



Transitions

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

Rejoicing Amidst a Loss

It was after ten on a Saturday night when I was awakened by the sound of my cell phone. I knew from the ringtone that it was a call from Grace House. Needless to say, my wheels were spinning. It was the night staff at Grace House calling to let me know that a past resident, Jake, only 29 years old, had unexpectedly passed away.

Jake had spent almost three months at Grace House dealing with "his issues." He was a friendly loveable guy who loved to laugh, even at himself. He realized his strengths and shortcomings and desired to get his life on track. He was able to get a job for awhile before "cut backs" led to his being laid off. Jake was hungry for the tools that would help him succeed and with encouragement was learning to use them.

Success in recovery is not simply learning to abstain from those people places and things that we are addicted to. It is a refocusing of the priorities of lives and along the way becoming an example of the transforming power in your life. Jake had begun that journey and even when the road got bumpy he demonstrated a desire to share the gift which he had received.

Jake left Grace House to care for his ailing mother. He was attending church, staying clean and sober,

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From the Director's Desk

Richard Sempel, Executive Director

Count the Cost

A wise financial investor looking to invest in a business will take a close look at the financial statement for that business to see what the potential return on his investment might be. Those numbers will either make the deal or send the potential investor running.

As logical as this may sound how do we equate this process to human lives, to families, or to community impact? What is the return rate on a dollar invested to save a life? What if it costs five dollars? How about a hundred or even a thousand dollars?

What is the cost of training a Police Officer, a Firefighter or a Doctor? How

do the ones that either do not successfully complete the training or drop out in the midst of it impact the overall cost of training the ones that succeed? What about those that get the head knowledge and continue in that career

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despite the fact that they do not have a heart for it? How do we measure the profit or loss of that investment?

Here is our situation. In 2009, Grace House served 26 men. Some of these men came to Grace House as referrals with sponsorships which would financially cover their first month of

their enrollment. We realize the struggles that exist for many of these men to obtain gainful employment in the current economy and ask them to apply only a portion of their take home pay towards their monthly Grace House financial obligation. We do not feel that "rolling over" any unpaid balance onto their next month's bill would be beneficial for them getting back on their feet. As long as a man is making a sincere effort to meet his obligations and doing all of his programming requirements, we forgive any unpaid balance at the end of the month. This allows a resident to begin each month without

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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.

acrued program debt. That is why it is referred to as ministry.

In 2009 our potential income from residents for housing and program fees was \$25,537.50 of which we were able to collect \$11,076.18. This left us with a "forgiven" amount of \$14,464.32. Add to this that of those 26 men, 14 remain clean and sober contributors to their community today. Of course there are those that have not made that adjustment, some of whom may well return to Grace House for another attempt at getting their life together.

Now back to that investor. They are told that historically the enrollees in the program will only be able to pay about 43% of their rent and program fees and that means that the other 57% will probably never be seen. They are told that some will never finish the program, some will finish and choose not to change, and a few, still a slight majority of the participants, will accomplish the goal set before them.

I am reminded of a story I read where a shepherd had 100 sheep and one had wandered off. He left the 99 and went searching for the one that was lost. He did not know where the search would take him or how long it would take. He had to count the cost. He was entrusted with the well being of all 100 sheep. They were all equal in his site. He had no option; he had to go after it.

He eventually located the wandering lamb, hoisted it on his shoulders and carried it back, placing it with the others. Were the risks worth the risk? There are pros and cons all the Monday morning quarterbacks can haggle over for weeks.

But the shepherd did not write the stupid lamb off. He understood the potential value of this little lamb. Maybe this lamb would grow to be a

parent. Could it be that it was destined to be a leader in the herd that would be able to keep others from wandering off and making the same mistakes he had. How much wiser would his experience make him. How would it affect his ability to positively influence others? What is the value of his experience?

But what if the shepherd would have

... men whose priorities have changed from the selfishness of addiction, to the giving of themselves .

said, "It's just one stupid sheep, I have 99 others. This one is not worth the effort, it's wandered off before." The shepherd could, of course rationalize not leaving the others to go after just one. But, what he did do was he counted the cost and took action to bring home the lost one.

Remember that investor? They now know the reality of ongoing operational expenses, tight budgets, wise spending, struggling economies, and income deficits. They balance that against the need to restore men as clean sober fathers and family leaders. They see men whose priorities have changed from the selfishness of addiction, to the giving of themselves for the betterment of all those around them. These are men who have shifted from being a burden on

INVEST IN A LIFE

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

How about sponsoring a bed for a week, a month or even a year.

(Call for details)

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

society to a positive contributor in their communities.

Maybe the logical financier would balk at investing in a cause that showed such marginal potential for financial success. But someone realizing the immeasurable value of "just one's success" would not be daunted by investing in lives. There is no way to put a price on this change.

Throughout history millions of dollars and lives have been invested in freedom. Though we may initially twitch at the figures we realize that the price paid was well worth the investment. You see that's the foundation of faith, someone willing to give that which is precious to them in order to change the lives of many. What are you willing to do? Count the cost.

Van-tastic

Opportunity Knocking...

One of the important services that is provided at Grace House is transportation for the residents to meetings, court, shopping, job searches and work. Our van is approaching 235,000 miles and ready for retirement. Do you have a 7 passenger van that you are ready to pass on to a needy cause?

Remember Grace House is a

501 (c) (3) not-for-profit

organization and your donations may be tax deductible.

Please consult your tax advisor.

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

Everyone comes with pre-conceived 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 Resident Michael Rahschulte:

How did you first hear about Grace House?

“From Community Corrections.”

When did you become a resident of Grace House?

“November 5, 2009.”

How many times have you enrolled at Grace House?

“This is my first time.”

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

“That this was a structured program and that it provided care and discipline in maintaining a clean and sober life.”

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

“This is one of the main reasons why I am even here. I heard that it

was “faith based” and knew that there was a no fail structure.”

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

“Initially I figured that it was going to be like I was locked up. But it was the opposite. You have the freedom to choose combined with structure and full accountability.”

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

“My well being was not well at all. I was working on my mental structure as well as physical when I arrived. But my spiritual condition was far from healthy. Thanks to the Grace House Team, mainly Richard, I have grown more in 3 months that I have in 10 years.”

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

“Structure. I was needing to find strong guidance. Have I found it? Beyond description, but I still have a long way to go.”

What most surprised you about Grace House?

“The beauty of the house. It’s comfortable and warm. If you don’t feel



at home here, then you’re fighting it.”

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

“The hardest part was not being able to stay at my parents house and helping them. But by coming here I am now stronger and better able to lend a helping hand.”

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

“What I found it to be is that being judgmental is like giving up. My stay at the Grace House has been a blessing and a strong influence on me. Now I have the knowledge to live a clean and sober life and having the Lord Jesus Christ in my life fully gives me all the strength that I need.

Thanks to Richard Sempel who has given me this influence. There is no Grace or House without him.”

“Saving Grace” 12-Step Meeting
 Big Book Discussion ~ Open Meeting ~ Non-Smoking
 Hosted By: **Grace House for Recovery**
Every Thursday @ 7:00 p.m.

“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.

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

VISIT OUR WEB SITE
www.gracehouse-marion.org

Rejoicing Amidst a Loss Continued:

attending meetings and even stopping by Grace House often to visit with his friends. Then an unnoticed medical condition took his life.

The residents and staff sat around in a circle at Grace House “remembering” Jake. We discussed the brevity of this life and the impact Jake had on ours. We all attended the viewing at the mortuary and were able to tell his family of the blessing it had been for us to have Jake in our lives and how he will be dearly missed.

But all was not lost on that Saturday Jake passed from this life. Jake had made an impression on us all. Watching him walk his rough road encouraged each of us in our journey. He came to know that his life was not just about him, but how our adventures impact the lives of others. We will miss our friend Jake, but we can rejoice in knowing that it is only for a season.



**Christmas 2009
Grace House for Recovery**

they made up for in providing a priceless gift for their loved ones. The gift of positive change.

Many cannot remember a clean and sober Holiday. For some, because of frequent jail or prison visits, it had been years since they had been around for the holidays.

To someone who really cares about them for you there is no better gift they can give than to be living a life that is not built upon lies, deception, substance abuse and crime.

It is not about the material things they can give. It is about being a living testimony of the positive changes taking place in their life.

That’s a gift that will outlast them all.

Resident Update

Tis the Season

With mixed emotions the men at Grace House approach the Holiday Season. Some are excited, some fearful. Some looked forward to the time they will spend with friends and family, some without either.

Men who at times grew frustrated over their lack of employment shared about their children and loved ones and how they wished they could afford to give them more.

But what they lacked in material things

Current Resident Status:

- Capacity.....10
- Current Residents 8
- Number in Phase 1.... 1
- Number in Phase 2..... 3
- Number in Phase 3..... 1
- Graduates 2
- Residents Employed Upon Entry... 0
- Residents Currently Employed..... 1
- Men Served Since Last Newsletter.. 11
- Known Relapse Since Last Newsletter .. 3
- Graduates Since Last Newsletter... 1
- Former Residents Continuing to be Actively Involved ... 3

Immediate Needs

Liquid laundry detergent , bath & kitchen towels, wash cloths. coffee, new pillows.

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

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