



# Transitions

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

## Graduation Celebration

The Courtroom was packed as participants, friends and family gathered for the Graduation and Certificate presentation. Yes it was graduation day at Drug Court. Judge Conn would share a bit of history for each of the five being honored that day. Some had shown great and rapid progress through the program, accomplishing the task in just 1 year. Some were reported to have struggled along the way.

The final Graduate was a man named Dale. Judge Conn said that she had left him until last because he had taken the longest to complete the process. She spoke of how Dale had come into Drug Court two years ago. She spoke of his struggles and how he ended up doing a few months in jail because of his drinking prob-



lem. Then she said that when he was released from jail Dale was fortunate to find a place called

Continued on Page 3, "Graduation"

### From the Director's Desk

Richard Sempel, Executive Director

#### Someone was Watching

It was a beautiful, unseasonably warm morning as three of the residents were sitting on the front porch of Grace House sharing their thoughts with one another. A pattern had developed over the past few months where before heading off for work or appointments they would take a few moments to sit and enjoy the fellowship with each other. These are men on a journey towards a common goal, another day being clean and sober. For some of them it has been but a few weeks since they had started the journey, for others months.

This time of sharing is an important part of the transformational process. The Bible tells

us that "those who have received the gift are to share it." (It is sometimes described as "Iron sharpening iron".) There is nothing easy about the sharpening process. There has to be the grinding away of the sometimes rusty surface.

This morning respite had become a daily event. The participants rotating as their schedules would allow. It didn't matter which residents gathered they all rejoiced in the reality of change in their lives. Men spoke of looking forward to getting up in the morning, of the beauty of their surroundings, of the blessing of the increasing awareness and clarity of life they are experiencing, many for the first time in their lives. Gaining strength from one another to face the day

ahead. They all know that the journey consists of, one day at a time. This seemed like just another day on the road to a new life, but God was about to bless these travelers.

Let's step back for a moment and look at the life of someone dealing with chemical dependency. The media likes to personify the "happy drunk" or the "giggling pot smoker," laughing, joking, acting silly. In reality those brief moments of chemical induced false joy are followed by hours, days and weeks of despair, loneliness and wonderings. Wondering if this cycle of self-destruction will ever end. Wondering if maybe this time you may have taken a little too much,

Director's Desk Continued Next Page

#### Inside this issue:

Graduation Celebration	1,3
From the Executive Directors Desk	1,2
Resident Update	3
Business News	4
Volunteer Report	4

#### 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.

## Director's Desk Continued

gone a little too deep into your escape zone. Closing your eyes and wondering if tomorrow will ever come, and if it does will you be there to see it. As dramatic as this may seem I speak from personal experience and assure you that it is real. The selfishness of addictions is rarely seen by the addicted. Saying that

“step back for a moment and look at the life of someone dealing with chemical dependency..”

you don't care what others think. Wanting to be noticed and at the same time not wanting to be truly seen. Someone is watching!

Back to the porch. Time had passed quickly and the men were getting ready to head off into their busy days when all of the sudden a neighbor came up the walkway towards the men. She was not a stranger to the men. She had exchanged greetings and conversation with a few of them before. She had actually gone to school with two of the men and had known them for years. Her friendly greeting was not unfamiliar to these old acquaintances, but what would follow was. She spoke of how she had watched as Grace House was being built. She expressed how surprised she was to see these two people from her past residing there. She had seen the newspaper articles about the new “recovery home” and watched to see how these two men in particular fit into the picture. You see she also knew these men when they were at their worst. She knew them from their old drug and alcohol days. The blessing came when she stated the reason for her morning visit. She told them how she had known them for a long time and how over the past few months she has seen a dramatic change in them. A change that gave her hope in her own life and for the lives of those precious to

her. All the men could say in return is, “It's all God.” Someone was watching!

Your life can be falling apart. You can even be questioning the value of your own existence. No matter where you are in life, someone is watching. For those who take the step towards recovery and positive change in their lives there are two groups watching them. One prays that they will succeed. Another group hoping that they will fail. You see many of those that are caught up in the same destructive lifestyle need others to fail. That failure is just another example that victory cannot be won and that it's not worth even trying to obtain. A failure is another excuse for some not to try. But to the person willing to step out in faith on that journey every day, every hour, every minute of that journey is a step towards victory. Someone was watching!

I recall reading about a blind man that was healed and how he was brought before the religious leaders in the community to explain this professed healing. His explanation was simple. “This man came along and prayed for me and then I could see.” These kinds of things had been reported to be going on throughout the land and the leaders neither being able to explain or take credit for the miracles had ordered that anyone professing such foolishness would be kicked out of the church. The leaders were very upset over the healed man's “matter of fact” answer so they called for his parents to be brought before them. The parents, knowing the proclamation, fearfully told the leaders what they felt was safe for them to say. “He's our son who was born blind and now says he can see! Why don't you ask him?” The leaders then called for the now healed blind man to explain and he said, “I already told you and nothing has changed. You refused to believe me then, and you don't want to believe me now.” The unexplainable issue was closed.

The leaders had their reasons not to admit the report was true. The man's parents had their reasons for not getting drawn in to the volatile situation. They could all reject the event, ignore the reality. But the man who had experienced it knew it was real. It was his testimony and nothing or no one could take that from him.

It is the same in all of our lives. We know what God has done and no one can take that from us. Men in this transformation process have experienced many milestones through the adventure. All of those milestones are real, they are personal experiences. Others may not believe them. Even if they are witnesses to the miracle they may choose to reject the event and even speak negatively of the experience. All of this happened to the blind man. But no matter what anyone said, no matter what they threatened they could not get the blind man to reject

“No matter where you are at in life, someone is watching...”

the working of God in his life. It was his experience, his testimony and no one could take that from him. He knew that he once was blind, but now he could see. And the deeper reality was that “someone was watching.”

It is the same with the men at Grace House. People may doubt, some may scorn, but there are those that are watching the transformations taking place and saying the changes are real, the reports of miracles taking place are true. The man once blind can now see. It is not a rarity but a common occurrence in the lives of men seeking that positive change in their lives at Grace House. And it is because of faithful people willing to give of their prayers, resources and finances that it all takes place. Without those precious gifts there would not be the environment that Grace House is able to provide. A place where hope lives and where everyone realizes that “someone is watching.”

## WEB SITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

A special **THANKS** to Pamela Thompson of “Working Creations by Pamela”

For providing Grace House with a very special Web Page

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

## “Graduation” Continued

Grace House. Judge Conn attributed Dale’s success in large part to the support and accountability he experienced at Grace House.

Dale, by nature a shy man, reached out to receive his certificate and was asked if he wanted to share a few words. Like a proud parent sitting in the crowd were his AA Sponsor, Don, along with Tyler Hoyt and Richard Sempel from Grace House. Dale started off by saying that none of his relatives could be there today and introduced his cheering section as “his family.”

Dale spent several months at Grace House and had graduated their program. He had remained at the house for a few months as he prepared to move out on

Dale was able to face his giants

his own. He had just recently made that move into his own apartment. He has held a steady job for several months and continues to get stronger and stronger in his recovery. He serves as a mentor and giver of hope to not only those at Grace House but to his family and all who know him. We at Grace House have witnessed the changes in Dale for which we give all the glory to God.

Dale attributes Grace House and the unconditional love he felt there as literally saving his life.

What if Grace House would have not have been there? Maybe Dale would have done just as well on his own. But, you can’t convince Dale or any of us who were blessed to be part of his transitional process that Grace House was not the crowning jewel in his victory.

Thanks to you who faithfully gave Dale was able to face his giants. Thanks to Dale, we are able to say all the battles along the way were a small price to pay to be part of his life. Thank you Dale for allowing us to be a part of your journey.

## Resident Update

### Tyler Hoyt, Program Director

Life at Grace House is never without its adventures; but by God’s grace we press on!

Two months ago, we didn’t know whether or not Grace House would continue operations as normal. At the time we had a solid group of 4 residents and limited staff coverage. Largely due to the informative newspaper articles in the *Chronicle Tribune*, a new’s spot on Ball State’s *Indiana News Link*, the generous support of *Pizza Hut* in Gas City fundraisers, and our valued supporting churches and individuals, our commitment to press on through adversities has

paid dividends.

Through the patience of the 4 Grace House resident, committed staff, and wise counsel of the Board of Directors, God has seen us through or most trying time to date!

The house is nearing capacity once again, with 7 residents and 2 live-in staff members. Two of our senior residents have graduated the program, one of whom also successfully complete his requirements in Drug Court and has transitioned out of Grace House into his own apartment here in Marion. He frequently stops by the house to see how things are going and to offer encouragement to those who are following behind him.

The other recent graduate remains at Grace House, offering his support, encouragement, and accountability to those who are newer to the program. He was also the front-runner in organizing the **Pizza Hut** fundraiser with the help of the management at the Gas City Pizza Hut restaurant.

Thanks to both of these valued men!



As the Program Coordinator, I would also like to offer a public thanks to the staff of Grace House (especially to Richard Sempel), and the Board of Directors (lead by Dr. Doug Daugherty), for their valued leadership, perseverance, and commitment to following God’s will for Grace House.

Although our yesterdays have been trying, together with you we are trusting the adventures of tomorrow in the hands our Almighty God!

Blessings!



**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**

---

## Business Update

---

Having survived the recent financial crunch Grace House continues on a month to month basis to keep the doors open.

In addition to the response of the recent publicity there have been many inquiries from people feeling led to step into board member positions.

The Board of Directors currently consists of;

Dr. Doug Daugherty, President

Paul Kuczora, Vice President

Dr . Katti Sneed  
Reginald Lipscomb

Donald Osborn

Vincent Smith

Brenda Morehead, Secretary

The new additions are;

Ben Medows

Bill Morrison

David Payne

Molly Jones

Megan Gilmore, IWU Graduate Student Representative

We are grateful for all of these men and women who have “caught the vision” of Grace House and volunteered their time, energy and expertise so that through them God can make Grace House even more effective in serving the residents, families and the community.

Shortly after “signing on” to the board Ben Medows suffered a fall and is currently at home recuperating from his injuries. Please remember him in your prayers.

---

## Volunteer Report

---

### People giving of themselves . . .

It never ceases to amaze me how God provides for the need: not necessarily in our time or in our ways... but it is always perfect.

Not only has God provided us with the financial resources to continue our faith-based operation but He has also blessed us with numerous volunteers. Largely Indiana Wesleyan University students. These volunteers help Grace House by covering staffing hours, supervise in-house resident meetings, sharing a devotional thought in the morning meditation, offering clerical support with the mountains of paperwork and data entry, provide transportation of residents to meetings and appointments, among many other valuable services.

“ they came to bless and ended up with a blessing”....

We have also had the blessings of having Dr. Barb Matchett join us in the

morning meditation and share what God had placed on her heart for the men that day.

What a blessing!

If you speak with any of the “givers” I am sure that you will hear how they came to bless and ended up with a blessing.

The opportunities are only limited by your imagination. Grace House needs a few people to come up with fundraising ideas and then convert those ideas into reality. Everything from bake sales, canned food drives, auctions or maybe standing at an intersection with a bucket giving people the opportunity to contribute to Grace House.

How about you or your group becoming part of this life changing ministry known as Grace House?

If you would like to get involved in Grace House in any of the above-

mentioned areas, or if you have a suggestion as to how you might be able to be the hands and feet of Christ working through Grace House in our community, please call Tyler Hoyt or Richard Sempel at 765-674-5990; or email us at:

[gracehousefr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gracehousefr@sbcglobal.net).



---

**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**

**P.O. Box 284**

**Marion, IN 46952**

**(765) 674-5990**

[gracehousefr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gracehousefr@sbcglobal.net).