

Stories MADE NEW

Winter 2025

Volume 3

God is on the Move!

Nathaniel Gingrich, Board Secretary

Recently our friends at Door of Hope Ministry hosted a banquet. The theme for the evening was **God is on the Move!** That theme has stuck with me, and here at Stories Made New we've had a front row seat to God moving in amazing ways.

God has been on the move in the lives of the board, staff, and residents. The last months have brought many changes; and change, even good change, is hard. The opportunity to rest in our heavenly Father, who is moving and working, even while we are completely unaware, brings so much comfort and peace. Many times, we see a door closing, but he is already at work opening the next one.

Such is the journey of Stories Made New! We're grateful for the past but are now excited about the future. We're praising God for moving and arranging several great partnerships! Through a series of miraculous and perfectly timed events (and the staff at Anabaptist Foundation) we connected with the team at Fairmount Homes in Farmersville who were looking for a tenant for a large residence they own which was used as a Bed & Breakfast.

We are joyously sharing that the local community & township fully support the move by Stories Made New into the residence located at 154 E Farmersville Rd, Ephrata, PA 17522!

Fairmount Homes has been so gracious and is as excited about the partnership as we are. This location and connection presents a number of mutually beneficial opportunities. Our vision and values closely align, and we are looking forward to discovering the ways in which we can grow and serve together.

With this move we will be located in close proximity to Door of Hope Ministry. Another partnership has formed with them as residents within our program are often meeting once per week with one of their counselors. Structurally this has been a key change in the program at Stories Made New, and the partnership has brought much strength.

So, God is on the move, and we are too! We're working hard towards an early February move and invite your support as we look to finish out and furnish some more bedroom suites. The township encouraged us to host as many residents as feasible. A list of items needed is printed on the back. Your financial support is appreciated.

Join us in thanking God for His amazing provisions and for MOVING in such a clear way. Pray that He will continue to move in each of our lives and bring redemption and restoration as only He is able. **Thank you, Father!**

Stories Made New has been developed especially for young women who support the 1963 Mennonite Confession of Faith.

We desire to see these young women brought into spiritual freedom and life in Jesus Christ. **Please pray for this ministry to our Anabaptist communities!**

Stories Made New operates under the Board of Directors and advisory committee. Names and affiliations are listed on the back page.



Our new location on the hill!

154 E Farmersville Rd
Ephrata, PA 17522



Vision

To bring young women who are struggling into fulfillment and purpose in Jesus Christ.

Mission

To help young women deal with and work through life dominating problems.

To give them loving nurture, discipleship, and care.

To help them learn and value discipline and purposeful living through a structured home setting.

To give them vision and understanding of the joy and blessing of serving others.

Daughters and Dads

Ernest Witmer, Administrator



As I write, my daughter is packed and ready to evacuate her home in Los Angeles (if given the command) due to record-breaking brush-fires scattered across the northern regions of the city. She's an adult and fully capable of handling life's challenges, yet as her dad I find myself preoccupied by the encircling danger. She has an app on her phone (and has sent me the app too) so we can monitor the dynamics of the fire on a minute-by-minute basis.

You can be sure, I'm praying!! And yet I keep checking and re-checking, and checking the app again, with one eye on the news and the other one on our family Messenger group where she gives frequent updates.

That's the way we dads can, and really should be; always watching out for the wellbeing of our daughters. If we had failed to care for them

adequately when they were young, we'd rightly be considered dead-beat dads. But now if we feel overly compelled to take care of them, it's almost like we're hovering helicopters, ready to douse the teeniest spark getting close to them.

It's like a catch-22.

They were born, we blinked, and now they are full-grown adults—possibly even more mature than we were at their age. Somewhere along the way, they grew up. We deeply appreciate the way our adult daughters keep us in the loop of their lives and allow (sometimes even ask) us to help them now and again, but we're constantly conscious of not wanting to be a helicopter-dad!

Here at STORIES MADE NEW—a ministry designed especially for young women—we obviously care about daughters! But you know what? Every daughter has a dad, so we care about them too. You see, we can't truly care for daughters without also caring about their dads, because one of the best things for every daughter is to have a healthy, happy, and holy dad!



Since being here at SMN I've met some amazing dads—which is one of the delights of what I'm asked to do in working with families.

But dads get mixed up and messed up sometimes. None are perfect! Furthermore, many of them have not had good fatherhood modeled for them. And to the degree that they've never seen good fatherhood modeled—nor yet found healing from God Himself—to that extent they don't do well. But when they DO well, their daughters also tend to do well.

Yet it's not JUST about dads. Sometimes daughters are wrongfully impacted by both their fathers AND their mothers, or by their moms instead of their dads. And sometimes daughters are hurt by people and circumstances that have nothing to do with either of their parents. Whatever the case, daughters are way too precious to be hurt by anyone!

And yet they are!

Sometimes it can even seem like daughters get hurt by God Himself! My own daughters were grievously hurt when their mother was killed in a tragic car accident.

What did they do to deserve this?

Nothing!

So, should we just give God a pass when we know He could have prevented it? Is He party to their hurt?

Really?! HE IS GOD.

Here at STORIES MADE NEW, we put space between daughters and those they may not feel safe around.

And we will not spiritually abuse them by stuffing God (or His principles) down their throats. But we can't protect them from Him either—nor would we want to!

Similarly, we seek to nurture healing in the hearts of parents because remember? Healthy, happy, and holy dads (and moms) are very good for daughters!



Mentoring with Martha on Mondays

Martha Martin, Mentor

Ding, ding, ding: It's 6:00 on a Monday morning at STORIES MADE NEW.

I turn my alarm off and get ready for the day. After some quiet time with the Lord, I head to the kitchen at 7:00 to make breakfast.

One of the resident ladies meets me in the kitchen to help with the meal. We work together to get breakfast made, the table set, and if needed, the dishwasher emptied. At 7:30 the other ladies join us for breakfast.

Monday morning breakfasts are usually pretty quiet after the "good mornings" are said. Breakfast is usually over by 7:45, then we clean up the kitchen and get ready for the morning walk.

We head out the door at 8:00 and spend 45 minutes walking up or down the road.

After exercise time is Discipleship Class. Our administrators join us at 9:00 for some singing and teaching/discussion time. Sometimes we get a good ways through the That Split Second material we are working through and other times we don't get far at all—depends on how many "rabbit trails" we get on. ☺ We close discipleship time with prayer.

After a 15-minute break the ladies have study time with their workbooks. I find something to occupy myself with where I can be close to the ladies in case they have a question or something. Study time is until 11:45 and then it's time for lunch.

It's so handy to just get leftovers out of the fridge and everyone heats up what they want to eat. Everyone has an hour to nap, read, swing, or whatever they want to do that is quiet and not disturbing anyone else.

After resting is Project Time. This involves various activities. Sometimes we sew or work at cutting out patches for comforters. And sometimes we help pick up firewood for our fruitwood fundraising project.

We enjoy listening to music until 3:00 when we take a break. Then we typically listen to a story until 4:30 when we end project time. One of the ladies and I make supper and try to have it ready at 5:30.

Again, our administrators join us for supper and the evening. The conversations at supper are generally pretty lively with occasional jokes thrown in. After supper the ones who didn't help make supper do the dishes and clean up the kitchen.

We usually gather around 7:00 to play a game together. We all enjoy a good game and often most of us have a cup of tea too! ☺ Around 8:45 we finish up our game and have prayer together and then everyone heads off to their rooms for a good night's sleep so we can be ready for another day again and the rest of our week at STORIES MADE NEW.

Fundraising from Fruitwood Firewood



Wanita



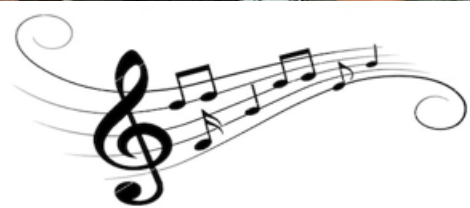
Rachel



Ernest



154 E. Farmersville Road
Ephrata, PA 17522



*Touched by a loving heart, wakened by kindness,
Chords that were broken will vibrate once more.*



PRAISE REPORTS

- For the generous year-end donations
- For our new happy hilltop home location
- For Keturah King joining our staff as a mentor
- For the beautiful ways we see new growth in our resident ladies
- For a very wise/supportive board
- For donated plum trees from Kauffman's Orchards to process for our firewood fundraising project

PRAYER ITEMS

- For continued grace for Ernest & Yvonne as administrators
- For guidance for the counselors working with our resident ladies at Door of Hope and Life Ministries
- For wisdom and creativity as we settle into the new premises

Learn more at: www.storiesmadenew.org

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Keturah King, Mentor
Lavina Brubaker, Asst Mentor & Domestics

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

To give, make checks payable to: **STORIES MADE NEW**
and send to: 154 E. Farmersville Rd, Ephrata, PA 17522.

To donate online, go to: www.storiesmadenew.org/give
A tax-deductible receipt will be sent upon request when name and address is provided. May God bless you for sharing!

**Funds still needed to cover costs of the
transition, moving, and remodeling!**

\$85,000

**(alternative, in-kind donations of labor and
materials are also appreciated)**

Other helpful items still needed:

- kitchen kettles (1 qt, 1½ qt, & 2 qt. sizes)
- skillets, and an electric skillet
- pop-corn popper (stir crazy style)
- a Bosch mixer
- a set of two dozen glass tumblers
- a corner-fitting secretary's desk with wall shelving
- a rack or cart for stacking firewood