



# SOUTH GEORGIA HOUSE OF HOPE

December 2015 | P.O. Box 489 Lake Park, Ga. 31636  
229-241-2707 | [www.southgeorgiahouseofhope.org](http://www.southgeorgiahouseofhope.org)

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!



### *“A Season of Hope”*

*Matthew 2:9-10 “.....Behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.”*

Undoubtedly, the Christmas story is the greatest story that has ever been told. There are many parts of this story in which I read with awe and wonder, but I am continually amazed at how these wise men from the East were led to the Messiah by a single star shining brightly in the sky. They had no compass, no GPS, not even a map. It was God’s light alone, shining through the darkness that paved the way for these men to have an encounter with Jesus - the Prince of Peace and the very essence of our hope.

This Gospel of hope is one reason why there is such a universal acceptance of the Christmas season, even among those who are not born-again. Christmas is such a magnificent display of God’s love and mercy; a celebration of how God sent His Son to become our savior, forever freeing us from His judgment and wrath. It’s a season of spotlighting God’s unconditional love for us in the way it should be done all year long. It’s focusing on the good news of God’s love, not the bad news of our failures. I believe that this was the Gospel of peace that the angels were singing about when the Messiah was born, and that should be our message too.

We have an opportunity as believers to become this shining star in a darkened sky, pointing others to the very One who makes our salvation possible. We should do this all year long, but especially during Christmas as we encounter non-believers and prodigals alike in the hustle and bustle of the season. But how do we do this? How do we bring these good tidings of comfort and joy, offering hope to others who may not have it? I believe the answer is simple: love. When I reflect how God delivered me from the bondage of addiction, I’m keenly aware that it was His love that drew me in and it was His love that set me free. And because of His unrelenting love, I now have hope. The Bible tells us that love never fails – it always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Sharing the Gospel with others is more than speaking words; it is testifying to God’s goodness, demonstrating His power, and sharing His love. It is often these small acts of kindness and testimonies of grace that opens people’s eyes to the glory of God. And in this, just like those wise men, we can rejoice.

On the very first Christmas some 2000 years ago, God gave all of humanity the greatest gift ever- His only Son! And through His Son He gave us the gift of life – both eternal and abundant - which was the very reason why He came. And because of this amazing gift, we can have a personal and intimate relationship with God. Through Jesus Christ, we are now sons and daughters of the Most High God. Hallelujah! So this Christmas, may we not forget that Jesus is the real reason for this season, and through Him, we are able to share with others a gift that never fades: The Gift of Hope.

*“A long-term residential program for women overcoming drug addiction, alcoholism and abuse.”*

# ALUMNI GRADUATES

November 15, 2015 we had our first Alumni event where women who have completed the program came back to share God's faithfulness. After being in operation for ten years, we were truly blessed by the fellowship. Here are a few testimonies of women who have completed over the years.



In 2005, at the age of 20, I came to House of Hope with fear and a broken heart. Since I had been in three programs before this one, being court ordered to House of Hope was God's protection over me. After spending nineteen months at House of Hope I completed in October of 2006 and have seen God's continued provisions in my life. Upon my completion, I enrolled in college, got a job, and steadfastly became the woman of God He created me to be. After taking interpreter sign language for a year at a school in North Carolina, I desired more tools to be able to help others. The Lord opened a door to pursue a degree in Sociology here at Valdosta State University. I am now married to an amazing husband with a beautiful son named Oliver. I fully enjoy being a wife, raising my son, and motivating others by being a fitness coach. I want to tell you that transformation is possible: I believe if you truly allow God to change what is in your heart, the rest of your soul and body will follow. My favorite verse is "I CAN do ALL things through Christ who strengthens me". Philippians 4:13 - **Amanda Cross & Family**

I came to the House of Hope July 11, 2009 and completed the program July 22, 2010. Hopeless, I had all the makings of an alcoholic, spending time in and out of AA meetings and rehabs, only to fall many times. My life changed the day Sandy from the House of Hope told me, "If you believe that God made you, what makes you think He can't fix you?" It was in that first moment that I had hope. Of course God can fix us! While in the program, I learned how to have a real relationship with God. My life is amazing today, not only because of what God has done, but because of what I know He will do. In Jeremiah 31:3-4 it says, "The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness. I will build you up again and you will be rebuilt, O Virgin Israel. Again you will take up your tambourines and go out to dance with the joyful." I am joyful today. I am free. Thank you, Jesus.

- **Michelle Sams & Family**



While in my methamphetamine addiction, I prayed and prayed to God for Him to take it from me, only to find myself in a jail cell. Now I know God answers prayers and He is so faithful. In December 2013, while at the House of Hope, I was delivered from the spirit of addiction. Circumstances arose while in the program that required me to leave early and return to my parents' home to raise my children. I am so thankful for the foundation that was laid while I was at the House of Hope. While I was there, I learned of my identity in Christ and began the healing process, including family restoration. In my recovery, God had laid in my heart that He would restore my family seven-fold and He did just that!!!! On March 4th of this year, I married my best friend who has two little girls and in August we found out that we are expecting twins!! God has been so good to me, giving me a family, a home, and love - His love to pour out upon others. It is now my desire to reach out and help others, just as my Abba Father has helped me. - **Amanda McDowell & Family**

## HOW YOU CAN HELP...

South Georgia House of Hope  
P.O. Box 489 Lake Park, Ga. 31636  
Phone - 229-241-2707  
Sogahouseofhope@gmail.com  
SouthGeorgiaHouseofHope.org

- Pray for ladies and staff.
- Sponsor a lady.
- Volunteer/Intern
- Donate gently used items to Restored Treasures our Upscale Thrift Store.

