



PARTNERING *for* HOPE

A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP GUIDE



JESUS FREAKS MINISTRY
HOPE FOR TODAY. HOPE FOR ETERNITY.



A Letter from the Executive Director

Thank you for taking a few moments to learn about Jesus Freaks Ministry.

If you're reading this guide, there's a good chance we already share something important in common—a desire to serve people with compassion and strengthen the communities we call home. Whether your work takes place in a church, a healthcare setting, a school, a recovery program, a social service agency, a nonprofit organization, or another community ministry, I want to begin by thanking you for what you do each day.

The challenges facing individuals and families throughout southeastern North Carolina are often too great for any one organization to address alone. Yet I have seen something encouraging time and again: when people and organizations work together with humility, compassion, and a shared purpose, lives are changed and communities become stronger.

That belief is at the heart of Jesus Freaks Ministry.

We exist to faithfully share the hope of Jesus Christ while building relationships that help connect people with local churches, trusted community organizations, and the encouragement they need to take their next step. Our desire has never been to replace the excellent work already taking place throughout our communities, but to come alongside it by serving where God opens the door and helping strengthen the network of care that already exists.

The pages that follow offer a glimpse into who God has called us to be, why we believe partnership matters, and how we seek to serve alongside churches and community organizations throughout our region. My hope is that, as you read them, you'll see our heart for people and our desire to become a trusted partner in the work we all care so deeply about.

Thank you again for the difference you're making in the lives of others. It would be a privilege to meet you and explore how we might serve our communities together.

I look forward to the opportunity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cris Harrelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cris" being more prominent than the last name "Harrelson".

Cris Harrelson
Executive Director
Jesus Freaks Ministry

Our Heart

Why We Exist

Every person has a story.

Some stories are filled with joy and celebration. Others are marked by hardship, loss, loneliness, addiction, broken relationships, uncertainty, or quiet struggles that few people ever see.

Regardless of where someone finds themselves in life, we believe one truth remains unchanged: every person is deeply loved by God and created in His image.

That conviction is the heartbeat of Jesus Freaks Ministry.

We exist because people need hope. Sometimes that hope begins with a listening ear, a caring conversation, a Hope Bag offered during a difficult season, or someone willing to walk alongside them for a while. Sometimes it begins with prayer, encouragement during a difficult season, or someone willing to walk alongside them for a while. However it begins, our desire is always the same—to reflect the love of Jesus Christ in both our words and our actions.

We also recognize that no single church, ministry, or community organization can meet every need. God has placed compassionate people throughout our communities who faithfully serve in different ways, and we believe lives are changed most effectively when those efforts work together. It is our privilege to come alongside churches and community partners as we help connect people with the encouragement, relationships, and resources they need to move forward.

Above all, we believe the greatest hope anyone can experience is found in Jesus Christ. While practical assistance can meet today's needs, only the Gospel offers the forgiveness, new life, and eternal hope that every heart ultimately longs for. That is why we seek to care for the whole person, offering compassionate support for today while faithfully pointing people to the hope that lasts forever.

This is our heart.

Hope for today. Hope for eternity.

Who God Has Called Us to Be

Jesus Freaks Ministry was born from a simple conviction: God is still changing lives through ordinary people who are willing to follow Him wherever He leads.

We are a Christ-centered ministry that believes the Gospel is the greatest hope anyone can receive. Everything we do flows from that conviction. Whether we are encouraging someone through a difficult season, partnering with a local church, serving alongside a community organization, or equipping believers through biblical resources, our desire is to reflect the compassion, truth, and grace of Jesus Christ.

We also believe that ministry is built on relationships. Programs have value, but lasting impact often begins with a conversation, grows through trust, and continues as people become connected to a caring church family and a supportive community. For that reason, we strive to serve with humility, listen well, and treat every person with the dignity and respect they deserve.

As we seek to fulfill that calling, we remain committed to working alongside churches and community partners who share a heart for serving others. We believe our communities are strongest when organizations work together, each contributing its unique gifts while pursuing a common purpose: helping people find hope, healing, and lasting transformation.

Everything we do is guided by one simple commitment that has become the heartbeat of our ministry:

Where God leads, we will faithfully follow.

Our Mission

To glorify God by faithfully following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the Gospel, serving people with compassion, strengthening local churches, and equipping believers through biblical discipleship—**offering hope for today and hope for eternity.**

Our Vision

To see individuals, families, churches, and communities transformed by the hope of Jesus Christ through compassionate service, biblical discipleship, and Christ-centered partnerships that strengthen southeastern North Carolina.

Building Bridges

Strengthening the Network of Care

Strong communities are not built by a single church, agency, or organization. They are built when people and organizations work together, each contributing their unique gifts to meet the needs of their neighbors.

Across southeastern North Carolina, churches faithfully proclaim the Gospel and shepherd their congregations. Healthcare providers care for physical needs. Social service agencies connect families with vital resources. Recovery programs walk alongside those seeking freedom from addiction. Schools invest in the next generation. Food ministries, nonprofit organizations, and countless volunteers serve quietly every day, often without recognition, because they care deeply about the people in their communities.

Together, they form an extraordinary network of care.

Even so, people sometimes struggle to find their way through that network. Some don't know where to turn. Others are hesitant to ask for help. Many have never experienced the encouragement of a healthy church community or the support available through trusted local organizations. Sometimes the greatest barrier isn't the lack of resources—it's simply not knowing how to take the first step.

We believe God has uniquely positioned Jesus Freaks Ministry to help bridge that gap.

By meeting people where they are, we have the opportunity to build relationships that often become the first step toward something greater. As trust develops, we help connect individuals with local churches, healthcare providers, community agencies, recovery programs, food ministries, and other organizations equipped to continue walking alongside them. Whenever possible, we seek to make warm introductions that replace uncertainty with confidence and transform information into meaningful connection.

Our goal is not to become another church or another community agency. Our goal is to strengthen the network of care that already exists by helping people find the right support, at the right time, through the right relationships.

We believe that every bridge we build has the potential to strengthen a family, encourage a community, and point someone toward the lasting hope found in Jesus Christ.

"Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour."—Ecclesiastes 4:9 (KJV)

Ministry in Action

Meeting People Where They Are

Every ministry of Jesus Freaks Ministry begins with a relationship.

Before we can connect someone with a church, introduce them to a community resource, or offer practical assistance, we first seek to know their story. We believe meaningful ministry begins by meeting people where they are—with compassion, respect, and a willingness to listen. As trust grows, we look for opportunities to encourage, serve, and connect people with the relationships and resources that can help them move forward.

The ministries below are simply different expressions of that same calling. Together, they allow us to serve people with compassion while pointing them to the lasting hope found in Jesus Christ.

How We Build Bridges

Community Outreach

We intentionally go into our communities to meet people where they are. Through outreach events, neighborhood gatherings, and everyday conversations, we build relationships that often become the first step toward hope and healing.

Prayer Ministry

Prayer is woven into everything we do. We offer prayer, encouragement, and spiritual support for individuals, families, community leaders, and partner organizations, believing that God works in ways no program ever could.

Hope Bags

Hope Bags are often the first tangible expression of Christ's love that someone receives from Jesus Freaks Ministry. Each bag contains practical essentials, encouraging resources, and information about trusted churches and community organizations. While the contents help meet immediate needs, the greatest purpose of a Hope Bag is to open the door to conversation, prayer, relationship, and meaningful connections that can continue long after the bag has been received.

Biblical Resources

We develop Scripture-centered resources that help people understand the Gospel, grow in their faith, and take meaningful next steps in following Jesus Christ.

Discipleship

Spiritual growth happens best in community. We encourage believers to become rooted in God's Word and connected to healthy local churches where they can continue growing in their relationship with Christ.

Volunteer Engagement

Volunteers are an essential part of our ministry. Whether serving at outreach events, preparing Hope Bags, praying with individuals, or encouraging those facing difficult circumstances, they help extend Christ's love throughout our communities.



Our Commitment to our Partners

Every referral, every conversation, and every opportunity to serve represents a person created in the image of God. We never want to lose sight of that. Whether we are serving alongside a church, healthcare provider, social service agency, recovery program, school, or another community organization, our commitment is to represent your trust well while serving each individual with compassion, humility, and integrity.

When you entrust someone to Jesus Freaks Ministry, you can expect us to:

- **Listen First**

Every person's story is different. Before offering guidance or identifying resources, we take time to listen, understand their circumstances, and respond with genuine care.

- **Treat Every Person with Dignity**

We believe every individual deserves to be treated with kindness, respect, and compassion, regardless of their background or circumstances.

- **Build Relationships**

Rather than offering quick solutions, we seek to build relationships that encourage trust and create opportunities for meaningful, long-term support.

- **Connect People with Trusted Resources**

Whenever possible, we make thoughtful introductions to local churches and community organizations that are equipped to continue caring for the individual or family.

- **Strengthen Existing Services**

Our desire is never to replace the valuable work already being done throughout our communities. Instead, we seek to complement those efforts by helping people access the support and encouragement they need.

- **Keep Christ at the Center**

Everything we do is shaped by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. While we care deeply about meeting practical needs, our greatest hope is that every person will ultimately discover the lasting hope found in Him.

We believe the strongest partnerships are built on trust, shared purpose, and a genuine desire to serve others. It is a privilege to work alongside organizations that share that commitment, and we would be honored to serve with you as we continue building bridges throughout southeastern North Carolina.

Let's Build Hope Together

Every day, people throughout southeastern North Carolina face challenges they were never meant to face alone. At the same time, our communities are filled with churches, healthcare providers, schools, social service agencies, recovery programs, nonprofit organizations, and compassionate individuals who are making a difference every day.

We believe God does some of His greatest work when those efforts come together.

If your organization is looking for a ministry that will meet people where they are, build genuine relationships, strengthen existing services, and faithfully point people to the hope found in Jesus Christ, we would be honored to serve alongside you.

Whether you're interested in collaborating on community outreach, referring individuals to trusted local churches and community resources, helping us place Hope Bags into the hands of people facing difficult circumstances, equipping volunteers, or simply learning more about Jesus Freaks Ministry, we'd love the opportunity to begin a conversation.

Together, we can help ensure that fewer people fall through the cracks, more lives are strengthened through meaningful relationships, and more people discover hope for today and the eternal hope found in Jesus Christ.

We look forward to meeting you.

Contact Us

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Service Area

Bladen County/Columbus County/Future expansion into Brunswick and Robeson Counties as God provides opportunities.

Visit our Website:



Hope for today. Hope for eternity.

At a Glance

Organization

Jesus Freaks Ministry

Founded

2026

Legal Status

North Carolina nonprofit corporation and IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) public charity

Leadership

Governed by an independent Board of Directors

Primary Service Area

Bladen County and Columbus County, with future expansion into Brunswick and Robeson Counties as God provides opportunities

Guiding Scripture

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...”

Romans 1:16 (KJV)