

OHM PROGRAM UPDATE

Moving Forward With Technology

Keeping up with changes in technology is a challenge for everyone. Whether you are upgrading a phone or learning how to download and send documents, there always seems to be a new process for basic day-to-day online activities.



Jon Nichols instructing residents on their first day of training

When residents move into Open House Ministries, the need to get up to speed on technology is immediate. Staying on top of assignments and filling out basic forms has been difficult as computer access has been limited until now.

A recent project to help our residents advance their computer knowledge has added 18 new Chromebook laptops for use in our program. Now, residents can pick up new skills and become more efficient in navigating online before looking for their next job.

Chaplain Jon Nichols, who manages the program, shared his excitement for our residents. “With

these laptops, residents can write resumés in our Life Skills class, take the GED practice test with the instructor from Clark College, and complete a Strengths Finder Assessment as part of their personal growth and development plan,” said Jon. “Each of these immediate in-class opportunities will significantly impact how we serve and equip our families.”

Residents started training on the laptops the second week in February. We are excited to see how quickly this new addition to our program will help residents advance their skill sets, building a stronger future for their families. ●



Getting familiar with new laptops for classes

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

How We Show Up

Spring is a time of year marked by blossoming flowers, longer days, and warmer weather. It is also the time of year that kicks off three important Jewish festivals: the Festival of Unleavened Bread (Passover), the Festival of Weeks, and later, the Festival of Tabernacles (or Booths). These three holidays were considered pilgrimage holidays. The people were expected to travel to Jerusalem to worship God and present offerings. Deuteronomy chapter 16 outlines the required sacrifices families were to bring with them at these fixed times each year. This passage ends with the following command, “Three times a year, all your men must appear before the Lord your God at the place he will choose: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks, and the Festival of Tabernacles. No one should appear before the Lord empty.” (Deuteronomy 16:16).

What does it mean to not show up “empty before the Lord?” The general understanding is that this refers to the three sacrifices listed previously. Many see this as one final reminder not to forget what is required. Thus, we often see this rendered in our English Bibles as “empty-handed.”

Yet, the word is simply “empty” (רֵקִיָּא / rē-qām). This leads other commentators to view this as a fourth command. In addition to bringing the three required sacrifices, the people are not also to appear before the Lord empty. Empty refers not to something external offering they possess but an internal state—possibly of joy, gratitude, or hearts filled with praise. (Continued)

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER CONT.

While I'm not here to settle this age-old debate between Hebrew scholars, I have been thinking about what it is like not feeling like you have anything to offer—to feel empty. It's an odd reality. In lives so full of things, we can feel empty—like we have nothing. It is something like how, in a room full of people, we can feel alone.

It can be a feeling fueled by comparison or influenced by a sense of inadequacy. Compared to others, what do I have to offer? Compared to a Holy God, who am I? What would God possibly want from me? What could I possibly have to offer the world?

It can also express a genuine, humble, and contrite heart. The prophet Isaiah has this incredible vision where he is standing before the throne of God. The Lord is surrounded by angels proclaiming His glory. Their voices shake the room. In response, Isaiah crumbles and declares, "Woe to me! I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips" (Isaiah 6:5).

Isaiah is met in this moment by God's grace and is cleansed. The angel tells him, "Your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Then comes the most beautiful moment. Before the dust could settle, the Lord asked, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" Isaiah replies with a willing and eager, "Here I am. Send me."

In this way, Isaiah displays what God desires for us all. God desires not that we remain face down but—having been cleaned and sins atoned for—that we stand tall, willing, and eager to serve. Our proper place in creation is to stand up straight and count for something. We are to live lives that reflect the glory of God.

Still, we might wonder, "What do we have to offer?" Ourselves! If we show up with our whole selves—willing, eager, and humble—we never show up empty. ●

Chaplain Jon Nichols

MINISTRY BLESSING



Kids in our after school program had fun creating valentines last month for their families and friends. We want to thank the K class at Firm Foundation Christian School in Battle Ground for donating goody bags and art supplies. You are a blessing!

OHM WEST UPDATE



Executive Director Reneé Stevens isn't letting the rain slow down construction at OHM West! Donation and storage space in the basement is taking shape, and the courtyard windows are in place. You can learn more about OHM West on our website at ohmwest.org

TOURS & TALKS

First Friday tours are back!
Noon to 1 pm
Contact us for a tour at
events@sheltered.org

JOB OPENINGS

Part-time Child Care Position
Part-time Accounting Clerk
Development Position
Facilities Position
Please inquire at
careers@sheltered.org

SHELTER NEEDS

Toilet paper and
paper towels

Canned goods

One pound
packages of
hamburger

Boys and girls
pull ups - size 4/5t

Thank you!



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