



Sharing Hope Ministry

Sharing Hope N • E • W • S

JULY 2008

ISSUE NO. 46

—PHONE NUMBER—

Sharing Hope Ministry
358-7803

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—STATISTICS—

Total *Life Recovery Bibles* Distributed:
52,070

Total Bible Study Workbooks Distributed:
26,584

—VOLUNTEERS—

Pen Pal Volunteers: **11**

Office Volunteers: **39**

Prayer Group Volunteers: **4**

Stepping Stones Volunteers: **7**

Jail Ministry Team Volunteers: **17**

Special Event Volunteers: **150**

—BOARD OF DIRECTORS —

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THE WOMAN AT THE WELL The 2008 Version

The story of the woman at the well is a great Bible story. The Samaritan woman was shocked that Jesus would talk to her. This woman was shunned by society for her sinful life. The whole village knew her sins. They saw her as unworthy, unlovable and someone to stay away from. At one point even the disciples asked Jesus why He was talking to this woman. Yet Jesus not only acknowledged her, but shared His love and the gift of salvation with her. The best part is that this woman ran back to the village to tell everyone about Jesus. The Bible says the people came streaming out from the village to see Him. The impact that Jesus' actions had on this "unworthy" woman reached further than just her life. It touched those in her village.



I like to think that Jesus created Sharing Hope Ministry for the 2008 version of this story; simply replace the well with a jail cell. Today's incarcerated woman is looked at by society as less than worthy. We know she has had a sinful life by the fact that she is in jail. By societies standards that's enough reason to shun her. If we leave it at that then we've missed the point of Jesus' example with the Samaritan women. In His eyes, He doesn't see the sinful woman. He sees the masterpiece God created, the chosen child of God, someone who is fearfully and wonderfully made. His desire for her is for forgiveness and salvation and to affect others with her witness.

We all mirror characters in this story. The choice that we have is which part we will play. We as Christians can be like the disciples and not want to be associated with the sinful woman or we can model our actions after Jesus and offer the way to salvation and a changed life through Christ.

The need is great. Sharing Hope Ministry now sends Bibles, Bible studies and encouragement to women in twenty-eight states who are searching for that same living water that Jesus offered the Samaritan woman. Our volunteers serve with their talents, their prayers and with their financial resources. Our financial supporters allow us to send Bibles and studies to the over 1400 women we serve each month. Is there a place here for you to serve? Always! I hope you will take a minute to read about several volunteer opportunities that are available at Sharing Hope Ministry.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Send Bibles and Bible Studies

I've been clean for 2 years but I relapsed 4 weeks ago and landed in jail the next day. I thank God for being here because He could have left me in the streets suffering and causing havoc in my family. My Bunkie has a "Life Recovery Bible" and I know this Bible can be a help to me in my walk with Christ. Would you please send me one?
~Michelle

Each incarcerated woman who writes a personal request for a Bible will receive the *Life Recovery Bible*, the plan of salvation, a list of emergency verses and a short Bible study. Our volunteers read the letters, write a short note, say a prayer for each woman and send a Bible.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Pray and Write Encouragement

I am 36 years old and never been in trouble before but am now facing felony charges. I've turned my life over to God. Please pray for me and my three girls who need their mother to be clean from drugs. I need to start being the mother I should have never stopped being.

Our prayer volunteers receive a weekly emailed list of women and their prayer requests. The office supplies the prayer card and a stamped envelope. Volunteers pray at their convenience and send a short note of encouragement to the woman. All correspondence is kept anonymous.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Visit Potter and Randall County Jails

Does leading Bible studies or visiting with strangers bother you? No? How about leading a Bible study behind bars? Still not fazed? Our teams go into Potter and Randall County Jails on a weekly basis to work with our local women.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Work with Released Women

Recently released women to the Amarillo area may request a basic bag of hygiene items and a list of area

agencies as they work to get back on their feet. Are you interested in being a volunteer "Runner"? These husband/wife teams deliver hygiene bags and offer information about the Stepping Stones program to interested clients.

Life after prison is overwhelming and is a difficult transition to make. The Stepping Stones Aftercare Program provides trained female mentors to partner with recently released Sharing Hope Clients for individual care giving. Interested volunteers must complete training classes prior to serving.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Have Computer Skills

The ministry receives 45 – 60 letters a day. Each request has to be checked and entered into a database to ensure we don't duplicate services. Do you have a morning or afternoon free and aren't afraid of the computer? Come on in and let us put you to work.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Keep the Ministry Running

Packets get assembled, Bibles get stacked, mailings need to be folded and copies need to be made. How important are these jobs to the ministry? Everything stops when we run out of prepared packages. We value the volunteer that is willing to help where needed.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Help with Fundraisers

Over 40% of our revenue comes from fundraising events. It takes over 100 volunteers to make these events fun and successful. No need to worry if you have the skills. There is a job for everyone. Watch our newsletters to see where you can help!

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Provide Financial Assistance

A donation of as little as \$15.00 a month can send a *Life Recovery Bible* and Bible study materials to a woman who is incarcerated or in drug rehabilitation. A donation can be made in honor or in memory of someone special, or be automatically withdrawn from your account each month without the hassle of writing and mailing a check.

Christmas in October



**Christmas in October is scheduled for
October 28th and 29th at the
South Exhibit Hall of the Civic Center.**

There will be many volunteer opportunities and we would love for you to call the Sharing Hope office at 358-7803 and let us know where you would like to serve. We are looking for volunteers in the following areas:

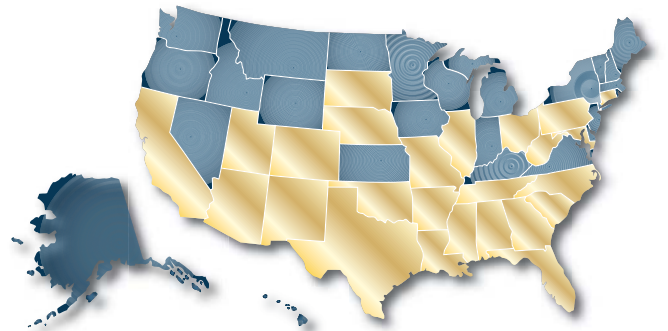
- Sponsors who are willing to underwrite \$500.00 or more of expenses for the "Christmas in October" fundraiser.
- Gift cards from Hobby Lobby and Michaels for "Christmas in October" supplies.
- Workers during the event.
- Those who can provide items for the Bake Sale
- Women to make bows before the event.
- Helpers to decorate the bake sale items on October 27th.
- Women to provide Christmas or Fall containers, clear cellophane, decorations and ribbon for the Bake Sale.
- People who are willing to pray for the event and those involved in planning.

HELP!

**Sharing Hope Ministry
Has Several Needs:**

- ❖ Speaking opportunities~ Let us speak to your women's club or civic group.
- ❖ Volunteers to do data entry for 1-2 hour a week.
- ❖ Volunteers to pray over inmate requests.
- ❖ Brushes and combs for our hygiene bags.
- ❖ Paper towels, copy paper, large trash bags for the office

EXPANDING OUR BORDERS!



Sharing Hope Ministry welcomes Idaho, Indiana and Kentucky to our area of service! We are now providing Bibles, Bible studies, prayer and encouragement to women in twenty-eight states!

Our expansion is possible through those who support Sharing Hope financially, and by the volunteers that give their time to send each woman a *Life Recovery Bible*, studies, and words of encouragement.

**More questions about Sharing Hope Ministry?
Check us out at www.sharinghopeministry.org**



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