

KALAMAZOO  
GOSPEL  
MINISTRIES

# STORIES OF HOPE

2020

APRIL ISSUE

## MEET CAMERON

FEATURED  
**STORIES**

WHAT IS CASE MANAGEMENT

A SHELTER FROM THEIR STORM



## Encouragement From Pastor Michael L. Brown President/CEO

*But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*

**Romans 8:11**

April 2020 will mark a milestone for the Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries. Without a doubt the most significant event happening this April, is the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To share the story of the love of God as expressed through His son, with our friends and guests, is the most powerful message we have. I know firsthand, the life changing power of God that set me free and has been transforming my life since 1982. That's why I am so passionate about our work at Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries. Working with so many who are being set free of sin and the lifestyles that keep them from living in freedom is the most rewarding thing I've ever done.

Also, in April 2020 we will be celebrating the demolition of the old buildings on Burdick St. and the construction of the new Women's and Children's Shelter. I would be so honored for you to come out and celebrate with us as we watch the buildings come down.

You, our partners, have been vitally instrumental in the journey to replace these old buildings. I believe it only fitting that you join with us as we celebrate together, the goodness of God and His faithfulness in this journey.

Also, this spring, we are elated to welcome Dr. Tony Evans to Kalamazoo to speak at 3 different venues as we continue to make this ministry a blessing to the Kalamazoo community. Dr. Evans is the Senior Pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas Texas, where he has grown his congregation well over 10 thousand members. He has been named one of the "12 Most Effective Preachers" in the English-Speaking World by Baylor University. He also holds the honor of writing and publishing the first full-Bible commentary and Study Bible by an African American. Dr. Evans promotes a Kingdom Agenda philosophy that teaches God's comprehensive rule over every sphere of life as demonstrated through the individual, family, church and society.

This Spring will be a blessed time of spiritual awakening for all who plan to attend as Dr. Evans shares his dynamic wisdom and insight. We have a website set up specifically for this event at **[www.kingdomfocus2020.org](http://www.kingdomfocus2020.org)**. All information about this two-day event including, dates, times, locations and associated costs can be accessed through this site.

That's why, from thanking God for His abounding love as demonstrated through His son Jesus; to celebrating all the wonderful milestones KGM is seeing come to pass after so many years of faithful collaboration with the Kalamazoo community, April 2020 marks a milestone.

Thank you for your continued faithful partnership. I hope to see you at one of these events where



You provided **9,019**  
nights of shelter in  
February



You served  
**12,622** meals in  
February



You helped **232**  
guests at KDC  
in February



# MEET CAMERON

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## Proverbs 27:17

As iron sharpens iron,  
so one person sharpens another.

Cameron never understood how drugs could take a hold of life, until some friends from his high school football team introduced him to Methamphetamines. He learned how easy it was to spiral out of control when you are unable to let go of the thing that is controlling you.

Growing up in Kalamazoo wasn't always easy for Cameron. He grew up in a broken home where his parents divorced. Amidst an unhealthy relationship with his Father and a Mother who struggled with addiction, Cameron had to grow up fast. The one thing that kept him holding on was the support of his Grandparents and taking care of his siblings.

Through a series of bad choices and unforeseen turns, Cameron became homeless, and he felt himself hitting "rock bottom". He knew that if he didn't make some changes, his life was in jeopardy. With a motivation to turn his life around, Cameron started looking for a job. He knew it wouldn't be easy, but with determination, Cameron was able to get a job as a dishwasher at a local restaurant.

Everything was lined up for his first day of work except for a pair of work boots. Working in a kitchen requires the right footwear. With no money, he wasn't sure where he was going to get a new pair of shoes. But he remembered a place that his grandfather used to volunteer. A place that helped people like Cameron who just needed a little bit of support to get their life back on track. That place was KDC.

Moments after walking in the doors of KDC and meeting with staff, Cameron found himself in a car with a KDC staff member on their way to the store to buy him a new pair of shoes. KDC was also able to help Cameron when he moved into an apartment. They helped provide furniture and household items to help him get started in his new home. Cameron is hopeful for the future and placing his trust in God for the next steps.

**"I used to take the building blocks of life and I would take them and throw them into a big pile and jump onto it and hope it held up. And every single time it would fall apart. Now I am taking each one of my blocks and strategically placing it so when I stand on that foundation it's going to hold up for the rest of my life"**

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries is more than a shelter from their storm, it's a place to heal from the trauma experienced through homelessness as a family. KGM, is committed to providing child and family centered services that promote trauma resolution in both children and parents.

KGM offers a Children's Ministry Program open to infants through fifteen years of age. In a supportive and nurturing environment, families are provided a safe haven and an opportunity to learn and grow on every level. "We are focused on providing a safe learning environment where children experience the love of Jesus," says Kami Galvin, Manager of the Children's Ministry. "The children we minister to often come in from chaotic and stressful situations. When they come into the center, we want them to experience a positive and loving atmosphere." says Kami.



## SONSHINE KIDS

With several programs to offer, **Sonshine Kids**, welcomes infants through preschool offering age appropriate activities, snacks, and lots of positive care from staff and volunteers. Sonshine Kids is offered daily throughout the week, providing parents the flexibility to meet with their case manager and work towards their goals.

## CREATION STATION

Knowing that school aged children need a safe and positive place to after school, **Creation Station** offers a wraparound program where kids can take their minds off the stresses of daily life and enjoy games, cooking lessons, outside activities and more. One highlight for school aged children is an evening bible study offered through a local ministry partner, Kindness Acts 20:35.



If you are interested in volunteering within our Children's Ministry, please contact Matt Furrow, Volunteer Coordinator at [mfurrow@kzoogospel.org](mailto:mfurrow@kzoogospel.org) or call him at **269.345.2974 ext. 203**.



# CASE MANAGEMENT

Basic needs are the first step to healing. With hot nutritious meals and a place to sleep out of the elements, men, women and children have time to decompress from the trauma of being homeless.

While basic needs are important, Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries offers more. We are committed to helping guests assess their needs and identify the barriers. Through one on one support, Case Managers meet with individual guests, taking the time to truly listen and help identify their next steps. "We provide an atmosphere where people grow and identify a plan for their lives," says Sheldon McCullough, Director of Programming. "It's vital that each Case Manager truly listens and asks God's help in discerning the right steps to take towards independence."

Case Managers are supportive in multiple ways. They're often counselors, an advocate when meeting with area agencies, but most importantly, they share their own testimony of how Jesus has transformed their lives. Never a requirement for staying at the Mission but, always part of our support, KGM staff serves as the hands and feet of Jesus to all who seek our services.



WITH DR. TONY EVANS



TICKETS  
**\$25**

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION VISIT  
[KINGDOMFOCUS2020.ORG](http://KINGDOMFOCUS2020.ORG)

## A SHELTER FROM THEIR STORM

We are overjoyed to announce that 2020 is the year that construction will begin on the new women's and children's building. Demolition will begin this spring.

Join us for an impactful fundraising event hosted by Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries. Proceeds from the event will help us get to the finish line for the new Women's and Children's Building Project.



# UPCOMING EVENTS



Alternatives of Kalamazoo and KGM invite you to the **"Life Is Good"** Concert  
May 7th, 2020 at 6:30pm  
Gacespring Bible Church  
Featuring Jean Watson,  
Violinist and Worship Leader

Join us as we gather together with local church leaders and city officials to collectively stand in prayer for our city, state, and nation.  
May 7th, 2020  
City Hall, 12:00pm

For more information, please contact Tammy Clubb at [tclubb@kzoogospel.org](mailto:tclubb@kzoogospel.org) or 269.345.2974 ext 211



## CURRENT NEEDS

Will you help us check off items that we currently need? Listed below are a few items that we are in need of this Spring season. If you would like to donate, please contact Tammy Clubb, Development Director at [tclubb@kzoogospel.org](mailto:tclubb@kzoogospel.org) or **269.345.2974 ext 211**



- SHAMPOO
- TOOTHBRUSHES
- TOOTHPASTE
- BODY WASH SOAP
- DEODORANT
- BED SHEETS
- OFFICE SUPPLIES
- HAND SOAP
- HAND SANITIZER
- COUGH DROPS
- SOCKS
- CHILDREN'S MOTRIN
- IBUPROFEN
- ASPIRIN



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KALAMAZOO  
GOSPEL  
MINISTRIES

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