HOUSE of HOPE
OF THE PEE DEE

Hope In Action

The House of Hope's Newsletter
Summer 2020

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Good News!

Sam and Faye Got Married!

June 13, 2020

This romantic story didn't have an easy or traditional start. Back in 2014 Sam came to the House of Hope after 812 days in prison. He was broken and need of a new start. In 2017 Faye came to the Courtney McGinnis Graham Shelter and stayed for 4 weeks before going to the recovery program at Miracle Hill in Greenville. Both Sam and Faye's lives were changed by God through the House of Hope, and both Sam and Faye felt that God called them to work for the ministry and to give back. In 2019 they met, and all of us knew that they were meant to be together.

They chose to be married in the Hannah Skipper Prayer Garden at the Courtney McGinnis Graham Community Shelter, surrounded by friends, family and the residents and guests they serve. They chose bridesmaids and goomsmen from family, work and church friends. Everyone who was there that day could feel the love that these two have for each other, and for the Lord.

Tough beginnings often have happy endings when God is involved! Just ask Mr. and Mrs. White!

Can You Out Sin God's Redemption?
GOOD NEWS the Answer is NO!

My name is Casey Lenahan, and I am a child of God! Approximately 10 months ago I could not say those words. But let me start at the beginning. On the night of August 4, 1988 I committed murder. I received a 20 to life sentence. You would think that I had hit rock bottom, but I had not. Over the next 2 years I become so uncontrollable that the South Carolina Department of Corrections deemed me so unsafe to the staff and inmates in general population, that they broke my custody level all the way down to the most restricted custody that they had. In plain English, I had reduced myself into being such an animal, that I wasn't even allowed to be on the worst prison yard SCDC had. I not only put myself into a prison, but I put myself in a prison within a prison. I lived my life this way for the next 5 years. Now, I had hit rock bottom. About 4 ½ years into this time in lock-up, I had my first in your face encounter with God. For some reason I started looking at myself for who and what I was. I shined a light into all my deep and dark places. Sitting in lock-up that night I made a very painful discovery, all that hate I had for everyone else was really not for them, it was for me. Yes, I hated and despised myself so much that it overflowed out of me onto everyone else. This is the first time in my life that I knew God was real, and despite the fact that I was a monster, God loves me anyway. That night I cried so hard that it brought on a physical pain. Over the next six years I slipped back into the prison life and any thoughts of God went with it. One day a friend came up to me and said, that I needed to join Kairos and that he was saving a spot for me. I told him that God and I were good, and thanks but no thanks. He was persistent so when he asked me again, I told him yes I'll try your Kairos. As I feared, when I met God for a second time, it was painful. This time around I truly believed that God gave His Son to the world, and he did so knowing that He would be the final sacrifice for my salvation. Even knowing this, I still wanted to play by my own rules. Okay, I know I'm a little thick in the head. I was coming up for parole for the 5th time and I was not feeling it at all. I decided that I was not going to waste my time with them anymore. But right before the date, I was awakened in the middle of the night and something in me told me to go anyway. On July 31st 2019 I went for my parole hearing and was given parole after 31 years in prison. I don't believe that I, or the parole board had anything to do with my release from prison, I believe that it was all God's work. It was time for me to start the next part of my journey in becoming a Christian. I was let out of prison on September 17th 2019, and stepped into a place worse than the prison system I had just left. I was paroled to, in the simplest terms, a slave camp that will prey on former inmates like myself. That first night in that terrible place I knew that I was in serious trouble, so I did the only thing I knew to do and that was to take it to God and ask Him for the help that I needed. The next day my parole officer told me that he found a place for me if I was interested. He told me that the place is Christian based and that they will help me to recover my life. I have been here at the House of Hope for 10 months and my life with God is as it should be. I am listing to what God has to say to me now and I know how to hear Him. I am Casey Lenahan and I stand before you as a child of God because my Lord and Father gave me salvation with the sacrifice of His son and a promise that if I believe in Him, that He died for me , He will fulfill his promises. Thank you and God bless you all.

What Would Bryan Say, If He Was Here?

Bryan is on vacation this week, so I'm going to imagine what he would say about "**Good News**" at the House of Hope. First of all he would tell you about the **Good News** of having an amazing staff that he can trust to direct the ship while he spends precious time with his family! He definitely would want you to know the **Good News** that we never had to close during COVID, and our amazing staff never wavered in their commitment to those we serve. Next he would let you know that this community has been outstanding in their care for our guests through donations of money, food, cleaning products and so much more. It is amazing **Good News** to know that no matter how dire the world's situations are, the people of Florence and the Pee Dee care deeply about those in need. I also feel confident that Bryan would want you to know about the **Good News** of changed lives through the work of the Holy Spirit. We are blessed to get to see how God works in the lives of our guests and residents. And finally I know that Bryan would leave you with a word from the Lord, so here it is from Proverbs 15:30

Light in a messenger's eyes brings joy to the heart, and Good News gives health to the bones.

We hope that the **Good News** of your service to the House of Hope brings health to your bones today. ——Not Bryan Braddock

Volunteering and COVID

To keep everyone safe we haven't been able to utilize volunteers since March. The past four months have been hard without our dedicated volunteers and we're so thankful to be able to start bringing them back into our facilities. If you wanted to be a part of our team, in any of our facilities please go to our website at **hofh.org** to fill out an application! If you've already filled one out and want to come back contact Joy at jgowan@hofh.org

NAME:_____

ADDRESS:_____

_____

PHONE NUMBER:_____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

YES, I/We would like to support The House of Hope and help the homeless. I/We would like to contribute:

- ❑ $500.00 will provide shelter for five residents for one month
- ❑ $200.00 will provide transportation for eight residents for one month
- ❑ $100.00 will provide cleaning supplies and personal items for 1 month
- ❑ $_____ Other
- ❑ My company will match my gift.
- ❑ **I would like to be a LIGHT OF HOPE monthly giver.**
  I would like my gift drafted on
  - ❑ 1st or ❑ 15th of each month.
  - ❑ Use my credit card information below.
  - ❑ Use my voided check enclosed.

Payment by: ❑ Check to House of Hope ❑Visa /MasterCard ❑ Discover

Card #_____

Exp. Date_____ 3 Digit Security Code_____

Name as it appears on the card: _____

Signature: _____

To donate online visit www.hofh.org. Or Text "Homeless" to 73256 for text giving

HOUSE of HOPE
MISSION MART

We are so Blessed at the Mission Mart!

We know that everyone in Florence has been cleaning out their houses during COVID! How do we know? The Mission Mart is overflowing with amazing finds and deals! Clothes with original tags, new in the box baby items, antiques and collectables galore and so much more. Did you know we also sell NEW mattresses at a great discount? If you're looking for something, make the Mission Mart your first stop! And if you're still cleaning out your house, we are open to accept your donations Monday through Saturday from 9am-6pm.

953 S. Irby Street, Florence

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