

## Life Transactions

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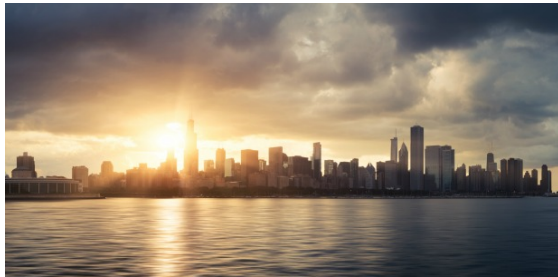
**Shepherd's Hope has, of course, always been about bringing the HOPE found in JESUS to the community we serve. During the time since we moved into THE CENTER, we have encountered opportunities and challenges we could never have imagined. In this issue we go back to how GOD prepared us so that our neighbors can truly sense that HOPE LIVES HERE!**

THE CENTER of Englewood is owned and operated by Shepherd's HOPE, Ltd. and houses our food pantry and family feeding center as well as By the Hand Club for Kids, 1st Defense Legal Aid, IMPACT Family Center, New Hope Medical Clinic, The Vision Clinic, Pass-It-On Academy, Basketball by Blue, God's End Time Church and Xperience Church.

## *"Life Transactions" = Humility*

**Hello Laura,**

I hope all is well. I want to thank all of you who have shared your resources with Shepherd's HOPE during the "COVID PANDEMIC!" Because of you HIS light is still shining in Englewood. The journey has been grueling and every step along the way has been both challenging and rewarding at the same time. THANK YOU, LORD! We still are in need of your help. This pandemic is going to be around longer than any of us anticipated.



***Rewind 14 years!***

The LORD had already laid it on my heart that HE wanted to glorify HIMSELF



through me. He used an encounter with a homeless gentleman at the bottom of an exit ramp to break my heart and bring HIS plan to fruition. The LORD I know and love is our only salvation and, if HE chooses, HE will use any one of us for HIS glory.

For this to take place, the LORD takes us through many of what I call **“Life**

**Transactions.”** These “Life Transactions” occur to humble us and make our hearts pliable so GOD “The Potter” can mold us into disciples that will glorify HIM. This only comes to fruition if we seek HIM through these transactions. If we seek comfort from the world to get us through, we won’t ever realize the **“Life Giving” benefits of these “Life Transactions.”**

Myself, I was so prideful and stubborn that it took the LORD seven (7) “Life Transactions” to humble me enough so HE could use me for HIS glory. I battled HIM every step of the way until the end. *Till I was on my knees at 57<sup>th</sup> and Lowe, asking HIM how I was going to get anything done when the people in the community wouldn’t even acknowledge me.* HIS calming answer was so profound it shocked me to my core. HE explained, “Brian, I don’t want you to do anything but be obedient to my will and I will take care of all the rest.” So in other words all JESUS wanted was for me to deny myself and let HIM live in and through me. ([Click here](#) to listen to WYLL radio interview for more detailed story)



Fast forward to March 3, 2009, the day we opened our doors to serve our neighbors at Shepherd’s HOPE. From the beginning, we were providing food for over 200 of our neighbors and their families, touching approximately 800 lives a week. ONLY GOD! What an opportunity to build relationships and trust with our newly found friends.

In 2013 the LORD prompted Shepherd’s HOPE to open a Family Feeding Center about a mile from our food pantry, feeding hot meals to our neighbors. This gave us another opportunity to build relationships and trust with our neighbors while breaking bread and sharing “The Gospel.”

### ***Incredible growth and opportunities...***

In May of 2018 the LORD shocked us again when HE had us purchase a 50,000 sq ft elementary school at 838 W Marquette Rd. We were already a familiar face in the community because our Family Feeding Center was located just 2 blocks north of the school on Peoria Ave. The school has given us a lot more exposure. Combining



that with the Covid pandemic, **we are now touching more than 5,000 lives a week through our food distribution network.** By the LORD's mercy and grace over 350 youth/teens are being served daily through our youth ministry (By the Hand Club for Kids), teen ministry (IMPACT Family Center) and through our newest member of the team (Basketball by Blue), serving both youth and teens. We also have a daycare for children (Pass It On Academy), a legal services program, a vision clinic, a medical clinic and 2 churches all operating at The Center of Englewood.

The reason I am focusing on the history of Shepherd's HOPE is because I wanted you to see that this was all the LORD's doing one "Life Transaction" after another until he made me and others involved in these ministries pliable enough so that HE could mold us into the people HE needs to glorify HIMSELF anywhere HE sends us. At the age of 59, HE could finally start to use me for HIS glory. What a patient LORD we serve. AMEN! AMEN!

If you have been with us for the past 12 years, you have seen what HE can do with a few obedient servants dedicated to HIM and HIM alone. When I think about it, it just blows my mind! My expectations for the ministry were not anywhere near where the LORD has taken Shepherd's HOPE. HE is constantly growing HIS ministry. What it will look like next month GOD ONLY KNOWS! That is what makes it exciting to serve HIM every day. Thank you, LORD!

## "Improvements Ahead"



Speaking of the future, we are making plans to upgrade the building from a growth, comfort, and needed repair perspective. We are planning on adding a **14'X14' walk-in freezer to the Food Pantry so that we will then have the much-needed freezer space for the growing need.** We have a commitment from the Greater Chicago Food Depository to pay for at least 75% of the \$28,500.00 cost to purchase and install the unit. We need your help with the additional \$7,125.00.

Also on our agenda for this fall is adding **lighting in the auditorium.** The simplest and least expensive way to accomplish this is by adding 10 wall scones on the east and west side of the auditorium. The cost for the electrical work and 20 wall scones will be \$5,350.00.

**Next we need to air condition the rooms for the youth and teen ministries, daycare, vision and medical clinics.** The most economical and efficient units for this purpose are called mini-splits (see illustration: top unit on inside, bottom unit on outside). They have been used in Europe for decades. One self-contained unit per classroom. There are 19 rooms that we would like to complete by next spring. The average cost per unit installed is \$1650.00. The total amount we need to raise is \$31,350.00.



The most important item we have to address before winter is the rebuilding of 2 of the 3 pumps that move the hot water from the boilers to the classrooms and the rest of the building. The cost to rebuild the 2 pumps is \$8580.00

We also have some landscaping to complete around the building. We've budgeted \$7500.00 for this project.

The priorities for completion are:

1. Rebuilding boiler pumps \$ 8,580
2. Walk-in freezer \$ 7,125
3. Auditorium lighting \$ 5,350
4. Air conditioning 19 rooms \$31,350
5. Landscaping \$ 7,500

**Your financial support of any of these much-needed projects can make a valuable difference to all the programs operating at the Center of Englewood!** If you work for (or know of) a company that might be interested in sponsoring one or more of these projects, please [contact us](#).

## More About Brian's "Life Transactions"

The LORD is the only person that knows what we will face tomorrow! At Shepherd's HOPE we do not make any decisions without consulting the LORD first.

Because of something that happened to me in my senior year of college, my life was turned upside down. I took what the Bible calls the wide path running away from GOD and running headfirst into the world. I became spiritually bankrupt while becoming what some would call financially well off. My new god was the world system. You all know where I am today, but how I got there and what I went through is a great story of God's redemption. ([click here](#) for WYLL radio interview)

From loving JESUS and believing in HIM as a young boy until I was 19 years old. Then from the age of 20 to 45, I became enamored with the world with all its infidelity and depravity that left me an empty shell of a human being. At 46, after 25 years of serving the devil, I started to live a life seeking JESUS instead of the world system. I devoted my life to JESUS and HIS purposes for me, surrendering all I am and have to JESUS, glorifying HIM and HIM alone. **I wanted my life to be fully set aside for HIS plans and purposes!**

We at Shepherd's HOPE realize that we can do nothing without JESUS. We've humbled ourselves and are grateful for every sinner HE sends our way. We also realize that HE is everything and nothing good can be brought to fruition without HIM. Please pray for us in these trying times in America and the world, that we at Shepherd's HOPE will be over-comers as our relationship with JESUS grows and as we remain obedient to HIS will.



