

Palm West Alive

February 2024



JOY

Now the God of hope
fill you with all JOY
and peace in believing.

ROMANS 15:13, KJV

The realm of the impossible

The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something and enter God's realm, where everything is possible. He specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for his almighty power. Nothing is too small for his love.

—Corrie Ten Boom



Pastoral Staff:

Jim Powell, Senior Pastor

pastorjim@palmwestchurch.org

Brian Thomas, Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care

pastorbrian@palmwestchurch.org

Joseph Place, Minister of Music and Media

pastorjoe@palmwestchurch.org

Gwendy Joysen, Director of Modern Worship

gwendy@palmwestchurch.org

Office Staff:

Joyce Sopilnick, Church Administrator

admin@palmwestchurch.org

Peg Rideout, Connections Coordinator

connections@palmwestchurch.org

Worship With Us In Person

Sundays

Traditional Worship

9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Modern Worship

10:30 a.m. in Hoover Hall

Livestream at 9:00 a.m.

(on the website/app)

Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday

8:00 am—4:00 pm

Closed for lunch 12:00 pm—1:00 pm

Fridays

8:00 am—2:00 pm

Phone: 623-546-2980

Fax: 623-546-9977

General Church Email:

staff@palmwestchurch.org

Website: www.palmwestchurch.org

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PWCC Leaders

VLT Chair, Gary Lanning

Secretary VLT, Finance, Joyce Westlund

Treasurer, Chuck Crandall

Education, Shari Goldade

Hospitality, Carol Graf

Media, Jim Burroughs

Missions, Phil Burdick

Property, Terry Brafford

Worship, Kristine Seemiller/Rob Hilkemeier

**Articles for the March newsletter should
be submitted to the office by
February 13. Thank You.
admin@palmwestchurch.org**

Pastor Jim Powell

Senior Pastor



Sabbatical Q and A

Over the past month, we have been announcing that Palm West is applying for a Lilly Foundation Clergy Renewal Grant. This grant would offer up to \$40,000 for me to take a Sabbatical break, and it would offer up to an additional \$20,000 to support the congregation while I'm gone. Overall, the feedback and support has been overwhelming. I can't tell you how many people have stated their support and encouragement. Yet there have been a few questions that people have asked. So I thought I would address some of those questions in this month's newsletter just to clarify a few things.

Are you seeking this grant because you are burned out?

No. Thankfully, I'm not burned out. This grant is really about health and renewal. The Sabbatical will provide rest, preventing any potential burnout, but also allowing me to come back energized with spiritual and mental freshness. When one has to create content for classes and sermons regularly, having a break often affords time for new learning and ideas. Ultimately that should spill over into the preaching, teaching, and leadership of Palm West Church.

When and how long would the Sabbatical be?

The Sabbatical will take place over the summer of 2025. It will be 3 ½ months, basically from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

When will you know if you get the Lilly Grant?

The application needs to be submitted by March 13th, and we should know by the end of August whether or not I have received one of the 180 grants that Lilly plans to give out.

What happens if you don't get the Grant?

That's a good question. I can still take a sabbatical break over the summer of 2025, but the activities and plans would be scaled back significantly. Or we could re-apply and move the break back another year.

What will happen to the church with you being gone?

One of the advantages of the grant is that it provides money to PWCC for outside speakers, special events, and other programs that are meant to energize and feed the congregation while I'm gone. But beyond that, my main study theme will be on seeking and experiencing God's presence. That same theme will be shared and emphasized to the congregation while I'm gone. The bottom line is the church is about the Lord and not a single person. As I am away, it will be a good opportunity for the congregation to draw near and trust God in my absence.

Those are some of the questions that have come up. If you have additional questions regarding this grant application and process, don't hesitate to reach out and ask. Otherwise, your support and prayers are deeply appreciated.

Blessings,

Jim

Pastor Joseph Place
Minister of Music & Media

**The Oasis Project at
Palm West Community Church
presents**

The East Valley Chorale



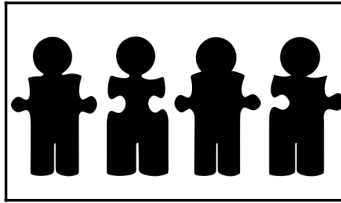
**Over 70 members from 50 different valley churches
*Sharing the hope and joy of the Gospel message***

**Sunday, February 4, 2024
6:00 PM**

**A Free-Will Offering will be received
13845 W Stardust Blvd, Sun City West, AZ 85375
palmwestchurch.org**

Connection Coordinator

Peg Rideout



Does February make you think of love? Valentine's Day is a favorite holiday of mine because people take time to tell others that they care about them. As Christians, we should be aware of those in our community and the needs they may have. Something as small as a phone call or text message, a handwritten note or a cute card with hearts can brighten someone's day. Do you remember Pastor Jim's message last month titled, "It's Never Too Late to Change"? He shared the story of Jesus meeting Zacchaeus, and the incredible change in his life after a brief time together. Jesus exhibited kindness towards a person who was not looked upon positively by others and maybe even disdained by them. Did that make a difference to Jesus? No it did not! Luke 19:5-6 (ESV) reads, "*And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.'*" So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully.

Palm West Community Church is known for its kindness towards others. This month consider how you can encourage someone in our community with the love of Christ. It may change their heart for eternity.

Peg Rideout

Connections Coordinator

connections@palmwestchurch.org

317-460-0576

Women's Fellowship Ministry

Pat Seaberg, Chair

Hey Ladies,

We've had a busy start to 2024 with a Soup and Salad Luncheon on January 27. What a fun get-together we had as Wilma Plett spoke on Gratitude and the importance of Counting Your Blessings. We had a fabulous lunch together and each one received a "Gratitude Journal" to record their many blessings throughout the year.

We have a special luncheon coming up on March 9 when Jane Colrud will share her testimony and the many blessings and miracles that happened when she received the Lord in her heart. Some of you may know Jane, as she is a very active 97-year-old resident of Sun City West.

Of course, we will have another fabulous lunch and more opportunities to meet someone you don't know yet. Tickets will be available for purchase on February 25 and March 3.

Our special event for spring is our Ladies Tea on April 4. You definitely won't want to miss this fun time together.

There is a special meeting on February 12 for **anyone** who would like to be involved in the Ladies' tea this year. Please join us at 9:00 a.m. in the Hoover Hall Classroom.

Remember: Our Women's Fellowship events are open to all ladies, so please feel free to bring a friend, family member or neighbor as your guest to any of our events!



Education

Shari Goldade, Chair

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Morning—Bible Study Leader Bob Wilber is continuing with Ray Vander Laan's "That The World May Know" 10:30 a.m., in the Choir Room. The future studies will be: The Path of the Cross, Walking with God, The Mission of Jesus, The Clash of Kingdoms, and Cultures of Conflict.

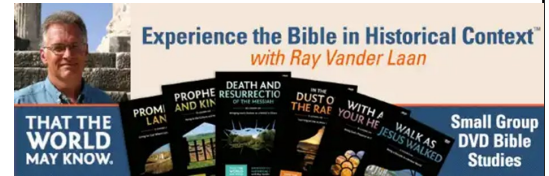
For more information please call Bob 859-621-0709.

Men's Bible Study—We will have fellowship time with coffee and treats at 9:30 a.m. and begin our study at 10:00 a.m. in the Choir Room. Leader Dave Witt will continue the study of Epistle of John and Epistle of Peter. For more information Call Dave 602-741-4640.

Women's Bible Study—Thursday's 9:30 a.m. in Hoover Hall Classroom. Refreshments will be available. Leader Mary Ann Lind will be completing the study of Ephesians and Galatians

A new study will be presented by Sara Dunn and Dorcas Van Horn. "Seamless" will begin mid February.

All Palm West ladies are invited to attend. Friends of Palm West are welcome as well.



The January February and March Daily Bread is available at both services.

From Nancy Wright, PWCC Librarian

Why read? Reading develops new neural pathways in your brain, which means you'll be able to think more clearly and creatively. Reading can increase empathy, help you sleep better and improve brain and memory functions. Whether it's fiction, or non-fiction reading can be a valuable activity with real-world benefits. Our church library (located at the end of the narthex and in the "Worship Center classroom") has over 1000 books to encourage you on your faith journey and new books are being added to our collection on a regular basis.

The Library email is—library@palmwestchurch.org

librarian

(n.) keeper of books; giver of answers; original search engine; guardian of knowledge.
see also: magical book recommender

Christian Readers Book Club

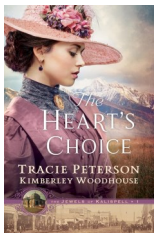
1st Thursday's at 1:00 p.m. in the Worship Center Classroom

February – The Hearts Choice by Tracie Peterson and Kimberley Woodhouse

March — A Time to Bloom by Lauraine Snelling

April — A Woman's Place by Lynn Austin

These books are available in the church library.



If you love to read, come to a book club meeting and share your favorite author.

Vision Leadership Team

Gary Lanning, Chair

Accounting For Your Donations

Part 9

“We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man.”

The 9-Part series of articles were written to share information, in some detail, on how PWCC church goes about “ACCOUNTING FOR YOUR DONATIONS”. Previous articles covered; giving to missions, restricted donations, counting donations, budgeting, legacy giving, facilities repairs and reserves. If you would like to revisit any of the topics, simply visit the PWCC website and scroll through past Palm West Alive issues and you will find the information starting last May. A primary goal of the info articles is to assure those giving to PWCC that good stewardship is being practiced as together we strive “To Share the Gospel of Jesus Christ ANEW!” This ninth and final article will address the various financial “Ways to Give” to PWCC.

Ways To Give:

1. In Person

A few years ago, PWCC discontinued “passing the plate” and instead placed several donation boxes in the sanctuary. Many worshipers simply drop their check, giving envelope or cash into the boxes anytime during the services.

With the start of the Modern Worship venue, additional donation boxes are now placed in Hoover Hall.

2. On-line

The opportunity to give to PWCC online has been in place for about four years and is the preferred method by a growing number of attenders. If you are considering this safe and secure method, simply visit the PWCC webpage and following the link and instructions. If you need additional help, call the church office.

3. Tithes and Offerings

Tithing is an act of worship that involves giving 10 percent of one's income to the church. It's a regular reminder of our gratitude for God's provision and a way to support the work of the church.

Offerings are gifts above and beyond the tithe. They can be given to support specific church causes or projects, such as missions, building funds or outreach programs.

4. One Time Donations

One-time donations are spontaneous contributions often inspired by a particular sermon, event, or cause.

5. Recurring Donations

Recurring donations can be set up to automatically deduct a specified amount from a member's bank account or charge a credit card at regular intervals. This type of giving provides a consistent income stream for the church and is convenient for donors.

6. Online Giving Pages

“Online giving pages” is currently under review for possible implementation in 2024.

Online church giving pages provide a platform for donors to make donations conveniently from anywhere at any time. These donation pages can be customized to highlight various opportunities to give to the church, provide information about how the funds will be used, and even allow donors to track the impact of their contributions.

(continued)

Vision Leadership Team

Gary Lanning, Chair

(continued)

7. Church Giving Stations

A “Giving Kiosk” has been “stationed” in Hoover Hall where attenders can make digital gifts using their credit or debit cards. The kiosk is particularly useful for those who prefer not to carry cash but still want to give before or after services.

8. Mobile Giving Apps

Mobile giving apps are under review for possible implementation in 2025.

Mobile church giving apps take convenience to another level by allowing members to give money to the church right from their smartphones. These apps can also send reminders, provide updates, and offer secure payment options, making the giving process seamless and engaging.

9. Live-Stream Giving

We are in the process of reviewing and putting in place a live stream giving opportunity.

Live-Stream giving has become increasingly popular. This way of giving allows those engaged with the live service to make donations while watching the live stream of our worship. The integration between PWCC’s streaming platform and our giving software will provide viewers an easy way to give to PWCC in real-time.

10 Memorial Gift

It's never easy to lose a loved one, but their memory can live on through a memorial donation.

11. Legacy Gift

Legacy gift — or planned giving — involves making a gift to the church through a will or estate plan. It's a way to give a legacy for the church's future.

12. Fundraisers and Events

Fundraisers and events offer an opportunity for members to give money to the church while participating in enjoyable and community-building activities. Giving money for a turkey drive, children’s shoeboxes, the food bank, and other opportunities avail themselves throughout the year.

13. Text-To-Give

Text-To-Give is currently under review and will be implemented in 2024.

With text to give, all donors need to do is send a quick text message to the designated number, and voila! The donation is all taken care of.

PWCC is a generous church. **Thank you!** *1 Thessalonians 5:18*



Understanding Dementia: A challenging journey

Presented by Hospice of the Valley

Join us to learn more about dementia and helpful resources.

Wednesday, February 21, 2024,

8:30 a.m. Registration, Program 9:00 a.m.—Noon

The Colonnade, 19116 N. Colonnade way, Surprise, AZ 85374

RSVP—Events1@hov.org or 602-636-5393

Sermon Series
Pastor Jim Powell



February 4 It's Never Too Late to Make a Difference
Scripture: Various



Spiritual Formation

February 11 The Beautiful Life

Scriptures: John 10:10 and Various

February 18 The Active Pursuit

Scriptures: Philippians 2:12-13; 2 Peter 1:5

February 25 The Continual Process

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 7:1; Galatians 4:19

March 3 The Circular Journey

Scriptures: Acts 10:28; Galatians 2:11-14

March 10 The Spiritual Pathways

Scriptures: John 1:29-30

March 17 The Need for People

Scriptures: Various

March 24 The Role of Awareness

Scriptures: James 4:9; Psalm 51



Quilt and Sew

Wilma Plett

Just wanted to give you all an update as to what we accomplished in 2023:

September 20	Neighborhood Ministries	60
December 7	Dream Center	58
December 7	Streetlight Ministries	12
December 20	Thrive AZ	<u>100</u>

Total September through December 230

March 19 (with hope bags) 409

Grand total Quilts and Blankets Given for 2023 639

Thank You ladies for all the work you do, It is greatly appreciated by those that receive these beautiful Quilts and Blankets and I know it is a labor of love! ❤️

Next Meeting—Friday, February 2, 10:00 a.m.

Hoover Hall classroom

Do you like to sew?

Then join us for fun and fellowship in making quilts and blankets for children.

Fabric and instructions are provided!



Women's Connection

Ladies, join us for great conversation!

We are now meeting on Monday afternoons from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Worship Center classroom for an informal time of fellowship. Each week someone will present a topic about a life experience to which everyone is invited to share their story. At times we groan for each other but mostly we laugh together. We look forward to welcoming new ladies into our fellowship! Small snacks and water provided. For questions call the church office.



Courtneys Creations



Do you like to knit or crochet? Join ladies of Palm West Community Church who make baby items, i.e. booties, hats, sweaters or small blankets, for the “Choices Pregnancy Center” stores. “Choices” has four locations in the greater Phoenix area and has a wonderful program for pregnant women who need encouragement and items for their new babies. This Palm West group AKA “Courtney’s Creations” has had a transition of leadership, however, we want to continue this important ministry.

Our next meeting will be February 9 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Worship Center classroom. We bring our items, share patterns and our passion for doing what we do.

If you are unable to attend a meeting, donations are being collected in the Palm West Church library.

QUESTIONS? Please call: Elaine Kleinsasser 605-360-0796 or Nancy Wright 509-675-6463, or find Nancy in the library on Sunday mornings.

Coloring Fellowship

Come join us on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.

For the month of February, we will be meeting on

February 13 and 27,

10:00a.m.— 11:30 a.m. in the Hoover Hall classroom.

Lots of fellowship and a little coloring.

Bring family and friends. We have supplies to share.



Questions??? Contact Deborah Phillips Dodson or Mary Beth Tyson

Fellowship Games



Come and join us at Fellowship Games for a couple of hours of fun, finger snacks, and good fellowship.

We have a committed “Mexican Train” group and also welcome other games.

We meet the first and third Mondays in Hoover Hall classroom from 2:00 p. m.— 4:30 p.m.

This month February 5 and 19.

February Meetings

AA/Alanon

Wednesdays, February 7, 14, 21, 28	7:00 pm—8:30 pm	Hoover Hall & HH classroom
Saturdays, February 3, 10, 17, 24	7:00 pm—8:30 pm	Hoover Hall & HH classroom

CBS

Wednesdays, 7, 14, 21, 28	9:30 am—11:30 am	Whole Campus
Wednesday, February 21—Breakfast	8:30 am—9:30 am	Hoover Hall

Christian Readers Book Club

Thursday, February 1	1:00 pm—2:00 pm	Worship Center classroom
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Choir Practice

Thursdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	3:00 pm—4:30 pm	Choir Room
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Coloring Fellowship

Tuesday's, February 13 27	10:00 am—11:30 am	Hoover Hall classroom
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Courtneys Creations

Friday, February 2	11:00 am—12:00 pm	Worship Center classroom
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Education

Monday, February 5	9:00 am—10:00 am	Worship Center classroom
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Fellowship Dinner

Wednesday, February 21	5:00 pm—7:00 pm	Hoover Hall
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Fellowship Games

Monday's, February 5, 19	2:00 pm—4:30 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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Formation Group

Mondays, February 5, 12, 19, 26	9:00 am—10:00 am	Worship Center classroom
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GriefShare

Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20, 27	10:00 am—11:30 am	Choir Room
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Handbells

Fridays, February 2, 9, 16, 23	9:00 am—10:00 am	Sanctuary
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Hope Bags

Friday, February 9	9:00 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall & HH classroom
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Intercessory Prayer Gathering

Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20, 27	11:00 am—12:00 pm	Worship Center classroom
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Men's Bible Study

Mondays, February 5, 12, 19, 26	10:00 am—11:00 am	Choir Room
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Men's Ensemble

Tuesdays, February 6, 20	10:00 am—11:00 am	Sanctuary
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Modern Worship Rehearsal

Thursdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	2:00 pm—4:00 pm	Hoover Hall
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Missions

Monday, February 12	1:00 pm—3:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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PAT Meeting

Tuesday, February 20	1:00 pm—3:00 pm	Choir Room
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February Meetings

(continued)

Sunday Bible Study

Sundays, February 4, 11, 18, 25

10:30 am—11:30 am

Choir Room

Women's Bible Study

Thursdays, February 4, 11, 18, 25, 29

9:30 am—11:00 am

Hoover Hall classroom

Women's Connection

Mondays, February 5, 12, 19, 26

12:00 pm—1:30 pm

Worship Center classroom

Quilt & Sew

Friday, February 2

10:00 am—12:00 pm

Hoover Hall classroom



The Balance and Strengthening Exercise Class
Has been cancelled for all future dates.

Thank you.

Fellowship Dinner

Carol Graf, Chair



Join us on Wednesday, January 21,

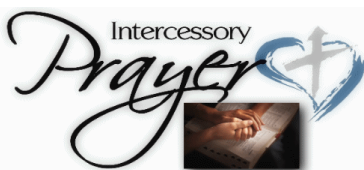
5:00 p.m.

Hoover Hall

For Pasta Night!

We will be serving Baked Bowtie Pasta with Meat Sauce, Fettuccine, Alfredo, Garlic Bread and Caesar Salad!

If you would like to bring a dessert, help set-up or clean-up, check the boxes when you sign up to come to the dinner.



The Intercessory Prayer Group meets every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. We will be using the Worship Center classroom in the back of the Sanctuary.

Do you have a prayer request?

If so, email prayer@palmwestchurch.org

We'll get your request to our prayer team and include it on our daily email update. Prayer is our most forceful weapon and we need to continue to rely on this privilege.



Mission Moments

Phil Burdick, Chair

Village Missions

Linda Hall, Liaison

Village Missions was started in 1948 to help country churches stay alive and thrive. In the 75 years since, it has provided missionary pastors to over 900 rural and small-town churches in the U.S. Currently VM has missionary pastors or couples serving full-time at 155 churches. Some of these churches are self-supporting, but the majority receive financial assistance from Village Missions. VM is looking for qualified missionary pastors for an additional 24 churches. Village Missionaries are given a simple charge: Preach the Word and Love the People. They do this on Sundays and throughout the week through Bible studies, children's programs, and a variety of outreach events. They are involved in their communities in many ways. Some are volunteer first responders or chaplains. Others coach sports or drive a school bus. Some help at the local food bank or resource center. All are committed to declaring the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To learn more about Village Missions, the missionaries and the churches where they serve, visit www.villagemissions.org.

VM director John Adams will be at our February 21 Fellowship Dinner and will speak to us about this unique ministry.



**Executive Director John
and Candy Adams**



**Summer Missions Team
Vacation Bible School in
Glenwood Washington**



**Village Missionary Mike
Roush does a baptism in
Greenville, CA**

Pray for preparations for spring and summer ministry and staff conferences.

Pray for recruitment and training of missionary pastors to supply the needs of requesting communities.



Operation Mobilization

Dave Balzer, Liaison

A missionary couple* that our church supports has served with Operation Mobilization for 28 years. They came to Jordan for a training conference and decided to stay awhile. Operation Mobilization has organized training for local believers reaching out to 60,000 displaced Lebanese and Syrians from south of Jordan.

Christian Lebanese have an opportunity to reach out to these displaced persons that western workers do not have. Training was given for Lebanese Christians to provide first aid, disaster relief and discipleship to those who are displaced.

Please pray for fruit as these Christian Lebanese ministers to the displaced Lebanese and Syrians.

*The name of the couple cannot be identified for security reasons.

CHOICES

Maryann Lind, Liaison

The Choices Pregnancy Center Baby Bottle drive will continue on Sunday, February 4 and end on February 11. Please return the bottles to the foyer of the Sanctuary or Hoover Hall. Loose change, cash or checks made out to Choices are appreciated.

(Choices is a participant in the AZ tax credit program.)



Hope Bags

Claudia Smith



A New Year—A New Life

What an exciting time, a fresh new year in front of us to discover how our Lord will guide us in the direction of His plans. Our Hope Bag Team is looking forward to working together to achieve our goal of 1,550 Hope Bags to be dedicated and distributed on Sunday March 17, 2024. Every piece of Christian literature for the children and Bibles for the Women carries the message of hope for a new life in Christ. Pray, as a people of God, that as the seeds are planted, new life will grow within the recipient of each bag.



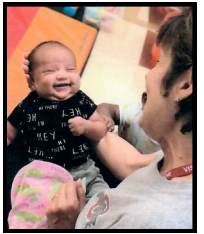
A Life Restored for Christ



Changing Lives Center (a division of the Phoenix Rescue Mission), has brought many women to the saving knowledge of Jesus, and their lives have been restored through the available programs. PRM states it has been a long, difficult year for those most vulnerable in our community. These neighbors are eager to overcome hunger and homelessness. Our childcare professional at the CLC recently extended their hours to better accommodate moms working off-campus.



One of these moms, “Yvonne”, came to the Phoenix Rescue Mission’s Changing Lives Center with a history of abusive and painful relationships. Through the years of her abuse, she has waned in and out of sobriety - based heavily on the partners she was with. She “was slapped, had teeth punched out, was thrown off balconies, threatened with guns and knives.”



As one relationship after another ended, Yvonne eventually had nowhere left to go but the streets. After a year of living on the streets, and an arrest, one of PRM’s Hope Coaches picked her up from jail and brought her to our CLC for Women & Children. She recalls that the life she was living was a nightmare, and the CLC brought her out of it and into a dream.

The parts of her heart that were broken by traumatic relationships were replaced with hope, joy and love. She now serves in the kitchen of the CLC, bringing that joy and love to the other women and children who are receiving transformative care.

CLC had many women in their program who were baptized, and 11 children were also dedicated to the Lord.

PWCC has played a vital role over the last 20 years in bringing Christ to abused and underprivileged women and children in Maricopa County through the Hope Bag Ministry. Your love and devotion to being the hands of Jesus to our neighbors has given new life and hope to them. 2 Corinthians 5:20 “*So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making His appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, ‘Come back to God!’*”

Your prayers, gifts and financial donations are given in love to restore the lost and needy for Christ.

If you have any questions about the Hope Bag Ministry,
please contact Claudia Smith 623-692-7911 or email mspuff42@gmail.com.



**13845 W. Stardust Blvd.
Sun City West, AZ 85375**

