

Office Blessing for Lifeline Counseling Center

My sister Joy has been ministering to people for many years, but now that she has made the Maryville area her home, she is working to continue her efforts here. Due to the special inter-working of many events, she has felt called to minister through this the establishment of this **Lifeline Counseling Center**. One of the special events was the purchase of this house, once owned by Moses Houston Gamble, who was a very significant person in the history of Maryville.

What a great name to follow in a ministry of deliverance! The original Moses of the Bible was called by God to bring the people of Israel, his people, out of a terrible bondage. He was a tool of God to nurture them and take them into a land that they could call home, a land that promised peace, prosperity and safety.

Moses Gamble, in a similar way, pursued a goal of nurturing and educating his children. He also went beyond that to help people in the community: his people. He was a great speaker, perhaps unlike the other Moses, and captivated his audiences. He was respected to the extent that he could not go anywhere without being delayed for hours listening to people and trying to help them with their problems.

We are here today to **continue the tradition that he established** in this house, that of helping other people. This house is the tool, or the vessel through which this will be accomplished. Though the Moses Gamble house has been physically moved to this location from another place, spiritually it is rooted deeply in Christian principles.

Jesus told us in John 14 that he was preparing a place for us; Joy is preparing a place to help other people, and she wants to ensure that its foundation is planted on the rock, and not in the sand (Matthew 7:26-27). We ask God's blessing on this house so that it will stand in spite of the storms that attack the people seeking help here.

The name of this work is fitting, and reminds us of the song by Edwin S. Ufford:

*Throw out the lifeline across the dark wave;
There is a brother whom someone should save;
Somebody's brother! O who then will dare
To throw out the life line, his peril to share?*

*Throw out the lifeline to danger fraught men,
Sinking in anguish where you've never been;
Winds of temptation and billows of woe
Will soon hurl them out where the dark waters flow.*

There is a risk involved in trying to help people who are in trouble. But the joy of rescue makes it all worthwhile.

The purpose of gathering together today is to **dedicate this house**, which though it will be an "office", the intended environment is that of a home and not a business. The people who come here will be thought of as guests, and not clients. There will be a sense of connection, of relationship, of family, that will be promoted here.

When Solomon dedicated the temple (2 Chronicles 6 and 7), he asked God to accept His earthly dwelling place, and God responded by sending fire from heaven to light the altar for the sacrifices. His glory then filled the temple in an awesome manner. We want God to be just as present here, but perhaps without the fireworks. We want to bring **God's glory and Goodness** into this house so that others can benefit. I remember that Moses, when he had been in the presence of God, actually became radiant due to his closeness to His glory (Exodus 34). We ask that God be here to affect our hearts in a similar way.

We want to ask **God's blessing on this house so that we can use it to bless others**. The image here is a fountain or shower of blessing that continues to flow from this source. God especially blessed Abraham, and we find that through him all the nations of the earth were blessed (Genesis 18:18). What a great compliment to his faith and work! May God work here in the same way!

We want to ask for God's power to **bless all those who pass through this house**. I think of those that sought healing by the mere touch of Jesus (Mark 5:26ff; 6:56) or the shadow of Paul (Acts 5:16), and I wish God would bless this house so that the work that goes on here could be an extension of that.

There are so many people in need of a shelter or haven. An ancient example which still applies today is found in Psalms 55:4-8:

My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death assail me. Fear and trembling have beset me; horror has overwhelmed me. I said, "Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest-- I would flee far away and stay in the desert... I would hurry to my place of shelter, far from the tempest and storm."

This feeling of shelter is something that is very important to us. We all know the feeling of being inside safe and warm while we hear the rain and wind of a storm beating against the house, or the feeling of being protected and bundled up when the temperature is cold. As the philosopher Pascal said, "There is pleasure in being in a ship beaten about by a storm, when we are sure that it will not founder." We want this house to give this sense of shelter in the same way because we know that Jesus overcomes the problems of the world.

This work should be an extension of the church, for we know that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18). But sometimes we cannot accomplish the necessary healing in the church environment; there may be no balm in Gilead (Jeremiah 8:22). But as the kingdom of God is within us (Luke 17:21), we work to heal wherever we can.

Charles Swindoll wrote, "Churches need to be less like national shrines and more like local bars... less like unapproachable cathedrals and more like well-used hospitals, places to bleed in rather than monuments to look at..." This is not a condemnation of the church, but a realization that some of those who hurt so badly are not motivated to go there. We pray that this house will be a place they can come to for help.

Comfort is a word that simply means "with strength". William Barclay translates the idea of God's comfort as "far more than soothing sympathy... it is the help which not only puts an arm around a man but sends him out to face the world..." This is the true healing power that we seek. We want those who emerge from this house to be strong, as we find in Isaiah 32:2:

Each man will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm, like streams of water in the desert and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land.

We want this house to be a **blessing to this community**. It should be an **oasis** in the desert, a shining light along the foggy seashore. It should radiate Good, and significantly increase the amount of Good in the world. It should be a continual source of blessing, like a garden taking over a barren land, as we find in Isaiah 35:5-10:

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs... Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

It should invoke in each of us the urgent need to be a blessing to others, as in the song by Larry Giddings:

Be a Blessing to someone today
Take the light, push the darkness away
Let the Jesus in you be the one that shines through
Be a blessing to someone today

Be a Blessing to someone today
Take a hand in your hand, show the way
You can start it today, give your whole self away
Be a blessing to someone today

We pray that this house will be a blessing to someone every day!

Judge Moses Gamble developed the habit of praying earnestly to God for guidance in his every judicial decision. And so we want to follow that example. Let us pray:

Prayer

Not limited like Isaac blessing Jacob and Esau

Struggle to become blessed: (Gen 32:26 NIV) Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

(Lev 9:23 NIV) Moses and Aaron then went into the Tent of Meeting. When they came out, they blessed the people; and the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people.

(Num 6:24 NIV) "The LORD bless you and keep you;

(2 Sam 6:11 NIV) The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months, and the LORD blessed him and his entire household.

(2 Sam 6:12 NIV) Now King David was told, "The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God." So David went down and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing.

(Psa 84:4 NIV) Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you. Selah

(Ezek 34:26 NIV) I will bless them and the places surrounding my hill. I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessing.

(Mat 5:4 NIV) Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Those blessed because of the presence of someone else

(Gen 22:17-18) I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

(Gen 39:5 NIV) From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field.

(Gen 28:14 NIV) Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.

(Gen 30:27 NIV) But Laban said to him, "If I have found favor in your eyes, please stay. I have learned by divination that the LORD has blessed me because of you."

Blessing to Someone Today

Be a Blessing to someone today
Take the light, push the darkness away
Let the Jesus in you be the one that shines through
Be a blessing to someone today

Be a Blessing to someone today
Take a hand in your hand, show the way
Let the Blessing you give be the Jesus who lives
Be a blessing to someone today

Praise the Father, praise the Lord, His Son
Praise the Father, praise the Lord, everyone
For the blessings we share and the love living there
Be a blessing to someone today

Al-le-lu ___, Al-le-lu ___ ia
Al-le-lu ___, Al-le-lu ___ ia
You can start it today, give your whole self away
Be a blessing to someone today

Blessing to Someone Today, modified

Be a Blessing to someone today
Take the light, push the darkness away
Let the Jesus in you be the one that shines through
Be a blessing to someone today

Be a Blessing to someone today
Take a hand in your hand, show the way
You can start it today, give your whole self away
Be a blessing to someone today

Misc Notes

2 Chr 6:40-42 "Now, my God, may your eyes be open and your ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. "Now arise, O LORD God, and come to your resting place, you and the ark of your might. May your priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, may your saints rejoice in your goodness. O LORD God, do not reject your anointed one. Remember the great love promised to David your servant."

2 Chr 7:1-4 When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. The priests could not enter the temple of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled it. When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the LORD above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, "He is good; his love endures forever." Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the LORD.

Bless the house that kept them; not shake the dust off if they were not welcomed

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According to (Passover) custom, three pieces of unleavened bread (matzoth) were placed on the table. Two were eaten, but the third was reserved, according to tradition, for Elijah the forerunner of the Messiah. The third cup of wine was passed, known as the 'cup of Blessing' (1 Cor 10.16; 11.25) and Psalms 115-118 were sung. When they reached the words 'Blessed be he who comes in the name of the Lord' (ps 118.26), the fourth and last cup of wine, sometimes called 'Elijah's cup', was passed. In some traditions one member goes to the door to look for Elijah, but he has not come.

The blessing way (Nahavo); Go in Beauty

Ps 91:1,4 'under his wings' .

(Mat 23:37 NIV) "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.

Trying to make other people feel good

Project blessings: aircraft carrier

Life's difficult challenges can be painful and overwhelming. Fears, losses, hurtful relationships and unresolved issues from the past can adversely affect the way we perceive and react to the world around us. LifeLine Counseling Center offers a safe and confidential place for healing where barriers that interfere with joy and the celebration of life can be addressed. Our licensed counselors are caring, compassionate and spiritually grounded.

LifeLine Counseling Center offers assistance in these areas:

- Relationship and marital counseling
- Marriage preparation
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Spiritual conflict
- Life transitions
- Parenting
- Blended families
- Childhood abuse
- Self-esteem
- Toxic relationships
- Substance abuse
- Bipolar Illness
- Death/loss
- Adoption issues

LifeLine Counseling services are available to both church family and members of the community. For more information, see Frequently Asked Questions.

LifeLine's vision is to provide a variety of supportive services fostering emotional and spiritual growth.

The long-term plan includes an association of independent Christian professionals with offices in one location. Potential professions and services represented are:

- counseling
- spiritual mentoring
- educational consultation
and evaluation
- tutoring
- financial services
- adoption services
- speech therapy
- psychiatric services

The vision includes community classes presented by these professionals on topics related to their discipline.



The Moses Gamble House is a beautiful historic home built around 1892. The house has all the character and charm typical of that period, decorated to make guests feel at home. Located in the downtown Maryville area on the corner of Cates Street and Gamble Avenue, the grounds are appointed with brick walks, flowering crepe myrtle and established maples and dogwoods.

Moses Houston Gamble (1871-1934) bought this stately house in 1901, the year he began practicing law at age twenty-nine. Having married in 1900, Moses and Nancy moved in and started a family which eventually included seven children -- four girls and three boys. While living on Gamble Street, Moses was elected to the State Senate in 1901. He previously served in the House of Representatives in 1899 and was elected Chancellor of the Thirteenth Chancery Court in 1922.

The house originally faced Cemetery street, now called Cates Street (see picture dated late 1800's). When the intersecting Boyd street was renamed after the Gamble family, the house was moved to its current location so it would face Gamble Avenue. When the family outgrew the home, Moses built a larger house on 1107 Court Street. He and his wife owned the house on Gamble until their death in the late 1930's. Several of the children lived in it as young adults.

Education was considered a priority in the Gamble household. Moses served as Director of Maryville College for 24 years and taught at the college. In addition, he served as principal of Porter Academy and Superintendent of Public Instruction. He believed that education was just as important for women as for men, a position not typical for that day. All of Moses' seven children graduated from Maryville College and many attained advanced degrees. His wife Nannie also earned her degree from Maryville College in .

Moses was dedicated to both his God and family. He was supportive of his children's endeavors and encouraged them to follow their dreams. When serving as judge, he spent time in prayer asking for God to grant his guidance in every judicial decision. According to his friend Samuel Tyndale Wilson, Moses had "confidence . . . and faith in a prayer-hearing and prayer answering God." For years he taught a men's bible class called The New Era Class. Moses served as a deacon at the New Providence Church for over twenty years. He was known for his compassion, fairness and faith in God.

The biographical sketch written by Samuel Tyndale Wilson at the time of Moses' death outlines his many accomplishments and his depth of character.

Historical information contributed by:

Mary Catharine Gamble Waldo, daughter of Moses and Nancy "Nannie" Gamble
Cathy Waldo Steger, granddaughter of Moses Gamble and daughter of Mary and Fordyce Waldo
Nancy Bromley, granddaughter of Moses and Nancy Gamble and daughter of Moses H. Gamble, Jr.
Douglas Gamble, grandson of Moses and Nancy Gamble and son of Joseph C. and Frances Gamble
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