

NEXT STEP

Lives Transformed for Good

Summer 2020



Scott and Brian

Onward

We believe that Next Step Ministries exists to provide an environment that can be used by God to sanctify Christian men leading to a stable, productive and God glorifying life. Three men recently departed Next Step after God worked in this way to transform their lives.

All three men stayed at Next Step about two and a half years during which time God worked in them for His glory and their good.

David worked with a local agency to become a first-time home buyer. David is working full-time and has plans to use his home as a place to help other men through recovery and rehabilitation. Scott and Brian decided to lease a house together, and after diligently working to determine their needs, located an ideal property. What did Next Step do to help these men? Through God's provision and guidance to Next Step, we simply provided a place and a structure where He did what only He can do! He transformed these men by the renewal of their minds through the power of His Spirit and His Word. He provided men from the community to be accountability partners; friends who encouraged and admonished the Next Step participant. He provided local churches to become the Body of Christ for these men. And He gifted them with the resources needed to move to their new homes.

We miss these men as they had been a mainstay for our discipleship activities. Yet, we celebrate their personal growth and we shout "Hallelujah" as they move onward in God's Kingdom!

New Addition to Next Step Staff

The Board of Directors of Next Step Ministries is pleased to share with you that we have hired Todd Loudon as the new president of the ministry. Hiring an individual who would manage the ministry for the foreseeable future has been part of the "Building For The Future" strategy of Next Step for the last two years. We believe God has provided a man very well suited for this unique ministry.

Todd comes to Next Step after nearly nine years at Steelbridge Ministries. While working at Steelbridge, Todd has gained the experience needed to lead and manage Next Step. In addition to his excellent experience, Todd has completed the two year Shepherd School at Cross Christian Fellowship where he eventually became a mentor. He also completed the Chaplaincy Class of the International Fellowship of Chaplains.

More importantly, Todd has a tremendous love for the Lord, the heart of a humble servant, a desire to see lives permanently changed by Christ, and a compassion for those in need of help and hope. Todd will begin his employment with Next Step on July 1, 2020.

The current Next Step president, Doug Chandler will continue to be actively involved in the ministry. Doug will continue to serve on the Board of Directors as well as carry responsibility for some specific duties in support of Todd. This change will also allow Doug to spend more time with discipleship and serving as an accountability partner for one or more men.



Dave at the entrance of his house.



A Long Awaited (and Needed) Update

When Next Step Ministries was founded in 2012 a website for the ministry was created informing readers of how the ministry would eventually serve. Finally, after eight years, we have updated the website, www.nextstepnm.com, to provide useful information to potential ministry participants, volunteers, and donors. Would you like to know about the foundational services provided by Next Step? Do you know what volunteer opportunities exist? Is there a method to donate a vehicle for the financial benefit of the ministry? Is there a generally required background for a “typical” Next Step participant? Is there an on-line option for donating to the ministry? All these questions, and many more, can be answered by viewing the new Next Step website – please take a look!

The Importance of a Patio

Have you ever considered the importance or value of a patio? Many people use a patio as a gathering place, for family meals or events, for social mingling, or maybe just a place to pause and relax. We have a patio at the Next Step residential facility, and we use it much like anyone else uses their patio. God has called us to gather in community, to fellowship with one another, and for men to come together where iron sharpens iron. At first glance, a patio doesn’t mean much, but from an eternal perspective, it is amazing to see how God can use such a simple gathering place. We need your help! Our patio gets considerable use and our patio furniture is long overdue for replacement! Perhaps you replaced your own patio furniture this spring; could you consider donating your old furniture to Next Step? We don’t need much, mostly a few chairs. Thanks for considering Next Step!



Finally, Resumption of Next Step Activities

The coronavirus pandemic had an impact on all of us. Because our Bible studies and worship activities typically include 10 or more men, those activities were suspended. With most local functions shutdown, we were also required to suspend our group outings for a couple of months. With the establishment of updated guidelines we have been able to gather again for all our discipleship activities. We are thankful and excited to re-start our Bible studies and worship.

The commencement of our studies is certainly good news! We are also thankful that during this time none of our participants, volunteers, or staff became ill due to this virus. Praise God for His provision and protection during this unusual season!

Can You Help?

During the existence of this ministry, God has been so faithful to provide all we have needed; for that we are thankful! Our needs continue to exist, and we will continue to rely on Him to provide. Would you be available as an instrument for His use?

We will always cherish your prayers, especially for the participants and now, too, for our new president, Todd Loudon. For those who may be interested in volunteering with Next Step, please go to the “Volunteer” tab on our new website!

The local Body of Christ has been very faithful in providing the things we need to furnish and equip our residential facility, however, donations of bedding, specifically twin-size sheets, as well as towels and wash clothes, is always helpful.

Finally, we recognize that the past several weeks has had a financial impact on many people. If you are in a position to support Next Step financially, we ask that you prayerfully consider donating to the work God is doing through this ministry. We are incredibly grateful!

Word From the Community

As a locally owned business in Albuquerque, we believe in supporting the community and those organizations that work to make our city a better place. That is one reason our company has employed several Next Step participants over the past several years. We help these men learn to be responsible, accountable, and financially stable while experiencing the dignity of work.

John Seaver, Owner
Just Sprinklers, American Leak Detection