

New Life Center for Mothers and Children

October 2023



Shannon's Story

Hi. My name is Shannon. I am 24 years old and have 2 beautiful children. Growing up things were hard for us. My father passed away from a drug overdose when I was 3 and he left my mom all alone to raise 10 children, 8 boys and 2 girls! We did not have much, but together we had all we needed. When I got to high school I started hanging out with the wrong crowd. I would skip school to hang with boys and my friends, drinking and smoking weed. I became pregnant at 16, and as a result of my poor decisions, I dropped out of school. I eventually was able to go back and get my diploma when my son was 2, but things were still hard for us. I began stripping to help provide, but because of the easy money, and the lifestyle that came with it, I was hooked! I sold myself short. I became addicted to the money, but began to hate myself more and more because of what I had to do to earn it. I felt worthless, I degraded myself, put a price tag on my body, but had satisfaction because I had money to do whatever I wanted. Because I had my son so young, I felt like I had to grow up fast, but I was barely able to care for myself! I began to drink so heavily that I would blackout just to work, this led me to eventually smoke crack and do other hard drugs. I had such a huge void in my heart, and searched for love and acceptance in all the wrong places. I never loved myself, or understood my true identity. I based my identity on what others thought about me and the lifestyle I was living. I became pregnant again in 2021. By this time I had been in and out of jail, rehab facilities, pistol whipped, and other terrible horror stories, that I would hear and think to myself that I would never be more than a "junkie prostitute." I fought hard to overcome the lies, and went back to school to become a cosmetologist, but shortly after graduating I slipped back into my old ways. At 22 I became an IV drug user and that lifestyle led me back to stripping and selling my body. I lost everything and was in complete darkness. Children and youth took my children, I overdosed 3 times, crashed every vehicle I ever owned, and lost my career before I even got started. I lost all hope and hated myself and everyone around me. I blamed God for taking my father and my children and I was angry all the time. I was filled with so much guilt, shame, and embarrassment. I put a man before myself and my kids, which was the biggest mistake of my life, but God! I am here today to tell you that Jesus Christ is real, and he saved my life! My sister in law, Alicia, took me in. She helped me get clean and stay clean. Neither one of us had a plan, but she knew in her heart that I needed serious help. When I moved in I was skin and bones with sores from my neck down. She helped me detox completely, and I never had a need to use suboxone to help. I was in so much pain that I could barely brush my hair, but she took care of me. I was at her house for 3 months when we heard about New Life Center for Mothers and Children. Coming to New Life was the BEST decision of my life. I am constantly surrounded by women who uplift, support, and encourage me. I love the woman I am becoming today; a woman capable of beautiful things! The enemy had me for long enough! My past no longer defines who I am! The Lord led me to such a loving, godly place and I have finally found peace, hope, and faith for a beautiful future. The void I was trying to fill with all the wrong things, has now been filled with the love of Jesus! Today, I am in the process of being reunited with my children. I have recently begun overnight visits, and I am trusting for them to be with me full time soon. I have finally found my true identity in Christ, and I will never be the same.



Director's Corner

As I sit here and reflect on what is going on in Israel my heart is quickened to pray for the men, women, and children who are enduring the unthinkable! As Christians we speak about the persecution of the church, but do we truly know what persecution is like? Do the people of our Nation even grasp the reality of what is taking place in the land of milk and honey? "I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey" Exodus 3:17. Many believers are proclaiming how we are living in a time where the Bible is literally unfolding right before our very eyes, and those sentiments are exactly what I believe to be true! He continues to confirm in His Word time after time after time! The terrible things happening to the people of Israel none of us could even begin to understand, and the heartache and torment they are enduring literally should bring us to our knees! As the body we should pray for Israel's peace! Even in disaster He is still our protection regardless of how terrible the circumstances might be, because He is our dwelling place! It blesses our hearts to see the spirit of God moving in the ladies here in the ministry, and not just moving, but using them for His purposes! Each of them was heavy hearted to the point of intercession! Not only was He using their prayers, but when the Lord meets you at the altar whether it's at an altar in the church, your car, or the living room floor, it changes you! The women in the ministry are growing expediently in their faith and their walk with the Lord! It's times like these when you see them passionately hit their knees for another Nation's protection, for their children's salvation, their families, or when you hear them say the simplest of prayers, even if it is just saying the name of Jesus, that makes you realize that the work He is doing in their hearts is truly transforming them from the inside out. There is nothing more amazing than the transformative power of Jesus Christ! Jesus is the only one that can have hearts praying for an entire Nation that is thousands of miles away. He's the only one who can take a drug addict and set them free from the trauma, wounds, and turmoil that led them to addiction. He's the only one who can make a way when there seems to be no way! We thank God for the work that He is doing in the ministry of NLFMC and wait expectantly on the Spring that is coming!



Annual Fundraising Banquet

Saturday, December 16th @ 6PM

New Freedom Community Center

150 E. Main St

New Freedom, PA 17349

RSVP



Needs List

- Gas Cards
- Postage Stamps
- Copy Paper
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Laundry Soap
- Household Cleaning Supplies

Attention!!!

In an effort to help save resources, we will be emailing all end of year receipts. Please email our treasurer at joy@nlfmc.org with your name and email address, so that we can provide you with proper receipts. Thank you!