Renewed Hope

Student Handbook

Ephesians 4:22–24 (NKJV)

That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be **RENEWED** in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **RENEWING** of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.



**Discipleship Ministry Summary**

RHM is a discipleship ministry in Cherokee County, located in Murphy, NC. The ministry is divided into three different levels, which requires a minimum one-year total commitment. Each level has a specific focus with different goals, privileges and advancement responsibilities for the student that all tie in to the primary goal of the ministry, which is to **make disciples of Jesus Christ**. In order to graduate from the ministry, the participant must demonstrate attitudes and actions reflective of a disciple’s heart. Graduation is not determined by length of stay.

**Mission Statement:** To make disciples of Jesus Christ.

*“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you...”–Matt. 28:19-20a*

**I. Purpose**

To minister to men who are in need of discipleship by ***TEACHING***, ***TRAINING***, ***ENCOURAGING***, ***MODELING*** for them a victorious life in Jesus Christ.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. -II Corinthians 1:3-4*

**II. Vision**

To make disciples by training men to die to self and live to serve God and others.

*“Summoning the crowd along with His disciples, He said to them, “If anyone wants to be My follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of Me and the gospel will save it.’”–Mark 8:34-35*

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”–Mark.12:30-31*

**III. People**

We will minister to men inside and outside of the church body who are seeking to be disciples of Christ, but are in need of a more structured environment to obtain spiritual victory than regular church services can provide. ***“But when He heard this, He said, “Those who are well don’t need a doctor, but the sick do. Go and learn what this means: I desire mercy not sacrifice. For I didn’t come to call the righteous, but sinners.”–Matt. 9: 12-13***

**Approved Clothing & Items**

The following is the list of approved clothing & items a ministry participant should bring with him when entering the Ministry. Non-approved clothing or items, as well as clothing or items in excess of the allotted amount, must be sent home, stored off-site, thrown

away, or donated upon the student’s entry into the ministry. Please refer to the Rules & Regulations for additional information about prohibited clothing & items.

CLOTHING MUST FIT PROPERLY & BE RESPECTABLE. WE EXPECT OUR MEN TO DRESS LIKE MEN OF GOD. SAGGING PANTS, SIDEWAYS HATS, ETC. WILL NOT BE PERMITTED!

• 5 Church/ Casual Dress Shirts

• 7 Pairs of Church/Casual Dress Pants/Jeans

• 4 Jackets/Sweaters/Sweatshirts

• 7 Work Shirts

• 7 Pairs of Work/Athletic Pants or Shorts

• 6 Total Pairs of Shoes-Including Sneakers, Work Boots, & Dress Shoes

• 10 Each Pairs of Socks/Underwear/Undershirts Additional Items

• Bible, devotional book, notebook/paper, pens, highlighters, etc.

• Toiletries & a small toiletry bag for storage.

• Laundry detergent, fabric softener, etc.

• Twin-size sheets, a blanket/comforter, & pillow(s)

• 1 Backpack

• Family photos (only 3 framed photos per man is permitted for display)

• Clothing & items will be inspected upon entrance to the Ministry. Maximum clothing amounts will be strictly enforced.

\*Items not listed above MAY be approved on a case- by-case basis.

**Rules and Regulations**

All students / disciples / servant leaders are expected to adhere to the following rules of conduct and common courtesy while participating in the ministry:

1. A minimum commitment of one-year is required.

2. No use or possession of drugs or alcohol.

3. Drug screening must be complied with.

4. All prescription medication is to be checked in to the Director for approval.

When appropriate, daily access will be granted to required medications.

5. No use or possession of any tobacco products including chew, vapes, etc. Nicotine patches and gum may be used as part of a step down process with staff approval.

6. No threatening or fighting.

7. No firearms or any type of weapon may be possessed. Students may be allowed to possess a small pocket knife or cutter as part of their job duties.

8. No foul language, profanity, or crass joking.

9. No pornographic or provocative material may be viewed or possessed.

 10. No Leave will be permitted with any woman who is not your wife.

11. No sexual activity with yourself or others.

12. Anything and anyone on the premises (including personal vehicles) are subject to search by the ministry team or anyone that they authorize to do so.

13. All are expected to dress modestly as determined by staff.

14. Any uniforms, or on site wear, if required, must be worn during any scheduled activities.

15. No gambling.

16. No borrowing or lending money among residents.

17. TV privileges at discretion of staff.

18. No computer/video games. No laptops. No MP3 players or cellphones during initial phase.

19. No secular music and radios must be kept at volume and content levels acceptable to anyone in the area

20. No lighters or matches may be possessed.

21. No possession of personal weights/gym equipment in the unit residence.

22. The use of personal vehicles is not permitted during initial phase.

23. You may not touch another’s property without their permission.

24. No sharing razor blades nail clippers, toothbrushes, or other items that may risk the spread of infectious diseases.

25. All personal property must be taken with students when they leave. RHM will not be held responsible for anything left behind.

26. RHM ministry is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

27. Personal and common quarters must be kept neat and clean at all times in accordance with the “Chores” sheet.

28. No sleeping or lying anywhere except on your own bed.

29. Beds must be made daily.

30. All dishes must be washed immediately after meal preparation.

31. No personal items may be left on bathrooms or kitchen counters, bureaus, coffee tables, or other common areas.

32. Furniture may not be moved or rearranged by students without approval.

33. You may not hang posters, pictures or any other decorations.

34. If you are sick you must report to your supervisor.

35. You may not carry more than $20 cash at any time.

36. You must attend every church service, class, group and function required of level.

Bible, pen, and paper must be brought to each.

37. You must remain on property when not attending a sponsored event or approved pass.

38. You are expected to leave to and from scheduled meetings, events, and church services on time.

39. You may not leave the fathers house area prior to (6:30AM Mon – Sat, and 7AM Sun.

40. You may not ask volunteers, church staff, etc. for favors, money, or anything else without the Director’s approval.

41. You may not make unauthorized phone calls.

42. Cell phones may not be possessed by anyone in phase 1.

43. The ministry will not pass on phone messages to anyone unless they are work or emergency related.

44. You may upon approval have immediate family members or wives visit only during visiting hours which are 1pm until 5 pm Sunday. Visitors are not allowed in living quarters at any time.

45. For safety and health reasons, shoes must be worn while outside.

46. Students are not allowed to have plants or any living creatures in the ministry.

47. Passes must be requested a week in advance for appointments during work days and need an overseer approval by initialing the pass.

48. The use or possession of energy drinks, energy supplements, and/or

fat burning/metabolism-boosting supplements by anyone is strictly prohibited.

49. No bicycles are permitted on the property, as there is no safe place for bicycle storage. A transportation service provider (Cherokee Transit, etc.) or transportation volunteer should be contacted in advance by students for all transportation needs.

50. No outside work is to be done on Sundays unless assigned by staff.

51. You may not murmur or complain. Grievances may be submitted to the ministry team.

52. No excessive storing of personal belongings.

53. All outside reading material must be approved by staff. No secular books at all.

54. No sleeping in on days off. All student activity schedules must be adhered to in a timely manner.

55. All appointments, meetings, or visitations with family or friends must be approved by the RHM Ministry Staff.

56. No laying down during any devotional time or quiet time.

57. Everyone must be in the dorm area by 10:00pm.

58. Lights out, 10:30pm. Quiet period will be observed in the dorm areas from 10:30pm until 6:30am Mon-Sat and 10:30pm until 7:00am Sun.

59. No walking out of a meeting, class, group devotion or church service unless it’s an

 emergency. Use the restroom facilities prior to all the above.

60. No students will be allowed in any Staff assigned areas without permission or invitation.

**Disciplinary Actions**

Anyone who violates the rules and regulations of the ministry or disobeys its leadership will be subject to disciplinary action. All disciplinary actions for misconduct will be issued at the discretion of the ministry team and may include the following:

• A verbal warning (1 or more)

• A written warning (1 or more)

• Temporary Suspension/Dismissal (Minimum of 30 days)

• Dismissal

**The following additional actions may be taken by staff as a result of violations:**

• Extra chores

• A written report or assignment by the student

• Loss of privileges

**The following actions may be grounds for immediate dismissal:**

• Use or possession of drugs, alcohol, nicotine, or pornography.

• Failure to comply with a drug or alcohol screening request.

• Physical violence, fighting, or threats thereof

• Blatant disregard for rules or authority

• Being foolish and endangering self and others

• Stealing

• Lying

At the discretion of the Staff, disciplinary counsel can and will be used for any violation at any level.

“No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields the fruit of peace and righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”–Hebrews 12:11

**Drug Screening Policy & Procedures**

**Upon Admission**

In accordance with our mission to minister to those with “an evident desire to follow

Christ,” a mandatory drug screen will be given at the time of entry. **Enrolled Students**

For the sake of accountability, random drug screens will be performed on participants in all levels of RHM

Upon prior knowledge or suspicion of drug or alcohol use, or upon a behavioral change in the participant (as noted by RHM students or staff) an immediate drug screening will be performed.

Positive results will result in discipline up to and including dismissal.

Refusal to take a drug/alcohol screen or test at any time will be considered admission of drug/alcohol use and will result in immediate dismissal.

*“Be sober! Be on the alert! Your adversary the Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour. Resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are being experienced by your brothers in the world.”–1 Peter 5:8-9*

**STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**DOCTRINAL**:

1. We believe in what is termed “The Apostles’ Creed” as embodying all the fundamental doctrines of orthodox evangelical Christianity.

2. We believe there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory; that this triune God created all, upholds all, and governs all.

3. We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love; that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men; that He hears and answers prayer; and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

4. We believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings; His

substitutionary atoning death; bodily resurrection; ascension into heaven;

perpetual intercession for His people; and personal, visible return to earth. We believe that He is one and the same as God. He was fully human and fully God.

5. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower in ministry all who believe in Christ. We believe the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ and that He is an abiding Helper, Teacher, and Guide. We believe that Jesus Christ baptizes the seeking believer with the Holy Spirit and power for service, either at the time of or subsequent to regeneration, which is a separate work from the indwelling Spirit for salvation. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and in the exercise of all biblical gifts of the Spirit as reflected through the fruit of that same Spirit.

6. We believe that all the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, and that they are the infallible rule of faith and practice.

7. We believe all people are by nature separated from God and responsible for their own sin, but that salvation, redemption, and forgiveness are freely offered to all by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. When a person repents of sin and accepts Jesus Christ as his/her personal Lord and Savior, trusting Him to save, that person is immediately born again and sealed by the Holy Spirit, all of his/her sins are forgiven, and that person becomes a child of God, destined to spend eternity with the Lord.

STATEMENT OF FAITH *– cont.*

8. We await the pre-tribulation rapture of the church, and we believe in the literal Second

Coming of Christ with His saints to rule the earth, which will be personal and visible. This motivates us to holy living, heartfelt worship, committed service, diligent study of God’s Word, regular fellowship, participation in adult baptism by immersion and Holy Communion.

9. We are neither Five-Point Calvinists, nor are we Arminians. We adhere firmly to the biblical teaching of God’s sovereignty and man’s responsibility. We avoid any theological systems of belief that go beyond the written Word and thereby divide the body of Christ.

10. We do not believe in “positive confession” (the faith movement belief that God can be commanded to heal or work miracles according to man’s will); human prophecy that supersedes the Scriptures; the incorporation of humanistic and secular psychology into biblical teaching; the overemphasis of spiritual gifts and experiential signs and wonders to the exclusion of biblical teaching; or that true Christians can be demon-possessed.

11. We believe in the universal Church, in the living spiritual body, of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members.

12. We believe the Lord Jesus Christ committed two ordinances to the Church:

 1) baptism, and
2) the Lord’s Supper.
We believe in baptism by immersion and communion, both of which are open to all believers in Jesus Christ.

13. We believe in the laying on of hands for the sending out of pastors and missionaries, and in conjunction with the anointing of oil by the elders for the healing of the sick.

PRACTICAL

14. We believe the only true basis of Christian fellowship is Christ’s *(agape)* love, which is greater than differences we possess, and without which we have no right to claim ourselves Christians.

15. We believe worship of God should be spiritual; therefore, we remain flexible and yielded to the leading of the Holy Spirit to direct our worship.

16. We believe worship of God should be inspirational; therefore, we give great place to music in our worship.

17. We believe worship of God should be intelligent; therefore, our classes and services are designed with great emphasis upon the teaching of the Word of God that He might instruct us on how He should be worshiped. We seek to teach the Word of God in such a way that its message can be applied to the individual’s life, leading that person to a greater maturity in Christ. We teach both expositionally and topically.

**Chores**

All posted chore list must be completed in a timely manner. All evening and weekend chore list must be adhered to.

**Chore Descriptions: Daily**

Bathroom - Clean mirrors, scrub toilet, sink, floor, shower, tub, and walls. Bedroom -Organize closet. Dust all furniture, woodwork, doors, windowsills,

mirrors and fans in bedroom. Vacuum all of bedroom, including under the beds.

Living Room - Dust all furniture, woodwork, doors, windowsills, mirrors and fans in living room and dining room. Vacuum all of living room and hallway.

• Each man must make his bed and keep his personal area orderly daily.

• Each man is responsible for completing the chore assigned.

• If rooms are not filled to capacity, it is expected that the number of men in the

room will work out amongst themselves how to appropriately divide the chores so that each room is kept fully clean on a daily basis.

• Room inspections will be performed by the ministry team on a minimum of

a WEEKLY basis. Rooms found in an unacceptable condition will warrant disciplinary actions to be taken against the participants in that room. Random room searches will be conducted without notice at the discretion of the Staff.

"But everything must be done decently and in order." 1 Corinthians 14:40

**Discipleship Schedule**



**Monday –Friday**

6:30AM- Wake Up

6:30AM – 7:00AM Personal Time

7:00AM – 7:30AM –Individual Devotions

7:30AM – 8:00AM – Breakfast

8:00AM – 8:50AM Scheduled Discipleship

9:00AM – Report to work

12:00PM – 12:30PM – Lunch Break

12:30PM – Report back to work

5:00PM – End of Work Day

5:00PM – 5:30PM –Personal Time

5:30PM – 6:00PM – Dinner

6:00PM – 6:30PM- Free time

6:30PM – 8:00PM – Ministry Time

8:00PM – 10:00PM – Free Time

10:00PM – Everyone Upstairs

10:30PM – Lights Out

 **Saturday**

Same schedule as weekdays exception end of workday is 2:00pm Free time from 2:00pm until 5:30pm.

**Sunday**

Church & Day Off – Sabbath

 10:00AM – Leave for Church

"Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk-not as unwise people but as wise-making the most of the time, because the days are evil." Ephesians 5:15-16

**RHM Ministry Student Guidelines Review**

 **Signature Page**

I do hereby state that I have received a copy of, read, sought clarification, and agree with the above listed guidelines of RHM. I also agree to follow and adhere to the guidelines with the understanding that failure to do so will lead to disciplinary actions up to and including possible dismissal.

**STUDENT:**

 PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 SIGN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 DATE: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

**RHM DIRECTOR:**

 PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 SIGN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 DATE: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

**WITNESSE:**

 PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 SIGN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 DATE: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_