

FIVE SISTERS PROJECT NEWSLETTER

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Thank You Tracy!

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WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

In spite of Covid 19 and all that came along with it, we have been very busy at the Five Sisters Project. We have some amazing opportunities that have been set before us and we are so excited for the favor the Lord has shown us. There are so many items from last year's list that have been checked off and it is an amazing blessing to see so many prayers answered. We are boldly moving forward with expectations of great things.

We are so excited about how much of the construction project has now been completed. We believe it is entirely possible to finish this year. We are praising the Lord for moving the hearts to bring the funds to get this work done. The fact that we started out with the work of the plumber in faith without all the funds to pay the total plumbing bill and literally ended the year on December 31st by writing the checks for not just the plumbing, but the heating and electrical as well. What amazing faith-building!!

Unfortunately, the current crisis put the brakes on getting on track to speak, engage, encourage, and include area churches and organizations. We trust the Lord's perfect timing in this effort for the future.

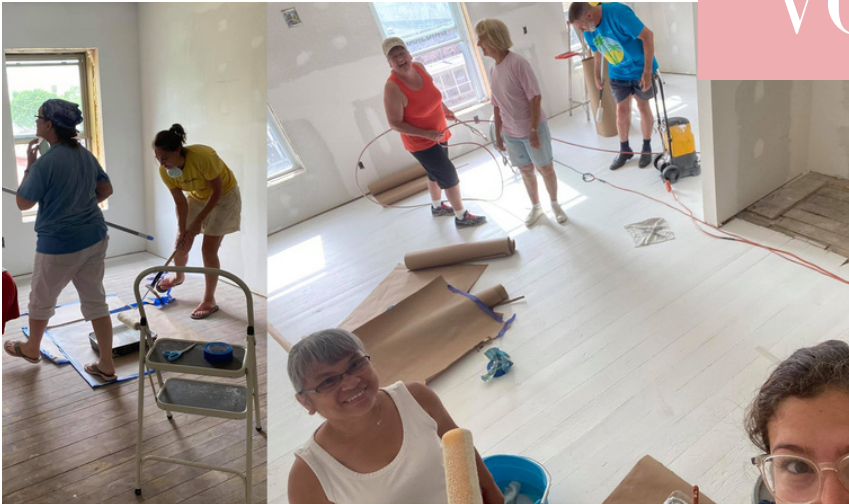
We are blessed by thinking about the year ahead and what the Lord has already confirmed about His path for us. Isn't that just like Him? He's always "doing a new thing" and "making a way where there is no way". We are so grateful for our prayer partners who continue to sow into this project with their faithful prayer covering.

DONATIONS

In the midst of chaos and confusion about Covid-19, the Lord continues to bless the work of the Five Sisters Project. Thank you to the Kiester Fire Department, People's State Bank, Crossroads Church family and other local churches like Wells Assembly of God and Dell Lutheran Church for their continued faithful support!



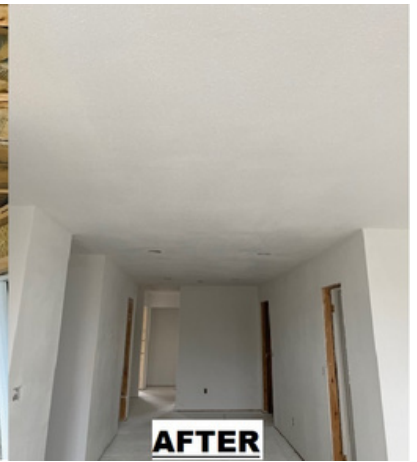
VOLUNTEERS



The MOST AMAZING PEOPLE support the work of this ministry. With every brush stroke, roll and spray of primer, we blessed the work of the Lord in this place and asked Him for a covering of His protection. Thank you to our amazing volunteers who worked hard to help us get the whole place primed. We couldn't do this ministry without all our volunteers. Thank you, thank you. We are beyond grateful for your hard work and your time.

PROGRESS

Always amazed at the creative ways the Lord meets our needs.
Look at the amazing progress recently made.



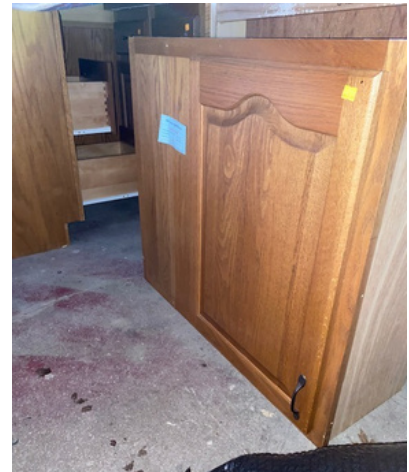
What's Next

- painting done
- cabinets installed
- doors installed
- shelving in closets

**Doors
have
been
donated**



**Kitchen
Cabinets
have been
purchased**



AND THE WINNER IS....

The results are in from our Facebook poll, and the color for the main living space is....



At our recent monthly meeting, the Board of Directors celebrated the amazing success that the Better Way - Five Sisters Project had experienced this past year under the direction of Tracy Muhlenbeck. This Project has truly been blessed by God! Tracy displays multi-talents and giftings too numerous to mention in this article. As a result of this success, it was approved by the Board to begin giving her a nominal salary. Tracy has worked for 5 years not taking any salary. She puts in well over 40 hours a week with no reimbursement for expenses. This nominal salary will probably serve as an expense account for her activities here at Five Sisters Project. Thank you Tracy for all you do for our clients and for our community.

THANK YOU, TRACY!



Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.
Colossians 3:23-24

VOLUNTEER

WE ARE SEEKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO FILL OUR GROWING NEEDS!

Contact:

info.thebetterway@gmail.com
or call us at (507)-553-6207

WE NEED YOU!
IT'S TIME TO GET INVOLVED

There are so many ways you can help:

- Caring for a guest
- Offering friendship
- Leading a Bible study
- Assisting in the office
- Cleaning and organizing
- Leading a prayer group
- Giving a guest a ride
- Lending an ear
- Helping plan events
- Spiritual support

VOLUNTEER!

DONATE

YOU CAN PARTNER WITH US FINANCIALLY OR DONATE TOWARDS OUR ONGOING NEEDS FOR THE SAFE HOUSING.

Here is a few things we could use now:

- 4 New Ceiling Fans with Lights
- Stack-able washer & dryer
- 2 Fire Extinguishers
- Toaster, Mixer, Keurig Coffee Pot
- Vacuum
- Linens - like new or gently used Bath towels, washcloths, pillows, kitchen towels/dishcloths
- Kitchen items - Cutting boards, silverware, pots and pans



SPONSOR A ROOM!
 AS AN INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, SMALL GROUP, CHURCH OR BUSINESS YOU CAN SPONSOR A ROOM AT THE NEW FIVE SISTERS PROJECT TEMPORARY SAFE HOUSING FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

KITCHEN	\$3,000	BEDROOM 3	\$1,200
DINING AREA	\$1,500	LAUNDRY ROOM	\$2,000
LIVING ROOM	\$2,500	BATHROOM 1	\$700
BEDROOM 1	RESERVED	BATHROOM 2	\$500
BEDROOM 2	RESERVED	ENTRYWAY	\$400

*THIS COST IS AN ESTIMATE AND COVERS PAINT, FURNITURE, DECORATIONS, APPLIANCES AND MUCH MORE TO MAKE THIS A SAFE AND WELCOMING PLACE FOR WOMEN IN NEED. INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS? CALL US AT 507-553-6207

What Does Your Support Mean?

By sponsoring a room you can help provide needed essentials for our guests to live in a clean, up-to-date room. Here is how:

- You can sponsor a room with your financial support and our staff will decorate the room or....
- You can be the "interior decorator" by donating the furniture, the decor, the bedding and anything else needed for that certain space and coming and doing it all yourself! (Furniture doesn't have to be new but we ask that they be in good condition)
- Donate single items towards a room.

Recognizing "Sponsor A Room" Sponsors:

- As a sponsor, a special plaque will be displayed with your adopted room honoring your organization, company, church, family or individual.
- You will also receive recognition in our newsletter and on our website with a link to your website.

A QUESTION OF POSITION

by Tracy Muhlenbeck



Looking at scripture this week sparked some serious thought. Ready to think deeply and consider something that could change everything for you? The story is from **Numbers 16-18**. It is about the rebellion of Korach. Korach stages an organized protest on behalf of the rest of the group who feels slighted by the elevated position of Moses and the high priests. Korach and the rest of those who had chosen to join him in the rebellion were swallowed up by the earth. It would appear the story is about the consequences of taking a position of opposition against a person chosen by the Lord, particularly one in leadership. This is an important lesson and true but I think there is something else to consider which seems to be extremely relevant for this time.

A couple of years ago in the early days of the Five Sisters Project, I succumbed to the temptation of "taking inventory". I reviewed and evaluated what other organizations and ministries were "gettting" and I decided what I thought was fair or unfair. The Lord brought me up short with a living and active Word about my thought life. Who did I think I was to compare myself to anyone else? He reminded me of the 10th commandment, "Thou shalt not covet". I thought this commandment was simply about being selfish and desiring what others had.

continued.....

He wanted me to know this command was critical because He is God and He is sovereign in His choices. Whether I had or did not have was not a coincidence, a lack of my striving sufficiently, or someone else's good luck. He is all-knowing, loving God and He does what He will to accomplish what He intends. My covetousness was an in your face confrontation with the God of the universe about His decisions for what was best for me and others. The problem is we "do not know what we do not know". We need to trust the One who knows it all. All, everything, top to bottom, inside and out. ALL.

It occurred to me today that many of the issues we are facing in the current climate come down to these questions: What is fair? and Who is in charge? Some things I did not get to choose. I did not choose to be in the family or country I was born into, the color of skin I have, or my station in life. Every day, I make personal choices. These impact me and my family. As a leader of a ministry, I also make choices for others. I am human and some of my choices have been good and others have not. One of the best and most important choices I have made is to follow Jesus. His example on how to be a human being on this planet is exemplary and I am a better person because of it but this is not why I surrendered my life to Him.

There is a God, three in one. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is sovereign and He is good. This means He always makes good choices. The Word says He has good plans for me (Jeremiah 29:11) and I have seen the benefit that comes from being under the protection of the decision to follow Him. But being under the umbrella of His grace does not give me the right to question His decisions. There is a wrestling that comes with that. I do not understand all of His ways and it is hard for me to understand the reasons for the horrible things that happen. I am not mindlessly submitting myself to a power-hungry leader. I have, however, ceased to resist the boundaries that He has set up for my protection. This includes understanding there are higher purposes for the things that I experience like unfairness, hardship, loss, and pain. In order to benefit from His wisdom, I must submit to the understanding that He is working all things out to the good of those (not just me) who love Him (Romans 8:28).

As humans, we want to know things. What's next? Where are we going? What will it look like when we get there? We look to other sources for answers like horoscopes and palm reading (which the Lord expressly forbids). We like anything that gives us a prediction or a glimpse of the future so we have a leg up on life. We don't do very well at trusting. The Israelites didn't, the world doesn't and as believers, we still don't. But the Lord asks us to understand that the things we can't explain, don't understand, and are out of our control He can still turn into something good. It requires faith. Even when life seems unfair, He is still on the throne.

What do you think about the decisions Korach made and how that applies to you in your life? In the issues that we are currently facing? How would life be different if we could submit to Him and trust Him in everything? This life is brief and one day we will be face to face with Him. We will have to account for our actions and our thoughts. Personally, I do not want to have to explain why I resented His decisions for the way my life would go or why I decided to operate outside of His will. It seems the lower I go, the greater I seem to understand and gain favor. I mean if it was good enough for Jesus, it's good enough for me. My position is servant and my mission is to hear him say, **"Well done."**