

SONGS / of / REDEMPTION



When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy.

PSALM 126

Here at Christ Health Center, our patients – rather, our neighbors - just like the exiles of old, celebrate with joy and even laughter as they find freedom. We join them in their songs of redemption knowing we are called to sing this way. Beyond the instruments of this Earth, echoing strains of resounding joy please the Father and refresh our souls.

This year, we have been blessed with enough songs of redemption to fill an anthology. Here are three we hope will bring you joy, as we invite you to celebrate with us in this symphony of life.



When we first met Nigel, he was vomiting up to eight times a day. Not sleeping, his blood pressure was through the roof, and he'd lost 40 pounds. Nigel had no money for medication, no insurance - only a painful brokenness. Life had left him weary at best - closed off from God at worst. Aside from running blood tests - the results were as bad as you can imagine - all we could do was work on his drinking. So we joined him in his life as he was. With much prayer, Dr. Rogers invited him to church, but he didn't come. Alcohol had left him frail, hurting, and angry.

The alcohol he was consuming was consuming him.

We ran even more tests and discovered Nigel might also have cancer. It's interesting how God knows just how to get our attention.

Nigel is now the picture of health, leading fitness classes at one of the premiere exercise studios in Birmingham. He and his wife are leaders in our Woodlawn community development efforts. Everywhere we run into them, we find joy and hope overflowing to all around.

"I was broken, and bitter. But I got healthy. In fact, I've been sober since June 23, 2015! Today, I'm serving God. And I even married my best friend."

SHUNDARRICA'S SONG of REDEMPTION

Every few years, Shundarrica called a new place home. That's life in the foster care system. Without roots or a secure family life, she used school as an escape. Eventually, like many kids in her situation, she found another escape in drugs and alcohol. Without nuclear family as a safety net, bad decisions resulted in her being expelled from school. At a very young age, Shundarrica found herself with two young children and facing homelessness.

She was so scared.

She realized she had no help, no education, and no idea what to do with her life. Shundarrica was desperate. She began attending church, but she held tightly to the things that were destroying her life. Until one day, God used a moment to draw her closer to him.

Shundarrica is doing her best to provide a loving home for her two babies. She is studying hard to become a medical assistant in hopes that she might find a great job and a better way forward for her family. She and her children are not only patients here, but truly part of our family.

"Christ Health Center helped me find my way. I am studying to become a nurse. And one day, I will do for others what Christ Health Center has done for me."

MS. MADELINE'S SONG of REDEMPTION

During a hospital stay, Ms. Madeline was told she should start preparing for the end of her life. She suffers from end-stage COPD. She wasn't eligible for government assistance...and had limited financial resources, which made getting the round the clock oxygen she needed, near impossible.

It became increasingly difficult for her to even leave her home.

While Ms. Madeline believed in God, she hadn't experienced a real relationship with Jesus. She was alone. And hope didn't seem to be a part of Ms. Madeline's song.

Oh how time and touch change things. Today, she enjoys regular in-home visits from our beloved case manager, Amy. Ms. Madeline is even able to connect with new small group friends, using Skype to make her world a little bigger. Though she still struggles, she is healthier, and her life has an air of freedom.

"I felt all alone. Christ Health Center is such a blessing. And now I sing a new song."

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Christ Health Center is a full service clinic with seven medical providers, two dentists, three pharmacists, a full-time case manager, and a dedicated staff. Our mission is to provide high quality affordable healthcare that presents in word and deed the love and power of Jesus Christ. Many of our patients are uninsured and have nowhere else to go. They are not projects, and we're not their rescuers. We are neighbors living lives together.

And we are as woven into their lives as they are into ours.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these songs of redemption with you. We pray they bring you hope and joy and even echo in your heart as a reminder to pray for us. Prayer changes things, and your prayers matter! If, as you think of us, you feel led to support this work financially, we promise to put it to great work helping more neighbors find healing and their own songs of redemption.

Dr. Robert Record

For more information or to support Christ Health Center, please visit www.christhealthcenter.org



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