



Transitions

Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...
Romans 12:2

Summertime Doldrums

It's that time of year when we all want to slow down and take a break. Time off from school, work or just our daily routines. It's vacation time. Sounds great and I am sure we all need one but there is a need that continues and never seems to take a break.

That need is your financial support for the ongoing ministry of Grace House. Recovery and transformation never take a vacation. It would be great that if during those times of the year when the weather gets nice and finances get slim we could just lock up shop, hang a "Gone Fish'n" sign on the door, or take a vacation. But then we would be faced with having to tell men and their

loved ones to put their recovery on hold until we recharged our internal batteries and strengthened our bank account.

Historically summertime, along with the warmer weather, brings a "vacation" on the income of Grace House. If it were just a casual need we would not even bother to mention it. Unfortunately the need is great.

In the past we have made the needs known and obedient servants have stepped up to meet those needs. It is that time again. Please prayerfully seek what you are being directed to give.

Thank you in advance for your faithful obedience.

From the Director's Desk

Richard Sempel, Executive Director

What do they see?

"Thanks, Dale, for the witness of faith you are to us all." In the aftermath of the loss of a loved one we all seem to focus on the "I should have said" and "we wish we could tell them." Recently we, in the Grace House community, had to say our farewells to a dear friend. Dale, a past resident and graduate of Grace House went to his eternal resting place. Dale, a humble quiet man has shared his adventure with many and I know that he would not be offended to have me share a brief part of it here with you now.

In February of 2007, Dale came to Grace House well tattered from a lifestyle that had caused him to become

estranged from loved ones, lose his driver's license and be enrolled in Judge Conn's Drug Court program. He came to us without much hope. But he had a stated desire to change before it was too late. We prayed with him and got all the paperwork filled out and helped to get him settled in.

Dale exhibited a less than positive attitude at the prospects of finding work or ever getting his life back on track. He had always been a good worker and had held decent jobs. He had earned a reputation as a good worker, but also as a man who had some less desirable issues with alcohol. Having lived in the Marion area all of his life he was "well known" by many. Against the odds and with a



little nudge from the GH Staff he went on a job search. His quest took him to speak with Dean Lochner at Integrity Automotive Service, where he had been told in the past that his reputation had preceded him. Unfortunately, all of it. I remember the ear to ear smile on his face when a couple of days later he returned from an interview to tell us that Dean was willing to give him a chance, he had gotten the job. First hurdle cleared.

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WHERE YOU CAN HELP:

- Pray for the men and ministry of Grace House.
- Volunteer to become a positive influence in the lives of Grace House residents.
- Remember Grace House in your local mission's giving.
- Refer someone struggling with addictions to Grace House.

Dale went on to do extremely well in both his sobriety and on the job. He often spoke of how blessed he felt about his progress and how Grace House had changed his life. Soon he would be reunited with his son Nathan and develop a closer relationship with his family, continuing to give God the glory.

Dale was part of the big move into the new Grace House in March of 2007 and went on to be a graduate of the Grace House Program on June 25, 2007. He felt that he was not quite ready to "step out on his own" and remained a GH Resident for a few months. During that time some of his Grace House family was able to attend his graduation from Drug Court where his accomplishment was praised by Judge Natalie Conn. Judge Conn made reference to the extended length of time it took Dale to complete the pro-

gram and how impressed she was with his perseverance and commitment. Both Dale and Judge Conn mentioned the vital role Grace House had played in his success.

In early October Dale announced he was ready to move into his own apartment. He did move, but only a couple of blocks from Grace House as he wanted to remain close to his extended family. He continued to be part of the Grace House family and was an encouragement to us all.

Shortly after getting his own place the testing of his sobriety began. His dog of many years (old, blind and deaf) got ran over in the alley next to home as Dale looked on helplessly. Dale's mother had some serious medical issues and ended up in the hospital. Then to top it off Dale was diagnosed with cancer. Through it all Dale remained positive in the midst of the unknowns.

After chemotherapy and radiation treatments had zapped Dale of most of his strength and energy he would still give God the glory for whatever may come.

Dale remained in touch with GH and I can recall the last time I spoke with him telling him what a blessing he had been to me and how I appreciated his standing strong in the midst of the storms. If anyone was in a position to justify a total relapse Dale certainly was. However no matter how rough the journey became Dale remained strong and refused to return to his old lifestyle.

The pain would cease for Dale on June 18, 2008, when the Lord took him home. He is truly missed. But I can remember that day when I was able to say to him, "Thanks Dale for the witness of faith you are to us all."

Close-up

This area of the newsletter is reserved for testimonies of individuals who desire to share their Grace House experiences.

In this edition you will read the observations of one of the many university students that volunteer at Grace House.

They all come with preconceived ideas of what to expect at Grace House. They all leave having been both blessed and being a blessing to others.

The following is taken from a recent interview conducted with Grace House Graduate and current resident John Farmer.

How did you first hear about Grace House?

"When I was detoxing my sister did a lot of research seeking out the recovery home where I could get my life on the right track with society and God. My family and a couple of churches prayed for the best place for me. My sister found the Grace House."

When did you become a resident of Grace House?

"December 10, 2007."

What had you heard about Grace House prior to your first visit?

"That it was a good environment for people trying to get their lives on the right track"

Were you aware of Grace House being "faith-based" and how did that effect your decision to seek residency?

"Yes, but the whole time I was using I felt really guilty for not letting God into my life. Grace house proved to be a great environment that works with you to set your life back on track. It helped me to learn that society needs me sober and that God has a plan for me."

Program Graduate John Farmer



What did you expect to find when visiting Grace House for the first time?

People I could relate to with my past. People that would hold me accountable for not only using but my old lifestyle habits. Most importantly a structured environment where I could learn how to live again.

How would you describe your state of mental, physical and spiritual condition when you first arrived at Grace House?

Close-up Continued Page 4

Becoming a Brother's Keeper

Walking into Grace House for the first time is always an awkward experience for the guys entering the program. The uncertainty of what to expect, how best to fit in, following rules, and dealing with staff keeps some attempting to isolate in their rooms, some rising to the challenge, and some packing their bags before they're completely unpacked.

But as the resident becomes accustomed to the structure of the house, wonderful things take place. Not the least of which, and the blessing I have the privilege of witnessing, is the miracle-working power of God to transform a life that was seemingly in shambles, into a man fit to be a father, son, friend, employee, and witness for God.

A lot of the life-change that a resident experiences is the restoration of their life outside of Grace House; everything from obtaining a new job, to better family relationships, to obtaining a driver's license, or to completing probation. But, for me at least, one of the greatest blessings is to watch the man who once was ashamed and in isola-

tion take ownership of the program and become an outspoken encourager and accountability partner to those who come behind.

Dr. Doug Daugherty, current Grace House Board President, has sat in and led several of our morning devotions over the past few months. One of the prevalent themes of his message is to challenge the guys to grab hold of the idea that their best opportunity for growth happens when the community works together as a team, encouraging one another, holding one another accountable, praying for one another, laughing with one another, and being a shoulder to cry on. In essence, Dr. Daugherty's challenge is to become what Scripture calls a "Brother's Keeper."

And it is happening! And what a blessing it is (and not just because it makes my job a lot easier) to watch a group of men who once brought others down in the pit with them become involved in the process of lifting them up. And this is my challenge: *the ownership that the guys take not only of a program but of people's lives appropriately models how society, and especially the church, should operate.*

What would happen if the Christians ceased being program-driven and became people-driven – if we starting wholeheartedly investing in the lives of those around us? How different would the world look? How different would the church look? That's just something I'll let you think about.

In being a "program-guy" I understand the importance of the structure, stability, and consistency that a program can offer. But it's the unity and fellowship found within the people that make the



program effective. Being a Brother's Keeper is making a huge difference in the lives of a few men at Grace House, and it can make a huge difference in your life as well.

Invest in people... yield a blessing that words cannot express and you heart cannot contain.

Current Resident Update:

Capacity.....	11
Current Residents*.....	8
# in Phase 1.....	2
# in Phase 2.....	2
# in Phase 3.....	2
Graduates/Staff..	2
Residents Employed Upon Entry...	1
Residents Currently Employed.....	7
Men Served Since Last Newsletter..	8
Known Episodes of Relapse Since Last Newsletter	1
Residents Actively Involved in Faith Community	5
Graduates Since Last Newsletter....	1
Former Residents Continuing to be Actively Involved ...	1

* Number includes Live-In Staff

** Number includes graduates (not Live-In Staff)

HELP WANTED

Do you know of an individual, group or organizations willing to financially sponsor men desiring to enter the Grace House program.

Prior to entry men are required to pay \$200 to cover their first twelve days at GH. Many desire the change and cannot afford the initial payment.

Help us to keep the lights on and to allow an applicant to begin his journey to recovery.

Please call (765) 674-5990

Close-up Continued

“My emotions were on a roller coaster. They were really taking a toll on my family and me. I was 5’10” and weighed 130 pounds. I was literally skin and bones. I was lucky to get a couple of hours of sleep a night. I felt empty and guilty for not letting God into my life. When I came to Grace House I was more than ready to let God have control of my life. I am just lucky that it wasn’t too late.”

What were you searching for in your life that brought you to Grace House?

“A clean environment with accountability. A new way of living. A new

way of thinking. How to become a Christian and live a Christian life.”

What most surprised you about Grace House?

“I felt like nobody could possibly know what I was going through, but instead I found that we could relate to each other.”

Other than abstaining from drugs and alcohol use what was the hardest requirement for you upon entering Grace House?

“Not living with my family and accepting God’s will in my life.”

Please share what you found Grace House to be and how your time there has impacted your life.

“ Grace House is a really good environment for anyone who really wants to change their life. Grace House has helped me in so many ways to stay sober and drug free. Grace House has also helped me to learn how to live again. Most importantly Grace House has helped me in so many ways in getting my life straightened out with God.”

AA Big Book Meeting at Grace House

“*Giving Back*” is an important part of the recovery process. It is with this important step in mind that the Grace House Board of Directors, staff and residents have opened the doors of our beautiful home to those in the recovery community. The first few meetings have demonstrated a good community response.

If you or someone you know is seeking positive change in their life feel free to attend.

NEW 12-Step Meeting

Big Book Discussion ~ Open Meeting ~ Non-Smoking

Hosted By: **Grace House for Recovery**

Every Thursday @ 7:00 p.m.

2219 S. Washington St. Marion, IN 46953

Immediate Needs

**Bedding: Sheets (long twin), blankets, pillows, bath towels, wash cloths, two+ drawer filing cabinet.
Garden tools: shovel, rakes, weed eater**

VISIT OUR WEB SITE

www.gracehouse-marion.org

Please remember Grace House in your thoughts and prayers. Victories do not come without a battle. It is through your faithful gifts and prayers that lives are truly being “transformed by the renewing of their minds.” If you would like to have the ministry efforts of Grace House presented to your group or organization please contact us.

Grace House for Recovery

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SUPPORT

