

# **The Power of Dreaming Big**

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I am writing a brief history of the birth of the Ark of Mercy Church of God, Winchester, Kentucky. The church was started in September 1989 as a result of a heart-felt need to reach the less fortunate people that were overlooked and not being evangelized. Since our inception, in a tiny storefront on Main Street, our vision and top priority has always been to gather in a harvest of souls for the kingdom of God.

## **I. Vision**

## **II. Compassion**

## **III. Call**

## **IV. The Birth**

## **V. The Message**

- A. That there is a way out of bondage;
- B. That there is someone who loves them unconditionally;
- C. That there is someone who can take a broken, fragmented life and put it back together again;
- D. That the ground is level at Calvary and therefore no respect of persons;
- E. Jesus Christ is that someone who died for all, rich and poor alike.

## **VI. Results**

## **VII. Apostolic Reproduction**

Other ministries flowing out of the Ark of Mercy include:

- A. **Our Daily Bread:** Daily feeding program consists of over 250 meals a day feeding the needy in our city.
- B. **Food Pantry:** We give approximately 80 to 90 boxes a month from our Food Pantry to families in need
- C. **Clothes Pantry:** We have clothes for anyone who needs them, free of charge.
- D. **Love Offerings:** We also help people pay their utility bills so they won't be turned off.
- E. **Coffee House/Street Ministry:** This ministry consists of preparing a meal every Friday night for people off the streets, and for as many as 150 people, for their annual Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners.

- F. **Good Samaritan Ministry:** We also help pay for prescriptions for the poor who can't get their medicine.
- G. **Our Solomon House, or AIDS Ministry:** This consists of ladies preparing food, delivering it, and ministering to the patients there twice a month in Lexington, KY. One man was completely healed of AIDS! To God be the glory!
- H. **Nursing Home Ministry:** Our nursing home teams minister to the elderly.
- I. **Our Adopt-A-Block Ministry:** This consists of several teams from our church who visit all the housing projects in door-to-door ministry. They find out the needs of the people and have done everything from painting and helping clean apartments to mowing lawns and picking up prescriptions for the elderly.
- J. **Children's Church:** We have a Children's Church and Bus Ministry consisting of local children who are also fed, taught, and taken care of on Thursday night and Sunday mornings.
- K. **Christmas Outreach:** Our church has Christmas dinner for everyone on Christmas Day.
- L. **Mercy House:** There was an apartment building on our new property known locally as the "Crack House." Since we have taken possession of it, it has been transformed and named "Mercy House."
- M. Our **Turning Point Ministry** team conducts 13-week drug and alcohol abuse counseling and teaching sessions for any resident of the Mercy House that wants to take the course.

Other ministries include **Pioneers for Christ** boys club, **First Priority** – youth evangelism, **Helping Hands Ministry**, **S.O.S.** (Seeking Out Souls), mime and drama for children, **Daughters of Zion Ladies Ministry**, **Men's Life Builders**, and many more.

### **VIII. Look to the Future Dream Unfolding**

In closing, God's hand is on the Ark of "Mercy" because "Mercy" can be found here. It's a spiritual M.A.S.H. Unit. There is a never-ending flood of incoming wounded seeking deliverance, and no usher meets them at the door and escorts them outside. No matter what they look like, smell like ... if they are drunk or high and can only take two steps forward and four steps back; they are some mother's child, and they've come, tears flowing like a river, looking for Jesus and mercy.

As I look back on the call of God on my life and see how many souls have been won, I am so glad that I obeyed the voice of the Lord and dared to believe God could make dreams come true.

Though we are a way off from finishing the building, I know God is faithful and will supply what else we need to finish the building, There is a multitude of souls waiting for its doors to be opened. My soul says Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!