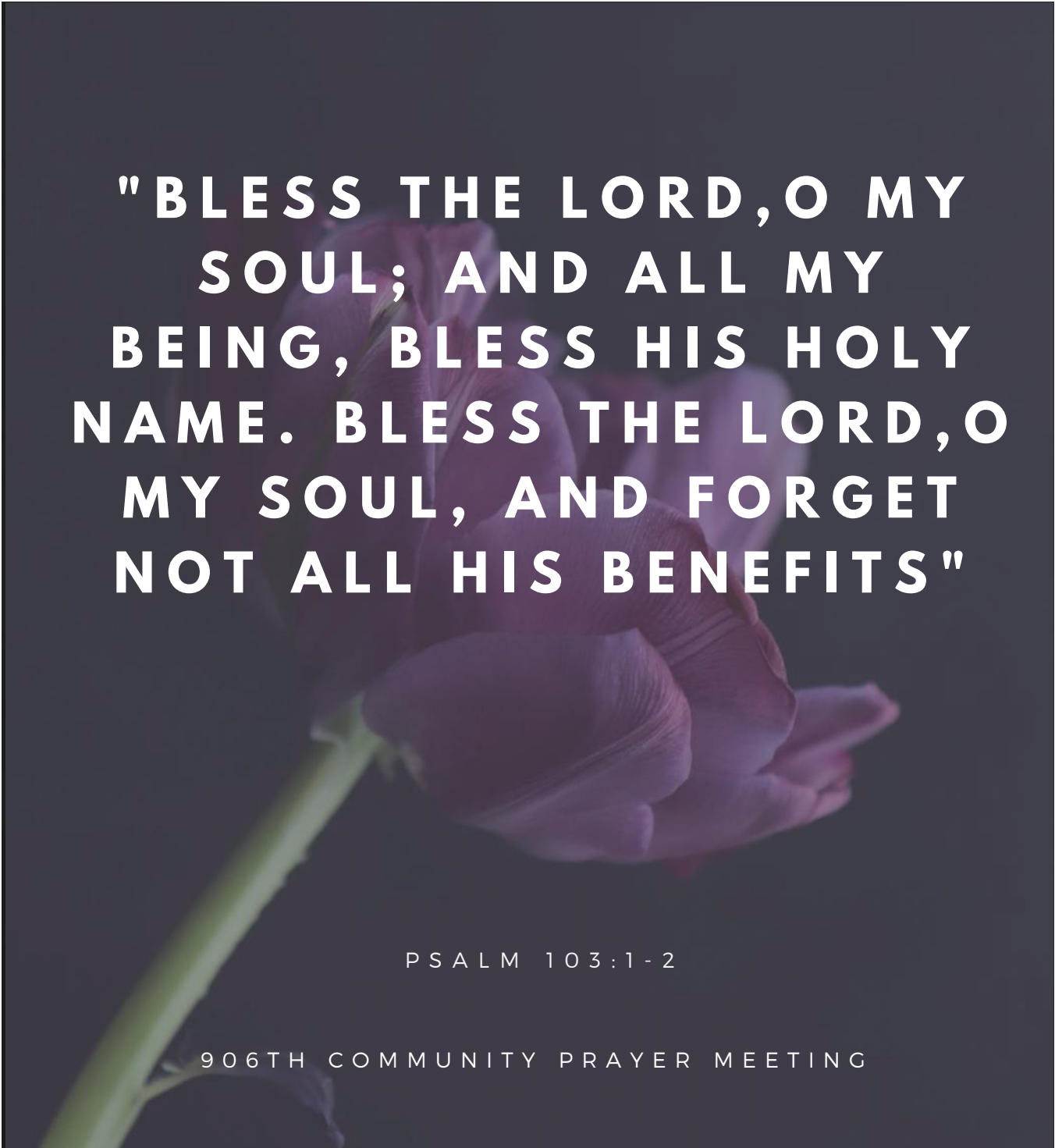


JESUS IS LORD!

PEOPLE OF HOPE

A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES ON MISSION

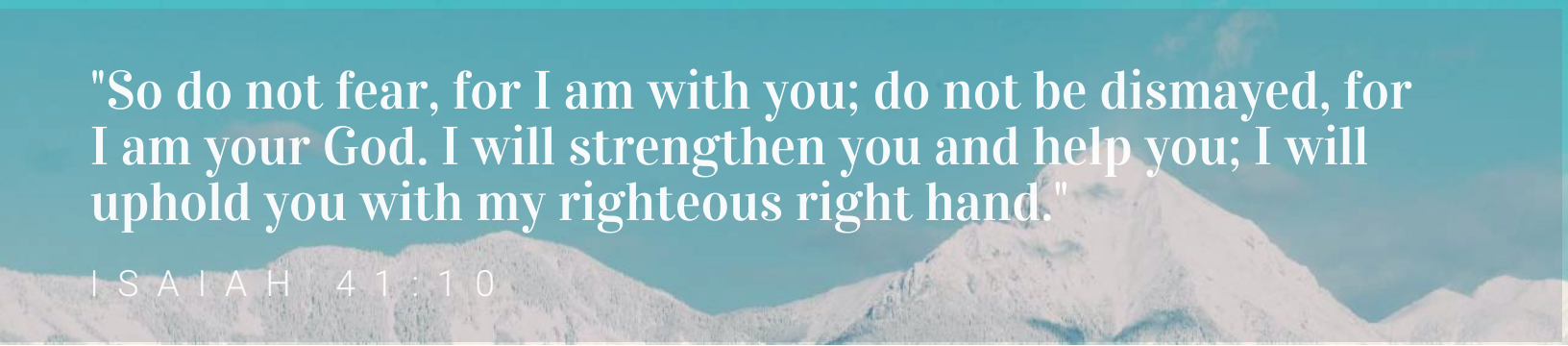


"BLESS THE LORD, O MY
SOUL; AND ALL MY
BEING, BLESS HIS HOLY
NAME. BLESS THE LORD, O
MY SOUL, AND FORGET
NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS"

PSALM 103:1-2

906TH COMMUNITY PRAYER MEETING

FEBRUARY 20, 2022



"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

I S A I A H 4 1 : 1 0

WHAT IS THE GREATER MYSTERY

What is the greater mystery? Is it the millions and millions of planets and stars and the distance between them in the universe, or is it the one human being that I create with the millions and millions and millions of cells that come together as a unique person? The greater mystery is that I have chosen you to be my disciple, to be here and experience my presence, my love, my peace, and my desire for you? Know that I will help you when you speak in the future; people are going to hear you and say, 'you know, when they were speaking, I heard something.' And when you act in the future, when you show your kindnesses, people are going to say, 'you know, in some way, I experienced the Lord through what they have done for me'. Oh, my People of Hope, I am going to be with you; I have chosen you and I am going to be with you

SURRENDER TO ME

Oh my people, give yourselves to me in a deeper surrender. It is only through a deeper surrender that I can act through you. When you surrender yourselves to me, I am able to act. You can surrender to me in that long grocery line, in that poorly ill-timed Covid case. Whatever the case may be, surrender yourself to me, saying 'I love you Lord, Jesus, you're here with me, Oh, Lord, I need you now, I give myself to you, Jesus, I surrender all to you, please take care of everything'. My people give me the gift of your surrender, and I will work through you.

THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD

The battle belongs to me! Don't be intimidated by the battles you face every day. Your job is to be docile to my Holy Spirit; that is your job each and every day. Don't forget to pray. Pray, pray, pray. My Word is your weapon. Use my Word as your weapon to fight. But remember that the battles, all of them, belong to me. (ref. (Isaiah 41:10)

THE PEOPLE OF HOPE

Behold, I am doing
a new thing; now it
springs forth, do
you not perceive it?

ISAIAH 43:19

IGNITE RETREAT "EQUIPPED"

IGNITE'S ANNUAL RETREAT - FEBRUARY 2022



It was a gift to be able to go away on an Ignite Retreat. The weekend of February 11-13, about thirty five teens and a dozen leaders headed down to beautiful Harvey Cedars, LBI, NJ for our annual Ignite retreat.

Due to Covid, this was the first Ignite retreat away in over two years. Needless to say, the group was excited and grateful to be away and experience a sense of normalcy.

The theme of the retreat was "Equipped". The talks focused on the tools that we can equip ourselves as Christians to help us in our walk with Christ, such as - personal prayer, intercessory prayer, relationships with the saints and the sacraments.

There was a chance on Saturday night for adoration, confession and prayer teams with the Ignite leaders. Many of the teens got a chance to go to confession or get prayed with. The Lord worked and moved powerfully during this time and throughout the retreat!

TEEN PERSONAL SHARING

The Ignite Retreat this year was everything I needed, filled with community and laughter and joy, but also just such deep discussions and teachings and true peace that can only come from the Holy Spirit. As a senior in high school, this year has been full to say the least which of course is such a blessing but it also means that it's very difficult to keep God first. At the retreat, we had the opportunity to have a silent hour for each of us individually to explore the beautiful Harvey Cedars property and be alone with Christ. In this hour I was compelled to look deeply and honestly at where my priorities lay, and I realistically found that my number one priority was myself and my obligations. I was able to go to confession after and just lay it all out in front of Christ through the priest. The priest told me the story of Jesus walking on water where Peter calls out, "If it is you, Lord, command me to come to you." He said for Penance to meditate on this verse and really make it my own.

"THE LORD WAS CALLING ME DEEPER TO HIM, DESPITE THE FEAR OR DISTRACTIONS."



Now, some people who know me may know that I am terrified of the ocean. I think the ocean is absolutely beautiful and majestic and powerful, and it's such a calming experience to watch its waves. However, I'm not a great swimmer and I've just had some experiences with water that scare me, and so the ocean is really something that I love to examine but not really experience. It's something that I both revere and fear. So I immediately thought of the ocean when the priest gave me this verse. I walked inside of the main room where our Music Ministry leader, Gabe, was practicing some worship songs. I sat in the back of the room and was writing in my journal when the song ended. The next song started and it was Oceans by Hillsong. Quite honestly, I normally don't love this song; there's just something about it that just as a musician isn't the best to play, but when Gabe started playing this song, it immediately caught my attention because it was absolutely beautiful. I was listening for a little while, taking it in, and then Gabe started

singing the bridge of the song where it says, "Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders, let me walk upon the waters wherever you would call me. Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander, and my faith will be made stronger in the presence of my Savior." It was then that I teared up. The Lord truly works in wondrous ways. Those words matched up exactly with the verse I was given and everything I was dealing with at the time. The Lord was calling me deeper to Him, despite the fear or distractions.

Looking back, I realized I often look at God the same way I look at the ocean. I find it so easy to find awe in His beauty and majesty and power. Yet it is so difficult for me to experience Him and allow Him to be Lord of my life. The whole retreat allowed me to realize this truth and break down those barriers I had so that I could finally answer the Lord's call to walk deeper to Him.

- Elena, Senior Girl



Community Building Team Conference

Building up our fellow communities throughout North America



Christina Buganski

In the beginning of February I attended a Community Building Conference in Detroit MI. The Community Building Team (CBT) is a group of leaders in the North American Region of the SOS (Sword of the Spirit). The goal is to assist and form new communities throughout our region.

The first day of the conference was for those of us on the CBT to have a day set apart to pray, seek the Lord, get to know one another and hear talks to help us in our work. On Friday the leaders from the ten communities that are in formation arrived. We were also joined by the brothers and sisters who will move this summer to Kentucky to "Plant" a community. This is the team that Brendan Murray spoke to us about at our January Prayer Meeting. The Brotherhood of Hope plans to start building community in Orlando, so Br. Ken Apuzzo and Br. John McCabe were in attendance. There were about 70 of us including 3 babies!

*"It was
inspiring to
spend time
with brothers
and sisters,
many who have
left their home
community to
start a new
community."*

The work of community building is personally very rewarding and inspiring. I have been serving on this team for about eight years. I currently serve as a Missionary Senior Women Leader (missionary) because the community is in formation, with Br. Rahl Bunsa in Columbus, Ohio. This community started as a result of SPO on the Ohio State campus. I travel out once a year to visit, and I pastor two of the Sr. Women leaders.

It was inspiring to spend time with brothers and sisters, many who have left their home community to start a new community. Please pray for them as they follow the Lord in making this generous gift of themselves and their families!

"Please pray for them as they follow the Lord in making this generous gift of themselves and their families!"



Christina & Br. John McCabe

Additional photos courtesy of Unsplash, Detroit, MI



From Marcelo

A REFLECTION ON SERVING WITH THE PEOPLE OF HOPE
AND KOINONIA ACADEMY COMMUNITIES

Marcelo moved to NJ for a few months this past Fall and his presence and service in our life of the People of Hope was a blessing to many! We are grateful for his yes to come be with us and his humble and joyful attitude he always displayed throughout his time here. Please keep him in your prayers as he is now back home in Mexico finishing up University.



Marcelo with Salman



*Left to Right:
Marcelo with the Cantines at the beach, Marcelo with the Cantine boys*



Marcelo and the Cantine Family

Hola! My name is Marcelo Salazar Valadez and I am from Monterrey, Mexico.

I am 22 years old and I am part of the Jesed Community in Monterrey. This last fall I had the opportunity to visit the community in New Jersey and be part of it for three months, from September 2021 until December 2021. My main motive for visiting another community was to see how other communities work, to meet people, help out in whatever they needed in the community, learn new things from them and practice my English.

During the time I was there I was able to stay with Mark and Annie Cantine. In my time there I was very grateful for being welcomed into their family. I was able to meet and spend time with their kids and family, I was very comfortable to the point that I felt part of them. I learned so much from Mark and Annie, the time I spent with them I could see what the Lord was doing in their lives and their family, I could see how generous they are with the Lord and the community, always ready to serve.

In the time I was in New Jersey I was supporting a great man called Salman at Koinonia Academy. I learned so much from Salman and the great witness he is for the students and teachers at the school. I was also

serving the Ignite program which is the high school ministry of the community. I was able to learn how the program works and the similarities with the program of my community in Monterrey. I was able to see how the youth workers were so generous in their service and committed to it. Also how they cared for the high schoolers to have a close relationship with God.

One of the things I enjoyed the most was being able to live on Mary Street. I enjoyed watching how the people of the street relate to one another and support one another. I enjoyed watching all the kids play after school. I love hearing about how the street started, how it has grown, the people that have stayed and seeing their unity.

My time in New Jersey was filled with grace and lots of learning.

"Un saludo a todos, los llevo en el corazón a cada uno de ustedes y realmente se les extraña. Siempre llevaré a People Of Hope en el corazón."

I grew in my relationship with the Lord and I was able to learn new things through serving and helping others. It definitely has been one of the best experiences of my life and I would highly recommend it to anyone. I send greetings to all of you, I miss you all and I keep each and everyone of you in my heart. I will always keep the People of Hope in my heart.

- Marcelo Salazar Valadez



Marcello with the community office staff

IMMEDIATE NEED

- MaryAnn Paster
- Jackie Donnelley
- Lou Cirrotti
- Edwarda Harmon

**SERIOUS &
ONGOING**

- Rita (Buganski) Arena
- Eleanor Benson
- Margaret Fierro
- Laura Greey
- Shannon Hardy
- Danielle Neri
- Lee Scarfone
- Rose Molnar
- Dan O'Mullan
- Carol Ann McCarthy

**AROUND THE SWORD
OF THE SPIRIT**

- Steve Clark - Servants of the Word, Chelsea, MI
- Peter Smith - Triumph of the Cross, MD
- Mike Shaughnessy - Servants of the Word, Chelsea, MI

Please visit our website peopleofhope.net/prayerintentions to see our complete list of our prayer intentions and to add to our list.

2022 PRAYER PETITION HIGHLIGHT

UNITY

Strengthen our unity. May our speech support and reflect this unity. “Never let evil talk pass your lips, say only the good things men need to hear, things that will really help them.” (Eph. 4:29)

“Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude”

PHIL. 4:6

Save the Date

PEOPLE OF HOPE
45TH
ANNIVERSARY
BANQUET

Friday Evening, May 6th 2022
Koinonia Academy

Details & Registration to come



PUB NIGHT

MUSIC * DRINKS * RAFFLES



SATURDAY, MARCH 12
7-10PM
KOINONIA ACADEMY

\$20 per person || \$30 per couple

A fun night for the KA community... present and past!

Guests welcome. Adults only, please. Non-alcoholic drinks served, too.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DISRICT EVENT WEEKEND

March 4-6

COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

March 18-20th
Koinonia Academy
[RSVP/Register Here](#)

DISRICT EVENT WEEKEND

April 1-3
Location & details TBA

COMPASS

TEACHING NIGHT

Tuesday, March 15th
7:30-9:30pm
Our Lady of Mount Church

IGNITE

IGNITE SMALL GROUPS

Thursday, March 17th
8-9:30pm
Location TBD

KAIROS YES RETREAT

March 25-27th
Hillsdale MI
[Details to Register Here](#)





THE PEOPLE OF HOPE

A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES ON MISSION

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Front cover photo courtesy of Marites Allen