



MINISTRY

Transforming Power and Thankfulness

It has been most striking to me to see how the children at Open House Ministries experience and respond to God's provision of their physical and spiritual needs. In asking them what they are grateful for, the most common answers were God and a roof over their heads. The kids are hearing the Gospel, and whether they notice it or not, I can see that their spirits are more peaceful. Seeing the transformational power that is being shared at Open House Ministries and the response to it up close and firsthand moves me every day.

In looking at the kids' drawings, I think about the many small and entirely transforming ways that God provides. It makes me consider how often I forget to say *thank you* to God.

Seeing God's provision being worked out at Open House Ministries reminds me of how powerful the gifts of His provision are for me. God's most important provision of salvation completely reorients the soul from caring about immediate needs and gratifications to caring about God's kingdom and righteousness. *(Continued)*

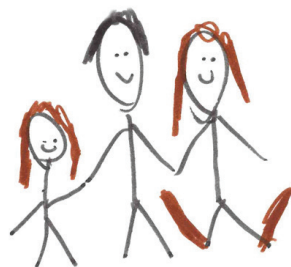


Hannah and kids at Open House Ministries expressing thanks!



"I'm thankful for a roof over my head, because we get to sleep, eat and we don't get wet. I'm also thankful for water."
Jeremiah

"I'm grateful for food, God, earth, and my friends and family."
Anna



"I'm thankful for a roof over my head. And I'm grateful for the Seahawks."
Bentley

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

In Gratitude

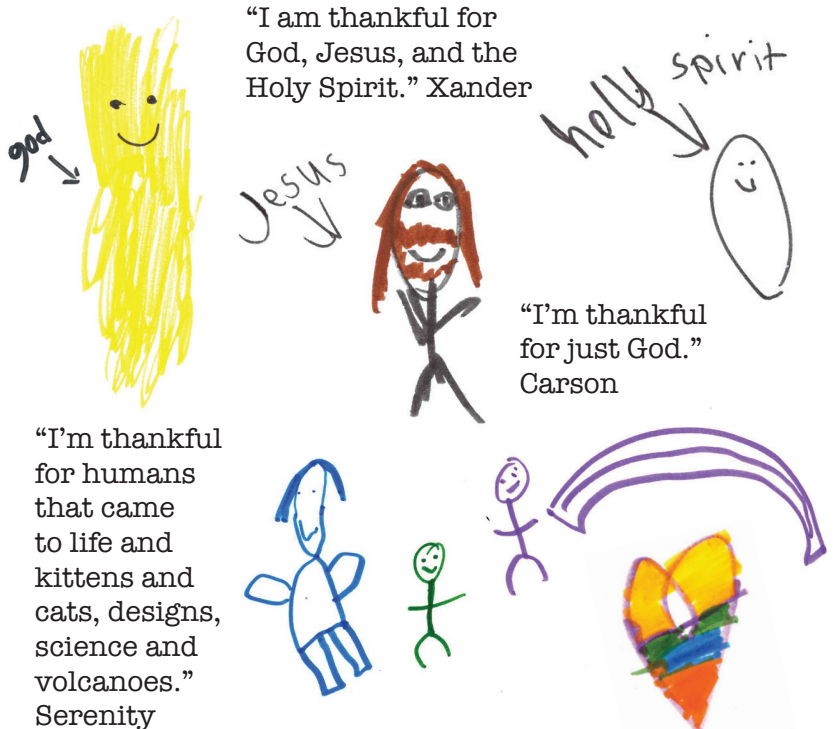
I think there are two fundamental dispositions one can have toward the world. The first is that of despair. That is to become overwhelmed by life's brokenness, pain, and suffering so as to lose hope. The road toward despair is often marked by an increasing belief that the world is without meaning and purpose. We frequently deploy this coping mechanism to avoid getting hurt by life's disappointments. "It doesn't matter" and "I don't really care" are its mantras. Yet, meaninglessness doesn't lead to the carefree spirit we assume it will. It ends in despair.

As people of faith, our primary defense against despair is gratitude. Gratitude is fundamentally an act of faith. Gratitude is a choice. It's a choice to see and receive life as a gift from God. In gratitude, we turn our hearts toward our savior and accept the gift of his grace. In gratitude, we say "Yes" to His invitation to follow as He leads. In gratitude, we learn to accept that which cannot be changed, the courage to change that which can be changed, and the wisdom to know the one from the other. *(Continued)*

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The peace that He gives calms the soul with everlasting joy and rest in His presence, and our delight is in Him, so we don't have to search for delight in anything on earth. This is so incredibly powerful and transforms every one of our lives who have encountered God in a personal way, but something I don't give God praise for enough.

I am so thankful to be in this position as the Children's Program Coordinator. I waited for a position to serve children at a ministry like Open House Ministries for about three years, so I truly feel like this job is a gift from God. I feel incredibly blessed to get to know the children, to encourage them, learn from them, and have the opportunity to speak about the truth of Christ. • *Hannah Emrick, Children's Program Coordinator*



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER CONT.

I see the distinction between despair and gratitude—a purpose and a purposeless existence—at the center of Paul's piercing observation in Romans 1:21. Paul writes, "For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile, and their foolish hearts were darkened."

Gratitude doesn't explain away the mysteries and difficulties of life. Rather, what the choice to be grateful provides is the gift of a meaningful life. Gratitude liberates us to accept what the Christian Reformers declare as "the chief end of man," that is, "to glorify God and enjoy him forever."

• *Chaplain Jon Nichols*

CHRISTMAS ANNOUNCEMENT

Adopt a Family for Christmas

Christmas time is quickly approaching at Open House Ministries, and we invite you to celebrate by adopting one of our families this year.

If you would like to participate, the following guidelines may be helpful.

Last day to drop off gifts will be Tuesday, December 20th.

Gift Guidelines and Ideas

- Toys and clothing items from the family's wish list, wrapped and delivered by Tuesday, December 20th.
- Gift cards such as Target, Fred Meyer, WINCO foods or a gas card. Unwrapped toys and gifts cards are also welcome.

To adopt a family for Christmas, please contact Claudia Merritt at 360-737-0300 or email claudia.merritt@sheltered.org, and she will give you the details needed for your family adoption. *Thank you!*

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Child Care Worker
One Part-time position available

Events Coordinator
Full-time position available

Contact careers@sheltered.org for an application

SHELTER NEEDS

- Bottled water
- Paper towels
- Clorox wipes
- Pull ups of all sizes
- Men's gloves

Thanks!

VOLUNTEERS!

We need your help in donation operations. Shifts are available seven days a week in 4-to-5-hour shifts.

Please fill out an application at www.sheltered.org



OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES
We're a family shelter

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