



Transitions

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

A Special "Thank You"

We never cease to be amazed by the timely giving of the supporters of Grace House. The needs are many and we find that as we express those needs, prayerfully believing that they will be met, God is always faithful to direct someone to fulfill the need.

Operating expenses are a constant and the recent need for a storage shed for our bikes and lawn equipment was made known and met.

In addition planting beds have been constructed and flowers planted. Watch the colorful transformation over the next few weeks.

Thanks to :

Harvey Barnes and the folks at Round Robin for awarding Grace House a \$5000 operating grant.

Mike & Stacey Brazel for their \$800 donation for our storage shed.

Home Depot, Marion, especially Christie in HR and Shawn at the Pro Desk for putting a great deal together for the shed project

Those who donated their finances, time and energies to transform a stack of materials and plants into an awesome shed and gorgeous landscaping.

From the Director's Desk

Richard Sempel, Executive Director

Having spent the last 25+ years ministering in Jails, Prisons, Nursing Homes, Missions and Recovery Facilities I have shed tears over both the victories and the losses of many, including my own. Recently I was reminded of a question I have often heard, "In the midst of it all how do you keep your sense of humor?" My immediate reply is, "By the Grace of God!"

I look at the life of the Apostle Paul and how he went through so much yet never lost sight of his calling and the prize. This is a tough pattern to follow in the midst of all of the adventures along the way.

Paul reminded us that God is no respecter of persons and what He did for one He will do for all. If I didn't believe this and that it is God's will to bring people into a right relationship with Him then my calling would be but prideful vanity. I can change no man. I can only provide him with the tools he needs to succeed and introduce him to the One that can bring about that change.

Dealing with addictions is a face to face battle with the sin of selfish pride. People who have chosen to satisfy their own sinful lusts and calloused to the affect their choices have on others, themselves and most im-



portantly their relationship with God. They develop a pattern in their lives to deal with stress, discomfort and the depression that follows. The escape they seek from the pain becomes only a mask for a deeper need, a right relationship with their Creator.

Too many times I have watched people start to get their life on track and then self-destruct. They go

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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.

through a time of being clean and sober. They get a job, re-unite with family or loved ones. They seem to be going in the right direction... then the cycle begins.

First comes fear. The fear of messing it all up and ending up right back where they started. The fear of losing their job, destroying (again) the relationships they have rebuilt. The fear of once again being the failure they have in the past shown themselves to be.

This is the pivotal point of their lives. Faced with the stresses associated with this hovering failure they must decide which path to take. Revert to the old destructive coping mechanisms in an attempt to put a band-aid on the problem or

face the storm and press on. Some choose to just jump back into their old destructive lifestyles and avoid what they feel is the inevitable crash ahead. But some choose to take the tools they have been given, realize and tap into the supportive network God has given them and face the enemy head on. The pain is real, the battle is real and the victory is sweet.

Realizing that there are people that truly care, a God that will strengthen them and a purpose for their lives gives them the strength to change. That's the secret to attaining that positive change we are all seeking.

We all have issues in our lives that we know we need to change. Lots of energy is expended on identifying sin and warning of the conse-

quences of sinful choices. Just as with the Jewish people trudging through the wilderness for forty years we can be overwhelmed with the list of "do not's" when what we really need to be focusing on is our personal relationship with our Creator and a desire to make that relationship right. When our eyes are fixed on Him the rest will lose it's power.

The Psalmist David wrote, "Yea though I walk through the valley of death..." He did not say that there was no longer a valley to walk through. He did say that he didn't have to go through it alone. After all these years I've learned that success comes as we shift our focus from pleasing ourselves to pleasing Him. How do I keep my sense of humor? By remembering who is in control.

Close-up

Grace House as seen through the eyes of Indiana Wesleyan University Student , Katie Johnson

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.

Residents claim the Grace House is turning their lives upside-down.

Recovery Home gives addicts a second chance.

Men who were once labeled drug abusers, alcoholics, homeless, and prisoners are becoming chefs, electricians, faithful fathers, friends, teachers, and change-agents of society. One resident expressed his dream of starting a transitional house similar to the Grace House to help other men change their lives like he has changed his. An-

other resident is working to restore relationships with his children, and one man wants to start an outreach program to spread the love he has found at the Grace House. What happens at this Recovery Home to bring such incredible transformation?

Upon entering the Grace House for Recovery, one might expect to find negativity or conflict from many ex-criminals and drug abusers living together under one roof. On the contrary, when one enters into the Recovery Home, he/she will likely enter an atmosphere of laughter and encouragement. The men *want* to be there.

"I came straight from prison, and when I walked in the door I felt at home. That is when I decided to stay," commented one resident.

The staff members set the tone of the Grace House. One resident explained, "They are open and will-

ing to talk about anything. They want us to get better."

A different house member described the staff as "kind, loving, and always willing to help. When I came they did not even know me, but they accepted me." And according to another resident, "They don't make any money here. They want to help."

The residents are eyewitnesses to the staff's sacrifices for men living at the Grace House. Consequently, they understand the necessity of sacrifice for a transformed life. The residents and staff make daily sacrifices of family, friends, and comfort in order to live in the Recovery Home. One resident believed the hardest part of life at the Grace House was being away from his wife and children. Almost every resident said he

The Season's Change

For some reason, I have been more in tune with the changes that have taken place with the arrival of Spring this year. Maybe it's just because winter felt like it went on for an eternity, or perhaps I'm just happy to finally come out of my seasonal depression. Whatever the case, it is so good to see the trees budding, flowers blooming, lawn growing (even though that means I have to mow), and people smiling in the sunshine. It's all very refreshing to me.

It's all very illustrative of the changes that are taking place in the lives of those who enter Grace House. Though certainly not for everyone, many men who walk through the doors of Grace House do so with the clouds of winter hanging over their heads. On the horizon of their lives, everything looks cold and dead. The trees that once blossomed with leaves providing shade from the hot sun are now bare and lifeless providing no protection from the chilling winds that howl across the land. The flowers that bloomed bright with color now lay dead on the ground.

In a very real way, the guys who walk through the doors of Grace House are like that. The seasons of addictions have wreaked havoc on their families, friendships, and jobs... they are the walking dead. But you know, we were all like that

ARE YOU A VISIONARY WITH THE ABILITY TO ORGANIZE?

We would love to hear your ideas to help meet the needs of this ministry.

Please call (765) 674-5990

at one time or another. It may not have been the result of chemical addictions, but we've all been through experiences where we made weak attempts to struggle through life on our own and ended up feeling lifeless and without hope. So maybe each of us can sympathize with where these men are when they come to Grace House for help.

The blessing, however, is that we didn't have to stay there. When our graves were dug, whether by our own hands or with the help of life circumstances and happenstance, God threw us a rope... a lifeline strong enough to pull us out of the darkness of death and into His wonderful light!

And that's exactly what Grace House has been offering each man that enters the program. We are allowing God to use us as the rope that is lowered into the pit of death that the guys find themselves in and be the tool that is used to pull them up to where they were created to live.

It is my great blessing to share with you that God is still working. He's still reaching. He's still saving. Men who were once shackled with addictions and other worldly weights are being challenged to throw off those things that slow them down and trip them up. The men of Grace House are being encouraged as they run the race with perseverance until they have received the prize that awaits the faithful and the faith-filled.

Since the last newsletter, we have had two men successfully transition out of program and into posi-



tive living environments of their own, equipped with positive support systems, secure jobs, healthy family relationships, and most importantly, the power of God working in their lives. Praise God!

For those who remain in the program, new life is being witnessed every day, testifying that for every winter season that we may go through, there is a "Spring" on the other end if we turn our will over to the only true Power greater than ourselves, and allow Him to take control of our lives and gloriously raise what was dead to new life in Him.

Current Resident Update:

Capacity	11
Current Residents*	8
Residents in Phase 1	3
Residents in Phase 2	2
Residents in Phase 3	1
Graduates/Staff*	2

Residents Employed Upon Entry*	0
Residents Currently Employed**	6
Men Served Since Last Newsletter	14
Episodes of Relapse Since Last Newsletter	4
Residents Actively Involved in Faith-Community	6
Graduates Since Last Newsletter	0
Former Residents Continuing To Be Actively Involved	4

*Number includes live-in staff

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

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www.gracehouse-marion.org

Close-up Continued

missed his family and eagerly awaits the day his family will be reunited.

At the Grace House, men are not treated as patients or projects, but as people. Though they will be the first to admit their past mistakes, these men are seen as equals. Their choices and opinions are valued. When the group meets for Bible study or discussion, all opinions are heard and respected. The staff and the men learn from each other; they are vulnerable with one another, they do not face their struggles alone.

But the staff offer more than dignity and compassion to residents, they offer hope and purpose. The staff communicates God's grace. They believe God gives second chances

to people, and He is the reason for hope and transformation.

"Grace House gives you something to believe in. They don't just tell you 'you should do this' or 'you shouldn't do that,' they give you a reason," offered one resident.

Another man commented, "The Grace House has taught me that there is another way of living."

The new way of living is not an easy one for residents of the Grace House. Each day, the men work to replace old habits with new ones. They learn to care for a household, secure a job, and respect authority. Their hard work is paying off. Over half of Grace House's past residents remain clean and sober.

Through the testimonies of life-changing transformation of Grace House, the men bring hope, pur-

pose, and restoration to Marion, Indiana.

One man concluded, "Grace House changed me from a person who hated his own life. I wanted to be dead, now I appreciate everything about life."

The residents of Grace House invite others to join them in discovering their new way of life.

But, when entering the Grace House, do not expect to find men who are addicted to drugs, alcohol, and violence. Instead, expect to find men who are addicted to life.

Isn't it amazing what a little bit of Grace can do?

*Names of residents are not included in an effort to maintain confidentiality

Spring has sprung 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.

Grace House for Recovery

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SUPPORT

