

January 2022

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me, He has sent Me to bring good news to the oppressed and to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives, and release from darkness for the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor... to comfort all who mourn". Isaiah 61:1

Can you believe it? Another Christmas season is behind us. Where has the time gone?

We save time and we lose time. We have all the time in the world. Time can be against us or on our side. But none of us is powerful enough to stop the march of time or slow it down.

If you google popular time quotes, you'll find a hundred different musings by the great minds of our day. I must say this one stands out: *"There are two days in my calendar: This day and that Day". ~ Martin Luther.*

Many of us are already planning and working out of our 2022 calendars. As we turn the page to the new year, we invite you to remember that the real work of Christmas for us as Christians has just begun! On one of the holiest days of the year, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we are keenly aware of another day: the second coming of Christ where we will stand before Him, the judgment day of our Lord. This is the Day Martin Luther was referring to.

We can either look forward to that day with the expectant joy of seeing Jesus' face to face or have it strike fear in our hearts because of our sinful nature.

At the Women's Refuge, we have a ministry to the brokenhearted, the spiritually barren, and those bound up in destructive life patterns. We offer, help, hope and healing through the Good News of Jesus Christ.

In John's gospel, Jesus, speaking about Himself, gave us some wonderful counsel to share with others: *"Put your trust in the Light while there is still time; then you will become children of the Light".* John 12:36

While we cannot do anything about how fast the time flows, we still can choose how we use it.

At the Refuge, we value the time that God has given us to speak the Truth of God's Word to the women, men, and families that come seeking answers to life's challenges. God has the answers in His Word.

J. R. Tolkien said, *"All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us".*



Yesterday cannot be reclaimed and tomorrow is not promised to us. Today is a gift to be treasured and shared.

Our staff is dedicated to sharing our time to show the freedom found in Christ so we can all look forward to the glorious second coming of Christ with jubilation and celebration, not with fear and trembling.

Please decide to join us in the healing ministry of the Women's Refuge. There are always opportunities to volunteer or to contribute financially. May God bless you and yours in the New Year.

Wishing peace and joy!

Becky Calahan
Board President



Christmas Banquet

an over-the-top success!



Greg & Angela Nelson, Diane Ludwig, Bernadette & Mike Emerick



Donna Robart, Lilliana Garcia, Kevin Sorbo, Brenda Bradley and Pat Marine

Nearly 350 supporters gathered on Dec 11 at Corporate Air Hangar to celebrate the Women's Refuge Third Annual Christmas Banquet. The evening included a silent auction, followed by dinner and a keynote presentation by actor Kevin Sorbo.

"Once again, we're excited to have exceeded our fundraising goal, thanks to the planning committee, sponsors, volunteers, and guests who attended the event. We are forever grateful and thankful!" says Diane Ludwig, Women's Refuge executive director.

Prayer

By Founder Donna Lee Robart

"Lord, search us and know our hearts, try us and see if there be any wickedness in us, and lead us in Your way everlasting." Psalm 139: 23-24.

This prayer in the Bible was uttered by King David almost 3,000 years ago and by millions of people since then. I first quoted it 51 years ago when I became a Christian. For me, it was a strong plea for help from my Creator, because I knew deep down that I could not live this life without God's power and wisdom. I pray it again this new year because I find myself needing Him for guidance and clarity. There are many of you reading this newsletter who need His help, too. Let us pray together to our Father for ourselves, our families, and for our nation that we would humble ourselves before our Creator God and tell Him how much we need His power, wisdom, guidance, and clarity in 2022. But let us include His love, mercy, and grace. In Jesus' Name, Amen and amen. Have a fruitful, joyful, and loving New Year. Donna

Makayla completes three-months



Donna Robart, Makayla, CJ MCDaniel

"Before coming to the Women's Refuge, I put so much pressure and expectation on myself to be perfect. Living life that way led to living life fearing mistakes and a life filled with anxiety. When I ultimately could not live up to the standards of a perfect lifestyle, I became depressed. Coming to the Refuge opened my eyes to the truth that I am never going to be perfect on this side of heaven...and that is okay! That is the reason Christ came! God knew we could not save ourselves, so He sent His one and only Son to live the life we could not live and to die the death we deserve..."

"Through justification, we are made righteous before God. Not by my good deeds or attempt to live life without making mistakes, but through faith in Jesus Christ. I am thankful that I was able to come to the Refuge and learn about who God is and who I am through Christ. I know that I can trust in the promises of God and in His sovereignty. And I know that in Christ there is no condemnation, and nothing can separate us from His love. I am excited for what the future holds as I am able to walk in the freedom of Jesus Christ!"

~Makayla, three-month resident

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