



raise the Lord,  
my soul;  
all my inmost being,  
praise his holy name.

## Psalm 103:1

455 South Church Street  
Winston Salem, NC 27101

### Office Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday  
10 am-2 pm

or by appointment 336-829-5060  
[sandra@onwingslikeadove.com](mailto:sandra@onwingslikeadove.com)

## Prayer Support Groups

No Prayer Support Meeting  
In January

Next Prayer Support Meeting  
Monday, February 6th  
6:30 pm

River Oaks Church  
Clemmons, NC  
2nd and 4th Tuesdays  
at 6:30 pm  
Room #4  
Led by Jeff & Sherye Hall

## Ladies Bible Study

Each Tuesday  
At On Wings Office  
From 12:30-2:00

We will begin a new study  
Tuesday January 10th  
Isaiah - Striving Less and  
Trusting God More  
by Melissa Spoelstra



On Wings  
LIKE A DOVE  
A MINISTRY TO LOVED ONES  
OF PRODIGALS & PRISONERS

A Newsletter from On Wings Like A Dove Ministry

January 2023 Vol. 19 Issue 1

## God's Vision for 2023.

"And the Lord said to me, "Write my answer on a billboard, large and clear, so that anyone can read it at a glance and rush to tell the others. But these things I plan don't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day!"

Habakkuk 2:2-3

This passage has been quoted frequently. The vision for On Wings has developed over the years into vision beyond our expectations which is only orchestrated by God. One of our board members, Bryan Milleson, wrote out a vision for the future which he called, Family Restoration Center. I have that plan from 2017 tucked in the pocket of my notebook and I take it out once in a while and just review and pray over it. As the passage says, sometimes our dreams don't happen overnight, so we must remain patient.

The dictionary defines vision as an act or power of anticipating which will or may come to be. Vision gives direction for our future and how we travel our journey with God's will in view. His vision for my life and that of His ministry through me needs to be clear, not fuzzy. So sometimes He needs to correct my spiritual vision with new lens from His Word just like what I need physically to see more clearly.

We love our office but after 9 years here we sense that there is need for a larger space with all our ministry efforts under one roof. We are privileged to have close access to those spaces, but our goal is to have our operations under one roof. We long for a large space to have larger groups meet for Bible Study, worship, and fellowship. We would like to have a full kitchen in order to have events in the facility and to have gatherings for our families and the residents of On Wings of Hope Houses and their families. This might be a huge dream, but we know God can make dreams become reality. We are trusting, believing, and looking to see how He will bring it all together.

As my body ages I find myself with physical vision limitations. At my recent visit at the eye Dr. I was told I have cataracts on both eyes that will require surgery. So that is why I am having such difficulty seeing, especially with bright lights and glare. Just as I must tend to my personal vision I must tend to my spiritual vision as well and I must depend upon God to give it to me.

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Each December my thoughts are turned to God's vision for the next year. The board and I meet for an all-day Planning Meeting for the New Year in January. As God puts a book or a passage from His Word in front of me, I begin to listen and hear how He is leading. I also ask the Board and the leaders of each outreach to ponder where He is leading us and we begin seeking His heart in His Word, through Prayer and then brainstorming.

Unless God changes it, I believe my word for 2023 is Mercy. Mercy is defined as compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone in distress. Mercy is derived from the medieval Latin *merced* or *merces*, which means "price paid". There is no greater mercy than God's as He paid the ultimate price for our sins. Mercy is a beautiful word and beautiful as it is extended to others.

On Wings is a ministry of mercy as we reach out to our families, their prodigals, to prisoners, to the underprivileged in our community, and to our On Wings of Hope residents and their families. As we look forward to 2023 and what God has in store for On Wings, please be praying that He will give us clear direction and wisdom and the stamina to carry it forth. We are privileged to work in the field of God's Kingdom where He has called us, and we have our eyes focused on Him with patience for further instructions from Him. Where He leads, we will follow!

~ Sandra



*Anew*

Ready or not, it's 2023! Oh, the start of a new year brings with it

new hopes, new plans, new resolutions. How many times have I started a new year with abundant plans – what I would do, or things I would not do. My plans always dwindle as I realize that I just can't count on myself to make it happen.

A few years ago I started a practice of claiming a "word" for the year. For example, I've claimed "triumphant" and "faithful"; last year my word was "trust". I clung to my word through dark nights and upsetting days, knowing that I can trust God with all I cannot see or understand. This year's word is Emmanuel, "God with us". No matter what is happening or what I am facing, God is with me. I cannot count on myself to be consistent or do what I say, but I can count on God, and He has promised – He is Emmanuel.

In the December Prayer Support Meeting and Tuesday afternoon Bible study we explored and practiced "breath prayers" – short, often one- or two-word prayers that are said along with slow, deep breaths. The purpose of breath prayers is to slow down and refocus. Such prayer is an avenue to actively acknowledge, submit to and rely upon God's presence in our busy, chaotic and often fretful lives, and to find peace thereby. I practiced breath prayers during my Christmas shopping! "Emman...uel", repeating the Name over and over again. What a sweet and powerful reminder. What a blessing and a promise. What a Savior! Emmanuel – God with us.

As we start this new year with renewed hopes and dreams, as we carry some of the burden and pains of last year into the new year, as trials, disappointments and fears arise anew, how grateful I am to know that God is with me – and that His mercies are new every morning (and every new year) – "great is Thy faithfulness!" (see Lamentations 3:22-23)

"Abide in Me, and I in you....

- Jesus in John 15:4



## Prayer Thoughts

### God's Sure Pursuit

Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life.  
Psalm 23:6

Some years ago, a man walked about a block ahead of me. I could clearly see that his arms were full of packages. All of a sudden, he tripped, dropping everything. A couple of people helped him to his feet, assisting him in collecting what he'd dropped. But they missed something—his wallet. I picked it up and took off in hot pursuit of the stranger, hoping to return that important item. I yelled "Sir, sir!" and finally got his attention. He turned just as I reached him. As I held out the wallet, I'll never forget his look of surprised relief and immense gratitude.

What began as following after that man turned into something quite different. Most English translations use the word follow in the final verse of the familiar Psalm 23—"Surely your goodness and love will follow me" (v. 6). And while "follow" fits, the actual Hebrew word used is more forceful, aggressive even. The word literally means "to pursue or chase," much like a predator pursues his prey (think of a wolf pursuing sheep). God's goodness and love don't merely follow along after us at a casual pace, in no real hurry, like a pet might leisurely follow you home. No, "surely" we are being pursued—chased even—with intention. Much like pursuing a man to return his wallet, we're pursued by the Good Shepherd who loves us with an everlasting love

Taken from Our Daily Bread



- Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the SHEEP of His pasture. ~ Psalm 100:3
- All we like SHEEP have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. ~ Isaiah 53:6
- My SHEEP wandered through all the mountains, and on every high hill; yes, My flock was scattered over the whole face of the earth, and no one was seeking or searching for them." ~ Ezekiel 34:6
- "What do you think? If a man has a hundred SHEEP, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices more over that one SHEEP than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. ~ Matthew 18:12-13
- I am the good shepherd; and I know My SHEEP, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the SHEEP. ~ John 10:14-15
- So we, Your people and SHEEP of Your pasture, Will give You thanks forever; We will show forth Your praise to all generations. "you were like SHEEP going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. ~ 1 Peter 2:25

## The Calvary Quilting Ministry

made lap quilts for our residents. Each quilt was prayed over and each time someone prays over it, a knot is tied on the quilt. Each person who received a quilt was prayed for by the quilting team and the pastors of the church.

*What a blessing!*



## We are so proud of *Kristen and Nicole*



**They have both completed the  
7 HABITS COURSE  
with Peggie Wells**

# OUR WORD FOR 2022 WAS *Miracles* AND IT HAS BEEN A YEAR OF JUST THAT

*Miracles have blown our socks off!*

- We have 2 Transition Houses up and running just this year..and they are fully furnished by donors
- We received another grant for the houses.
- We were donated 2 ministry vehicles, one for the men and one for the women.
- One of our residents was able to secure another vehicle under his name which was donated.
- We had a closed trailer donated to assist us with outreaches.
- We secured a Resource Center close to us giving us the ability to store and prepare distribution of donated items for both our Residents, the houses, and the Community.
- Gary Byrum came on as our Logistics Coordinator which has been a true blessing to us.
- We have been able to send in over 1000 Study Bibles to Prisoners and Bible Correspondence Courses.
- Everyone of our 6 Residents have a job and are contributing back to On Wings of Hope
- We have both a Men's and Women's Hope House Administrator in place. A Men's and Women's Hope House Director for both houses. And each Resident has a personal Mentor which is coordinated by our Mentor Coordinator.
- We have had a busy year with developing guidelines and OWOH house procedures.
- We were able to secure Insurance for our Houses and Office Property which was a difficult task.
- We have given out a few hundred Treasure Boxes to prisoners, children and in underprivileged communities in our city. We reached in at least four times this year with different outreaches.
- We have continued to minister to families of Prodigals and Prisoners and have more vision for the future.
- God has connected us with churches and organizations in ways we have only dreamed of in past years. We have actually had church groups contacting us to help with our outreaches.
- We have at least 3 of our group who will be baptized soon. One came to know the Lord on her arrival to OWOH and others have rededicated their lives and want to be baptized.

**HE IS IMMUTABLE, WHICH MEANS THAT HE HAS NEVER CHANGED AND CAN NEVER CHANGE IN ANY SMALLEST MEASURE. TO CHANGE HE WOULD NEED TO GO FROM BETTER TO WORSE OR FROM WORSE TO BETTER. HE CANNOT DO EITHER, FOR BEING PERFECT HE CANNOT BECOME MORE PERFECT, AND IF HE WERE TO BECOME LESS PERFECT HE WOULD BE LESS THAN GOD.**

**A. W. TOZAR**

This is a short list of the miracles we have seen God accomplish and we know He is not through by a long shot. One day I am going to write about them all because God needs to be glorified for all He does. Thank you again for partnering with us in prayer. It has been a tough year but a year of victory in Him.

*We press on,*

*Sandra Kearns*