Welcome, Sarah!

Christ Leads  People Care  Lives Change
Dear Friends,

Date: April, 1988
Place: First Presbyterian Church
People: Nora Dodds and Gerre Brenneman

I share this story now because I want you to put yourself in the scene for a moment. Nora was in her late 80s at the time. I had just turned 40 and was about to begin my job at Evangel Home. She was a tiny woman with short, slightly purple hair. I didn’t know her well but did know that she was a plain talking straight shooter. Still, I was left momentarily speechless when she came up to me that Sunday morning 30 years ago, looked me in the eye, poked me in the chest and said, “So who are you to be running that place?”

Wow! I learned that Nora knew our founders, she loved Evangel Home and just wanted to make sure that it was going to be in good hands. Her question, though not exactly tactful, was certainly heartfelt and in the right spirit. I blurted out an answer that satisfied her, and we had many good conversations for years after that moment. Nora also left us in her will. That’s how much she cared.

So I would like now to be the Nora Dodds to Sarah Dawson and let you see Sarah’s answers to a different version of Nora’s questions. (see pages 8 & 9).

The people, place and time are different, but . . . we are still serving Him together,

Gerre Brenneman
Executive Director
You are warmly invited to

AN OPEN HOUSE

CELEBRATION

in honor of

Gerre Brenneman

SAT., OCTOBER 27, 2-5 P.M.

Time of sharing at 3:00 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1540 M Street, Fresno

Please RSVP to Emily Dull (officemanager@evangelhome.org) so we will know how many to plan for.
This was our 13th Amazing Race and our theme was “Pathway of Hope” based on Romans 5:1-5. Every day involved “stepping stones” on the path to character building — Help, Obstacles, Perseverance, and Endurance. They served at the Community Food Bank; learned to kayak at Shaver Lake; took a train trip; turned bowling into a high-risk sport (many had never bowled before and they had some amazing ways to release the ball); and were always having to find or do something unexpected.

Undoubtedly this was one of the best groups of women ever involved in our week-long race. They are a group of warriors and winners who did their best to come out ahead but were always looking out for and encouraging one another. They were willing to risk their own comfort to try new things; to think of the women around them rather than just of themselves; and to see where God is in their lives. They were and are AMAZING!
2018 ANNUAL BANQUET

Gerre Brenneman, the Board of Directors, and Staff

invite you to join us

TUES., SEPTEMBER 11, 2018

6:30 p.m.

TorNino’s Banquets

5080 N. Blackstone, Fresno

Our wonderful theme this year is:

CHRIST LEADS  PEOPLE CARE  LIVES CHANGE

“Look What We’ve Done!”

Reservation Card

Please note: This is your invitation. There will be no special Banquet mailing.

Contact Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

Email address

Reservation Deadline: Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2018

TABLE SPONSORSHIPS

$350 per table of 10 includes: 10 tickets/program listing

Sponsorship name ______________________________________________________

How many of your 10 tickets do you want? Unused tickets will be used to host residents or staff of Evangel Home.

All _________ None _______ Other _________

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

$35 each How many? __________________

Amount enclosed $__________________

Please make checks payable to EVANGEL HOME

Mail reservation card and check to 137 N. Yosemite, Fresno, CA 93701

For information, please call Emily Dull at 559-264-4714

or check on-line at www.evangelhome.org.
**TOMICA**

Tomica graduated from CrossRoads in March. She is a very humble woman whose favorite Scripture is Peter 5:6 & 7: "Humble yourselves therefore under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." She has moved off campus but continues to attend our after-care class and stay connected as much as she can.

**SALINA**

Salina was our April graduate after doing an excellent job in CrossRoads. She and her three children are now in Community Connection, and she has plans for the first time in her life. She gives all the credit for change in her life to Jesus. During her graduation ceremony, Salina looked at the audience, pointed to herself and said, "This right here is me. Without Him, there would be no me."
Great Job, Maria & Ruthie!

Our fourth beautiful graduate of 2018. She graduated from CrossRoads June. Shown here with daughter Ruthie – a super mom and daughter team!

Maria had this to say at graduation, “He has been molding me and pulling me and showing me what areas He wants to work in me. I trust God’s promise and I will stand firm.”

Fifteen-year-old Ruthie has been incredibly supportive of Maria during their nine months in CrossRoads. We loved the answer she gave when asked why she is so proud of her mom. “Well, she doesn’t like to get help and neither do I, but she did it. She’s progressing slowly, but she’s not giving up. We’re not giving up!” They will continue in Community Connection.

Congratulations, Everyone!
Introducing Sarah Dawson

Sarah will become the Evangel Home’s Executive Director on January 1, 2019. Until then Gerre Brenneman remains at the helm. We thought it would be a good time to get to know Sarah, so she and Gerre recently met for a question and answer time. If there are questions you would like to ask, please call Gerre at 559-264-4714 or email her at director@evangelhome.org.

Q How long have you been connected with Evangel Home?
A Since the summer of 1997 when I came as an intern through a local urban ministry. It might sound kind of dramatic, but that experience felt like a dream come true. When I was in high school, I wanted my parents to build an extra room onto the house so that we could give a woman and child a second chance. So when I came here it was like a dream come true—not the exact thing but the same heart for others.

Q Did anything really impress you during your internship?
A Oh yes! I remember very clearly one day during chapel. Everyone was singing so enthusiastically and so off key. But they were so sincere that it was just a beautiful time of worship.

Q In what other ways since that time has God been preparing you to lead Evangel Home?
A Well, I came back here in 2016 as the night house manager which gave me another perspective, and before that I completed my counseling degree and worked with at-risk youth and their families. I also volunteer as a chaplain at juvenile hall.

Q I remember when you worked as a flight attendant!
A Yes. Even that comes in handy now. I learned to say no and to speak the truth even when it’s hard. It was really a fantastic job and it highlighted my gift of hospitality.
Q How do you define hospitality?
A It’s mostly about making people feel comfortable and safe—things so important at Evangel Home.

Q When did you first think about becoming Executive Director?
A At our staff retreat last year when you asked us where we saw ourselves in a few years. I didn’t think about your job, but on the ride home you and I talked for more than an hour about just exactly what the job is and I began to wonder if I would be good at it.

Q Sarah, I never really thought about retiring until that day last fall when you came into the office and said, ”Just what would it take to have this job?” Seemed to me that was God sending someone to be trained, so I appreciate your courage.
A Well, I needed to know just what you do just in case that was God’s plan.

Q Is there anything on that list that concerns you?
A Mostly decisions that negatively affect people’s lives—like dismissing a resident or a staff member. But I’ve already had to dismiss residents, so I’m halfway there. Through all of this I am overcoming fear and learning to trust where He takes me. I want to always be in a place where I am listening and obeying God and not chickening out of the hard stuff.

“But I chose to pray instead.”

Q What are you most looking forward to?
A Being able to build a team and see people do things they’ve never done before—staff, residents and me! I love to get people connected and engaged with each other and see them bloom when they are doing something they love and are good at. That’s one of the things I see at Evangel Home and I’m so excited to be a bigger part of that process.

Q One more question, future Executive Director. What is a favorite or guiding Scripture?
A Galatians 5:16 and 25: “But I say, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.” “If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.”
I recently had to talk with several women who were being very rude and uncooperative. I wanted to just be done with them and dismiss both because they were bothering everyone. But I chose to pray instead. His words were much kinder than mine and brought much more peace.
Introducing Nora Chase

Nora Chase is one of those important staff members who does not get much “camera” attention. She is one of our night managers, an unsung hero, quietly going about her job of watching the GARDEN, filling in wherever needed, and always being ready to pray.

Thank you, Nora. And you look awesome in that hat!

They Make Things Happen!

We needed a safer path up these steps and Emmanuel Lutheran Church Clovis needed a ministry opportunity. We had a match! They installed railings on the steps and then added plants so the front porch of the GARDEN would not only be safer but prettier.

Staff members and residents enjoy the hard work and beautiful patio makeover given to us by a Life Group of The Well Church. They make things happen!
Summer Around the Home

Our kids enjoying all the joys of summer — even if the pool seems a little crowded!

Summer Needs

It seems that summer is a time when our donations of food and supplies are down.

We need to replenish our pillow supply and are asking for a donation of 50 new standard pillows and cases. That is our primary need and here is a short list of other items:

- Bath towels and wash cloths
- Paper products (especially paper towels)
- Women’s tennis or athletic shoes (large sizes)
Evangel Home is a work in progress -- both people and property. Making sure we are always at our best involves you. So when you visit Evangel Home, look around and see where you might become involved. There is always an apartment or room to fix up; a morning chapel that needs a leader; a phone that needs to be answered or a woman who needs a little love and encouragement.

A WORK IN PROGRESS

You are invited to schedule a Bite of Lunch & Tour!

Are you looking for a unique way to celebrate your birthday, anniversary or other important milestone? An event where your guests come and have the opportunity to shower gifts on a ministry? If so, we invite you to call and schedule a BLT!

You and your guests will enjoy celebrating over lunch (with our staff and residents) preceded by a private tour of our Campus. We try to schedule most of our BLTs on Thursdays, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with the tour from 11:00 a.m. until noon.

If you are interested in learning more or to schedule a date, please call and talk with Jessica Lusk, our Volunteer Coordinator, at 264-4714.
In my entire 30 years as Evangel Home’s Executive Director, I have only written two letters of appeal, and am considering another one. We are about even with what our giving has been for the last five years, but in order to keep up with ever-rising expenses, we need to increase our giving base. Otherwise, we are losing ground.

So, would you tell others about us and let them know why you support Evangel Home? Your words of support and people coming to Evangel Home for a visit are two of the most effective ways we have to increase our donor base.

God always gives us what we need to accomplish what He wants, and I have seen that to be true over and over. He just seems to stretch our financial faith every decade.

**THE NUMBERS**

Excluding estate gifts for 2017 and 2018, we are down in giving by about eight percent. Actual giving through May is $206,000 compared to approximately $252,000 last year. Factor in estates and we have a total of $243,363 for this year compared to $346,866 last year.

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<tr>
<td>Income through May</td>
<td>$345,866</td>
<td>$242,363</td>
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<td>Expense</td>
<td>$346,398</td>
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Please consider praying for us and also sending a financial gift. Thank you.
When Gratefulness Abounds

Appreciation for staff is a gift one of our Crisis Home women left when she recently found a job and was able to move on. Many of our women express gratitude or write a note of thanks. However, no one has ever written a thank you note to every single staff member she interacted with. This woman designed cards and wrote messages to each one of us—something that puts a little extra wind in our sails.

Memorial & Honoraria Donations

If you would like to remember a loved one with a memorial donation or honor a special person or milestone through a gift to Evangel Home, please complete the following form.

- Honoraria
- Memorial

Name of deceased or honoree

Honoraria occasion (optional)

Send acknowledgement card to:

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Remembered by (your name):

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Amount Enclosed

$_______

 Checks may be made payable to:

EVANGEL HOME

Mail completed form to:

EVANGEL HOME
137 N. Yosemite
Fresno, CA 93701
IN MEMORIAM
March 1, 2018—June 29, 2018

Becky Adams
Ellen Fujii
Daniel Miller
Lucile Allen
Darlene Roach
Tom Barber
Russ & Patty Dykstra
Gordon Begeman
Russ & Patty Dykstra
Alice Cheeseman
Russ & Patty Dykstra
Tom Dougherty
David & Helen Ramming
Trinity Community Church
S.S. Class
Joyce Gajarian
Jerry & Nelda Baker
Richard Geringer
Russ & Patty Dykstra
Phyllis Guynes
Craig & Debbie Elia
Marjorie Keithley
Randy & Zona Larson
Adeline Kezirian
Jim & Lisa Quist
John P. Martin
Tim & Janet DaSilva
Toshio Nakagawa
Sue Abrahamian
Larry Psaltis
Lynn Psaltis
Sunchi Robinson
Joe Robinson
Evelyn Schmidt
Karen Aeschbacher
Karen & Max Bowser
Katherine Sinner
Barbara Kline
Floyd Wiens
Roy & Shirley Killion

HONORARIA
March 1, 2018—June 29, 2018

Nelda Baker
Carol Karabian
Jane Bedrosian
Anonymous
Gerre Brenneman
Rosemary Cotton
Lillian Holmes
John & Judy Hulstrom
Don & Phyllis Nielsen
St. Gregory Ladies Society
Janet DaSilva
Robert & Susan Toschi
Evangel Home Staff
Anonymous
Rita Evans
Anonymous
Elaine Garo
Anonymous
Richard & Merlene Samuelian
Ray Hergenrader
Russell & Nina Adams
Rick Pharr
Carol Pharr
Donna Robinson
Anonymous
Diana Mazman
Cynthia Rosales
Rick & Carol Pharr
Joan Sandlin
Anonymous
Johnnie & Debra Steinert
Anonymous
JoJanelle West
Rick & Carol Pharr
Proud Member of

CrossRoads
9-Month Transitional Living Program

CRISIS SHELTER
30-Day Emergency Stay

Community Connection
24-Month Graduate Program

RADIO SCHEDULE

‘HEARTLINE’
KRDU 1130 AM
Saturday .................. 7:15 a.m., 7:30 p.m.
Sunday .......................... 5:45 p.m.

KCIV 99.9 FM
Saturday .......................... 8:30 a.m.

KGED 1680 AM
Saturday .......................... 11:00 a.m.
Sunday .......................... 11:30 a.m.

www.evangelhome.org
or visit us on Facebook

Proud Member of

EVANGEL HOME
137 N. Yosemite, Fresno, CA 93701
559-264-4714
evangelhome.org