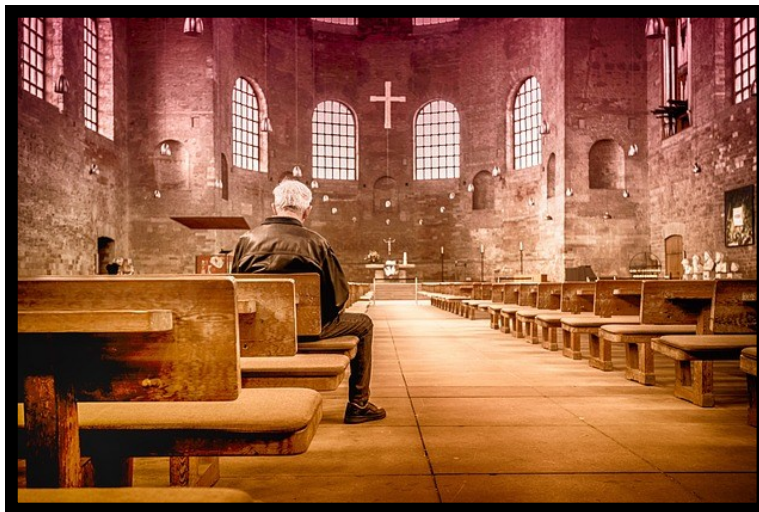


Forgetting He Came For Me ... And You by Adam Hofer

As I sit around the table with my family before we eat meals, we pray as a family and we always end the prayer by thanking God for coming, for teaching us His ways, for dying on the cross so that we live life to the fullest reconciled to God, and for all the work that is done through the Holy Spirit. We approach Him with thankful hearts because we know that He came

for us, taught for us, died for us, and works in our hearts *for us* so that He is glorified through us. Yet, so often it is easy to forget this reality. Seeing him when life is hard is often difficult. Being disciplined enough to want to hear from Him in those times can be just as difficult. Yet, we know from His Word that we have a God who is always there...in the good times and bad times. Give us eyes to see this reality continually, Lord!

Today, a 31-year-old man was brought to the Center of Hope to talk with me because he was experiencing suicidal thoughts. In our two-hour conversation, we spoke of the Gospel, his innate value in the eyes of God, and that God had a plan for his life outside of the brokenness he currently is going through. Yet, he seemed to refuse to listen to my words and,



like so many others, intentionally chose to stay in a state of hopelessness to stew in his brokenness. He heard everything I said to him before but lacked the strength to press on. All the pains of his life, ranging from his childhood to the present, were weighing on him to the point that he did not want to live any longer. The only thing that seemed to numb his pain was meth, which has led him deep into addiction. I asked him, **“Do you want to be well?”** He replied sadly and without hope, “I am going to die with meth flowing through my veins.” The surprising thing is that he has a relationship with God. Yet, through his struggles, he forgot that He came *for him*, taught *for him*, died *for him*, and is currently there *for him* through the Holy Spirit. In his despair, he didn't want to hear it, or at least,

not at first. Thankfully, our long conversation led to prayer twice. The first time I prayed over him. The second he prayed, **“God, I need you more than ever. I am broken. I need you.”** In periods of hardship, we often lose sight of God's presence. We forget He came for us. Yet, we desperately need Him.

The reality is we often forget He came for us, which leads us to lose sight of God's presence in our lives. We lose sight of Him because our eyes are focused elsewhere, on our pains, on our responsibilities, on our families... Yet, that does not change the reality that God came in flesh through Jesus Christ, that He dedicated His life to disciple and teach, that He hung in constant, throbbing pain on the cross to set us free from the bondage of sin and death, and that He unleashed the Holy Spirit to renew and empower our hearts and minds. Why did He do these things? The answer is simple: He loves us, even when we forget. I'm no longer going to forget that He came for me...and for you. Let's spread this message of hope to the hopeless this Christmas season. Thank you, Lord, for coming! Thank you for loving me.



Clothing Drives— Consider Hosting a Church Drive

We need your help! We have an urgent need for winter gear and clothing, specifically men’s and children’s coats, snow pants and coveralls, gloves and mittens, steel-toed boots, winter boots, shoes, and belts. We are VERY LOW on these items. Another need is adult backpacks to be used to give out to people transitioning out of prison. The backpacks will contain a felony-friendly list we’ve been working on all year (VERY COMPREHENSIVE), employment options, local church list, and a Bible.

Donations can be dropped off Tuesday-Friday 9am-5pm at our Donation Dropoff on the north side of our building. Ring the doorbell and we'll help unload. Thank you in advance!



Thank You—Fall Benefit 2023

We are so blessed to have people who encourage and support our ministry efforts.



Thank you to all who attended our Fall Benefit 2023! Our mission at the Center of Hope is to walk alongside people to promote physical and spiritual health, and ultimately change our community one life at a time. Your financial support helps us live out this



mission with ease. A special thank you goes to our Fall Benefit sponsors: **Kitchens & Windows Unlimited** (Presenting Sponsor), **Brooks Construction** (Silver sponsor), **American State Bank** (Bronze sponsor), and **Security Savings Bank** (Bronze sponsor).

Let’s Connect—Mission Moments, Pulpit Supplies, and MORE!

Out of our gratitude, we want you to know that we value our partnership in ministry. If you are a pastor, elder, or deacon of a church, do not hesitate to reach out to us if you need pulpit supply help or if you want us to update your congregation on what God has been doing at the Center of Hope. We would love to join you for worship! All for HIS glory and honor.

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 – Sid Phelps (Brett Rockvam’s stepdad), Berdell Langerock, Winora Hallstrom, Ken Klinger, and Gloria Weber (Center of Hope Faith Community Nurse)

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

Financial Update

Fiscal year runs from April to March, for the year 2023-24

April—To Date. Income
\$223,461

2023-24 Budget Need
\$381,265

Help us save on postage by receiving your newsletter electronically! Send your email address to info@centerofhopesf.org Also, please let us know if we need to update your mailing address.