

I-HELP NEWS

I-Help Newsletter for Desert Cross Lutheran Church, Volume 4

Those Who Walk Alone ...

He was sitting on the bench just outside the Fellowship Hall with a computer on his lap. Two other I-Help guests were standing in front of him. I sat down on the bench to listen. The subjects were abnormal in my realm. Bus passes, job interviews, Memorial Day shelter and affordable places to live. One of the gentlemen was going to start a new job at a car wash. He was excited about

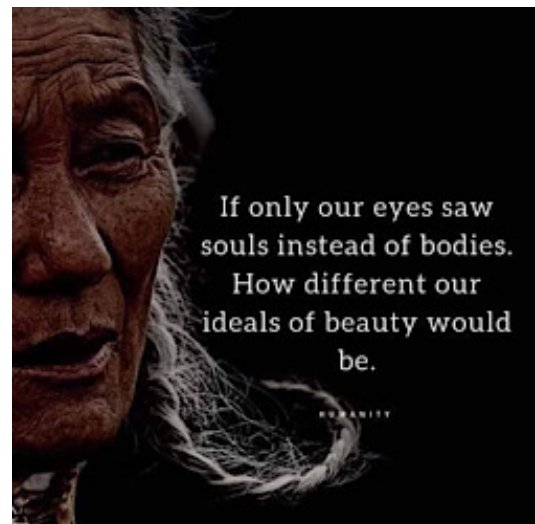


working but he wasn't sure of how he was going to get there. Not having a car made a simple problem complicated. We exchanged ideas on where to find bus passes. As I sat there my mind wandered back to my Saturday mornings in 1965 when at the age of 15 I hitch-hiked from the suburbs to downtown St. Paul to work at a car wash. Back then everyone was hired by the day. You would sit on a bench, and hoped your name was called. It was hard work. I know things have changed, but washing cars is tough especially if you are 40+ years old. Then the conversation changed to where they were going to spend Memorial Day. At first, I didn't get it, but as I listened I discovered that the libraries were going to be closed for the holiday and it's the library where a homeless person finds refuge from the heat. The young man with the computer said that he interviewed for a job. He was optimistic. I asked what he did and he said, "I.T. work." The employer told him

that everything looked good, but he would have to pass the background check. I saw anxiety on this intense young man's face. I assumed that this computer expert has a past, and a background check could be problematic. The Azcend bus arrived and I said farewell to my new friends wondering if I would see them again. It was then that I realized that I've never suffered homelessness. I've never walked their walk. I was always connected. When I was younger my parents were there to support me and when I was older I was blessed with a spouse who always listened. And too, I always had a community, people who loved me and cared for me. Being connected means you don't have to walk alone. It made me think about what Jesus wanted for his followers. It made me think that I-Help & programs like it, are exactly what Jesus had in mind when he said to love your neighbor as yourself.

Peace & love,

Pastor Glen Stadler
I-Help Coordinator of Desert Cross Lutheran Church
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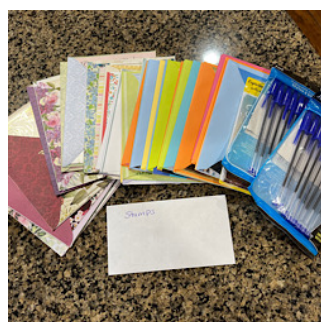


Church Council Shines!

We had an incredible group in the kitchen during our last I-Help Event. Desert Cross' own Church Council was joined by Pastor Andrea and Pastor Thadd. Tom Rewolinski, Desert Cross past president displayed his leadership ability in commanding his troops as they hosted 19 I-Help guests. There was laughter. There was fun. There was food. There were conversations between each other and more importantly with these precious people who we were hosting. It was a great night. The next morning Joe & Stacey Weingartz provided a splendid breakfast of yogurt, fruit, muffins and juice. It was a breakfast fit for a king. I tip my hat to these amazing people who were kind and generous in providing a special night and morning for God's children. Thank You!!!



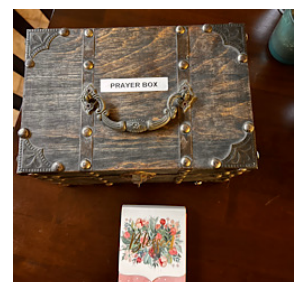
- Tom & Liz Rewolinski
- Pastor Andrea Cain
- Pastor Thadd Book
- Adam Pfau
- Bill Kalaf
- Marla Barnard
- Anna Sion
- Joe & Stacy Weingartz
- Angela Nannenga
- Haley Perez
- Carolyn Perkins
- Tom Selby
- Staci Smith
- Cindy Delano
- Lee Stadler



Stationary & Prayer Box - Making a Connection to God and each other

It was five months back as the I-Help guests were boarding the bus on Wednesday morning I was handed 4 scraps of paper. Each paper contained a personal note to me and our volunteers thanking us for our kindness. It was very touching and meaningful. I believe that it was that jester that motivated Tony & Donna Tainter, Desert Cross volunteers to provide free stationary and stamps to our I-Help guests. Now displayed just inside the Community

Center's door will be table with free stationary, free bibles and Prayer Box where our I-Help guests can make prayer requests. The Prayer Box was donated by Cindy Delano, a friend of Desert Cross and an avid I-Help volunteer. These are the simple extras that we hope will make a difference.



2023 I-Help Schedule

Date	Serving Dinner - 6:00 pm	Breakfast Club - 6:00 am
January 24, 2023	Glen Stadler & Friends	Glen Stadler
February 28, 2023	Perkins Family	Adam Pfau & John/Deb Christiansen
March 28, 2023	Thursday Morning Christ Care Group	Perkins Family
April 25, 2023	Nancy Barnett Friends Group	Staci Smith & Mari Johnson
May 23, 2023	Church Council	Joe & Stacey Weingartz
June 27, 2023	Breakfast Dudes	Sue Kyle & Friends
July 25, 2023	Esperanza I-Help Team	Tina Strickler
August 22, 2023	Esperanza I-Help Team	Tina Strickler
September 26, 2023	Thursday Morning Christ Care Group	Open
October 24, 2023	DCLC Chamber	Open
November 28, 2023	Esperanza I-Help Team	Open
December 26, 2023	Nancy Zine & Friends	Open



Dropping Off the Backpacks

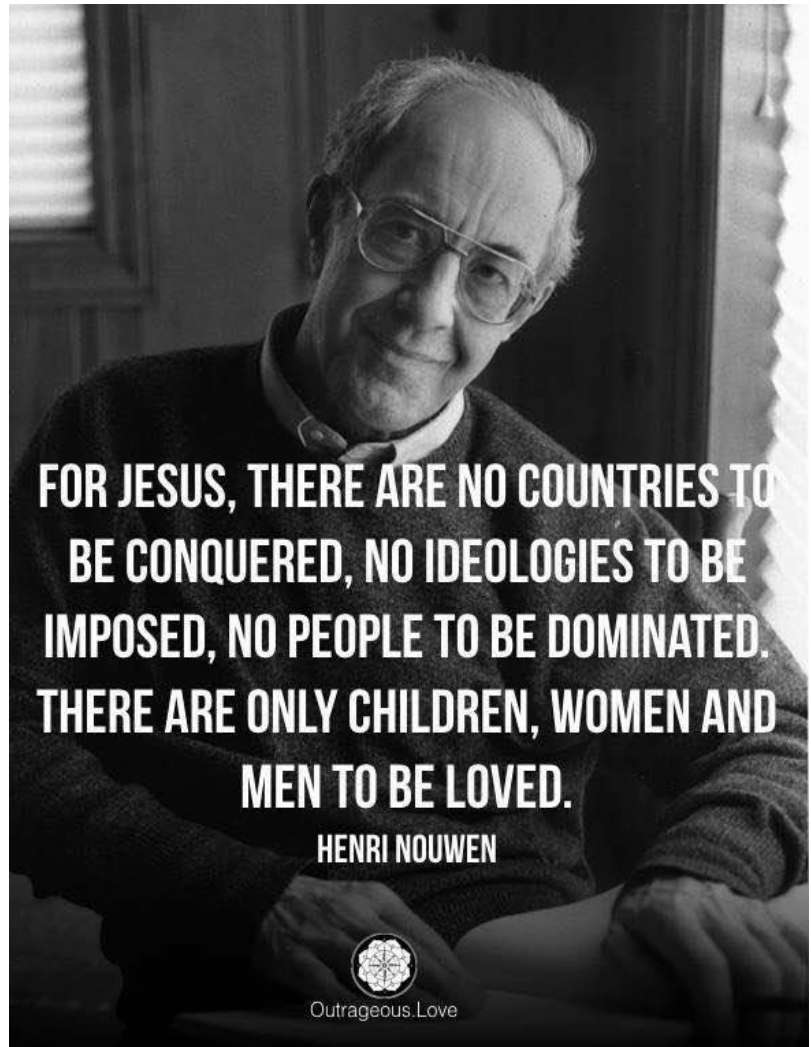
We pulled into a parking space in front of the Azcend building in downtown Chandler. I've been gathering backpacks for the past month and now was the time to share them. I opened our car's trunk handing my spouse an armful full of backpacks and while I carried the rest. We went into the main lobby which was filled with people. I quickly surveyed the room wondering if I would recognize any of them from our last I-Help event. I asked for Lizet (Azcend's I-Help contact person) and we sat down. It wasn't more than three minutes that Lizet walked out into the room. Her face glowed when she saw us sitting there. Immediately she called for Priscilla (Azcend Director) who joined us in the lobby area. Lizet asked Priscilla where should we put the backpacks. Priscilla had that sense of excitement on her face. Apparently there was no place for backpacks? Could it be that they have had no response from the other 29 congregations? Both Lizet and Priscilla broke out in a cheering fashion "thank you, thank you, thank you!" Priscilla asked if I needed a receipt, and I said "no, but I hope to bring you more backpacks from Desert Cross in the future." I walked out to the car feeling the energy of what just happen. This event made my day and I couldn't help but feel proud to part of a congregation that loves the stranger. Thank you!

80
Backpacks have been donated by members or friends of Desert Cross!

I-Help Guests in May

The following were the guests that stayed in Desert Cross' Community Center last month. It was suggested to me by a Desert Cross member to not reveal their last names, but I still want the congregation to remember these individuals. I've seen a significant turn-over of guests in the recent months. It's hard to say if they dropped out of the program or they were able to find housing. Please take a moment to lift these people in prayer as God gives them the strength to meet the challenges ahead.

Sandra B.
Michael C.
Daniel E.
Istawa E.
LaMonty G.
James H.
Gordon H.
Stephan H.
Damien H.
Ken K.
David K.
Jawara L.
Cynthia M.
Danny P.
Michael S.
Carl S.
Douglas W.
Luis V.
Annie P.



June's I-Help Serving Team

It's been a treat to watch our volunteers surround our I-Help guests with love and kindness. I have seen it repeated over and over, it never gets old. Please keep the Breakfast Dudes in your prayers as they serve on Tuesday evening June 27th and as Sue Kyle and friends join the Breakfast Club in serving on Wednesday morning.

Servers:

John & Deb Christiansen
 Don & Ruth Legacie
 Glen Tischafer
 Dave & Susan Pillard
 Staci Smith
 Cindy Delano
 Nancy Dickson
 John Gemma
 Shirley Huntley
 Molly Hurst
 Sue Kyle

Food Support:

Jim & Betsy Moore
 Ron & Cheryl Diegle



Toiletries are Needed

Every month I-Help guests are looking for products that can improve their hygiene. We have been blessed with a lot of bar soap and feminine products, but we are sorely lacking in other areas, such as:

Shampoo
 Conditioner
 Tooth paste
 Tooth brush
 Deodorant
 Disposable razor blades
 Combs
 Hand lotion
 Sun Block

You can bring these items to worship and leave them at the back of the church.

Kindness ... Loaning someone your strength instead of reminding them of their weakness.

