

### Uncharted Territory by Adam Hofer

**“What does it look like for me to faithfully follow Christ?”** This is one of the most important questions one could ask themselves, not just for themselves personally but also for their family, workplace, and church. I encourage you to write this question on a sheet of paper and place it on your desk, fridge, or anywhere else you frequent often. We were made by God to love Him and our neighbors. This looks different for you than it does for me. However, we were made for this purpose. The world teaches us that our purpose in this life is to obtain “success” at all costs. The pursuit of being successful often leads us away from asking the question above because the pursuit of success is often built on our self-interests and building oneself up. The question above, however, is not about us but rather about faithfully using our gifts for Christ’s sake and not our own. There is someone more worthy of our efforts than ourselves. The world around us often measures success using stats and numbers, which are based on results. However, success should look differently for Christians than for the rest of the world. Success in the world is marked by results and numbers. Success in the Church is marked by faithfulness. So I return to the question: “What does it look like for me to faithfully follow Christ?”

As a Christian organization, we do our best at being faithful to our mission. For the last twenty-plus years, God has been doing wonderful things through the Center of Hope. Thousands of people have been served. As I look back at all the volunteers and staff members we have had over the years, I see clearly

the hand of God at work. Each person demonstrated in their own way what it looks like to faithfully follow Jesus. Their examples were encouraging to me. We all have desired for the “results.” We wanted to see people transformed. However, people don’t change overnight from a life of darkness to a complete surrender to Christ. Change is often an erosion, not an explosion. What matters is that we faithfully remain present with them on their spiritual journey, regardless of the results. That is what success looks like! Faithfully following Christ is messy. Faithfully following Christ will take you to uncharted territory. Are you going to follow Him?

Moving to our current location at Empower Campus has led us into uncharted territory. Our new location opened up new possibilities for ministry that we did not have in previous years. What it looks like for us to faithfully follow Christ looks differently here than downtown. We are now part of a neighborhood. We are no longer in the hustle and bustle of downtown Sioux Falls. We are seeing and investing in many of the same people that we invested in downtown. However, we are seeing an increase in families coming in from our neighborhood. With that said, we are making efforts to embrace our new neighborhood, strengthen our partnership with Terry



Redlin Elementary School, and be more present with the people next door to us. In the months ahead, we are excited to build relationships with local children in our Bike Ministry through bicycle clubs and outreach efforts. We are excited to celebrate the birthdays of Terry Redlin Elementary School students through our birthday bag program. We are excited to offer pastoral counseling to the Whittier neighborhood. As we become neighborhood focused and continue to learn about the needs of our neighborhood, new ministries will arise. Being faithful in following Christ is taking the Center of Hope into a new, exciting direction. We will continue to invest in the homeless and working-poor populations in Sioux Falls. Yet, we are feeling God’s leading to invest specifically in our neighborhood as well. We are excited to follow Christ into this uncharted territory.

## WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS

We are blessed to introduce you to new staff members of the Center of Hope! Ruth Siem, Mary Kaufman, and Cathy Scandrett have been serving uninsured members of our community for years through the Destiny After Hours Clinic. When Destiny After Hours Clinic merged with the Center of Hope, they joined our team! In addition to new clinic staff, we have a new Bike Ministry Shop Supervisor in our Bike Ministry. Daniel Jensen filled that position a couple of months ago and has been learning bicycle mechanics ever since. We are so blessed to have Ruth Siem, Mary Kaufman, Cathy Scandrett, and Daniel Jensen join our ministry family.



## WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

Volunteering is a great way to live into your purpose of loving God and people! Consider using your God-given gifts to bless our guests through Center of Hope ministries. We are currently looking for Bike Ministry, Front Desk, and cleaner volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering at the Center of Hope, please contact me over the phone (605-334-9789) or via email at [adam@centerofhopesf.org](mailto:adam@centerofhopesf.org). We would love to have you join our team of volunteers!

## MOST URGENT NEEDS

- Men's gloves and mittens
- Snow pants and coveralls (any size)
- Blankets
- Bicycle helmets (all sizes)
- WD40
- Mechanic grease



### Mission:

The Center of Hope exists to walk alongside people, to bring spiritual and physical health, and ultimately to change the community one life at a time.

### Vision:

The Center of Hope encourages and mentors people with the hope of redemption through Jesus Christ. Our focus is holistically addressing physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of individual that can only come through creating relationship and accountability. We work in partnership with community organizations to engage in a consistent and positive interaction with guests.

### Principles:

1. All people are created in God's image.
2. Self sufficiency
3. Holistic Ministry
4. Reconciliation
5. Partnering to Serve

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

*Center of Hope appreciates the gifts In Memory of — Nancy Teerink*

### Your Gifts Change Lives:

**Stock or Commodity Gifts**—Talk to your financial advisor about gifting stocks and commodities to the Center of Hope.

**Make it Double**—Check with your employer to see if they will match your charitable contributions to the Center of Hope.

**Be a Sustainer of Hope**—A **monthly gift** will bring stability to individuals and families. Give online at: [www.centerofhopesf.org](http://www.centerofhopesf.org)

### Financial Update

*Fiscal year runs from April to March, for the year 2021-2022*

*April—To Date. Income*  
\$0

*2022-23 Budget Need*  
\$378,065

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