

Featured Staff Member

My name is Heather and I am a school teacher. My husband, Nathan is also a school teacher. Our family includes two dogs: Reggie and Ronnie and two cats, Mulligan and Junior.

I work as a Direct Contact worker at the homestead.

I first learned about Choose Life 3 years ago when I was looking for a summer job. I applied not knowing much about the ministry and I've been spending my summer holidays working at the ministry ever since!

Working for the ministry I have continued to be reminded of the goodness of God and the promises He has made.



Our Mission

Choose Life Ministry was founded to establish a place for young women between the ages of 18-29 to find freedom from life-altering issues including substance abuse, depression and anxiety, unexpected pregnancy, the effects of physical and sexual abuse, and challenges such as eating disorders and self-harm behaviours.

Our Mailing Address Has Changed!

Please save our new mailing address for your future correspondence:

Choose Life Ministry
Box 426
Carnduff, SK S0C 0S0

NO DISTANCE TOO GREAT NO AUDIENCE TOO SMALL

Have Shelley and the girls share with your Group, Business, Organization, Church or Ministry. Call or email to set up a date.

slboyes@sasktel.net (306) 485-7590

Needs List

Maybe you can help the Ministry by providing one of these items.
A tax receipt will be issued for gifts over \$20 value

- Meat (poultry, fish)
- Honey
- Winter Activity Equipment
- Summer Activity Equipment
- "The Chosen" DVD series
- Excellent Quality, Updated Laptop, or Desktop Computer
- Volunteers for the Second Chance Stores at all locations



Newsletter Summer 2021

Graduation Celebrations

Shelley Boyes Director, Choose Life Ministry



Summer is a great time for celebrations. We have been privileged and honoured to celebrate two very lovely young ladies at the Homestead for Hope this summer. Two graduates are moving on to the next chapter in their adventure with God.

Bethany took centre stage on August 7th. From the moment Bethany walked through the doors of the Homestead for Hope, she was “All In”. She was done with the old and ready to embrace everything God had for her. She dug into her Bible. She was the first one to ask, “Should we pray?” She became a close friend to all the residents. Bethany made a decision to stay in the area and is currently employed near Estevan. The most significant factor in her success was that she was willing to lay everything down and welcome the abundant life found in Christ. “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me...” Gal. 2:20



Two weeks later we celebrated Eden's successful completion of the program. This has been the most dramatic transformation we have witnessed at the Homestead for Hope. The miracles that God has performed in Eden's life have left us awestruck. Her testimony is one of literally being snatched from death's doorstep and catapulted into a destiny that included one achievement after another. In addition to completing Freedom Session, she took driver training (thanks to Donna Houser) and passed her driver's test – FIRST TRY! She also completed her GED while in our program, passing all five exams – FIRST TRY! Eden has plans to return to her family and possibly pursue a career as a medical technician in the armed forces.



We are incredibly proud of these two women. They will tell you it was not easy, but they will also tell you it was SO WORTH IT. Their message to each of you is, “You are worth it. You deserve the abundant life Jesus died to give you.” They are shining examples of what the love of God can do in a life fully surrendered to Him.



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Here's my one-time gift to help:

☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ _____

OR

Here is my monthly gift to help:

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ Other \$ _____

I would like my monthly payment taken on:

☐ 1st of the month ☐ 15th of the month

☐ A void cheque is attached

OR

☐ Charge my Credit Card

Card # _____

Expiry ____ / ____

Name on Card: _____

I hereby authorize Choose Life Ministry Inc. to withdraw the aforementioned donation from my credit card or chequing account. I understand that any unprocessed donations may be cancelled at any time by contacting the office.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Detach and mail to:
Choose Life Ministry
PO Box 426
Carnduff, SK S0C 0S0

To give online, please go to chooselifeministry.ca or call (306) 485-7590 Thank You!
Tax receipts are issued annually in accordance with CRA regulations. Charity #812729101 RR 0001

Stories of Hope Renewed and Lives Transformed

Courtney's Story

...I arrived at the Homestead on December 17, 2020. The six months to follow would be filled with instruction, revelation, struggle, heartache, gratitude, and friendship. One of the very first things I learned about at the Homestead was God's grace. I had grown up believing that keeping the commandments and doing good works was the way to get to Heaven. This perception caused me to worry about the eternal resting place of my loved ones and myself. It also often left me feeling guilty and anxious and like I wasn't a "good enough" Christian. It was quite the revelation when I learned that it is God's grace and our belief in Jesus Christ that really saves. The program has brought a healthy schedule to my life (one that includes exercise, worship, bible study, and chores). I intend to implement these practices back home. I've learned to really study scripture and see God's character through His word. It's also really helped to have godly women around at all times who can answer questions I have and speak truth to me, share their experiences, and encourage me. Studying Jesus' character – His words and actions – has been especially impactful and has shaped the way I see God. While I might envision a strict, smiting God at points in the Old Testament, the Gospels reveal God's love and faithfulness in the Person of Jesus Christ who is the very image of humility, goodness, selfishness, and compassion. In Jesus, I see the greatest sacrifice, the greatest act of love the world has ever seen. And I marvel at God's choice to enter into humanity alongside us that He might experience the trials, temptation, and suffering of His people, and we might be led by His example. In Jesus I see one who suffered unbearable pain and agony, from the Garden of Gethsemane all the way to Golgotha – the place of his crucifixion. I see one who experienced mental anguish and, though He prayed that this cup of suffering ay pass from Him, the answer was, "no". He must suffer.

Over the past six months, I've asked God so many times for healing in my life; for an end to the suffering caused by mental illness, for relief, for peace, for freedom from fear and shame for reassurance and for the truth. And it hurt when I did not receive what I so desperately asked for. The thoughts stayed, the fear stayed, the delusions, shame, and despair all stayed. I felt so discouraged and disappointed - and worse- I felt angry and resentful towards God. As I struggled day after day with no end in sight, holding my seemingly unanswered prayers, I believed I could not trust God. I did not understand. Where was this faithful God I had read about? What was happening to my prayers? And all the prayers of others – when they laid hands on me and prayed for healing and deliverance and nothing seemed to change? I struggled to believe, all the while striving to do what I thought God required of me in order to heal me: To have more faith, to prove my trust, to surrender, to read more, pray better. There had to be something I was missing - something I was doing wrong, because for all my striving nothing seemed to help. But I suppose this kind of striving is not God's way for His people. Just as I learned that my works did not secure my place in Heaven, I was stuck with the thought that there might not be anything I could do to secure my healing. It is God's grace, rather than our efforts, that saves us and provides eternal life. Similarly, I expect it will be by the grace of God, rather than my own actions, that I may be healed.

Through I have hoped for a miraculous healing, that may not be God's plan for me. If God didn't spare His Beloved Son from suffering, why should I expect a life free from hardship? Jesus is my comfort. In His humanity, we see ourselves. We are alongside Him in the Garden, asking God to take our trials. We don't want to suffer. But here's where Jesus and I differ (besides a billion other ways) – Jesus accepted the cup given to Him by the Father. He accepted it in obedience, with trust, and with unbelievable grace, courage, and love. And through His suffering; we were saved, rescued from our sins, made right with God, and granted eternal life. His suffering has purpose – amazing, life – altering, the – world – will – never – be – the – same – again purpose.

Then there's me, how many times have I railed against God for what I must go through? How often have I tried to shove the cup away, to refuse it? And how often have I let my pain rule my thoughts, harden my heart against God, and settle into mistrust and hurt? Jesus is our example of how to live – every aspect of life. He shows us how to treat others, how to pray, how to serve, how to resist temptation, how to live in relationship with the Father, and how to accept and endure even the greatest suffering. Jesus could do all things through Him, and by His example, we too can do all things.

Now I ask Jesus to lend me His strength, courage, and perseverance. I want to emulate His example of obedience. And I hold onto the hope that my suffering will also bring about good – even just on a small scale. Most days are still very hard. Oftentimes the thoughts I feel unbearable, as if they are too much for me to handle. But the fact of the matter is, I **have** got through each day. Often, it's been messy and sometimes excruciating, but I'm still here. I'm still alive. And while I have struggled to see God in the midst of my trials. I have experienced His love in the form of each one of you...

...So thank you for being ambassadors for Christ, for being obedient to the Spirit, and for being the light in the darkness. Because when I couldn't see God in my circumstances, I saw Him in you.



Eden's Story

I was born in Swift Current, SK. My mom and dad divorced when I was in grade 4. I lived with each of them part time. I ran away when I was 14, dropped out of school in grade 9. Ended up getting addicted to meth amphetamine. I was in an unhealthy relationship with someone I had known since I was 11. We ended up moving to Gull Lake, was arrested, was let out of jail, and ended up going to Street Culture in Regina, (a shelter for youth) for a short period of time. I left there and ended up getting arrested again for vehicle theft. My life was very scary and uncertain at this point. There were times when I wasn't sure I would survive.

My parents rescued me a few times, but I kept going back to my boyfriend. I started hearing voices and then I got really sick, to the point where I thought I was going to die.

I finally called my family and they came to get me and took me to the hospital.

While I was in the Hospital, I heard about Choose Life Ministry. I was in such a bad state, and I wanted out of the hospital, so I agreed to go.

The first month was a blur, I really don't remember much.

As time went on, the voices started leaving my head and my anxiety began to lessen.

I walked lots because I needed to be moving all the time.

I wanted to go home almost every day.

By the 4th month I was finally settling in and noticing some changes.

The voices in my head stopped.

My restlessness was under control.

My sadness and loneliness was much better.

The real Eden was starting to come alive!

Since Choose Life, I have completed all my GED exams and I got my driver's license. I don't think I've ever accomplished so much in 6 months before. Choose Life truly is place of hope, and I am happy to call Choose Life a part of my family. I am so lucky to be involved with Choose Life.

