating lunch with them, what encouraged me the most was hearing the healing journeys of the inmates. Where trauma used to rule, there stood hope. Even within the walls of prison, God was breaking down the walls of their hearts.

And guess what? God can break down the walls of our hearts as well! The reality is we don't need to be in prison to be imprisoned inside. Unfortunately, trauma is a common experience. We used to think that trauma only affected soldiers of war. We know now that trauma is widespread in society, a tool of the devil to negatively influence one's behavior and personality. Trauma can manifest itself in distrust of people and God thinking that people will only hurt us in the end, a sudden

outburst when our children startle us entering a state of fight or flight, self-sabotage of relationships that may result in lasting connections to protect ourselves from future loss, not handling well the sadness or anger of another person because of our unresolved sadness and anger, striving to always do more, borderlining becoming a workaholic, because of the belief that we will never be enough,

being hyper independent caused by being continually let down by others in the past, and so on. These are all trauma responses that directly affect how we interact with the world. Trauma imprisons you within yourself.

“How are we to learn if no one is there to guide us out of the darkness?” asked an inmate at the re-entry conference. This is an important question because it says two things: I am in darkness and I need help. Often, the darkness of trauma is so great that one does not see out of their current circumstances, a learned helplessness that keeps people from moving forward in life. If not careful, trauma can pass from generation to generation. As followers of Christ, we need to humble ourselves, recognize the trauma responses in our lives that leave our mind in darkness, seek help from God and others, and cling to the hope only found in Jesus Christ. We have a God that sets free the captives! That includes those imprisoned in their minds.

Trauma says, “I am unlovable.”
God says, **“You are loved by the one who made the stars.”**
Trauma says, “I’ll never be enough.”

God says, **“You are worth dying for.”**

Trauma says, “No one can be trusted.”
God says, **“You can trust me.”**

Trauma says, “Everyone will hurt me in the end.”
God says, **“I will never forsake you.”**

Trauma says, “I have no purpose.”
God says, **“You were made with a purpose in mind.”**

Trauma says, “I don’t belong.”
God says, **“You belong to me. You are my child.”**

Don't live as people who have no hope. The *center* of Hope is Jesus Christ! Live life with boldness with this hope at the forefront of your mind. Your trauma does not define you. He defines you as His child if you surrender to His healing and power. Surrender to Him and allow Him to break your chains!

How does the Center of Hope help those transitioning back into society from prison?

- **Free Pastoral Counseling**
- **Prison Transition Aid Backpacks** (contains a Bible, devotionals, encouragement letters/cards, and more!)
- **Up-To-Date Comprehensive Landlord and Employment Lists** (updated frequently by Center of Hope staff and volunteers)
- **Hygiene Kits**
- **Free Clothing and Winter Gear through our Mercy Ministry program**

22ND ANNUAL FALL BENEFIT
2024

Saturday, November 2
4:30pm - 7:00pm
All proceeds will benefit the ministry of the Center of Hope

Celebrate Church
1000 S Sycamore Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

CENTER of HOPE

You are invited!

Join us on Saturday, November 2, from 4:30pm to 7:00pm at **Celebrate Church** (1000 S Sycamore Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57110) for our 22nd Annual Fall Benefit! **We would love to see you and your family there!** Come for worship, a delicious meal, guest testimonials,

ministry updates, auction, desserts, door prizes, fun activities, and more! **Our fundraising goal for our Fall Benefit is to raise \$30,000.** Register and purchase tickets (\$15 a guest) by check or on our website: <https://2024fallbenefit.cbo.io>. All proceeds will benefit the ministry of the Center of Hope. **Thank you for supporting our mission of spreading the Hope only found in Jesus Christ in Sioux Falls and beyond!**

Sharing Christmas 2024

We are two months away from celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Prepare for this Christmas season by signing up to volunteer, providing new toys, and/or supporting the Sharing Christmas program financially. Join the Center of Hope and The Community Outreach as we care for families this Christmas season. If interested, please reach out to Adam Hofer via email at adam@centerofhopesf.org.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION WEEK (DEC. 9-12)

CENTER of HOPE

ALL ARE WELCOME TO CELEBRATE WITH US THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST. THERE WILL BE DESSERTS AVAILABLE FOR ALL TO ENJOY. COME AS YOU ARE.

1905 E 8TH STREET, SIOUX FALLS, SD 57103

Make a Dessert!

We will be celebrating Christmas with our guests the week of December 9-12. During that week, we will be offering desserts to our guests as they come in! Partner with the Center of Hope by making or purchasing desserts for our guests. Thank you in advance!

Let's Connect—Mission Moments, Pulpit Supplies, and MORE!

Out of our gratitude, we want you to know that we value our partnership in ministry. If you are a pastor, elder, or deacon of a church, do not hesitate to reach out to us if you need pulpit supply help or if you want us to update your congregation on what God has been doing at the Center of Hope. We would love to join you for worship! **All for HIS glory and honor.**

Mission:

The Center of Hope exists to walk alongside people, to bring spiritual and physical health, and ultimately to change the community one life at a time.

Vision:

The Center of Hope encourages and mentors people with the hope of redemption through Jesus Christ. Our focus is holistically addressing physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of individual that can only come through creating relationship and accountability. We work in partnership with community organizations to engage in a consistent and positive interaction with guests.

Principles:

1. All people are created in God's image.
2. Self sufficiency
3. Holistic Ministry
4. Reconciliation
5. Partnering to Serve

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Center of Hope appreciates the gifts In Memory of — Emilene Kroon, Lillian Meints, Ferdinand Tilstra, and Marian Phelps

Center of Hope appreciates the gifts In Honor of — Randi Helder

Your Gifts SPREADS HOPE:

Stock or Commodity Gifts—Talk to your financial advisor about gifting stocks and commodities to the Center of Hope.

Make it Double—Check with your employer to see if they will match your charitable contributions to the Center of Hope.

Be a Sustainer of Hope—A monthly gift will bring stability to individuals and families. Give online at: www.centerofhopesf.org

In-Kind Gifts—Clothing, Winter gear, Bicycles, Hygiene items, Backpacks for people transitioning out of prison, encouragement cards/letters, office supplies

Financial Update

Fiscal year runs from April to March, for the year 2024-25

April—To Date. Income

\$178,622.02

2023-24 Budget Need

\$409,672.04

Help us save on postage by receiving your newsletter electronically! Send your email address to info@centerofhopesf.org Also, please let us know if we need to update your mailing address.