

# 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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## Children

"Thus says the Lord: Refrain your voice from weeping, And your eyes from tears; For your work shall be rewarded, says the Lord, And they shall come back from the land of the enemy. There is hope in your future, says the Lord, That *your* children shall come back to their own border." Jeremiah 31:16 & 17

This scripture was given to me by a dear friend in April, 2009. I remember reading it, and how it encouraged my spirit. I highlighted it in my Bible. I dated it and named the person who gave it to me in the margin. I cannot tell you how many times in the last four years I have come back to this verse. I have set up camp on this scripture. I have put a flag in the ground; and have said, "This is mine." Even when things were at their worst, with rehab, the accident, jail and prison, I have believed in my heart that this scripture would come to pass for me and my family. I have wanted nothing more than for my children to return to their faith, that their relationship with Jesus would become their own, and that HE would be their firm foundation.

Most of you know our daughter, Samantha's story. She was addicted to

heroin. She went to rehab, but went back to using. She was involved in a tragic car accident that left three men dead. Samantha is presently serving a prison sentence for her role in that accident.

However, unless you are one of our prayer partners, you probably don't know our son's story. Our son's name is Vanon. He is 23 years old; and he too has struggled with addiction. His story is different in the sense that he could use drugs or not use them, at first. He had control. He could work and manage life. Because of his outgoing, lively, fun-loving personality, most people had no idea he was using drugs. Eventually, though, it caught up to him. He lost the control he had over the drug use and now the drug use had control over him.

In June of 2011, Vanon and a friend were in Alaska to do some summer fishing. Greed got the best of them. They made some bad choices that led to their arrest. They were shown great favor though; and within two months, they were both back home in Oak Harbor. They were not incarcerated; but for two years they would be under the supervision of the Department of Corrections. This meant check-ins with

officers, and periodic drug tests, which would eventually be Vanon's downfall.

He skated by the first year with relative ease; but July of 2012, he lost control to the drugs, leading to a failed drug test and two weeks in jail. He got out, saying he was done and ready to move on with life. He married his sweetheart. He got his job back; and seemed ready and willing to live life right. By November, however, the drugs were back in control; and he failed another drug test. Back to jail he went. Then he was sent to rehab for 28 days. He left on Thanksgiving Day, returning home three days before Christmas.

Although, after rehab, Vanon was clean and sober, with a happy heart, he was not strong enough to fight the temptation when it came lurking. He gave in; and exactly one week after coming home from rehab, he was back in jail for another failed drug test.

This was his third strike. His previous agreement with the courts became null and void. Alaska came calling to take him north.

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**"Children" - from page 1**

Vanon was sentenced to 15 months. With time served and good behavior, he will be out by the end of September. This has been a very difficult time for Vanon, to be in prison alone, so far away from his wife and family. Through this experience, Vanon has come face to face with God. He has finally surrendered everything to HIM and is rebuilding his life, this time with God as his firm foundation.

We received a letter from one of the guards who was with Vanon at the last facility that he was in.

**"Hello,**

***I am one of the officers watching over your son Vanon. I just wanted to let you know that he has been a positive influence on not just the other inmates, but also on me.***

***When he is in the shower he sings gospel songs, and they resonate through the whole unit. Tonight I asked him if he takes requests. I asked him for Amazing Grace and he did it for me.***

***I once read that we are supposed to bloom where we are planted, and that is just what your son is doing. He is blooming.***

***I am also sending you some of my offerings because I admire the work you are doing. I firmly believe as officers we should live by the words of Hebrews 13:3. "Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body."***

***God bless you and the work you are doing."***

This letter was such a gift. It brought tears of joy to my momma heart.

Lately, as I read the verse at the beginning of this editorial, I feel like the fulfillment of this promise is so close. I can taste it. I can reach out and touch it. The trials of the past three years: addiction, death, incarceration, and other tragedies, have brought both my children back to their faith, and they are now walking with Jesus. When adversity comes, they go to HIM. I believe spiritually they have returned to their

"borders". They have left "the land of the enemy". Now I wait patiently for them to return physically. In three months, Vanon will be home. Eight months after that, our Samantha will home too. That will be a very good day indeed.

~ Christina

**What's Happening**

Since our last newsletter went to print, here are a few things MtSM has been busy doing.

\* We made another trip to MCCCW with our friends the Landa Family.

**L i t t l e Zachariah** has been officially diagnosed with Autism; but he is doing well, and



Landa Family

we are seeing much improvement in him. His behaviors are advancing, and he is a very happy boy. It brings me much joy to see him interact with his mom. She is praying for an early release this winter which would allow her to be with Zach under home monitoring helping her prepare for complete release the following year.

\* Tammy Pal, our SOZO volunteer, and I made a ministry trip over to Spokane. We were able to do ministry sessions with three very dear people that are connected to MtSM. Sarah was allowed out on a four hour pass and we had a wonderful time connecting with her. We went to the Healing Rooms. We did a lot of just catching up over lunch and some time at the pool. We also were able to attend church with Sarah at the Dream Center Church. Our time there was very blessed, and we are hoping to make one more ministry trip to Spokane before the end of the summer.

\* MtSM did our very first "prison pick-up" trip. Lucinda was released from prison on Monday, June 17th at 8:00 am. We took Lucinda's

daughter over on Sunday night so we were able to be at the prison bright and early in the morning. It was an emotional



Stella, Jessie and Lucinda

moment as I watched them walk out together with great big smiles on their faces. Please remember to keep them covered in prayer as Lucinda transitions to life on the outside, building new relationships and a healthy community around her, helping her to be successful and stay sober.

\* One important part of our ministry is family reconciliation. We were recently contacted by an inmate whose brother had just died. He was asking for help in being able to attend his brother's memorial service. When someone is incarcerated and a family member passes away, the family must pay the expense of the inmate attending. As you can imagine with the cost of a funeral or memorial, this additional cost can be a real burden. MtSM was able to bless Derek and his family by assisting with the cost of his attendance. They had a Celebration of Life on the day that would have been his brother's birthday.

As I have been in contact with Derek and his sister, it has been amazing to hear them talk about the healing that has taken place in their relationship. They had not had contact for years. Derek thought his extended family didn't want anything to do with him; and they believed he didn't want anything to do with them. All of it was lies.

**See "What's Happening " on page 3**

*“What’s Happening” - from page 2*

The following letter was received recently from Derek.

*Christina,*

*I wish I could give you the biggest hug EVER! I am so grateful for your faithful love and support!! You made it possible for me and my family to give my brother a BEAUTIFUL service! It was SPECIAL! I'm taken for words right now... It's all so fresh that I haven't been able to fully digest it all. I just know that you made it possible for me to attend... that attending was so important and special for me and my family; that it was BEAUTIFUL and how GRATEFUL me and my family are for your love and support. At the service I got to see all my kids, (with the exception of one), together for the first time ever. This has been a wish for 8 1/2 years!!! I want to say THANK YOU! I will keep in touch and hope you will too. Thank you. Love you. God bless you!!*

*~ Derek Kampen and Kampen Family*

The enemy had kept them apart; but here they are now rebuilding through a tragedy. What a gift to be able to be a part of this.

Derek is very connected with his prison church family, co-leading a ministry called the J-Unit, which stands for “Jesus Unit”. He has two years left on a 15 year sentence. Please keep Derek and his family in your prayers as the Lord continues to heal, as HE prepares the way for Derek’s release.

Without your love, prayers and support, we would not be able to do what we doing.

From the bottom of our hearts:  
THANK YOU!

## Open House

Thanks to everyone who attended and supported our open house event. It was a great success!



## 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 email to: [prayer@mightyptosaveministries.org](mailto:prayer@mightyptosaveministries.org)

**Part Time Fundraiser:** You would be working directly with our new Grant Writer. Contact Christina @ 360-929-2959.

**Financial Support:** Please consider MtSM in your monthly giving. You can give a one time donation or schedule monthly giving using Paypal. Go to [mightyptosaveministries.org](http://mightyptosaveministries.org) for details.

### Ongoing Prayer Request

Please keep **Transitional Housing** in your prayers. Finding a safe place for someone to go once released from jail, prison or other programs is very important. It’s our heart’s desire to own, operate and offer MtSM Transitional Housing to potential candidates.



### Samantha count down...10 Months

Mighty to Save Ministries is registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 entity. Contributions to Mighty to Save Ministries are tax-deductible.

## To Support MtSM

**Commit to Pray — Email**

[prayer@mightyptosaveministries.org](mailto:prayer@mightyptosaveministries.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 [mightyptosaveministries.org](http://mightyptosaveministries.org) and donate online via PayPal.

## Contact Us

**Mighty to Save Ministries**

P.O. Box 1738

OAK HARBOR, WA 98277

(360) 929-2959

[info@mightyptosaveministries.org](mailto:info@mightyptosaveministries.org)

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P.O. Box 1738 | Oak Harbor | WA | 98277