



**Will You Join Us In Building A Village of Love, Hope and Recovery Care
For Those Struggling With Addictions and Homelessness
Living In Our Communities?**

Future Tour

“A Visionary Journey To The Village of Hope at 59 Mile In The Year 2020”

with

**Marvin Declare,
Founder and Executive Director**

**Psalm 23 Transition Society Future Tour
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Hello and Welcome! My name is Marvin Declare. I'm Founder and Executive Director of Psalm 23 Transition Society. Thank you for coming to 59 Mile for this very special visit. My wife Shelley and I are so glad you could join us.

We're about to embark on an amazing journey into the future - a visionary "Future Tour" of the Village of Hope in the Year 2020!

Having overcome a 27 year drug addiction in my own life, I know the painful havoc alcohol and drug addiction can wreak on a marriage, a career, a family and a destiny. If you or someone you know is trapped in a vicious cycle of substance abuse, I want you to know: "There is hope!"

How do I know? It's simple – we've been running Psalm 23's addiction recovery homes in Abbotsford and 59 Mile since 2001. In this time, we've seen first hand the lives of hundreds of men and women transformed from self destruction and despair to ones of purpose, joy and contribution. Being a part of their recovery journey has brought me a sense of purpose and satisfaction no drug or bottle ever could.

Reaching out to others in desperate need – the poor, the homeless and those suffering with addictions - is a cause that will enrich your own life in ways beyond all measure and imagination.

As we take this visionary journey, I invite you to consider how you can possibly join together with us in building this very unique Village we're about to tour. Whether as a volunteer, donor or financial partner, I believe with your support we can build this dream into a real, living breathing Village - a vibrant place of love, hope and care for all people seeking to be addiction free.

So, if you're ready, let me show you around Village of Hope at 59 Mile - Year 2020. Just close your eyes now, take a deep breath, open your eyes – and we're here...

The Residence – A safe place to learn to live life anew...

We're standing in front the main Residence Building where most of the students in our Recovery Program stay. Shelley and I live on site in the staff house over to

the left side there. You can see our house is directly connected to the Residence Building, so let's head on in to the Residence and let me show you around.

Now years ago back in 2010 when we started Psalm 23 Training Centre at 59 Mile, we had everything inside this very building. And I mean everything – from all living areas, the classroom, the library, the workout room, our computer lab, a clothing room where we stored our donated clothing - and of course, the kitchen where all our meals were prepared.

But as the pressing demand to accommodate more students grew, it became abundantly clear we needed to expand our territory. We wanted to help more people breakthrough and achieve a lasting freedom from their addictions – and that's how the Vision for Village of Hope at 59 Mile was borne.

As we walk through the main floor of The Residence Building now, you can see there are spacious lounge areas. Before the Village was fully developed, the students were restricted to where they could go in this building because of the severe space constraints. But now, they are free to go to different parts of the house to relax and just enjoy their home during their time in our program.

Today, we have 40 residents in the program, but our Residence can accommodate up to 54 people. And even if the Residence Building were full, if someone comes to us in need, we will always try to find a bed for them. We do our very best not to turn anyone away, if we can help it.

A new Emergency Shelter for the homeless...

Now we're walking into an area that used to be our old workout and fitness room. Working in partnership with many great caring people and organizations in the community, we were able to turn this area into an Emergency Shelter for the homeless.

As you can see, in here, we have four bunk beds – and that give us an 8 person capacity. We're so pleased to have developed such a close relationship with the R.C.M.P. and other local social and legal agencies throughout the province who refer homeless men and women to us.

Through this avenue, we can help people in such desperate need by housing them, feeding them and supporting them. We know the mean streets are not a safe place for recovery. Our hope is we can care enough for them and show them what's possible for their lives without addiction that they make that one vital decision to get into treatment.

Over the years, we've found one simple key works well – and that's to treat everyone with kindness and respect, regardless of their present circumstances.

That's why our street friends feel welcomed and accepted in our shelter. We know that their stay here can be major turning point in their lives.

By God's grace and with a few helping hands along the way, many have overcome their addictions to go on to live full, happy and productive lives. In fact, a number of Alumni are now long term residents here. They've become valued contributing members of the Village of Hope community.

Moving up to higher levels...

As we walk down this hallway, we come to the lounges. Back in 2013, these used to be the classroom and eating areas. Now, they're comfortable living areas where the guys in the Program can do whatever they want during private time - whether it's watching TV, reading a book or putting together a thousand piece jigsaw puzzle.

As we head up the stairs to the next level, you'll notice there are six bedrooms with 2 bunk beds in each on this second floor.

Here to the left, in Rooms 1 and 2, well...you can see these are just "plain jane" rooms. They're comfortable, but there are no sinks or toilets in them. They're set up with 4 dressers, laundry tubs and closet space. These are simply sleeping rooms, not living areas where they bring in their entire apartment. When a new student first comes into Recovery, this is where they stay.

Now moving on to Room 3, you can see it also has 2 bunk beds. But it has an ensuite, as well. These are for guys who are moving along in the program, so it gives them a little more influence – a gifting along the way, if you will - where they get their own ensuite rather than having to use the communal washroom.

Now beside this alcove, we have two full bathrooms. Everybody here on this second floor can use these washrooms for their everyday hygiene needs including showering and other duties.

As we move forward in this second floor hallway, you'll see there to your left, the stairway that goes up to the third floor. I'll take you up there in a few minutes. But first, let me show you the three bedrooms on the right side of the stairway. As you can see, Room 4 has a toilet and sink...and Rooms 5 and 6 have their own sinks but no toilets. Neither have showers.

So again, you can see these are very comfortable rooms for the guys sharing these quarters. The next two rooms are set up like Rooms 1 and 2, but there is a sink with running water.

As students reach their next level in the Program, they get more comforts and conveniences. We've designed these rewards into the Program to inspire

everybody here to continue to grow and reach the next level in their recovery journey.

Moving from Student to Alumni...

Okay, let's head up the stairs to the third floor. This is the top floor of The Residence Building and it's for Alumni only.

We're at the top of the stairs. To our left here, we have a full bathroom with tub and shower. And as we turn to our right, you can see there's another bathroom, but this one has a shower instead of a tub.

There are two large bedrooms to our right. Let's go check these out. This is where we place the Alumni who've just graduated the Program. At this point, they've been five months clean and sober. This is a major accomplishment! So, as you can see, the setting in these rooms is a lot nicer - more like that of an apartment with their own desk and their own bed.

At this stage of the Program, we still have two people sharing a room since this helps to break the sense of isolation that always comes with addiction. This way, they always have someone to chat with and share with.

As well, this gives the new Alumni some housing, yet they remain living in the Residence Building. Still under our roof, these new Alumni take on a sponsoring role to mentor the new guys who are going through the beginning stages of the Program.

Back in 2010, when we first opened this Training Centre, out of sheer necessity, we had to turn three of the bedrooms on this top floor into our donated clothing storage room, our library and our computer lab. We also had one bedroom set aside for any guests who came to visit. The great news is now every bedroom on this top floor is for the new Alumni.

Let's go down the hallway to another lounge area. This used to be our TV and games room. As you can see, there is a nice, relaxing space. In here, we also have a couple of hotplates, a microwave and fridge, so if the new Alumni want to make something to eat for themselves, they're free to do so.

Rising out of the ashes of the Fire of 2010...

Let's head back downstairs and out the front of the Residence Building. We'll go around to the right side and down this laneway. Now we're standing in front of a major historic spot for Psalm 23 Society. This small building is a garage where we park our farm vehicles for the winter. You might be wondering why I'm showing you a garage for farm vehicles.

Well, the foundation of this 30x20 garage is the same foundation of the building that burned down in the Great Fire we had here in 2010. It was this fire that caused the birthing of the exciting 3 phased expansion projects we're going to go see in a few minutes.

Some great people we know at ServiceMaster had challenged us to dream bigger and to expand our Vision. They asked us if we wanted something a little larger than the building that had burned down – and well, we did dream bigger and here we are. Now let's follow this driveway down a little ways and we come to a very exciting area.

An Outdoor Ice Rink and Our Annual Psalm 23 Winter Carnival...

Years ago, back in the Spring of 2013, we were very fortunate to get this area. This is the hockey area with our very own outdoor icerink. We got these boards right out of the Mission Leisure Centre. One of our donors got them in an auction and generously donated them to Psalm 23.

So, in the winter time in February, we host our Psalm 23 "Annual Winter Carnival." This event has become very popular - and it brings in a lot of people from many different areas in the surrounding communities.

We also put on a Winter Games during the Carnival. With our outdoor ice rink, we're able to host hockey games including a local Hockey All Stars game against our Psalm 23 students. There's a nice little friendly rivalry that goes on year after year.

Every once in a while, we get a call from a minor hockey team asking if they could come and practice in our arena because every other one was already booked. We make every effort to accommodate these requests – because this is what community is all about.

So this has become a quite an active area here. And of course, in the summertime, you'll see guys using it to play basketball with the portable basketball hoops. They play road hockey, lacrosse, tennis and volleyball in here as well. As you can see, this is a very versatile space.

Archery Anyone? You can help us hit our "Target"...

Now moving along towards the back of the property, I want to direct your attention to the corner of the big hill over there. Can you see that half of the hill is cut off?

Well, that's our Archery Centre and it's always a fun area. You'll notice we have 5 bullseyes set up. The guys really like to come out here to practice their archery skills because it's a great challenge for them.

When we have our Winter Carnival, part of the Winter Games is a big snow shoe relay race around the property. When the community teams get to this station, they have to hit the bullseye a certain number of times before they can move on to the next station. It's a really fun event for the entire community.

Why do we incorporate Archery into different areas of the Program? Well, it teaches people to focus, aim and release the arrow toward a target. What a great metaphor for achieving anything in life, including recovery!

It's always so great to watch our students showing their children or parents how to aim a bow and shoot an arrow safely. This little action helps to restore and rebuild a bond between our students and their family members, when they come up for a visit.

So yes, this is a very serious thing we're engaged in - helping people change their lives for the better. At the same time, we believe you've got to have fun. Why? Because if you're not having fun, you're not going to continue to do it.

We're always seeking to go beyond just recovery to helping our students' create a sense of purpose in their lives. Oftentimes, this involves getting them back into risk taking...to perhaps doing some of the things they've stopped doing because in their addiction, they've labelled themselves "unworthy" or "hopeless" or with the limitation that "I'm just going to be this way the rest of my life."

So, that's where this next building we going to visit has great significance.

Phase 1: The Shops - A Place For Making Things Work and Making Things New...

We're going to cross this roadway over to the Shops. Since we're in the Cariboo, you'll notice we've got a nice western theme going on with the shop fronts.

This Shop Building is 20 by 80. It was built in Phase 1 and replaces the building which burned down in the Fire of 2010.

The first section over here is the small Woodworking Shop. This is where the guys can come and use their hands to build things with wood. We also use it as a finishing shop where we do finishing touches like sanding and laquering.

In the next two sections, we have storage areas. The first storage area, right beside the Woodworking Shop is where we bring donated items for our Thrift Store and Gift Shop located on the other side of the highway. I'll be taking you there a little later in our tour.

But as you can see here, there's a door between the Woodworking Shop and this first storage area. This lets us conveniently move the items that need to be fixed or polished up into the Shop, before they're taken across the highway to be sold.

Now as we walk through to this next storage area, this is where we store our Psalm 23 fundraising equipment and our catering equipment. As you can see, each shop has its own five foot door so we can go between the three shops. The Psalm 23 storage is for staff only, so residents and students cannot get in here, unless they're brought in by a staff person.

Our Garage and “Donate A Vehicle” Program...

And this last section here is our Garage, where we do all of our mechanical work. We have an exciting program called, “Donate A Vehicle,” where people can donate old cars and used trucks to Psalm 23 Transition Society for a tax receipt.

Now it doesn't have to be only a car or a truck. It can be any kind of vehicle – a van, a camper, a golf cart, a riding lawnmower, a motorcycle – you get the picture. So this is an area where alumni and community volunteers come alongside our guys in the Program and teach them how to do bodywork or mechanical work. This is an invaluable part of our work therapy program, since it gives students work experience as well as a marketable skill. Of course, there's no better self confidence builder than being able to fix something and make it work.

So, we bring our donated vehicles in here, fix them up and restore them to good running condition. We can even convert this garage to a spray area and give the vehicles a brand new coat of paint.

One of the main reasons for fixing these vehicles is to be able to donate them to our Alumni. You see, many people who come to us once had a driver's license. But because of their addiction, it was taken away from them. Now they have to work towards getting it back.

One of the great incentives we like to offer our Alumni is the opportunity to get a car. When they achieve a year's sobriety, we reward them with one of these donated vehicles. Let me tell you, for some, having their own car again – and the freedom and independence that comes along with it - gives them a powerful reason to complete the Program and stay clean and sober for the year.

We also like to make a difference in the community. So at times, we'll put on a contest for people to write in and tell us why they need a vehicle. Other times, we'll hear of a single parent family that needs a car...or a teenage student who needs a car to get to work or school. We feel blessed we can occasionally gift a car to such people. Being a non-profit charity, we rely solely on community support, so we want to give back wherever we can.

This Mechanical Shop is also where we bring all of our farm vehicles. These include our Kobota tractor, our bobcat or anything else that breaks down or needs maintenance like our riding lawnmowers, regular mowers and chainsaws – pretty much anything with motor in it.

Ron Martins of Keystone Architects was the one who drew up the visionary plans for this building. When I first brought Ron my vision, all we had at that time was just \$70,000. That was the money we got from the insurance company for the Fire of 2010. And at that price, it was real chore and a task to get this building built. In fact, many people said it couldn't be done.

But Ron and I worked hard on these visionary plans - and you know what? With God's grace, we did it! As we worked together, Ron shared a deeply personal story with me and it brought us closer. You see, Ron had a son named "name?" who tragically fell victim to addictions and depression. "Name" loved to work on vehicles, just like Ron. So, we've dedicated this garage in memory of Ron's son. As you can see upfront, there's a plaque with his name on it.

Phase 2: The Recreation Centre - A Place to Play and Just Be A Kid Again...

You might not know this, but many people who fall into addiction often didn't have such great childhoods. As children, many suffered some form of mental, emotional or physical abuse. Some were even sexually abused. A number of our residents had parents who were themselves alcoholics or drug addicts. Some had no stable parenting at all, having been moved around from foster home to foster home.

That's why we wanted to build a safe, fun place where our students could just be kids again. And that's what I want to show you now.

We're going to walk under this overhang to our next building, The Recreation Centre. This is a 60 X 80 foot building. When you walk in, you quickly get the feeling it's a fun open place that really gets the spirit juices going, don't you?

Over there, we have an amazing Games area with pool table, dart boards, foosball and air hockey games. We've even got a couple of pinball machines. Those are very popular and always a lot of fun.

And in that area, we have our two lane bowling alley. Okay, I'll confess here - that was one of my pet projects. You can see a couple of the guys over there trying to out bowl one another.

Over here is our workout room. It's just fantastic! We have all the Olympic weights you'll ever need for strength training. And for cardio, you can see we have treadmills, ellipticals, rowing machines and stairclimbers.

This workout room is almost always busy. Physical therapy is a huge part of recovery. Not only do our guys love coming in here to workout, but we also have people from the surrounding communities asking to use it. And of course, they're always welcomed to visit.

In this corner is our Art Therapy room. Many of our residents are quite talented, artistically speaking. Here they can express those gifts through painting and crafts. Many beautiful pieces of artwork have been created in this room. And many are for sale in our Gift Shop across the street.

Over there is our Coffee Bar where you can get a nice hot drink. As you can see, we serve all kinds of non-alcoholic beverages and other goodies. We have hot chocolate, lattes, mochas, espressos and cappuccinos. There are teas, juices and pop as well. Of course, you can also get a piece of those delicious homemade pastries or pies sitting in the display case.

The great thing about the Recreation Building is everyone is welcomed here. It doesn't matter if it's the kids coming up to see their parent, the residents, volunteers, people coming in from surrounding communities or visitors to Village of Hope, this is a place for everyone to enjoy. I don't have to tell you that this is a very popular place during Winter Carnival. In fact, it's always jam packed and everyone has a really great time.

Creating Community In The Courtyard...

Now, as we walk out of the side door of the Recreation Centre, we enter the Courtyard. Look over there to the centre of the Courtyard and you'll see a huge firepit with benches all around it. During the day, this is a great area where people can come to just sit and visit. It's also a great place to just sit alone and enjoy the serenity.

On some cooler nights, we'll build a huge bonfire and gather everyone around it. We'll roast marshmallows and weiners. Someone will get out their old guitar and under clear starry skies; we'll have a great sing along and share stories. There's always lots of laughter and camaraderie on those nights.

Over there is our 4 foot deep wading pool. On hot summer days, kids and adults can hop in for a cool, refreshing dip. Since we have it connected up to the boiler system that heats the Shops, during the cold, cold winters up here, the residents can enjoy a hot steaming sauna as well.

Supportive Long Term Housing: A Home For The Homeless

If you look from the Courtyard towards the rear of the property, you'll see a row of five duplex houses each with dual carports. This is one of our long term housing projects.

If you'll remember when we were in the Main Residence, we have Alumni who've just completed the program and are now living on the third floor. Well, when they're ready - and if they don't have another place to go, they can apply to get into either one of these duplexes or head south to our Peardonville Alumni House in Abbotsford.

A Place For Women, Couples and Families...

Come with me and let's go check out the first duplex. This first unit here is dedicated to our Women's Recovery Program. As you can see, each side is a three bedroom home complete with bathrooms, a nice sized kitchen and a living room. We had everything built on one floor so we can easily accommodate people with disabilities and wheelchairs. The bedrooms hold two bunk beds each, so we can have up to 24 women in the Program at any given time.

One of these first unit homes can also be converted for couples to use. We've found very few residential recovery programs for couples. Sometimes, one spouse won't go into recovery because the other spouse can't be with them. We don't want this to ever be a stumbling block for someone getting into recovery. That's why we'll open one unit for couples' use, when the need arises.

As we walk down the roadway, you'll notice this second duplex also has two three bedroom homes. These are dedicated to families. Let's say the husband is in Recovery. By making these family homes available, his wife and young kids can move up here to Village of Hope to be close to him while he is going through the Program.

The great thing about this is we can help them with parenting skills, as well as offer marriage counselling to help rebuild trust and intimacy in the relationship.

Addiction can often damage a marriage and even destroy a family – so this is a powerful avenue for helping families heal, integrate and stay together. In situations like these, we also bring in our pastor to help couples live healthy lives in alignment with God's principles for successful relationships.

A Place For Our Alumni...

The last three duplexes are for the new Alumni from the third floor of the Main Residence who want to get into long term housing. While students are in the Program, they'll always have roommates. They'll go from four people in a room, then down to two in a room, and now as Alumni, they can go into their own single

room – and it's their own place where they'll be entirely responsible for its upkeep.

The True Value of Psalm 23 \$Dollars...

One very important area of training we do in the Recovery Program is financial management or budgeting. Yes, we can help newly graduated Alumni lower their living costs by providing transitional housing. And yes, we can help by gifting them one of the donated cars when they reach a year of sobriety. As well, we can help out with food and some other basic necessities. But most importantly, we want to help people in recovery successfully grow towards greater financial independence and self-sufficiency. In other words, if they're on the welfare system, our goal is to help them bridge off of it, get some gainful employment and develop good financial management skills. We're here to give a hand up, not a hand out.

That's why we created our own form of money we call Psalm 23 \$dollars. Alumni can earn Psalm 23 \$dollar for the different work projects they get involved with here. For example, an Alumni might get paid a certain number of Psalm 23 \$dollars for doing the daily community recycling runs. I'll tell you all about those in when we head over to the other side of the highway. Another might earn Psalm 23 \$dollars for feeding the animals. And yet another for helping with clean up after a major event like our Winter Carnival.

So what can they do with the Psalm 23 \$dollars they've earned? Well, they can go across the highway to 59 Mile Business Centre and do some shopping. They can buy things from our Thrift Store or Gift Shop or Fruit Stand. They can go into the restaurant and have breakfast or lunch, if they don't want to join one of the community meals that day. They can get their car tuned up in the Mechanic Shop. They can buy a cappuccino and a piece of coffee cake at The Coffee Bar in the Recreation Centre. You get the picture.

Cabins For Our Village Staff...

As we move along this road, you'll see a row of six cabins. These cabins are dedicated to single staff members who live on site, so they have a place of their own. We're very proud of these cabins because they were all hand built by community volunteers, local businesses and our Alumni.

At the Foot of the Cross: A Sacred Space...

As we come to the end of this row of cabins, you can see over there a little ways down this pathway a mountain of boulders with three large wooden crosses on top. Well, those crosses are there to remind us of Jesus and His never-ending sacrificial love for all humanity. Let's head on down to the foot of the cross.

During His time on earth, Jesus often took time away to go off to the mountainside to be alone and pray. That's why this area is set further away from all the rest. Can you feel how peaceful and quiet it is out here? This is a great area to come to meditate and pray. Sometimes we'll have our devotions out here.

If you look over there at the Foot of the Cross, you'll notice there's a small steel bin. As students are going through Recovery, there are times when they'll work through traumatic events in the lives. In a beautiful forgiveness process to release past hurts and wounds, we have students write private letters and journal entries which can be brought to this sacred place. After a time of prayer, we'll start a fire in the steel bin and have the students reverently drop their letters into the fire as a symbolic gesture of surrendering these painful experiences to God. It's amazing to watch the healing and peace that comes upon each person, as they let go of things they've kept locked up inside for so long.

Phase 3: The Multi-purpose Centre – A Place of True Community

Now that we've toured the Shops that were built in Phase 1, as well as the Recreation Centre in Phase 2, let's now head into our latest major project we completed a few months ago. And that's Phase 3 – our Multi-purpose Centre.

An Awesome Auditorium...

As we walk through these front doors, you'll notice we're entering a large, warm and very welcoming auditorium. We have our monthly Psalm 23 Graduation Ceremony happening here tonight. That's why you see the 20 banquet roundtables all elegantly set up with 8 chairs around each.

We've got 38 students completing the Program this evening, so this place is going to be absolutely packed and buzzing with excitement. We're expecting well over 120 guests including family members, Alumni, board members, Psalm 23 donors, supporters and leaders from various agencies and businesses in the community.

Psalm 23 Graduations are open to the public so anyone can come out to hear the testimonies and celebrate the victories of our students. Of course, you're invited to stay for tonight's Graduation ceremony, as well.

At the front of the auditorium, you can see our beautiful 20 foot stage complete with electric keyboards, full drum set, a bass guitar and a couple acoustic guitars, along with the microphones on their stands. Everything is all set up and ready to go for this evening's ceremony.

When there are no events going on, the guys can book the stage and they're free to go up there and jam away. You wouldn't believe all the great musical talent

hidden within our residents and this gives them a great outlet. In fact, they're going to be showcasing some of those talents tonight.

If you look to the left side of the stage, you'll see the door that leads directly into my office. On the right side of the stage, you'll see another door which leads into the administration office where Shelley works. There's a hallway behind the stage that connects my office to Shelley's. In there, we have a secure storage area where all our confidential files are safely stored.

The Village of Hope Library...

Over there in the right front corner is our library room. Students can go and check out a book, or just sit in one of the comfy chairs and read to their heart's content. We're thankful we get a lot of book donations and the library is growing with many positive, inspiring titles.

A Kitchen For All Tastes...

Let me now draw your attention to the left side of the auditorium right over there. Do you see that set of doors with the rounded windows at face height? Well, through those doors is our large commercial kitchen complete with bakery. This is where we do all of our cooking and baking for the Village. Let me tell you, this is a very well used kitchen. It seems like it's always busy – and that's probably because it always is!

Not only do we use our kitchen for cooking all the meals for students and other residents living onsite, but this is also where we bake our homemade breads, pastries, pies, muffins, cakes and the other delicious desserts which we sell in our Store and Restaurant across the street.

This is also where retired volunteer chefs and former restaurant owners come to teach our students how to cook amazing meals. As well, they train them on how to run our Commercial Catering division which serves at local business functions and private parties including weddings, anniversaries and birthdays.

You see, since starting Psalm 23 Society, it's never been our philosophy or practice to prepare the meals for our residents. We've never had a paid, professional cook. Everyone in the Program pitches in with preparing, serving and cleaning up after meals. Not only does this teach our residents the very important life skill of cooking for themselves, but it also promotes teamwork and fosters a wonderful community spirit.

Now along the rear of the auditorium, as you can see, we have a set of three vitally important rooms side by side. Let's go check them out.

The Main Classroom – Where Life Lessons Are Learned

Over here is our Main Classroom where we do all of our our Addiction education and recovery classes. Like our kitchen, this classroom is almost always in use. You can see it's a bright, cheery and comfortable room with 40 student chairs with a writing desk on their side.

Across the front wall of the classroom, we've got a nice large whiteboard with dry erase markers. We've got a podium up there for the presenter. You'll also notice the automatic projection screen that comes down in front of the whiteboard when we have a DVD to show. Right up there in the centre on the ceiling, you can see our ceiling mounted projector that's wired right into our AV system. The presenter can control all the AV equipment right from the podium.

Even though this looks like a typical classroom you'd find in a college or university, the curriculum we teach in here is anything but typical. Every one of our courses is designed to help students gain lasting freedom from addiction. They include:

- The 12 Steps from Alcoholics Anonymous – a practical, applied course in recovering from alcohol and drug addiction
- The Alpha Course – a Christian perspective on the meaning and purpose of life
- The Freedom Sessions - on healing the inner wounds that bind us from living our lives fully
- The Road to Emmaus - on finding hope in the midst of discouragement, depression and despair
- Psycho-Educational Classes

The Computer Lab - Connecting To A World Of Knowledge...

Let's move on to this room right next to the classroom. Here, we have our Computer Lab where students can take online distance learning classes. As you can see, there are 24 white cubicles all set up with flatscreen monitors, keyboards and desktop computers.

We've found that if you're going to ask people to change, they need to have confidence in themselves. Oftentimes, our students lack self-confidence in the education area because they struggle with very basic skills like reading, writing and arithmetic. A good number have never completed their high school education. Out there on the streets, you really don't have the opportunity to do that. You're focussed on survival, not school.

This Computer Lab gives them the opportunity to gain those very basic skills. Although we're hooked up to the Abbotsford Virtual School, we're also very grateful for the retired volunteer teachers who come here to personally teach and

tutor our students. As a result, many students have completed their GED, “General Education Development.” Some have even gone on to take post-secondary classes online. You can imagine the incredible self-confidence boost these educational successes bring!

The Village of Hope Theatre...

Now this last room over here by the auditorium doorway is our Theatre Room. You can see this room is painted in a very comfortable flat dark burgundy and it seats 40 people. On weekends, we usually put on a movie night for the students and residents who aren't doing anything. These movie nights have become very popular in the Village and we usually have a full house. You might not be able to see it from here, but there's also a small stage right in front of the screen. This let's us use The Theatre Room for smaller events like business presentations, if we don't need the large auditorium.

We're grateful to all of our donors, supporters and community partners for helping us build such a beautiful Phase 3 Multi-Purpose Building. Believe me, this has allowed us to far more effective in helping far more people conquer their addictions and live healthier, more wholesome lives.

So, this completes our tour of the West Side of Village of Hope. Let's head across the Highway now and check out the East Side, which is home to 59 Mile Business Centre.

59 Mile Business Centre – Making Money To Make A Difference...

We believe God has given everyone a gift – a unique talent or valuable strength they can use to serve others. From the very start, our vision was to go beyond recovery to creating a complete training ground for successful addiction free living. By creating many avenues at Village of Hope for students to develop their unique gifts, they also discover purpose in their lives. This is critical to a successful and lasting recovery. And that's where The 59 Mile Business Centre comes in.

Now before I show you around 59 Mile Business Centre here, I have to tell you how all this property came about.

A true miracle story....

Years ago back in 2010 while we were still operating from our main recovery homes in Abbotsford, we got a surprise call from a very generous donor. I'll never forget it. In that call, she'd offered to give us the entire Wes Side property complete with Main Residence. All she asked us to do was to take over her mortgage. Well, we were absolutely thrilled. After some prayer and discussions with our Board, Shelley and I decided to take her up on her offer. Now we had an

amazing new place far enough away from the temptations of the big city where we could house many more students in recovery. It was a definitely a dream come true.

But within a month of getting the property, we found out that this West Side property we're now standing on was up for sale. Back then, all there was here was only an old, shut down restaurant and a Quonset building. We'd caught wind from our realtor that people of questionable backgrounds had already put in an offer. They were intending to turn the restaurant into an establishment that would directly conflict with the purposes of our Recovery program.

At that point, we knew we had to take bold action – fast. We arranged a meeting with the realtor and shared with her our vision for Village of Hope, just like we're sharing with you now. We explained to her we had very limited funds and made an offer far below her asking price. We knew it was a long shot, but she told us she would consider present it to the owner.

As we drove back to Abbotsford, we asked God to grant us favour with this woman. Ten hours later, we received a call from the realtor. The owner said something in her heart resonated with our vision for building Village of Hope - and yes, she would sell us the property at the price we'd offered! In our minds, this was truly miraculous. We were extremely grateful since our vision for Village of Hope could now move ahead in an even greater way than we'd first imagined. It was an incredible blessing of another 4.3 acres.

Once Shelley and I sold our home on Melmar Avenue in Abbotsford, we took our profits and paid off this property. This gave us full title and possession. We started a limited corporation under the name, "59 Mile Business Centre, Inc." My wife and I hold 52 shares, while Psalm 23 Transition Society holds the remaining 48 shares. When we pass on, Psalm 23 will get it all. That's clearly written into our will - since we've long ago learned you can't take any of it with you.

We've structured 59 Mile Business Centre so that the net profits from the micro-businesses we're about to tour go directly to fund our non-profit operations at Psalm 23 Transition Society. As I mentioned earlier, these micro-businesses provide invaluable job training opportunities for our students who can develop a very marketable skill. We actually employ a number of Alumni who've committed to long term housing and live on-site, right here at Village of Hope.

Going Camping? Get Your Firewood Here...

Now as we come in off the highway, you can see this area to our left is for our Firewood Sales. We store firewood of all lengths in these six 10 by 20 sheds. Some hold full logs. Others hold logs split to 15 inches or 16 inches. Some hold 3 foot logs. So, if you need to purchase winter firewood or you're ever going camping, you can always stop in here to buy your firewood.

Caring For The Environment: Our Community Recycling Program...

As we walk past the Firewood Sales area, you'll notice to your right we have our Community Recycling Program. There are Psalm 23 Recycling donation bins positioned in high visibility locations throughout 100 Mile, 70 Mile and Clinton. Every day, the recycling team drives the truck around to these bins to pick up the donations. We started with recycling just empty cans and beverage bottles - but over the years, we've expanded to cardboard, used clothing and electronics.

When our recycling team finishes its route, they drive the truck back to the Sorting Area over here to unload it. We have separate bins for the cans, bottles, cardboard and electronics. Since we're environmentally conscious, we know these electronic components are loaded with toxins. These include lead, mercury, arsenic, beryllium and flame retardants which can cause cancer and other serious illnesses. We want to stop these from going into regular landfills. That's why we bring these items to certified e-steward depots only.

Before we take certain unfixable electronic items to the Depot, we have another team strip out the copper and aluminum. Re-selling the aluminum and copper creates another income stream.

So after the sorting process, we bag or box the various items and bring them down to the Recycling Plant in 100 Mile. Empty beer cans and liquor bottles go to the liquor store for a refund. Of course, we always have staff member accompanying the students on these runs.

We're so pleased our recycling operation provides such a steady stream of funding for Psalm 23. More importantly, it also gives our Alumni the opportunity to gain valuable work experience, while earning spending money and doing some good for the environment along the way.

A Working Farm - Pigs, Turkeys, Laying Hens and One Cow...

As we walk further along the path, we come to our Animal Barn. This is a definite favorite for the young kids coming up to visit their dad going through our Program. If you look just beyond the Barn to the pasture back there, you can see a couple of our pigs running around - and look, there's our cow quietly grazing in her area.

Let's head on in to the Animal Barn. As we go in, you'll notice we have two doors on either end. To our left, there's a 15 by 20 pen where we keep the pigs. We get the piglets when they're around a week old and raise them to when they're around 260 pounds. This usually takes about 6 months. Then, they're off to market. This is a cycle we do about three times a year.

As we move forward, you can see we have two more 10 by 10 areas. In this next pen here you can see we're raising turkeys. They're getting pretty big now so they'll be going to market soon. We're able to recycle our turkeys around four times a year.

And then, on this side here, we have our laying hens. Not only do we use the eggs for our own meals, but the community can also buy fresh eggs by the dozen from our Store.

Now, as you look out to the back area, you'll see one of our students. That's John. He's been out there all afternoon feeding the animals. Can you see how much joy he gets from caring for them? John enjoys living in a community of safety as he has a new life away from addictions and has stabilization around his mental illness – that was mostly due to the damage he's done to his brain through years of drug and alcohol abuse.

We believe there's immense therapeutic value in nurturing and caring for animals. So, that's why we keep this area here for residents like John, who love working with animals. We believe when people can nurture and take care of animals - in the process, they can learn to take better care of themselves.

And sure, there are times when our animals get way, way overfed by John and the other animal lovers around here. But, ultimately I figure it's all going to a Great Cause – our dinner table!

Now, as we come out of the animal barn, you can see each type of animal has its own pasture area. As well, you'll notice we've got this whole area here at the back barn door all set up to receive and deliver the animals efficiently. We designed it this way so trucks can quickly pull in and pull out.

As we come around to the side of the Barn, you can see our "lean to" shed where we store our two small tractors. There's a lot of land here to work and care for – and we're very grateful to the farmers who donated these to us.

Living Off The Land: Groovy Greenhouses...

We're very high up here at 59 Mile. In fact, we live at 3000 feet above sea level. Because of this, we get only 59 frost free days a year.

Well, we've always wanted to live off the land and grow our own fresh fruits and vegetables. That's why we built these three large greenhouses.

These two greenhouses we're standing in front of are dedicated to growing food. And that third one over there is geared towards growing shrubs, plants and flowers. We get a lot of local landscapers and developers coming in to buy those for their building projects.

In the Spring and Summer, we'll take some of our home grown fruits, vegetables, flower bouquets and hanging baskets, along with our homemade pies and pastries out to the local Farmers' Markets. Everything always sells out – and you'd be amazed at how much this helps us keep our name out there.

Camp Out In The Village: RV's and Campsites...

As we move forward past the green houses, you can see over there towards the rear of the property, we have 4 sites for RV's and 10 little treed campsites with all the hookups. This is another very popular area where visitors and Alumni can book a spot, drive in and enjoy their stay at Village of Hope. With the picnic tables and barbecue pits, there's a very nice family friendly atmosphere.

Over here, a little ways from the campsites, we have our 59 Mile Business Centre office. That's actually in a 53 ft trailer that was donated back to us in 2013. All of our micro-businesses are run out of there.

Love Golf? Visit our Pitch and Putt...

And in this area, you can see we have our very own Pitch and Putt along with a mini golf course. This has become popular not only with the residents, but also the community.

Trinity Post and Panel: Re-Building Lives While Building Homes...

Now as we turn and head back down towards the Highway, you can see our portable saw mill over there to our right. That's where we cut all the lumber that's donated to us. We also use it for notching the grooves in our wood working projects with Trinity Post and Panel. We don't build the large houses here, but we do build the smaller cabins. In fact, those beautiful staff cabins we toured on the West Side were built right here.

We have a very special arrangement with the great people at Trinity Post and Panel in 100 Mile House. They'll come down here to Village of Hope and train our students on how to properly use the equipment in our saw mill. Over the course of the training, students actually learn to create the exact same posts, beams and panel pieces Trinity needs for the houses they build. Trinity pays us for these pieces - and in turn, we pay the students for their efforts in this work experience program. As always, the net profits from this "partnership" go to fund our operations at Psalm 23.

This a great model of how a business and a non-profit charity like ours can partner together to make a positive difference in peoples' lives. We're proud to

say that a number of our Alumni are now working full time at Trinity Post and Panel as a direct result of the job skills they gained here.

Thrift Is In: Restoring Great Value To “The Least of These”...

Now let's head into our Thrift Store and Gift Shop. This is a 60 by 100 building. As you can see, we resell many of the items you'd find in a typical thrift store: used clothing, books, kitchenware and small household appliances, electronic items and refurbished furniture. All this merchandise was donated and there are lots of good buys, if you're a bargain hunter. And who isn't, these days? Every week, you'll find something new since the turnover is so good in here.

Some of our students have more creative, artistic and musical gifts. So in that area over there, we have our Gift Shop. That's where we sell the beautiful artwork, paintings and handcarved crafts made by our students in the Art Therapy Room and the small Woodworking Shop.

The Thrift Store and Gift Shop are great avenues for students to learn the retail trade. Here they can gain valuable retailing skills such as working the cash register, customer service, pricing and stocking, display and inventory management and teamwork. Many alumni who've worked here and helped to run this little business have gone on to find work at larger retailers. A couple have even started their own little retail outlet. Of course, we're thrilled to see them succeeding in their own entrepreneurial venture since that's the entire purpose of our Program.

Modern Day Carpenters - Working With Wood...

Let's head on over to the Quonset building that houses the large Woodwork Shop. This old Quonset building has been here since day one – and it's in here that we keep the big woodworking machinery like the planers, shapers, sanders and such.

We have a great relationship with the local mills who regularly donate their unsaleable lumber to us. This is lumber that would otherwise be thrown into the chippers or dumped into landfills.

As I mentioned earlier, we have students and Alumni who love working with their hands making stuff. Many have been trained by our friends at Trinity Pillar and Post to work on these bigger machines. So, what they do is take this lumber we get from the mills and transform it into something beautiful and useful through woodworking. We manufacture a lot of outdoor furniture here - things like picnic tables, chairs and benches.

One neat thing about the Woodwork Shop is that upstairs there's a mezzanine where they also do wood carving. We also have a guy who comes in and shows

our students how to do leatherwork. There's even a fly-fishing area where they learn to tie lures.

Hungry? Chow Down At The Psalm 23 Eatery...

As we come here to the front of the property, you'll probably begin to smell the delicious aromas of our 59 Mile Eatery wafting through the air.

We're only open for breakfast and lunch, so we always put on a hearty country buffet for the truckers and motorists driving by. On the menu is french toast, pancakes, bacon, sausages, scrambles eggs and our mouth watering corn beef hash. Of course, our buffet also includes our fresh baked bread and our famous homemade pies and ice-cream, along with a fresh salads made with fruits and vegetables straight from our greenhouse. The great thing about our buffet is food never goes to waste. Any leftovers always get mixed into our own evening meals.

Delicious Desserts and Other Delightful Goodies...

In this front area of the restaurant, we have a cash counter where people pay to get into the buffet. Here, you can see the display cases are filled with our homemade breads, pastries, muffins, banana loafs and preservatives. We also serve up homemade ice cream – and that's always a special treat for kids and adults alike.

We use the restaurant kitchen to prepare the buffet, but the homemade breads, pies and pastries are baked in our large commercial kitchen back in the Multi-purpose Building. We're especially proud that these have become very popular items in the community. Word has spread quickly – and we have people driving in all the time to pick them up. Some regulars even call in advance to make sure we've set their favourite items aside.

Home Cooked Meals For Hungry Hockey Teams...

Now here in the buffet area, you can see we've created a very comfortable lounge like atmosphere. Since we have a great relationship with the local hockey league, we'll serve up a special late afternoon buffet for hungry hockey teams. During hockey season, we'll often have upwards of 25 players and their coaches in here.

So, let's say Kamloops is heading to Prince George for a game. All they'd need to do is call a day or two before and tell us they're going to be here at 4:00 pm today. We'll put on a really great buffet with plenty of carbs and proteins – you know, with garlic mashed potatoes, pasta, BBQ chicken and hamburgers, fresh salads, and other items like that.

The great thing about this lounge is we can quickly re-arrange the tables and chairs to suit the teams...or any other group, for that matter. And if the coaches want to show footage of their games on our big screen over there, you can see we have all the AV equipment for that as well.

Of course, this is very exciting for our guys here too. It's fun to be a part of the Eatery crew that works when we're serving a hockey team. Sometimes, the coaches even give us a few free game tickets since most guys couldn't go on their own. So they treat us well and we treat them well – and that's what community is all about.

We've become well known for being able to cater to groups like the hockey teams, because we're so centrally located. This is definitely a good training ground for our students with an interest in cooking, restaurant management and hospitality as a career. As well, it's a great source of financial support for our programs. Now, let's head back outside for the final stop of our "Future Tour" of Village of Hope in 2020.

Fresh Fruits and Veggies For Sale Here...

Here outside of Eatery on the front right side, we have our Fruit Stand. Our sign above says it all, "Nothin' But The Berry Best." So, besides selling our own homegrown fruits and vegetables, we also bring in seasonal fruits from the Okanagan. And on the drive back from visiting our Alumni homes in Abbotsford, we'll often pop into Chilliwack and pick up some of that delicious, sweet Chilliwack corn. Each week, we advertise our "Specials" in the local newspapers – and as you can see, this helps to create a constant stream of visitors to Village of Hope.

At The End of Our Visionary Tour - A Word of Appreciation...

The Village of Hope in 2020 has become a vibrant, bustling community of hope for those struggling with addiction. We're deeply appreciative of all of the wonderful businesses, social organizations, governmental agencies, foundations, individual volunteers, sponsors and donors who have helped us along the way.

They believed in the Vision when it was just that – a Vision. By faith, they lent their heartfelt support in both word and deed. That's why we're proud to acknowledge their contributions on our billboards along the side of the highway, as well as in other Psalm 23 promotional vehicles including our website, newspaper ads, brochures, plaques, community events etc. Together with the students and Alumni, they've created something which will truly make a real and lasting difference in many lives for many years to come!

If you're moved, touched or inspired by anything in this Vision and want to explore how you can be a part of helping us build this unique addiction recovery community, please contact: Marvin Declare 604-870-5616 or psalm23society@shaw.ca