



RESTORATION OUTREACH PROGRAMS

April 1, 2019

Excited to Serve the Children and Families of ROP's Community

by Ashley Leopold

My name is Ashley Leopold. I have the honor of being married to my amazing husband, Zac, for nearly 10 years now. God has given us four little girls ranging in age from 1-8! (*Good on the job training for a Children's Ministries Director - Kent's Comment*).

God had a plan and a purpose for me and my life before I was even conceived, just like you. God has carefully authored my life to serve Him. It is amazing how He has created and directed my path in preparation for becoming ROP's Children's Ministries Director. I am in awe of The Lord and His plans.

Jesus called my husband and me to mission work over 12 years ago, before we were married. He has allowed us to travel to India, Nigeria, South Sudan and many places in between. He led us to live life in a community of Somali's for over a year, and let us enjoy relationships with amazing children of God from Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Nepal, Nigeria and many other cultures. I love seeing the beauty of God in each and every child of God from all over the world.

I cannot wait to get to work giving children all around ROP a safe fun place to be while sharing the love of Jesus with them! Please pray with me for God to provide enough financial partners to allow me to begin serving in ministry at ROP by May. I am eager to create a summer program that will be oodles of fun and also a place where kids are introduced to many stories in the Bible. My heart and brain are full of ideas that I am praying I can get going this summer! I would love to update the back rooms of ROP's building to make it a beautiful, safe, inviting space where kids feel more at home. I would like to figure out a way for the older youth in the area to get school credit for volunteering at ROP with the kids. None of this and the many more ideas I have can be done without Jesus going before us in every move that we make.

Please pray for Jesus to be making little peoples of peace in our community! Pray for a way to provide lunch for these kiddos during the summer program and for God to bring youth that would be ready and willing to serve. My prayer is that the children that God brings to ROP would be the ones that bring their families, then those in their community to Jesus, and ultimately, that Jesus would call at least one of these little ones to return to their home and and that many people would come to know Jesus because the children first came to Him. Matthew 19:14

ROP and RWC - Restoring Hope along the East Colfax Corridor

by Kent Scroggs

For the past 35 years, my wife, Lisa, and I have been attending Cherry Hills Community Church (CHCC) and for the past 11 years, we have also been worshipping at Restoration Worship Center (RWC), ROP's affiliated church that meets in our building. As you might imagine, the worship services at CHCC and RWC are quite different, but we enjoy them both very much. One of the things we enjoy most about RWC is the sense of family we experience there and never more than in yesterday's worship service.

One of the things we are able to do at RWC which you cannot do at a large (or even larger) church is share prayer requests and then pray for those requests. I think yesterday was a record in terms of the number of requests shared and the time spent praying for them. But more than the numbers and time, the thing that impressed me the most was the sense of family and hope that I felt among our little congregation. Of course, there were a lot of prayer requests related to health, behavioral and relational issues. But what impressed me most were the many prayers of thankfulness, mostly for God's goodness and blessing in people's lives - even in the midst of significant trials - but also for RWC and the hope that comes from a sense of belonging to a spiritual family.

As I reflected on RWC's spiritual family, two things came to mind. First, what a great job RWC's leaders, Doug and Deb Ford, are doing in giving God room to work and build His family at RWC. And second, how God has used ROP to bring many of yesterday's participants into the RWC family. At least half the crowd were people that had been recently ministered to through ROP's Wednes-



Children's Ministries Director—
Ashley Leopold

day Lunch Outreach or Food Bank. People are initially drawn to these programs by the basic need for food, but they find that they receive a lot more than just food. They find hope. Hope certainly in the knowledge that they will not go hungry, but perhaps more importantly in the form of people that genuinely want to care for them and pray for them, including Pastor Doug who serves in both programs. So I think it is no coincidence that an increasing number of these folks are accepting Doug's invitation to come to RWC where they learn about the only source of hope that sustains us day to day and for eternity - a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

To me this is a great example of ROP's mission at work, we are *meeting needs, building relationships and seeing lives restored through Jesus Christ*. This is why ROP exists, to restore hope in the lives of those we serve, initially through meeting felt needs for things like food and education, but ultimately through a relationship with Jesus. And this is why we have chosen **Restoring Hope** as the theme of this year's Annual Dinner.

Please accept this as your invitation to join us on Friday, May 3rd, at Colorado Community Church (CCC) for ROP's **Restoring Hope** Dinner where the main agenda of the evening will be sharing stories of how God has used the people and programs of ROP to restore hope in the lives of those we serve. It promises to be an enjoyable and inspirational evening, which will include an awesome time of worship and a delicious meal served by our friends at Bocaza Mexican Grill. If you would like to attend, [please RSVP to Events@RestorationOutreachPrograms.org](mailto:Events@RestorationOutreachPrograms.org). The address of CCC's Upper Room is 15445 E. Iliff Ave., Aurora 80013. Doors open at 5:30 and dinner will be served at 6 p.m. The dinner is free. We encourage you to invite friends to join you.



RWC Prayer

Reflections and Answered Prayers of an ESL Teacher

Note from Kent—The following article comes from Barbara Crowder who is leaving ROP's ESL team after four years due to a move out of the area. We thank God for Barb and her years of commitment to loving her students and to building God's Kingdom at ROP.

It had been many years since I had taken an English class and so much had been forgotten. Teaching ESL caused me to remember (or research) the rules of the English language. Not having any training and no teaching tools, I turned to the Bible.

Teaching ESL is very rewarding. You can watch the refugees grow in understanding, in communication, and as potential US citizens. The most rewarding is watching them grow as Christians. Most of my students are Christians, strong in their faith, but not in their knowledge of God's Word. Using the Bible as a teaching tool became beneficial in English language and in Christian knowledge.

Our first story was Jonah and the whale. I had to act out each part to help them understand the words. All my dignity went out the window as I moved to the words to show Jonah running away, being thrown off the boat and eaten by the whale. What a sight I must have been, but the students began to understand. Some of them remembered the story in their language. I had their attention. Now, I could teach them words. From my journalism days, I knew the best way was to teach the five "Ws": who, what, when, where, why, and how. I used the first words of the Bible, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

They continued to grow in their understanding and their communication. I began asking them about why they were in the United States. Their stories affected me deeply. The horror they had lived through made my heart broke for them. I turned to prayer to ask God to give them success in their new lives. My prayers were answered. Today, the majority of my students are productive and happy. I will miss them very much.

Save the Dates!

Friday, May 3rd - ROP's *Restoring Hope Dinner* (see Kent's article above)

Saturday, September 21st - *Pedal 4A Purpose 2019*



Barb and a few of her Happy Students