

Our Identity in Christ

How do you answer that challenging question, “Who are you?”? At one of our group outings the men of Next Step went to the movies, seeing “Overcomer” where the theme is clearly tied to our identity. When we are asked that “Who are you?” question many of us think of our jobs, or our role as spouse, or parent.

Many of the men in Next Step have struggled with substance abuse, or perhaps have been incarcerated; you can imagine some of the “labels” they have been assigned which in turn has come to be a part of their identity. After seeing the movie, the men gathered to carefully review Ephesians 1 and 2, as was done in the movie, to see how our Creator identifies us....blessed, chosen, holy and blameless, redeemed, forgiven, to name a few. Realizing our true identify is transformative and important for all of us as we are drawn to a life to glorify and serve our Lord. We are thankful for the opportunity to share God’s truths with this group of men!

Building For The Future

Solid ground. This is where every effective ministry needs to be built, and Next Step is no different. As of October 2019, Next Step has been operational for seven years, touching the lives of dozens of men and helping them, too, to move to solid ground. What’s it going to take to continue to build on this foundation as we move into the future? Clearly, prayer is essential; we cherish your prayers that we would always be faithful and obedient to be led by Christ in ministering to the men He has delivered to this ministry. We also need a committed group of volunteers, to work with the men or to support the many “behind the scenes” activities. Of course, we need financial support.

It is our goal to build the donor base such that we can (1) acquire the leased residential facility, and (2) support the hiring of a full-time ministry director. If you have any questions about Next Step, or how you can support the ministry by praying, volunteering, or financially, please contact us at info@NextStepNM.com.

As we look to what lies ahead, we also want to remember God’s abundant provision. We are thankful to all those who have faithfully supported this ministry with their prayers and finances, and to our many volunteers who have worked with the Next Step men, giving of their time and energy to make Christ known. To our chaplain, Barry Waddleton, we are especially appreciative as he spends numerous hours with each man, making sure they know the peace that results from knowing Christ. And we thank our Lord Jesus Christ for His presence and power in all of us.

