



HOPE Newsletter

PROMISE OF HOPE
G.A.R.R. Certified



P. O. Box 321, Dudley, Georgia 31022 (478) 676-4673
957 Lennox Road, Baxley, Georgia 31513 (912) 367-1452

God ^{and} My girlfriends

"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend"
Proverbs 27:17



"For he shall command His Angels charge over you to protect you in all your ways"

Psalms 91:11

Advisory Board

Kate Arnold, RN, BSN
Denise C. Dobbins, President/CEO
Don Crowson, DMin, ICADC
Diane Turner, LCSW
Valencia Williams, CARN
Jim Seckman, MAV, CACII, CCS, M.DIV.

Board of Directors

Kathy Allgood
Rodney Carr
Denise Dobbins, President/CEO
Truman Hester
Randy Jackson, Vice-chair
Emily Kight
Jason Ledbetter
Janet Mair, Chair
Betty McCoy
Peggy Miles
Ann Miller
Dr. Monty Shuman
Rick Tatum

Women's Day of Blessing 2011

The buzz has already been going around. "When's the date for Women's Day of Blessing? I want to bring my mama this year!!" or "When do tickets go on sale? I want to make sure I get mine, I missed last year and heard it was great!!" Tickets are on sale now!!!

If you are looking for a great way to spend a day in February, take a look at the insert inside to find out all about our Women's Day of Blessing's coming up next month. This day is set aside and designed in a manner that provides an atmosphere for you to laugh, cry, eat, and shop as you are refreshed, renewed in the Spirit of God, as we come together as come together once again to celebrate and bless WOMEN!!!



2010's Queen for a Day

Join with us on these two days to praise God in song and testimony!! February 5 from 10am-3pm with doors opening at 9am at Heart of Georgia Technical College in Dublin, with **"God and my Girlfriends"**, we have Mandy Thomas Sumerall coming to perform hits from her latest CD. In Baxley, February 26 from 10am-3pm with doors opening at 9am at Baxley Church of God Fellowship Hall, with **"Angels Among Us"**, Ashley Smith Robinson (Atlanta's Hostage Hero) will share her powerful testimony. We'll have testimonies, a surprise "act", a Liturgical Dance Team, and of course, "Queen for the Day", valued this year at more than \$2,000!! The Silent Auctions are once again building to be ones you won't want to miss....the bargains are up to you!! And the blessings will be ours!! All from the generosity of merchants and friends in support of the ministry of Promise of Hope!! You will be catered to by "Men in Black", served a wonderful meal, and treated like a queen, whether you win the big prize or not. **YOU WIN BY JUST ATTENDING!!**

Come meet the teams of volunteers that work so diligently to create the day for you! Sign up to be a part of one of the teams for next year....we are growing and going!! To bring praise and glory to our Almighty God and thank Him for the wonderful ways He creates to bring His children to the great love He has for us.

Call now and get your tickets before they're all gone!!

Semi-Annual Report

(September 2010– December 2010)

Calls for Beds 144

(2010 Financial Report will be in June Newsletter)

My Hope

Since coming to Promise of Hope about ten months ago so many changes and miracles have happened in my life. The most important one to me is that my eyes are being opened spiritually and I am beginning to feel God working in my heart. For months I felt so lost here until I finally surrendered and let God in the drivers seat.. My hope is that I will continue to just be the passenger and live a productive life in recovery and be the mom He intended and made me to be. I am truly grateful today.

—Cindy

When I came to Promise of Hope I thought I knew everything about not drinking. And I wanted to do things my way. But as time past, I have seen that I needed Promise of Hope help to stay sober. Now, I have hope that I will not drink again with God's help. Because I have been taught the tools, and learned how to pray to my Higher Power.

—Tina

Today I can honestly say that I have Hope, when before I didn't have any. Learning the tools, and becoming God reliant has helped me see a light at the end of the tunnel. I hope to become independent and share my experience with others to show them that through all the pain, there is Hope.

—Heather Lee

When I got to Promise of Hope I had a dark hole inside of me and felt hopeless. Promise of Hope has shown me that I don't have to live that way anymore. I am starting to see and feel life in me again. I've been seen that restoration is possible if I am willing to walk through it.

—Deedee

From the Heart. . .

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Are you grateful for new beginnings? New Year's seems to bring about that "new beginning" feeling for me.

We certainly have lots of new beginnings around Promise of Hope to keep things interesting. First, we will not be sending out a newsletter every quarter this year. We are going to try the bi-annual newsletter. Our goal has always been to be good stewards of the finances God blesses us with. We believe cutting back in this area is a good move for right now. If you have comments to this issue, please let us hear them online at admin@promiseofhopega.org or denise@promiseofhopega.org

After many years of being asked, we are purchasing property for a Promise of Hope Men's Facility in Bleckley County. We covet your prayers for this program. Faith based assistance to men suffering from problems with addiction is greatly needed and we are honored that God has opened doors for us to move into this area. There are already several men volunteering to help with this program. If you are interested, please give us a call!

As I watch the transformation occur with the residents who remain willing throughout the journey here, I am often reminded of my own story, how God worked in my life to change me. Monday January 17th was my "clean date". 20 years of such a happy, joyous and free life. No, not every day has been wonderful. But as I often am reminded, any bad day free from drugs is better than any good day using. Unless you've been there, you can't understand. I know I couldn't know Jesus until I stopped putting the drugs in. He worked in my life to show me life, to give me a life. I am so grateful I still remember what it was like out there.....I never want to forget what Christ has done for me and the many people that helped me along the way.

As I'm writing, many are scurrying around planning for Women's Day of Blessing. The excitement is always fun to watch and be a part of with each event we have. Women's Day of Blessing seems to be just a bit more special for some reason. So many get involved from all walks of life. Volunteers never have enough said about them. We are so grateful for the willing hearts that come to serve. They catch the excitement bug with us. Don't forget Feb. 5th and Feb. 26th!! Join us at whichever event is nearest you, or come to both! You won't be disappointed.

Many are focused on the economy today. What in the world will we do?? Our plan is to continue trusting the Lord with everything. With the direction of the world today, Promise of Hope is so grateful for the thought, prayer whispered...or word spoken to another in support of our efforts. We rely on God's provision, and He certainly blesses us with YOU!! Thank you!!!

We pray your 2011 is a blessed one in the Lord....

Faithfully Serving,

Denise C. Dobbins
President/CEO

The Heart of the Board

Long before becoming a Board member my "Bullet" scripture was Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord; plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." What an amazing opportunity God has given this believer. I get to see and hear this scripture come alive in women who arrive with no hope and no future. I stand amazed at God's handiwork and feel blessed that He has lead me to this opportunity. I came on the Board expecting to "do things" for Promise of Hope and now realize I could never do enough to compensate for the blessings I have received. What a Mighty God we serve! Please join me in prayer for Promise of Hope as we begin a new and exciting year of service

Janet Mair



Alumni Spotlight

Amazed, free, peaceful, happy, shocked, thankful, proud, blessed, and loved are very few feelings that describe how I feel today. Yeah, there are those days that are very tough, but never so tough that I would want to return to the lifestyle I once led. When asked to write a paragraph or two from the heart of an alumnae, I began to pray for the words.....it came to me. Bear with me because I do take a long time to get to my point. You see, during my little adventures traveling back and forth to work, a 45 mile journey one-way, there is this place I like to get chicken. For this reason, I believe its mine and God's little chicken shack. You see, God drove me through there one day when traveling to Promise of Hope for aftercare the year following my completion, and when I ordered my chicken, I received a CD with Pastor Jentezen Franklin giving a sermon. The owners there would randomly give out those CD's to people as they came through their drive thru. God answered some of the questions I had for Him through that very disc I was given that day. What a MIGHTY GOD We serve. Well, on

those days that were very tough as I mentioned before, if the opportunity would present itself, I would drive up to that window, order chicken, and ask for a CD. Worked every-time. Just what I needed. Readers Digest version.....I went through the little shack two days ago, not because of a struggle, but haven't stopped there in a while. I didn't ask for a disc that night, but the woman remembered me and said here take this one. Listen to it the whole way through. I did and I questioned Him, what does this mean? It was titled "Bounce". Micah 7:8-10. I have fallen into the hands of the devil in the midst of my addiction, but there is my bounce after falling where God is given the glory. Promise of Hope taught me about a loving God, taught me about this illness I have, and taught me how to meet the world with both. I know the favor that He has for Promise of Hope and how He uses that ministry to help women like myself. The fall was hard and deep, but because of that, my bounce has been blessed and great. Thank you Promise of Hope for being there to do the work of the Lord...you were right....God is using the very fall (disease of addiction) as my bounce. I love you guys.

Kay



Kay

Special Blessing

I am not sure if you remember me or not, for I was only at Promise of Hope in Baxley for two months. I left on shaky terms, and for that I am terribly sorry. After leaving the Baxley campus, I checked into a hospital that was able to help me sort through my eating disorder and my cutting issues. The more I worked through my problems the more I was able to see how everything tied into my addictions. The last time I saw you, I was around 103 pounds I believe (give or take a few pounds... I really cannot be sure). Today I am at 115 pounds and very happy with my appearance. I do not fear food, nor do I feel any guilt from eating. I am happy with who I am, no matter what size that may be. I have not cut myself since April, nor have I had the desire.

I owe much of what I learned to the teachings of Promise of Hope. You helped plant a seed in which I needed in order to enter recovery. Today I have 8 months clean and sober. Without you guys help, I doubt I would have made it this far. I know I did not complete your program, and I am sorry that I missed out on that, but what I did take with me I have kept very close to my heart.

I appreciate everything you women do in order to help people like myself. Thank you for the love I received while I was there, and telling me things that I needed to hear. Keep up the wonderful work. Your program is a blessing from God.

Rachel



Friends of Hope

Action Pawn Collectibles, Inc.
Alexander, Genevieve & Louis M.
Alford, Jody
Allgood, Kathy
Allgood, Diane
Allgood, Jackie
Allgood, Marge
Appling Ag. Center
Appling County Healthcare Sys Aux
Arnold, Jimmy and Kate
Asbury United Methodist Women
Bailey, Elizabeth
Ballard, David
Barbee, Steve
Barden, Jon W. and Ruthie
Barnes, Minnie A.

Bass Rehab
Bass, Charles and Denise
Bass, Mary
Baxley Dairy Queen
Baynes, Jack
Bell, Joelyn
Bethsaida Baptist Church
Bishop, Tish
Blum, Nicky
Booth, Grace M.
Bradmark Company
Branch, Rachel
Brian's Subs
Brown, Jennary
Brown, Jerrell and Betty
Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Jack

Burnstead, Catherine
Bush, Kay
Bush, Mrs. David M.
Carruth, Joseph and Camille
Carter, Donny L.
Castresana, Barbara
Castresana, Manuel and Elizabeth
Christian Women United
Citizens Bank of Laurens County
City of Dudley
Clark, Justin and Michawne
Clements, Tina
Cochran Bros.
Cogburn, Rebecca F.
Colter, Nancy
Community Mental Health



Friends of Hope

Conrady, Dawn
 Cook, Jo
 Cooper, Betty G.
 Cottle, Trey
 Country Farms Plant Co. Inc.
 Croom, Melanie
 Crozier, Christi
 Cubillas, Raul and Paula
 DAG Ministries
 Dail, Jessica and J.B.
 Daniel, Jamie
 Davis, Charles and Pamela
 Davis, Linda
 Dean, Bobby
 DeSilva, Yvonne
 Dixon, Kim L.
 Dixon, Mrs. Doyle
 Dobbins, Dennis and Denise
 Dodson, Bill and Jan
 Dominy, Kay H.
 Don's Enterprises, LLC
 Doster, Raymond and Delinda
 Downs, Joel
 Draper, John
 Drost, Leslie
 Dublin Animal Hospital
 Dublin Bible Church
 Dublin Ear, Nose, & Throat Associates, PC
 Dublin Middle School
 Dublin Orthopaedics Asc, Inc.
 Dudley Baptist Church
 Dudley Baptist Youth Group
 Dudley United Methodist Church
 Dupree, Jill
 East Dublin Baptist Church
 East Dublin Lion's Club
 Eli, Rhonda
 Eskew, Rosalind
 Ferrell, Leigh
 First Baptist Church
 First Baptist Durke Minsome SS Class
 First Indep Methodist Church Ladies
 First Indep Methodist Church
 First Methodist Church
 First United Methodist New Beginnings SS
 First United Methodist Church Baxley
 Flanders, Jewel
 Floyd, John
 Fountain, Amy
 Fountain, Kerrie
 Franks, Ann
 Frantz, Pam
 Freeman Daniel & Co LLC
 Frost, Iris W.
 GA Boys Ink Works, LLC
 Garner, Mrs. Steven R.
 Garrett, Irene
 Garrett, Maxine
 Georgia Federal Credit Union
 Georgia Power Company
 Giddens, Lisa
 Gieger, Lisa
 Gieger, Perry and Deborah
 Gillis, Bret and Jenna
 Gillis, Donnie and Laura
 Godfrey, Tess
 Golden, Susan W.
 Gornto, Fran J.
 Graham, Claudia
 Gruber, Roderick and Freda L.
 Guthrie, Amanda
 H&H Tire Co., Inc.
 Hall, Rease L. and Diane
 Hamilton, John
 Hanson, Mildred
 Hardman, Nancy
 Harrison, Gail
 Hatcher, Jill
 Hatcher, Kristin M.
 Helping Hands
 Henry, Freddie
 Herrington, Amanda and Ty
 Hester, Melinda
 Hinson, Lea
 Hobbs Sporting Goods, Inc.
 Hobbs, Carol
 Hogan, Kirk
 Hogan, Krista L.
 Holcombe, Paul
 Holland, Emily
 Hollis, Carol and Shannon
 Home Depot
 Howard, Richie and Amanda
 JB Clark Oil co
 Jackson, Randy and Dianne
 Jacobs, Barbara
 Jarrad, Mr. and Mrs. Norman
 Jarvis, Chris
 Jeremiah Foundation, Inc.
 Johns, Tracy
 Johnson, John and Linda
 Johnson, Mary Ann
 Joiner, Geneva
 Jones, Becky
 Jones, Courtney
 Kennedy, Donna
 Kight, Christina
 Kight, Emily
 Killingsworth, Emily
 Kisalus, Len
 Knight, Sara
 Lackey, Brunell T.
 Lackey, Sammie and Bonnie
 Lancaster, Ruth
 Laurens Co Handicap Sportsman
 Leroy, Sharon
 Longhorn's Steakhouse
 Lord, Rebecca
 Mair, Scott and Janet
 Marzahl, Daniela Gullivan
 Mason, Debbie
 Matson, Karen
 McAdams, Travis
 McCoy, Betty
 McDonald's
 McLees, Barbara
 McRae Rotary Club
 Medical Center, LLP
 Meeks, Burnedette
 Meyer, Kay
 Michael's Pharmacy, Inc.
 Middle GA Urology Assoc
 Midway Baptist Church
 Miles, Janice C.
 Miles, Peggy
 Miller, Ann
 Miller, Fay
 Mitchell, Kristy M.
 Montrose Baptist Church
 Montrose Women on Missions
 Moses, Gina
 Moss, Emilie
 Mullis, Faye
 Myer, Vicki
 Nelson, Don
 Nichols, Debra L.
 Nichols, T. Farrell
 Olivet Baptist Church
 Overstreet, Amanda
 Page, Carol L.
 Page, Linda
 Passmore, Randy
 Patisaul, Christy
 Peacock's Meats #2
 Perry, Robin D.
 Peyett, Noreen
 Pharis, Waldo and Judy
 Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. James W.
 Pierce, Ed
 Pine Forest Methodist Church
 Pitt's Toyota, Inc.
 Pope, Duan
 Poplar Springs North Church
 Pryor, Gerald H.
 Raffield, Jayson
 Raffield, Rhonda
 Rardin, William
 Rawlings, Yvette
 Red Lobster
 Regina Schuber Interiors
 Reynolds, Judy and Wayne
 Roberson, Wayne and Shirley
 Rock Springs Baptist Church Brotherhood
 Rock Springs Baptist WMU
 Rogers, Allison

The Other Side

Before and After...by Martha Randolph Carr

"The peace I have found starts with the idea that life is no longer happening to me, it's just happening, and it ends with a growing awareness that all of my security is with God, not with other people."

There is a picture on my refrigerator of my son as an infant, too young to even sit up on his own. His face fills almost the entire frame and he is looking at the camera with a wide-eyed expression. I know he is really looking at his mother, a younger version of me, behind the lens. I look at that picture all the time and I remember what it was like before and then, what it was like after.

Before encompasses the years that preceded the onset of the disease of alcoholism, the disease that stole my son when he was a teenager. After are the years when the boy I knew disappeared from sight. Before was when I thought it was my responsibility to fix everything, and after is when I found out that that was impossible. After is also when I started to realize that "I" was a big part of the problem too.

I know about alcoholism's impact. I am an active bystander and have been my entire life. But when you are the parent and your child struggles, it's a very complex and different animal. The parent's role in the child's life changes daily, by degrees. It seems almost suddenly, something happens. We know something is wrong but think maybe it's just the teenage years and it will pass. But the disease sets in and we fight back because that's what we've always done when there are dragons at the door. We try everything because we're the parent and we're supposed to. And we watch as nothing works until enough of what we have known has eroded away and we are suddenly the parent of a

stranger. It took me awhile to realize I was helpless.

I finally let go and admitted I was powerless. I became willing to let my son find his own path, whatever that meant, no matter what. I became willing to admit I had spent so much time helping him, helping others, that there was a lot I didn't know about myself. I found some humility and let others help me first; I found some faith and then put it to use. I didn't change into some new being overnight. I was still full of fear, anxiety and anger—and in my head I was still trying to plot how I could adjust, or fix things just a little.

The difference, though, was that I didn't put those thoughts into action. Instead I kept trying this new behavior, letting go little by little. Somehow, it turned out to be enough.

Today, my son has found sobriety. Best of all, there are plenty of moments when I look at the life my son is building and he inspires me. But I understand his sobriety belongs to him, not me. And if he should slip, that will be his as well, and I will love him and admire him just as much. I know God has him, and together they will work things out without me. The peace I have found starts with the idea that life is no longer happening to me, it's just happening, and it ends with a growing awareness that all of my security is with God, not with other people. That belief makes it possible for me to let go of trying to mend others, believe in the possibilities and embrace my own life with a lot more curiosity.

Copied by permission



Friends of Hope

We gratefully acknowledge the support and dedication of the following who have supported the ministry during the past quarter.

Rogers, Mollie
Rogers, Ricky B. and Bonnie
Rollover Foundation
Rozar, Kim
Rozier, Christi
Sanders, Shelby
Sanders, Todd
Sapp, Donna Faye
Sapp, Tabitha
Sawyer's Enterprises, Inc.
Scarborough, Patricia
Schaffer, Linda
Sear's
Sellers, Billy M
Shane's Body Shop
Shortland, Angela
Shoup, Ginny
Shrader, Ken
Shuman, Monty and Jenny
Slater, B. Lopez
Smith, Henry and Barbara
Smith, Kristee
Smith, Melodie
Smith, Ronald and Virginia

Smyth, Dr. Linda
SOS Home Services & Odds Jobs
Southern Heritage BBQ
Southwest Assc. Of Christian Teachers & Staff
Spires, Nicole
Stevens, Elsie
Stewart, Elaine D.
Stewart, Martha
Strange, Cheryl
Strange, Jo Ann
Stubbs, Jo
Tarpley, Robert T.
Tarpley, Sandy
Thigpen, Susan
Thomas, Rudolph
Tillery, Judy D.
Trentadue, Justin
Turner, Summer R.
Upchurch, Mary Nell
Vaughan, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas
Vickers, Sherry
Walker, Andree S.
Walker, Mark C.
Walmart Stores, Inc.

Ward, Joshua
Warren, Deborah
Warren, Kimberly
Weeks, Carol
Wells, Amy
West, Karen
Whiddon, Jennifer
White Springs Baptist Church Gordon
White, Angela
Wicker, Jay and Laurie
Williams, Susan
Willis, Celeste
Willis, Rose
Windham, Everett and Daphine
Women's Aglow Lighthouse
Woodburn, David
Wooden, Avis
Wrighter, Kenneth and Catherine
Wyatt, Cathy Lynn
Yanken, Tammy Benz
YKK AP America
Yoder Vinyl Products
Yoder, David

WISH LIST

The needs of the ministry vary. If you can provide an item on the Wish List or know someone who can, please pass the info along. If you need additional information, contact Promise of Hope at (478) 676-4673.

PRAYER
MONTHLY PLEDGES
AA BIG BOOKS
COFFEE
CREAMER
CLEANING PRODUCTS
COPY PAPER
STAMPS
OFFICE SUPPLIES
VOLUNTEERS
(MEN'S FACILITY ALSO)
MEATS
NON-PERISHABLE FOODS
PAPER PRODUCTS
LANDSCAPING

TELEPHONE CARDS
REFRIGERATOR
WALKING TRACK
6 TWIN BEDS
VOLUNTEERS
NA BASIC TEXTS
SERENITY BIBLES
BROOMS
VACUUM CLEANERS
BATHROOM RUG SETS

Volunteer Corner:

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you" says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." The Lord loves to bless the lives of His children, yet we never cease to be amazed each time it happens. That He allows us to be a part of His work is a source of wonder and great joy. It has been our experience that when we respond to His urgings with obedience, we prepare to witness the great things that He will do. We were involved in several other ministries when we felt the Lord calling us to Promise of Hope. We stepped out in faith knowing that He was not depending on our ability, but our availability. Sharing weekly Bible studies with our friends at POH, but those lives include people like us who have the privilege of being a part of His work there. Look around and see where God is at work and join Him. He created each of us uniquely for purposeful living.

Norman and Fran Jarrad

Chappie and Selena Vaughan

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

P. O. Box 321
1257 Wayne Road
Dudley, GA 31022

PROMISE OF HOPE, INC.

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO 10