

Mighty to Save ministries

Offering hope and new beginnings to young adults who want to be free from addictions by providing mentoring, discipling and transition assistance.

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Struggles

If any of you has ever loved someone who struggles with addiction, I am sure you understand the flood of emotions that comes with it. When our loved one is doing well, so too are we; but, when they fall, the tumbling of our hope and joy is usually not far behind.

This was something I really struggled with when I first started this ministry in 2012. I remember my emotions being a roller-coaster. When one of my participants was doing well (this was early on, so there were only about 4), I was on top of the world; but when one fell down, I was crushed. Then there would be the guilt and shame questions. "What did I miss? What did I do wrong? What could I have done differently?" I am sure some of you know what I am talking about.

I remember one time in particular. My husband and I were heading out of town on his boat when I got the call that one of my girls had relapsed. I was devastated. I remember sitting on the deck of the boat, looking up into the sky and saying out loud, "God, I don't know what to do. My heart hurts, I feel like a failure." I felt like I had done something

wrong, that I had not only let her down, but that I had let God down too.

In that moment of being vulnerable and expressing my heart, I felt God speak to my spirit. It was firm, but it was loving. It was life-giving. He assured me that I did not fail, that HE loves me. Then, HE said something that changed my life. (This was not an audible voice, but more of a revelation, an "Ah-ha" moment.) He told me He needed me to be steady, constant, a non-changing and faithful influence in the lives of the people I was reaching out to. I couldn't be effective if my emotions were all over the place. For whatever reason, my heart was able to receive this. He is steady and constant; and I needed to show this side of who HE is to them, until the day when they can see it in HIM for themselves.

When I was the Director of Children's Ministries, I used to tell the teachers, "You are the first person outside of their parents who reflects and models Jesus to these young children. How you behave, and how you interact with them will be how they see and view Jesus. They may never remember what you said to them, but they will remember how you made them feel."

It is the same thing with Mighty to

Save. Some, or even most of our participants have no idea about Jesus, who He is, or what He is like; but they do know that I represent Him. If I am overly-emotional, up and down, and all over the place, temperamental, and melodramatic, then what does that say about the Jesus in whom I believe and who is in me?

It isn't easy to change things about ourselves or what we believe. In our relationships, emotions are normal, and often flow with the circumstances, BUT because of His love for us, when we step out in faith and trust, He meets us in that place; and things that seemed unbearable before, all of a sudden don't look so terrifying. Keeping our eyes and our hearts focused on HIM brings that peace that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7).

Now when I am struggling with that peace, I pray and surrender, and put my focus on HIM. I ask, "What do YOU want to do with this? How should I respond? What should I say?", and then I listen. I can honestly say, when I do these things, it is amazing at how much better things go. It is so much better than responding in my emotional flesh.

See "Struggles" on page 2

“Struggles” - from page 1

What you say goes, God, and stays, as permanent as the heavens. Your truth never goes out of fashion; it's as up-to-date as the earth when the sun comes up.

Your Word and truth are dependable as ever; that's what you ordered—you set the earth going. If your revelation hadn't delighted me so, I would have given up when the hard times came.

But I'll never forget the advice you gave me; you saved my life with those wise words. Save me! I'm all yours. I look high and low for your words of wisdom.

The wicked lie in ambush to destroy me, but I'm only concerned with your plans for me. I see the limits to everything human, but the horizons can't contain your commands!

Psalm 119: 89- 96 The Message Bible

Participant's Note

Our friend, Stephen, shared with us a few month back a teaching on Psalm 31. Well, now, he wants to share with us a teaching on Psalm 91. Recently, Stephen read a book titled, Psalm 91 God's Shield of Protection by Peggy Joyce Ruth.

The taking apart of each verse and study into this passage impacted Stephen. Since reading this book, he has been memorizing this passage and has written the following that he would like to share with all of us. It is so encouraging to me to see God move in this young man's life.

Stephen was released from prison since he wrote this article for us. I am happy to report that he is living in a Christian Transitional Home in Snohomish County. He is also out in time to celebrate his son's birthday.

Things are really coming together for Stephen as he learns to live life on the outs with Jesus. We know that things will not always be perfect, there will be storms but he has learned and is putting into practice, weathering the storms with Jesus.

Thank you for keeping Stephen and his family in your prayers.

~ Christina

From Stephen...

I read a book called Psalm 91, which talked about the protection power of this Psalm. Throughout history, there have been numerous stories of people who stood in the face of sure defeat and said/spoke out this Psalm, and made it through without a scratch on them. All around them was destruction, yet they were safe. Each one of those people swear by this Psalm. If you have a chance, definitely read this book.

When you read this Psalm, it not only opens your eyes to all the protection you have through God, but it also tells you everything God is going to do for you.

Being a drug addict and knowing the statistics, and having been through the cycle of relapse, I have fears of repeating the same cycle. But when I read this Psalm, I realize that as long as I trust in the Lord I have nothing to fear; Throughout the verses of Psalm 91, God tells you how He will deliver you, how He will be your refuge, how nothing in this world will touch you. Therefore, there is nothing to fear. Even though you might see thousands fall, you have nothing to fear because you trust in Him, through Jesus.

Being that I have seen and experienced failure over and over again, this Psalm has shown me that with God addiction is beatable. You only have to believe His word, which is unbreakable, and He will deliver you. To add to that, He will honor you! All you have to do is ask Him, and nothing will touch you.

We are all blessed immensely because of Jesus. We have so much love coming from the Father; and I hope that everyone who reads this is able to find strength from it.

Jesus is Awesome! God is Great!

~ Stephen

Psalm 91 NKJV

1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust." 3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence. 4 He shall cover you with

His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. 5 You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day, 6 Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. 7 A thousand may fall at your side,

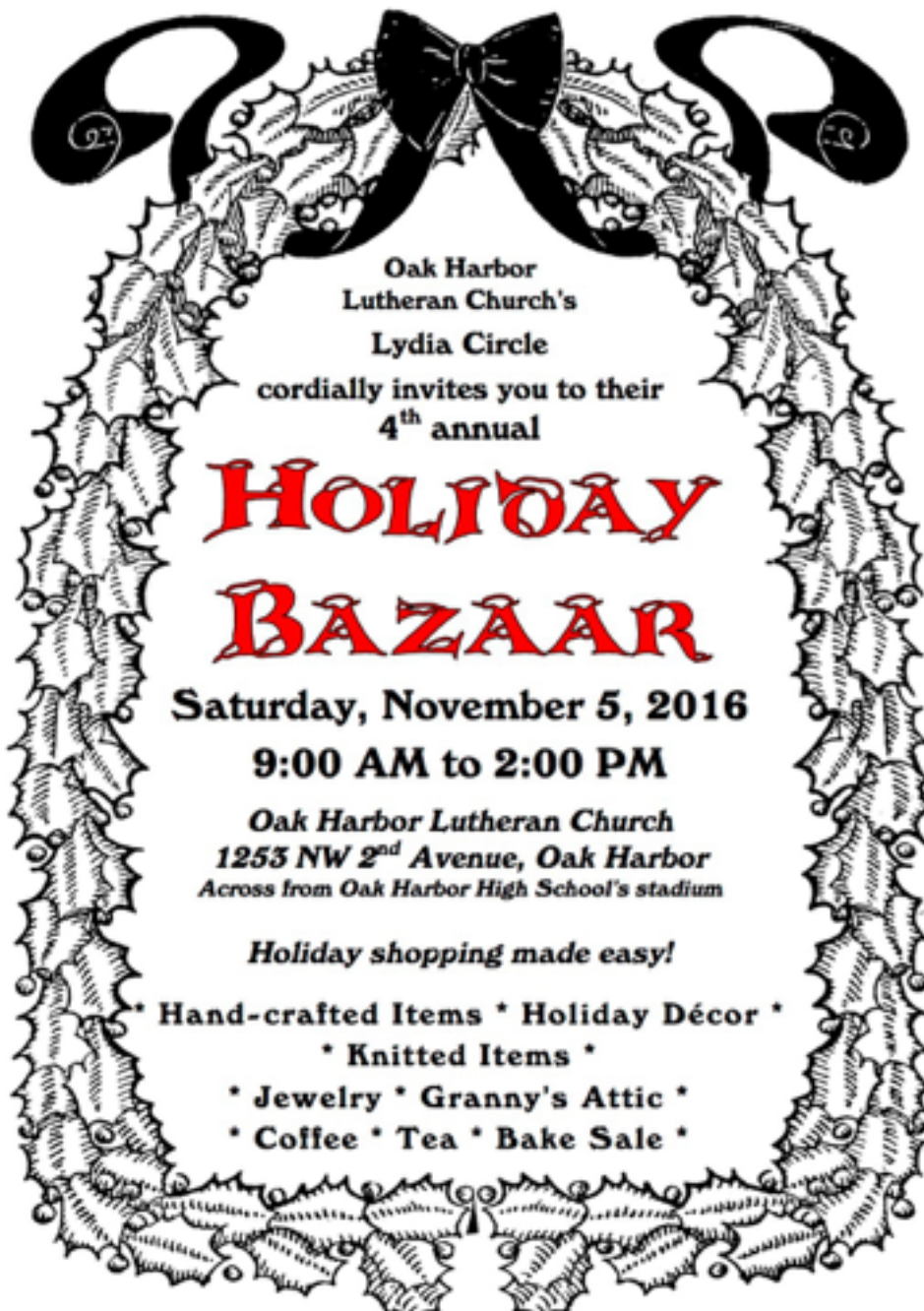


And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you. 8 Only with your eyes shall you look, And see the reward of the wicked. 9 Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place, 10 No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; 11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. 12 In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone. 13 You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot. 14 "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. 15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. 16 With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation."

Holiday Bazaar

We are so excited and very much appreciate that Gaye Rodriguey is hosting the BeadforLife table at the Oak Harbor Luthren Church's Annual Holiday Bazaar. Items being sold are made by women from Uganda. The items include purses, aprons, small baskets and shea butter products as well as jewelry created from handmade paper beads. 20% of the proceeds from the BeadforLife purchases will be donated to MtSM.

See "Bazaar" on page 3



Oak Harbor
Lutheran Church's
Lydia Circle
cordially invites you to their
4th annual

**HOLIDAY
BAZAAR**

Saturday, November 5, 2016

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

*Oak Harbor Lutheran Church
1253 NW 2nd Avenue, Oak Harbor
Across from Oak Harbor High School's stadium*

Holiday shopping made easy!

- * Hand-crafted Items * Holiday Décor *
- * Knitted Items *
- * Jewelry * Granny's Attic *
- * Coffee * Tea * Bake Sale *

To Support MtSM

Commit to Pray — Email

prayer@mightytosaveministries.org and request to be

added to the email list.

Finances — MtSM is funded solely by private contributions.

Your ongoing support helps in funding the purchase of

Bibles, teaching materials, travel, meetings, volunteer

training, counseling and so much more. Please consider

supporting MtSM on a monthly basis.

To Donate

Mail checks to the below address or go to

mightytosaveministries.org and donate online via PayPal.

Contact Us

Mighty to Save Ministries

P.O. Box 1738 Oak Harbor, WA 98277

info@mightytosaveministries.org (360) 929-2959



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Join the Team

Prayer: Your prayers are powerful and effective! If you would like to join

our team of Mighty to Save Ministries Prayer Warriors, please send an

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Financial Support: Please consider MtSM in your monthly giving. You can

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