



Home Harvest House

I was out in front of the house one day soon after starting the demolition process when an older woman walked up to me on the sidewalk. She introduced herself and told me that her husband had grown up in in this house and she had a picture of it taken in 1940 right after a snow. With this picture we have been able to see what the house looked like originally and are committed to restore it to look like this as close as we possibly can.

We still have a long way to go in putting it all back together, but it has been amazing to witness all those that God has brought to be a part of this restoration project. A project, that once completed, will benefit widows and their home repair needs from the profits made when this house is sold. There is still time left, and needs remaining for contributions such as paint (interior and exterior), sheetrock and finishing, painting

(exterior and interior), to name just a few. If you would be interested in contributing to this project either with gifts-in-kind, cash donation or skilled labor please contact us for a more complete list of needs. You can email us at info@widows.org, or call us 423-266-0260.

To watch progress being made on our house restoration, go to our "Home Harvest" Facebook page. Or you can visit the marketing sales page set up by Jose Ocando, with the Jim and Monique Lea Realty Team who will be handling the sale. The site is homeharvest.info, where you can take a virtual tour of the interior of the house before we began the demolition process, and also download a set of house design plans. There is also a wonderful video down at the bottom of the home page of 3 of our prayer ministry widows telling about how they met their husbands, and then what it was like for them to become widowed.

Thank you all, once again, for all your prayers for us over the years as well as the financial support you have given that has helped to "cause so many widow's hearts to sing with joy." We need your continued prayers and support now, more than ever.

Thy Kingdom Come,

Andy Mendonsa
Servant



Widows Harvest MINISTRIES

In All Things Give Thanks to Our Heavenly Father In Christ Jesus Name | Spring 2016

Dear Friends, Ministry Partners and Supporters:

This has been one of the busiest first halves of a year that I can ever remember. The total number of new widows, widows that have never contacted us before, since January 1st, is 39. The number of days that we have had volunteers assisting with meeting home repair needs is over 55, for a total of 70 projects completed and 40 widows served (multiple projects done for individual widows). There are another 51 widow's home repair projects waiting to be started, along with 30 widow's yards that we regularly maintain and 4 yards with overgrowth clearing needs.

Our total income through May 18th is \$117,770.00, with our total expenses being \$137,706.00 for a deficit of -\$19,936.00. So, how did we just hire 2 new, full-time employees? Thanks to the generosity of the Maclellan Family Foundation Funds, we were given a grant to hire one new employee in order to help with the growing requests from widows with home repair needs. Amazingly, we were actually able to hire 2 new employees with that single grant. It wasn't because the amount of the grant was so large that we could do that, it was because God sent us 2 new employees who have a heart for serving God first, over the amount of their income.

Although, the grant that we received to hire these 2 new servants (because they really are servants and not just employees) covers their salaries, there are numerous related expenses that it does not cover, for example, workmen's compensation that we have never been required to carry before. Wow is it expensive.

Let me introduce our new servants that I really believe that God has prepared and brought to us for a time such as this. The first servant that was hired is Tim English as our Lawn Care Coordinator:



"I have been given the responsibility of overseeing the lawn care needs of widows. Helping the ones' who can't mow their own grass or keep back the persistent jungle intrusion, has become a great intersection of my life and theirs. The weekly cycle brings me into contact with these dear ladies... their personalities and their needs. My many years of experience as a professional landscaper has made this area of outreach to widows a perfect fit for me. I think it was the Apostle's letter to the believers in Ephesus where he wrote, "...find out what pleases the Lord." Not knowledge of good and evil... not wrong or right, but what blesses his heart: His heart that feels joy and sorrow like ours. And here I am now, a part of this ministry to the widows of Chattanooga...on another segment of my journey of learning to love. I have learned that loving others happens best by loving, and being loved, by Jesus first. Interestingly, though, it is often in stepping out to love Jesus by loving others that I discover a richer side to our relationship.

Over the years, the many hurdles of faith, the troughs of pain, the shifting of priorities... after all that... when knowing God settles into an experience of so many interactions, rescues, acts of forgiveness, and kindnesses... after all that and much more... relationship with Him develops into something that is never static. The Father's heart, expressed in Jesus, becomes an ongoing desire for, "faith expressing itself in love". And like the words of those we respect the most and hold most dear, I find the words of Jesus pulsing in my life, as if they are breath... oxygen for my soul. And of all the phrases flowing through my mind and over my life, his concern for the helpless, broken-hearted, downtrodden, poor, and weak, are among the most vibrant. I am reminded often that the deeds done for the widows, who often have no other resources, are a direct ministry to Jesus himself...as one who "does it unto the least of these".

Thank you Abba Father,
Tim English

Our other new servant is Doug Daugherty Jr., hired to be our Construction Coordinator:



“I remember as a little boy growing up and my parents leading me in bedtime prayers. For years we prayed for Andy and the widow’s needs. I grew up praying for and talking about helping widows and here I am, now, serving them!

I’m 31 years old and most of my adult life has been in the construction industry. In 2008, I became a General Contractor and owner of Blueground Construction. Now, using my many years of construction experience, working with Widows Harvest is a blessing in so many ways. With welcomed change and new challenges, I’m always working with volunteers, many of whom are young and have little to no experience. It’s my job to make sure everyone serves the widows and their needs, in a safe, well-constructed way.

“These widows are amazing,” were my thoughts in the first few weeks at Widow’s Harvest Ministry as Construction Coordinator. I am so

blessed to be here and this is a great, new chapter in my life. The commitment Andy has provided to each widow, along with the team and the mission of Widows Harvest has made me realize what a great place this is for me.

Each day is unique no matter where I am or whom I am helping. When I talk to the widows, I feel God’s presence and words work through these incredible women in every unique conversation. They minister to me as much as I minister to them. It’s really amazing.”

I come from a long line of Chattanooga natives. I attended school at Chattanooga Christian and later attended the Appalachian Center for Craft, affiliated with Tennessee Tech. I have one son, Miles, age six and we love the outdoors. When not helping the widows, you’ll find me climbing around the region.”

Doug Daugherty Jr.

The old expression, “the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, seems appropriate here. Just as God brings 2 new servants to labor in this widow’s field ripe for harvest, Peter Mendonsa, who has been serving with us now for 3 years is saying goodbye. Peter will work through the summer, and with the busy schedule that we have, we are very thankful he will remain through July. It is going to be hard to see him go, but he had originally only planned to be here a year, so, all of us have been blessed to have him here for an extra 2 years. He will be missed and not easily replaced. I asked Peter to write a few words about his time here:

“I have been with Widows Harvest since May of 2013 when I moved to Chattanooga after completing 2 years of Bible College. I came here, initially, to only work with the ministry as a summer intern, but now it’s been almost three years to the day, later, and I’m finally preparing to enter into my last summer working with the Widows ministry.

During my time of serving widows I have helped with the planning, organizing, working, and supervising home repair projects. I’ve had the opportunity to share with volunteers about the ministry and build relationships with them. I’ve set up for events, such as our Tuesday prayer meetings. I’ve also maintained our widows facebook page, posting pictures and descriptions of events, work projects, and volunteers.

Over the course of time that I have served here I have learned so much. I sincerely feel that I have received far more than I have given back. I have grown in my ability to communicate, to make decisions, and to lead. I have seen first-hand the church at her best. I have worked with amazing men and women from diverse backgrounds, all coming together to serve widows in need. Most importantly, I have gotten to know so many of the widows themselves who have had a tremendous impact on my outlook on life.

It is far too easy for me to become absorbed in my own problems, causing my perspective on life to become narrow and focused on myself. During those times of self-absorption, one of the things that I have found to encourage me the most is to spend time talking and visiting with a widow. These women have so much life experience. They have been through difficult times, suffered from failing health, loss of income, and loss of loved ones. In spite of all that they have been through they are often filled with joy and gratitude for all of the blessings that they



have. They live in an acute awareness of God’s presence and provision in their lives. They stand in stark contrast against others that I have met from time to time, who are filled with fear and anxiety over what they view as the impending collapse of our society and way of life. These women are living proof that it is possible to live a life of faith through any circumstance. They prove that old age does not necessitate a tired sense of defeatism. I hope that I can be like these women one day. I hope that my faith is stronger tomorrow than it was yesterday. I hope that I am more grateful, more resilient, more filled with joy, and a little bit wiser.

I hope that I will always hold these widows in the high esteem that they deserve. I hope I see them the way that Jesus sees them. He always seems to have an eye on his widows. He loves them so much, and they know it too! I am so very grateful to have had this opportunity to participate in serving the widows of Chattanooga, and I want to say thank you, to all of you, who have helped make it possible! Thank you to Andy for inviting me to participate, and helping me walk through understanding God’s heart for widows. Thank you to Dick Mason for putting up with me and teaching me so much about the home repair process. Thank you to Lisa Eames, you do so much, and never get the recognition that you deserve. Your kindness has always touched me, and countless others, I know. I am so grateful to all of the widows who have welcomed me in as one of their own, loving on me and praying for me constantly! Please continue to pray for me as I will be leaving Widows Harvest at the end of July, and moving on to the next step in my journey.”

All the best,
Peter Mendonsa

Summer Mission’s Schedule

May 30–June 1	Student Life
June 2	Tim Cross/Collegedale Church youth work day
June 4	Aaron Tolson/Lookout Mountain Pres. Church Youth Group Work Day
June 4–6	Student Life
June 7–9	Don Washburn/Camp Lookout work days
June 8–10	Student Life
June 11	Aaron Tolson/Lookout Mountain Pres. Church Youth Group Work Day
June 11–18	Jeff Davis/Hamilton Mill Presbyterian Church, Hoschton, GA, Mission Trip
June 15–16	Mike Mitchell/Stewartstown United Methodist Church, Pennsylvania
June 19–24	Aaron Tolson/Lookout Mountain Pres. Church Youth Mission Trip
June 20	Bart Wallin/McCallie Summer Camp Work Day
June 22	Bart Wallin/McCallie Summer Camp Work Day
June 22–24	Heather Weir/Alive In You work days
June 25	Bill Bartlett/First Centenary United Methodist Church work day
June 27–30	Jason Scott/Roswell UMC, Roswell, GA Mission Trip
June 27–July 1	Son Servants
July 1	Jonathan Johnson/MVP Church of the 1st Born work day
July 2	Aaron Tolson/Lookout Mountain Pres. Church Youth Group Work Day
July 4–8	Son Servants
July 6–8	Lindsey Tillman/YM360
July 8	Jonathan Johnson/MVP Church of the 1st Born work day
July 11–13	Amelia Rizer/St. Richard’s Catholic Church, Jackson, MS, Mission Trip
July 11–13	Lindsey Tillman/YM360
July 13	Jonathan Johnson/MVP Church of the 1st Born work day
July 14–16	Courtney McWhorter/Rock Creek Fellowship Youth work days
July 16	Aaron Tolson/Lookout Mountain Pres. Church Youth Group Work Day
July 16–17	Lindsey Tillman/YM360
July 18–22	Keith Nelson/New Covenant Bible Church from Canton, GA Mission Trip
July 20	Jonathan Johnson/MVP Church of the 1st Born work day
July 20–22	Lindsey Tillman/YM360
July 23	Aaron Tolson/Lookout Mountain Pres. Church Youth Group Work Day
July 24-27	Marti Smith/Christway Church from Ooltewah, TN Mission Trip