

A Voice in the Dark: Listening To Obey by Adam Hofer



Greetings from the Center of Hope! Recently, I had the privilege of exploring 1 Samuel 3 with a congregation in Northwest Iowa. In the passage, Samuel heard a voice in the darkness call his name three times, not knowing the voice was God. All three times, he ran to Eli, who was the High Priest of Israel at that time. Each time, being sent back to bed. However, on the third time, Eli understood that the voice was from God and gave Samuel the words of response if God called him again. No surprise, God called for a fourth time, "Samuel! Samuel!" Samuel replied, "**Speak, for your servant is listening**" (1 Samuel 3:10). The Hebrew word used for "listening" is *shama* meaning "to hear with interest" or "to hear so to obey." Samuel was not going to just hear what God had to say. He made the conscious decision beforehand to obey whatever God was going to say. And this is an important takeaway that we can all take to our hearts. Do you listen to God with the intent to obey? In other words, do you approach God's Word with the stance of obedience?

As a ministry worker at the Center of Hope, I aim to keep my ears open to hearing a word from God. I understand that God speaks to us through His inspired Word and the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Listening is

vital in any relationship, especially with God. And guess what? Responding is also vital. As followers of Jesus, we need to understand that when God calls, we are expected to respond with action, with obedience, which will result in a changed life. However, it saddens me

that many of us want to hear God's voice desperately...unless we need to change. Unfortunately, that is not how callings from God work. As followers of Jesus, we are called to carry our cross, to live life in humility viewing others as more significant than ourselves, to proclaim His message of hope to the broken, to care for the poor, to live out the Great Commission, to love God and our neighbor through everything we do, to be holy, set apart, people for His purpose...to be people eagerly waiting to hear His voice with the intent to obey. That is what we are called to do and be.

But you may say, "But Adam, those are all broad callings. What about our specific callings?" To answer that, I would say this, "You need to embrace your broad calling as Christians to embrace your specific callings." The reality is God does not, in most cases, speak to us verbally as He did with Samuel. Often, we don't know the exact direction God wants us to go. Yet, we know

from God's Word who God calls us to be. And if we embrace our calling to *be* who God wants us to *be*, we will naturally *do* what God calls us to *do* in whatever circles we find ourselves in. We just need to actively seek out His voice.

At the Center of Hope, we recognize this and have been listening for the intent to obey. We aim to be faithful with the resources given to us, to use them to create opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus. In recent years, we expanded our Bike Ministry to include whole families that has opened doors for new relationships, we merged with Destiny After Hours Clinic to start the Center of Hope Free Evening Clinic to care for the uninsured in Sioux Falls, we started the Earn-Your-Way program that has empowered our guests to use their God-given gifts to bless our community, we expanded what we offer in our Care Center to better serve the struggling, and MORE. We now changed our Open Hours to be even more available to our guests. And why do we do these things? Because we know who we are in Christ and are eagerly listening to obey FOR HIS GLORY!





**Annual Breakfast Fundraiser—You are Invited!-
Saturday, June 15– 8:00am-11:00am—First Christian
Reformed Church**

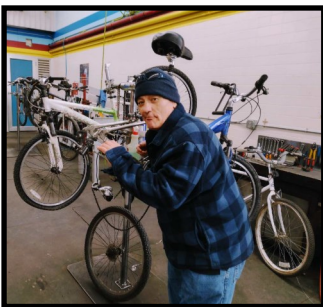
Start your Father’s Day weekend with pancakes at **First Christian Reformed Church** in Sioux Falls, South Dakota (2901 E 26th Street)! You are invited to our annual Breakfast Fundraiser! All proceeds will benefit Center of Hope ministries, which includes the Center of Hope

Free Evening Clinic, Geared-To-Empower Bike Ministry, Free Pastoral Counseling, Earn-Your-Way program, Clothing Ministry, and MORE! Our Breakfast Fundraiser will consist of a FREEWILL DONATION pancake breakfast, silent auction, door prizes, and fun activities for the whole family. We would love to see you there!



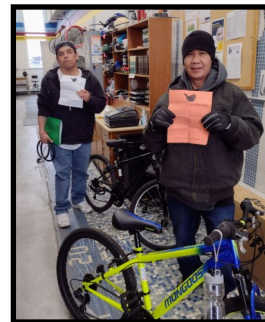
Geared-To-Empower Bike Ministry

As the weather continues to warm, our demand for bicycles will increase significantly. Last year, 765 bicycles left our Bike Ministry, which was 239 more bicycles than our annual average at our old location downtown Sioux Falls. One reason for the increase is that we decided when we moved to Empower Campus to expand our



programming in our Bike Ministry by caring for whole families. The majority of the people we serve use the bicycles to get to and from work. However, we also wanted the bicycles to be a blessing to their families. In the process, we have met with many families, which created opportunities for us to share the Good News of Jesus., which is why we exist! As we approach our busy

season in our Bike Ministry, pray that 1) God guides our steps as we plan for events such as our Bike Safety Camp for children, 2) God opens our guests’ eyes to their innate value through our interactions as we teach them how to repair their own bicycles, and 3) God provides the needed bicycles for our ever-growing Bike Ministry.



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 – Marian Phelps (Brett Rockvam’s mother), Sid Phelps (Brett Rockvam’s stepdad), Roger Hinåbjorgen, Warren Lee Post, Ronnie Dykstra, Dennis Ihnen, Marlene Sinning, Gloria Weber (Our Faith Community Nurse), and Steve Johnson

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 2024-25

April—To Date. Income
\$0

2023-24 Budget Need
\$407,488.04

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.