



Oliver Gospel


FALL 2023

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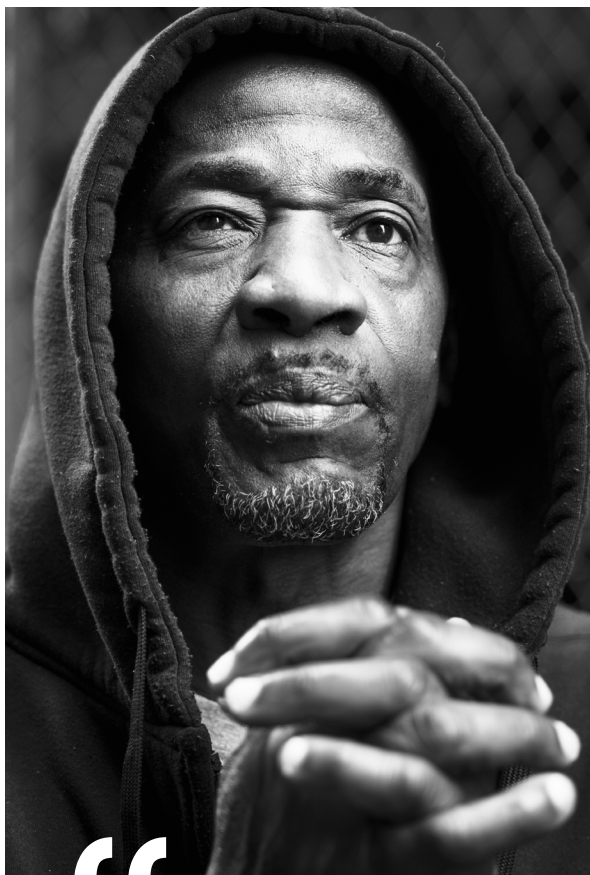
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THE DIRECTOR
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“It wasn’t just about the program; it was about me and my family’s well-being, too.”

Your gift provided hope for Robert!

Shining Bright



I got my life back together. I got my shine back. I have God in my life.



Shining Bright

It is Robert's first day of work, a day he thought would never come. He is nervous. Excited. Hopeful.

He steps out of Oliver Gospel's blue front door and begins to make the short walk to a local church, where he has been hired to do maintenance work full time. Memories of his past echo in Robert's mind with each step.

"We were in the streets around drugs, addicts, and shootings. People were selling drugs, taking your stuff. It was hard growing up."

Back then, Robert sold drugs to make ends meet and used drugs to numb his pain and loneliness. Eventually, this landed him in prison for 10 years. When he was released, Robert was determined to change his life, but the temptation to fall back into old ways was strong. His brother called Oliver Gospel, knowing that what Robert needed most was support and help.

Robert remembers thinking all he would get from Oliver Gospel was a bed and a bite to eat. What he didn't know was that his life would change forever when he walked through that blue door.

The food and shelter were a great relief, but it was the program itself that really changed Robert. The recovery classes empowered him to overcome his addiction, and the one-on-one counseling sessions dealt with trauma from his past. He began working with a reading comprehension and speech instructor to improve his communication skills. He gained valuable skills through his work therapy assignments and career classes.

The turning point in Robert's life was when he found Jesus. He began to regularly attend church for the first time since his childhood, building a strong, supportive community. Robert's life coach even drove him to the hospital to pray over his sick mother. When she recovered the very next day, Robert was amazed at God's faithfulness.

"That showed me love right there. It wasn't just about the program; it was about me and my family's well-being, too."

All of this led him to this job at the local church – the classes gave him skills and confidence, and his love for Jesus gives him hope and joy. As Robert climbs the steps to the church for his first day on the job, he can't help but smile. His journey may have been difficult, but he doesn't have to worry – his life is in Jesus' hands.

"I got my life back together. I got my shine back. I have God in my life."

Robert is one of many men in our city who need shelter, recovery and the love of Jesus. A **\$42.33** gift will provide a full day of food, shelter, and recovery programming for a man in need like Robert. You can change someone's life today!



The Hope Shop

On July 29th, 2023, we opened our third social enterprise: The Hope Shop, a men's and women's boutique offering high-end and vintage name brand clothing, shoes, jewelry, and accessories at a fraction of the retail cost! Like our coffee shop and thrift store, every dollar spent at The Hope Shop fuels our transformational programming for men and women experiencing homelessness.

When dreaming of its creation, our director, Travis, envisioned a trendy and brightly decorated space that would be the "hidden gem" right in

the heart of downtown.

In addition to brands like Ralph Lauren, Lululemon, St. John, and Granger Owings, we have also partnered with local brands, including Sakhar Jams, NerdBear Soap, and Travezia11 to sell their handmade products in the shop. Our program residents have joined in too, using their creative talents to make artwork, crafts, and jewelry to sell on consignment at the boutique.

Every item in the shop is carefully selected, curated, and staged, creating a beautiful, colorful space and a one-of-a-

kind shopping experience. **If you are or someone you know is interested in donating your gently used high-end items to The Hope Shop, email thehopeshop@olivergospel.org and inquire about becoming a Purpose Partner!**

Be sure to stop by soon to find your new favorite coat, dress, or pair of shoes, and impact your community too! You will walk away knowing your purchase supported life-changing transformation for someone in need! Visit us at The Hope Shop at 1111 Taylor St. Columbia, SC 29201.

Our Thanksgiving preparations are underway!

This Thanksgiving day, over 275 men, women, and children experiencing homelessness will arrive at our doors hungry. They're depending on us for a meal, and we're depending on you.

Here are some items that will help fill our shelves this Thanksgiving season:

Turkeys	Pumpkin pies
Stuffing mix	Dinner rolls
#10 cans of green beans	Bottled water
Large cans of cream of mushroom soup	Instant mashed potatoes



By donating to Oliver Gospel, you give our guests the experience of faith, love, and fellowship with their delicious Thanksgiving dinner!

Donations can be dropped off at Oliver Gospel at 1100 Taylor St. For more information, please call Geno Pickard at (803) 254-6470, or email geno@olivergospel.org.



- Read 1 Chronicles 16:34
- Write down 5 things that you're thankful for.
- How can you show others that you're thankful for them?



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

We see so many beautiful things when we truly open our eyes. Recently, while vacationing at the beach and sitting with my toes in the sand, I noticed thousands of broken shells washed up along the beach as far as the eye could see.

Phrases like *washed up*, *overlooked*, *broken*, and *useless* popped into my mind. Then, I thought about how people experiencing homelessness and going through immense difficulties are often made to feel like THEY are no longer needed or that there is little hope.

I walked down the beach and picked up an entire bucket of broken shells. I was inspired to arrange and hot-glue the individual shells together into a beautiful heart-shaped masterpiece that now hangs on the wall in my office as a reminder that with God, what we

may deem as invisible or useless can be renewed.

The shells, once broken, are now whole. They shine as a beautiful creation, just like Robert and so many others who have gotten back their “shine” because they were transformed through the power of Christ’s love.

Thank you for being a vital part of sharing the truth that we are ALL a part of God’s masterpiece. There is hope for tomorrow through Jesus!

TRAVIS MCNEAL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO PRAY FOR:

- Pray for sustained success for residents who have recently started a new job or moved into new homes.
- Pray that the Lord inspires residents to continue through programming despite personal challenges or setbacks.
- Pray that The Hope Shop will allow our community to learn more about Oliver Gospel and provide additional opportunities for our residents.



Oliver Gospel

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Donate
online
today!



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