



Sometimes people are just paralyzed

In Luke 5:17-25 we find the account of several friends of a paralyzed man who in the most unusual of circumstances finds himself laying on his sick bed right in front of Jesus. He did not get there of his own doing; his friends actually carried him onto the roof and let him down through the tiles. The result? The paralyzed man has an amazing encounter with Jesus.

17 "...as He was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Him to heal. 18 And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, 19 but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. 20 And when He saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

Then in just a few verses later Jesus says to the paralyzed man, "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home. And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God!"

I love this account of what happened that day and I especially am drawn to the part this man's friends played to help him find Jesus and be healed. We don't really know a lot about this man, only that he was paralyzed. We do get a glimpse however about his friends through their actions. They believed that Jesus had answers, even for paralysis. They carried their crippled friend to the house where Jesus was teaching. Unable to enter due to the large crowd already blocking their way, they somehow hoisted him onto the roof, pulled up the roof tiles and let him down as Jesus taught the people. Pretty amazing in my book!

At the Center of Hope, many come through our doors who are paralyzed too. The burdens we encounter can manifest in a variety of ways such as in the realm of anxiety and depression, abuse and trauma-related issues. Living in poverty means there are days where the individual feels paralyzed by anxiety and depression. Others have just lost all hope and everyday is dark with the expectation that tomorrow will be darker still. What can the answer be? Dare I say, it's you and me?

All who help, whether as a volunteer, a donor, a prayer partner, or in other capacities – are friends carrying those paralyzed into the very presence of Jesus. Someone willing to listen and pray can be the very thing that ignites a spark of hope in a hurting person's life. When people run out of food, many times they also run out of hope. We address hopelessness every day here and get to watch desperation replaced with smiles, relief and sometimes even joy!

Each neighbor experiencing poverty needs a caring person willing to go to bat for them to help find solutions (and you might have already guessed it), but we believe that you and I are meant to be that someone! Consider this your personal invitation to jump on board with us at Victory and be the friend who will go the extra mile to bring the hope, love and concern that is so needed in their lives.

It is such an honor to partner with you in this ministry. We do not take for granted your friendship or participation with us in reaching hurting humanity. Thank you for standing with us.

In Christ,

Lloyd

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Walk in for Recovery

The Center of Hope collaborated with the Columbus and Franklin County Addiction Plan by hosting a Walk in for Recovery event for two consecutive days in late June. The purpose of this event was to create a safe place where those plagued by addiction, especially those with Opioid Use Disorder, can have an opportunity to get connected to treatment. Services were available on a drop-in basis and no appointment was needed. Dozens stopped by and were exposed to various organizations who could help them. Many stopped by for prayer and ministry.

This free community event also included a meal, transportation assistance, fentanyl test strips, naloxone and naloxone training, hepatitis A vaccines, substance use assessments, medication-assisted treatment assessments, and addiction information and support to connect individuals to treatment. All services were free.

Opportunities abound this Summer!

Would you like to look back on your summer knowing you invested some of your time making a difference in the life of someone in need? If you answered Yes, take a look at the opportunities listed below and contact us right away at volunteer@victorycoh.org and we'll get started.

Be a Choice Pantry Shopper – or a Food Donation Pick-up Driver – Serve as a Clothing Workroom Assistant – A Warehouse Assistant – or a Clothing Boutique Personal Shopper

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10

Job Openings – Join our Team!

As of April this year we had six positions we needed to fill – two are still open; Volunteer Coordinator (20/25 hrs/week) & Warehouse Coordinator (20/25 hrs/week).

For more information on these positions visit www.victorycoh.org/jobs

Take a look at this heartwarming thank you note we received...

Six years ago we come to this city, without money, without job, a friend recommended us to Hope, a community help center, so we did and we found a very welcoming place with very kind people and a lot of help in food and clothes and also gave me visual attention and a glasses. Now for the second time they helped me with a complete visual exam and new glasses. Thanks for you valuable help, may God bless Hope and people you continue to help.

Marcus

Did you know that the Center of Hope serves 50 different zip codes each year?