



# Transitions

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

## Your Giving at Work

You continue to make a difference in the lives of many through your prayers and generous financial support of Grace House.

The Bible tells us that we shall be known by the fruit we produce. Together we have planted, watered and harvested a great crop.

Lives are indeed being transformed by the "renewing of their minds. Please continue to do your part.

Since May 2005;

Intakes=	57
Known Relapses=	31 or 56%
Clean & Sober=	22 or 39%
Unknown=	4

Just in 2007;

Intakes=	25
Known Relapses=	11 or 44%
Clean & Sober=	13 or 52%

### From the Director's Desk

Richard Sempel, Executive Director

#### The Transformational Process

One of the first steps a man must go through before being accepted into Grace House is to sit down with Senior Staff and share why he feels that coming to Grace House would benefit him. The majority of the applicants tell us the same things. They are sick of their current lifestyle. They are tired of hurting others, and they are at the end of their rope. Sometimes they even say, "I know I'm going to die if I keep it up." Sounds like a perfect fit, right? What this actually tells us is that these men are aware that a change "must" take place. However, it does not mean that they are willing to submit to the process to bring about that change.

There are things in each of our lives we know need to change. It may be a habit, a bad attitude, resentments, prejudices. Maybe we are overly judgmental, or always



"Anything we put before our relationship with God ...is a distraction"

negative. The list can go on and on. The bottom line is we "know" we need to change. But the question remains, are we willing to submit to the process to bring about that change? We are encouraged in Luke 14:28 to "count the cost".

This is one of the points in the transformational process that we must take an action in order to proceed. God's Word is full of blessed

promises that are predicated upon our obedience. "Seek, and ye shall find" (Matt 7:7; Luke 11:9) are great examples. We have to take the initial action in order to receive the gift. This is precisely where we are leading the potential resident to take us. To the place where they say they are willing to do "whatever it takes" to experience positive change in their lives. We write it down, and hold them to it. This eliminates any future discussions laced with

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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.

excuses. All we need to do is remind them of what they initially said they were willing to do to reach their goal... "whatever it takes"...

We all have what I will refer to as "stuff" that we fill our lives with. At Grace House we see lives being filled with drugs, alcohol and many other addictions. There is a deep seated need in each of us for a relationship with our creator, but it comes with a price. That price starts with the actions of us "setting aside those things that so easily beset us" (Hebrews 12:1). It's easy for us to identify addictions as the culprit but sometimes the distracting "stuff" can be disguised as something good. Now I know that I'm going to hear a squeal or two but... Anything we put before our relationship with God, no matter how it is wrapped or dressed, is a distraction from the primary pur-

pose of our very existence, our relationship with God.

There are many wonderful people, busy with many wonderful things that never grow in their relationship with God. That's what the transformational process is all about. It's about restoring or developing an individual's personal relationship with their creator. When we are at peace with the highest of all relationships we are then able to develop a relationship with others. With pleasing God as our primary focus we are then able to proceed with living a transformed life. A new life of loving others and of making right choices. As long as our goal is to please ourselves (the flesh) our choice will remain to be selfish and self-serving. There is a way that seems right unto a man the end of which is death and destruction. Sometimes we are not willing to pay the price.

You see, what happens at Grace House is more that what takes place within its walls. The transformations taking place reach into the lives of friends, families, volunteers, students, staff, supporters, the community, the nation, the world and heaven itself. The impact of one changed life cannot be measured. The restoration of one struggling soul with their creator cannot be fully explained in earthly terms. The effect that this transformation will have on others cannot be anticipated. The empowering of those who hear of this transformation to have the courage to seek personal change, cannot be measured. All of this started out with just one person seeking to fill the void in their life with a closer relationship with their Creator.

Together we can change the world, one soul at a time. For whom the Son has set free, is free indeed (John 8:38).

## Close-up

of Program Graduate Jody Sample

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

The following is taken from an interview conducted with Grace House Graduate and current Live-in Staff Jody Sample.

**How did you first hear about Grace House?**

"I was referred by Ed McElwain at Milestone Services."

**When did you become a resident of Grace House?**

"I came to Grace House twice, the first time was July 30, 2006 to November 14, 2006. After a brief relapse I returned on April 2, 2007 and Graduated on October 12, 2007."

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

"Just that it was a Christian Recovery Home."

**Were you aware of Grace House being "Faith Based", and how did that effect**



**your decision to seek residency?**

"Yes, but it didn't really matter. At the time all I knew was that I was really messed up and that I needed help."

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### VISIT OUR WEB SITE

Information on Grace House, Prayer Needs, Online Copy of Newsletters,  
Forward it to a Friend, Donate through Pay Pal

[www.gracehouse-marion.org](http://www.gracehouse-marion.org)

# Resident Update

Tyler Hoyt, Program Director

## In My Experience

It's hard to believe that it's been 2 1/2 years that I have served at Grace House. What a blessings!

In August 2005 I was approached by Board President, Doug Daugherty, about an opportunity to serve in a faith-based half-way house in Marion. I found it quite amusing that God had presented me with an opportunity to serve in a capacity in which I had very limited knowledge and experience.

When I first walked through the door of the 4404 S. Adams St. address (the original home of Grace House), I was immediately greeted with sarcastic comments from several of the younger residents. It was a challenge. It was an adjustment. It was uncomfortable. It was a gift from God.

A gift from God? Yes... a gift. God has a way of putting us in places and in the presence of people where we learn to lean on Him and watch Him work through us to accomplish His will in others.

Initially, my job description sat me behind a desk focusing mainly on developing a program "on paper". This was essential to creating a viable and legitimate ministry, but for me Grace House did not start to take form until I stepped out from behind the desk and started

interacting with residents in a real and meaningful way.

Following the leadership of Richard Sempel (current Executive Director), I have learned that encouraging change in the lives of others is not something that takes place behind a desk; rather, through loving and intentional interaction with people.

Sometimes it is confrontational interaction. Sometimes it is counseling interaction. Sometimes it is saying the hard things in order to encourage ac-

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countability. Sometimes it is friendly conversation bathed in laughter. But it is always in love.

But it's not just between staff and residents. One of the most encouraging changes, other than just the beautiful facility (2219 S. Washington St.) has been the new level of community that has been built within the resident family. Even residents who have graduated the program or moved on for other reasons remain a close part of the Grace House family.

For example, over the past few weeks one of our graduates has encountered trials that have tested his faith. He has leaned heavily on the support of the



residents and staff of Grace House for encouragement and prayer as he struggles through his valley experiences.

Another former resident continues to attend most of the morning devotions before starting his daily tasks.

It is hard to come into Grace House and not see that this is a family of guys who genuinely care about one another and do all they can to facilitate life transformation in each other.

I would encourage you to set up a time to stop by Grace House in the near future, especially during morning devotions. I'm sure it will be as much a blessing to you as it has been for me.

## Current Resident Update: □

<b>Capacity</b>	<b>11</b>
Current Residents*	<b>11</b>
Residents in Phase 1	<b>5</b>
Residents in Phase 2	<b>2</b>
Residents in Phase 3	<b>1</b>
Graduates/Staff*	<b>3</b>
Residents Employed Upon Entry**	<b>1</b>
Residents Currently Employed**	<b>9</b>
Men Served Since Last Newsletter	<b>9</b>
Episodes of Relapse Since Last Newsletter	<b>0</b>
Residents Actively Involved in Faith-Community*	<b>10</b>
Graduates Since Last Newsletter	<b>1</b>
Former Residents Continuing To Be Actively Involved	<b>3</b>

\*Number includes live-in staff

\*\*Number includes graduates (Not Live-In Staff)

## These are the Staff and Volunteers that helped to make Grace House a success in 2007;

Richard Sempel, Tyler Hoyt, Fred Delgado, Nick Strong, Andrew Leitzel, Jake Morganson, Ryan Tarrow, Steve Grant, Jody Sample, Ginger Kreitl, Kory Hollensteiner, Luke Metz, Melanie Miller, Casie Redman, Trent Sorenson, YOU

## ARE YOU A VISIONARY WITH THE ABILITY TO ORGANIZE?

We would love to hear your ideas for providing others with the opportunity to help meet the needs of this important life changing ministry.

Please call (765) 674-5990

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

“Awful.”

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

“First sobriety, then peace and God.”

**What most surprised you about Grace House?**

“I was amazed by the compassion and caring I received from everyone.”

**Other than abstaining from drugs and alcohol use what**

**was the hardest requirement for you upon entering Grace House?**

“Looking at myself and what I had become.”

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

“I had always been told that God answers prayers and that everything happens for a reason. I really didn’t believe that ten months ago. Today however I do.”

“If it had not been for the unconditional love, prayers and teaching of God’s Grace that I have received while going through the program at Grace House I honestly do not think

that I would be alive today. With the feeling of peace I have found, I wake up everyday thanking God for Grace House and the teaching of Richard and Tyler. I thank God for the guys that have come through the House and the one’s that are here now. They give me hope and each one gives me the strength I need to make it through another day.

I truly Thank God for this place. I graduated the program in October of 2007. I feel that God has a plan for me and I have chosen to remain at Grace House and try to give back what was so freely given to me.

I consider Grace House as a gift from God. Remember it is said that “everything happens for a reason, and God does answer prayers.”

## A “Thank You” from the rest of us at Grace House...



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.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SUPPORT**

**Grace House for Recovery**

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