




Jesus Cares Ministries

Restoring Individuals ♦ Families ♦ Marriages

P O Box 371 Chandler, Arizona 85244  480-831-1737

New Month...New Year... New Life!

“This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year.” - Exodus 12:2

Though this heat makes us feel like the season has already passed us by, **spring** is just beginning! With buzzing bees, blossoming flowers, and birds building their nests it is hard not to relish in the new birth and productivity that characterizes this time of year. I can clearly see why the Lord would have made the springtime the beginning of the year for His people. For Israel, it marked the end of bondage and the beginning of a nation that would now belong totally to Elohim, the One who created and formed them. Israel had a lot of spring cleaning to do after coming out of 400 plus years of cruel servitude. The sting from their wounds had to be addressed at the bitter waters of Marah before going onward in their journey. (Read Exodus 15:22-27.) I believe this passage has some very relevant lessons for us as believers. The Great Physician wrote a prescription for Moses to cast a tree into this poisoned oasis. How beautifully this illustrated the One who would one day hang on a tree, tasting the bitterness of a sinner's death on our behalf. Without His death, we would be hopelessly lost, forced to drink from the bitter pool of our own sinfulness.



Spring Cleaning Time!

As a ministry, we love the opportunity to assist the community of people we serve in their spring cleaning endeavors. How do we do this?

Beauty For Ashes, created by Kay West, began as heartfelt teachings conducted in our family room for the

grieving women of Jesus Cares Ministries. It quickly blossomed into an all day seminar. In recent years, it has been revised to include other ministries and serve both men and women struggling in the grief journey. We love beginning the spring season with the opportunity to clean out the closets of past, unresolved pain issues as well as to provide tools to minister to grief issues that sometimes threaten to keep us at a bitter pool.



Our *Beauty for Ashes Seminar* will be held on **Saturday, April 22nd from 10am – 5pm**. If you or a loved one would benefit from this opportunity, please contact **Doreen asap @ 480-831-1737** for a reservation and location information. You must register and there is limited seating.

Ministry to the Homosexual

We realize that this topic is a hot one among believers but we don't feel it should be ignored in this crucial hour. In recent years we have been divinely connected to those who have had a genuine desire to come out of the homosexual lifestyle. It is a difficult and painful topic for many and it is with great sensitivity that we share our hearts to minister to the broken no matter why or how that brokenness occurred. Our hope is to bring a message of freedom. We will have two special speakers at our upcoming seminar, *Beauty For Ashes*, who have found hope and freedom from a lifestyle of homosexuality. It is encouraging to see this couple reach out to the body to share the tremendous pain they suffered and identity loss they encountered as

they sought freedom. We recognize that the church has not ministered adequately to those needing help and hope in the homosexual lifestyle. In many ways, we are the broken ones when it comes to finding remedies for those that seem to be in complex situations. The power of the cross is enough; the power of His Word and the comfort of His Spirit contain more than just cliché and oversimplified solutions to a lost and dying world. We need to be ready to walk others through the pain and struggle, without compromise, without judgment, and with an energy that is contagious enough to “infect” the ones to whom we come in contact. Please pray for courage for those we minister to in this area. The struggles and battles they face are more than you can imagine but we see unspeakable joy and relief rising up in them!

The following contacts are available to minister to those wanting freedom from homosexuality/sexual brokenness:

Matt or Marybelle: Findinghistreasures@gmail.com

Gabrielle Rehmeier: Blog: www.gabriellerenee.org

Love and Truth Network: loveandtruthnetwork.com



The Net Works!

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” --- Psalm 133:1

For about two years, we have provided a venue for ministries and churches to gather for the purpose of building unity and finding opportunities to labor together to build up the body of Christ. After enjoying a meal together, we share about the ministry opportunities we are involved with in hopes of finding a way for individual missions to connect and support one another. We can catch more fish with a net than a single rod! We are all part of the many-membered body of Messiah. Sharing resources and encouragement and finding more effective ways to reach out to the community are just some of the topics covered as we assemble each quarter for brunch. If you know of a ministry or church leader or lay person interested in joining this group, please contact **Doreen @ 831-1737**.

Wellsprings Therapy Center

“When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?” “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

--- Matthew 25:38-40



As many of you are aware, we have an open door for ministry at Wellsprings Therapy center in Gilbert. We visit them every Sunday to hold a service. We also bring a group of families to do room to room visitation the third Wednesday of the month. It has been a marvelous way to bring a word of hope, a Scripture to encourage them, a song to inspire their hearts, and we even have one young man that tells them a joke or two. Volunteers make blankets and sweet crafts, children paint pictures and everyone is encouraged as we distribute these humble treasures. We also bring sweets and treats for the staff. It is a very productive outreach. Just this morning a resident cried to Tom in despair. While conducting Bible study at his church, he suffered a stroke. He could not understand how the Lord could allow this tragedy as he is primary caretaker for his very sick wife and is now wheelchair bound. He needed a listening ear; he needed someone to bring hope to him! A family thanked us recently for helping to fill the gap while their grandma was in recovery at Wellspring and unable to attend church. A Jewish woman recently told

us that she would consider looking into Jesus as the Messiah of Israel and received some literature to help her with that search. Jeff and Jackie Chamberlain have been conducting services in our absence for several years now. We would like to thank them for their willing service. They have their own stories to tell of ministry time at Wellspring. We need more helpers like them who find it a joy to minister to the residents of Wellspring. It is humbling to see the frail conditions of these residents and sometimes we stumble upon someone with a cranky disposition but every open door makes it worth it!

Would you like to join us? We don't always know how many will attend the services or which rooms will welcome our little ones as they come bearing gifts but every week brings an opportunity to share the gospel in word and deed. If interested in conducting services or helping with our monthly *Meet and Greet*, please contact **Doreen @ 480 831-1737**. A short training session is mandatory.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Counseling and Helps Ministry

The ministry has been able to provide some very practical help to those struggling in various areas. Addiction counsel, single parenting, marital struggles, identity and value issues, mental health issues, and financial stewardship are just a few of the areas we have addressed. How wonderful that the Lord has provided the means for us to offer free counsel to many that would otherwise not be able to afford these services. Many are finding freedom using Biblical tools that we have developed ourselves or that we have gleaned from other ministers. A sizable donation we received has given us a great opportunity to increase our sowing into many lives. Jesus Cares has been able to provide more than a warm smile and handshake to those who come to us. Workbooks, Bibles, help with hospital and dental bills, retreat costs, food, and most of all the gift of time and nurture has been extended in His name. Your financial support is going a long way! Here are some comments from those who have been blessed in the past few months.

“I want to do what is right in God's eyes... you have taught me so much!!!”

“Again I want to thank you for changing my life and being that vessel I so much needed...”

“... Thank you so much for blessing my life. I love how God goes before us to meet our needs just at the right time. He is so good! “

Another participant in Community Outreach sent the passage from Titus 2:1-6 along with the words, “Thank you for doing what the Word says...”



Petra prepares the ministry store

Outreach to Single Moms

- **CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION** is taught by Linda Abell, as single mothers continue to be an outreach of Jesus Cares Ministries. Linda heads this up to the clients of the Pregnancy Care Center of Chandler.
- **FREE STORE** event is ongoing for a brief season. It is wonderful to be able to bless our single moms and others in Community Outreach with a little TLC. Who would not be encouraged by having an opportunity to “shop” without cost? Many amazing donations and generous supporters have made our **FREE STORE** possible.
- **PARENTING COURSES** are being offered on our website. If this is something you are interested in arranging for your church or study group, please contact **Doreen @ 480 831-1737**. “*Children: Our Heritage*” is for married or single mothers.
- We conducted a free photo shoot/pizza in the park day for 3 of our single moms in Community Outreach. A young woman we counsel and her mother agreed to use their talents to make this event happen. What a fun and a practical way to show our love for these families.

Jesus Cares Ministries

Please visit our Website at "JESUSCARES4U.ORG"

Free Resources ♦ Downloadable Songs ♦ Parenting Course
Connect With Doreen's Blog ♦ Archived Newsletters ♦ and more!



Jamie was blessed by the Free Store

Stabilizing Lives and Making Positive Connections

Another aspect of Community Outreach that has been encouraging is seeing those who have formerly struggled with trust issues begin to open their hearts to the Lord as their steady Rock. Many of them do not feel comfortable in the church community because of abuses or neglect issues suffered within the church walls. As they submit to the precepts of Scripture and learn that

His authority is always safe, we have an easier time connecting them back in fellowship again. The Lord watches our backs and heals the wounds that have been inflicted upon us whether inside or outside the church. Many have leaned too heavily on humans for the solutions to life's dilemmas and this can set us up for unrealistic expectations and more disappointments. The Psalms are full of disappointments expressed as the writers fell prey to their enemies. This book is also full of joyful exclamations of trusting in His unfailing love! It is so helpful to know that the Lord's love for us is never wavering. This is our mission... building individuals... families and marriages by connecting them to the Rock!

Your prayers, love and support are making a huge impact on the lives of those we are reaching.

Thank you for making all of this possible!

Jesus Cares

