

NEW LIFE NEWS

“FOR WITH GOD NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE.” LUKE 1:37



MISSION TEAM SPOTLIGHT: CLARKSON BAPTIST

In early July, we once again hosted a mission team from Clarkson Baptist Church in Mississippi. This year, Clarkson Baptist Church brought along 32 individuals, mostly youth, to help serve New Life Ministries and the community of Huntington.

This summer, the group completed many projects around our ministry programs. Their main focus was preparing and serving lunch and dinner at the New Life Community Meal Ministry. They had split their group up into teams who took turns serving and interacting with the patrons. It was a busy week at the Meal Ministry, and the group shared that one night they served over 100 meals! When speaking with the team, it was clear that the Meal Ministry was the highlight of the trip for many of their youth.

During the week, Clarkson Baptist also assisted in a bathroom renovation at the Men's Life House. This involved tearing out the old items in the upstairs bathroom and installing new flooring, a shower, toilet, vanity, and light fixtures. They also painted and trimmed the room as well.

While part of the team worked on the bathroom, other members completed tasks like pulling weeds, cleaning out the building at 246 E. Franklin St., switching out bunk beds at the Women's Life House, installing a fence gate at the Children's Life House, and helping the Parks Department with a volleyball court.

After dinner each night, the adults in the group were given the opportunity to serve by leading Bible studies at both the Men's Life House and Women's Life House. This allowed them the opportunity to hear the stories of the residents and connect with them on a deeper level. When talking with the adults of this team, many of them shared that these Bible studies were their highlight. The women especially enjoyed getting the opportunity to gift the residents with new study Bibles and taking a night to wash the residents' feet and give them pedicures.

As always, having Clarkson Baptist Church was a blessing and we know they made an impact that will last a lifetime. We are thankful for the time they gave to serve and are eager to welcome them back soon.

MEET THE TEAM: BOB BURNSWORTH



When Bob Burnsworth is not busy selling houses or participating in community events, you can find him at the New Life Community Meal Ministry serving as the Meal Ministry Director. Bob has been the Meal Ministry Director for New Life Ministries since the New Life Community Meal Ministry moved into the building at 323 N. Jefferson St., and it is clear that serving in this role is one of his passions.

“God has allowed me to love what I do down here [Meal Ministry],” Bob shared. “I love helping people and helping those in need.”

As the Meal Ministry Director, Bob serves on Sunday nights and Wednesday nights as well as any additional nights when extra help is needed. He completes many tasks behind the scenes as well. One of the larger tasks Bob takes on is working with 400+ volunteers. This may involve creating schedules, filling in gaps when there are last-minute volunteer cancellations, ensuring procedures are being followed, and that volunteers are feeling encouraged.

When he is not working with volunteers, he checks the stock in the pantries and takes one or two trips a week to the store to purchase needed food or supplies.

Although Bob understands that the New Life Community Meal Ministry is needed in our community, there are times when others may not understand the work being done downtown. “There is homelessness in Huntington and people in need of food in Huntington. But also, the Meal Ministry is not just for the homeless. It’s for the low-income or fixed-income, those with limited means to make ends meet,” Bob explained. “We have to realize that Huntington and our community has a need and as children of God, we should take care of these people and this need because God has called us to.”

Meeting this need takes a community though. It is not something that New Life Ministries or Bob can do alone. As Bob said, it is something we should all strive to help because called has God us to help those in need. “Currently, one of our greatest needs at the Meal Ministry is canned, nonperishable food. We also need things like paper towels, napkins, and nine-inch disposable divider trays for carryout meals,” said Bob. “Financial help is also appreciated because our utilities run high or we have to purchase food ourselves to prepare meals.”

We are thankful for the work Bob does and the asset that he is to our team. In the words of Bob Burnsworth, “It is not just about feeding people, but helping everyone in need.”

