



Bonner Gospel Mission

*Sewing the community
since 1987*

September 2021

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For God
So loved
the
world
that He
gave His
only
begotten
Son that
whoso
ever
believes
in Him
shall not
perish
but have
ever
lasting
life.
John
3:16

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Bonner Gospel Mission
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Biblical Hope is not just wishful thinking!

Psalm 42:5

*Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation.*

We see in Psalm 42:5, the Psalmist asks his soul “why are you cast down and why are you in turmoil within me?” and the answer was hope in God for I shall praise Him, my salvation, and my God. We also see this in Psalm 42:11, he asks the same questions, “why is my soul cast down, why is their turmoil within me?” and the same answer is, the same, “Hope in God!” God shows us that our pain can produce a thirst for hope. The question is where do we go to get the thirst quenched from pain and what do we put our hope in? In the Hebrew and Greek text, hope means expectation. In our generation, hope has lost meaning and has been reduced down to “wishful thinking”. For example, if someone says I hope I’m saved, we might be alarmed because it sounds like that person is unsure. Expectation is like a woman that is expecting a child, the birth of that child is imminent meaning it is going to happen. So as a woman expecting child, we expect from God. God loves when we expect from Him; it means we believe and have faith in Him. We should not only believe what He says, but believe He said it. Wherever you see hope in the bible, it means expectation. For example, in Colossians 1:27 when Paul says, “God is going to make known the riches of His glory by this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory”. What he’s really saying is “Christ in you, the expectation of glory”.

Again, God loves when we expect from Him, because that means we believe in Him, so hope is not wishful thinking. If one of our men is low or suffering and he doesn’t understand true hope in God, then they search for other things to comfort themselves. That is why it is important to lead our men to the pain with high expectations of God, so they can experience the true hope or expectation of God’s promises for them. It has to be a true belief and faith only given to us by God through the Holy Spirit. For example, Paul writes in Romans 4:18 recalling the Abraham story where God called Abraham to sacrifice his own son. He says that

Abraham believed God when He told him that He was going to make a nation out of his son Isaac. When he was called to sacrifice Isaac, we see Abraham had enough faith to believe that God was still going to build a nation out of his son Isaac. We see this faith spelled out in Genesis 22:5 when he tells the two helpers “stay here, the boy and I will return”. Again, somehow Abraham knew that God was going to keep His promise. Abraham hoped in God! When our men in the mission are in their darkest corner with an immense pain and the enemy whispers the lie “where’s your God?”, We teach that God is going to comfort them with His Hope.

I want to make sure that you know I am not minimizing the pain but wanting to maximize our expectation or hope and our thirst for God. Paul understood pain as he talks about in 2 Corinthians 4:7-10, we are afflicted in every way but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. In addition, verse 16-18, says we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction, is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparisons, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. We have to not let our eyes deceive us into believing there is a better answer in the midst of pain, because the better answer is generally not experiencing or allowing ourselves to enter into the pain. Instead, it is the very pain that produces and exercises our faith in hope of God. We also see this in Romans 5:3-4, “More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces **HOPE!**”

-James Noriega– Executive Director

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Mission Updates

Our mission is still on mission to finish our building improvements

We are now working on our breezeway and it is coming together quite nicely. We have insulated it and dry walled and soon to paint.



Our breezeway connects our chapel to our dorm rooms. It is a type of center piece and is used the most in all our buildings. I am excited to see this come together, so the men have a sense of connection between dorm life and chapel life. It will also help us in the winter keep the dorms and chapel warmer.

In addition the men have been really involved with the breezeway improvements and they are getting a sense of dignity for

helping the mission with projects that will bless other men who will arrive at the mission for years to come.



We also couldn't do this without our volunteers . They have been crucial to helping us with all our building improvements.

We serve a lot of men throughout the year and our building takes a lot of wear and tare. And we believe God wants us here for years to come, so these latest improvements keep our building in shape for a long ministry in Ponderay. With that said, we could use some more financial help to recoup the building costs. If God puts it on your heart to financially donate to recoup the costs of building improvements that would be amazing!

Mission Needs

Pray Specifically For:

1. James Noriega as he navigates the day to day operations of the mission.
2. Our staff, to be able to minister to our guests with clarity, wisdom, discernment, patience, and the ability to listen well and give counsel that is in accordance to God's Word.
3. Our guests to have a sincere thirst for God's Word, to mature as new believers, and have a strong desire to attend a church that teaches God's Word.
4. The men to find true friendships with other believers.
5. Jobs for our guests: temporary day jobs or more long term ones
6. Our Nation, local community leaders, and emergency responders.

Ongoing and Special Needs:

1. Financial help with our much needed painting project.
2. Our commercial Bunn coffee maker that we had for many years just died, so we are praying for another one.
3. We desperately need a stainless steel industrial microwave.
4. Food: Hamburger, chili, chicken, milk, eggs, bread, cold cereal, bacon, sausage, casseroles that we can freeze, and chips.
5. Homemade meals are a real blessing to us. If you would like to provide a meal please call and we can set up a time.
6. Financial Support for monthly operations.