



Transitions

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

New Gifts Doubled in Value

In the midst of worldwide economic challenges Grace House is blessed to announce that any new first time financial donation to Grace House will be doubled by a faithful Grace House financial supporter. For whatever reason you may have held off writing that check to Grace House here is the opportunity to have your gift matched up to a total of \$6000. Turn your \$50 gift into \$100, \$100 to \$200, \$500 to \$1000. Please let this incentive challenge you to make that first time gift towards the ongoing ministry of Grace House. Where else can you immediately double your investment and be guaranteed positive results from your gift?

Maybe you or your group would be interested in offering a "Matching Donation" challenge to those wishing to contribute during a specific category or time frame.

From the Director's Desk

Richard Sempel, Executive Director

I Regret...

It was 5am on a Friday morning when I went to check our e-mail and came across a letter from an Indiana Wesleyan University Student. We are fortunate that several of the IWU addictions and counseling students are interested in visiting and volunteering at Grace House. We receive a few e-mails each week from students inquiring about times, meetings and volunteer opportunities. But as I read further a few things caught my eye. This young lady I will refer to as Megan, shared about her initial nervousness regarding coming to an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting the previous evening at GH. She related how after overcoming her fears that her experience had given her so much more than she had expected. Subsequently she asked about volunteer opportunities, offering to cook, clean or provide, as her student budget would allow needed supplies. In closing she said how she had heard so

many professors talk about Grace House, but never took the time to investigate further. Megan shared of how now, having seen and felt the ministry, and meeting some of the men involved, she "regrets not taking the time to get involved sooner."

I immediately recalled the same nervous anticipation I felt over twenty-five years ago as I stood at the entrance of a Florida State Prison and heard a gate slam shut behind me as another opened in front of me allowing my entrance to a ministry that has lasted all of these years. The peace amidst the nervous expectations can only come as God opens the door for His Calling on our lives. It is the experiencing of that peace that brings us to say, "I regret not taking the time to get involved sooner."

This is not so different from the nervousness felt by the men that come to Grace House seeking to overcome their chemical dependency and trying to get their lives on track. The prob-



lem is that most of them don't know what "on track" is. They are to the point where they recognize the need for change and say they want that change in their lives. The majority at this stage will tell us that change is being clean and sober, getting a job, a nice place to live and a positive relationship with friends and family. We know, as important as all of that is that change is greater than just those things. The question we ask is, "Are you ready to do whatever it takes to make that change?" Our goal is to hear them say that they are ready to do whatever it takes. This is a statement that we sometimes must remind them of several times over the following weeks.

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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.

Director's Desk Continued

To change direction in life is rarely comfortable. New surroundings, new people, and the uneasy task of setting old ways aside and seeking a lifestyle that is conducive to the positive changes we seek, pulls us from our comfort zones. It was never meant to be easy. To admit that we need to change is in essence saying that we have been selfish and to recognize that it is time to set our self-serving attitude aside. But to do this requires us to first admit that there is a greater power than ourselves and that we need to submit to that transforming influence. Not an easy step for someone professing to have it all under control.

As the process of change continues the walk never becomes easier, but the motivation to change becomes stronger. See-

ing positive change in ourselves and those around us inspires us to press on. Seeing life through clear eyes gives a greater understanding of its value. Realizing that there are others going through the same process helps us to realize that we are not alone. As we are strengthened in our choices and caring for the success of others we awaken one day to see the change in ourselves.

So where are the regrets? The majority of those that have gone through this process of change would tell you how much they resisted in the beginning only to feel regret that they had not started sooner. All of us have a few regrets in our lives. It may be as small as something we regret having eaten too much of, not exercising more, a hurtful word that somehow slipped out, not helping when we could have, not telling some-

one we loved them, etc.. Some of the things we regret we may be able to mend, some just help us in not doing it again and some are etched in stone with no way to make amends for our actions.

When you feel God calling for change in your lives or calling you to take action how do you respond? If you are like me, many times I dig in my heels and "kick against the goads." Oh sure I may eventually submit, but then again, I may not. If I choose not to be obedient then with my rebellion (sin) I have opened the door and may someday end up saying, "I regret..." What is God asking you to set aside? What is He asking you to do? Are you going to regret it? Wouldn't it be great if we never had to say "I regret having not been obedient sooner?"

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 Don Hardwick

How did you first hear about Grace House?

"After many years of struggling with my alcohol use a friend told me about a place in Marion called Grace House.

When did you become a resident of Grace House?

"February 1, 2008."

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

"All I had heard were good things."

Were you aware of Grace House being "faith-based"?

and how did that effect your decision to seek residency?

"Yes, and that is what I needed in my life."

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

I wasn't real sure. I found nice friendly people that welcomed me."

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

"My mental and physical condition wasn't very good. I wanted to believe that I could change."

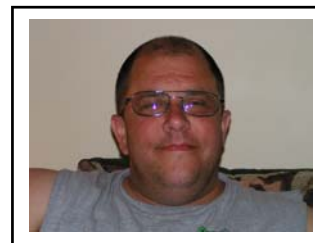
What were you searching for in your life that brought you to Grace House?

"A better way of living. I wanted a clean and sober life."

What most surprised you about Grace House?

"The way the Staff treated residents always helping them to get to ap-

Program Graduate Don Hardwick



pointments and to work, really caring."

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

"The first two weeks they have you on restriction, that was tough for me."

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

"I have remained clean and sober and am doing a lot better. I have been blessed by being at Grace House.



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

Current Resident Update:

Capacity	11
Current Residents*.....	11
# in Phase 1.....	6
# in Phase 2.....	1
# in Phase 3.....	1
Graduates/Staff..	3
Residents Employed Upon Entry...	1
Residents Currently Employed.....	8
Men Served Since Last Newsletter..	6
Known Episodes of Relapse Since Last Newsletter	1
Residents Actively Involved in Faith Community	3
Graduates Since Last Newsletter....	3
Former Residents Continuing to be Actively Involved ...	3

* Number includes Live-In Staff

Breaking Through

"I'm an atheist and nobody is going to be able to convince me otherwise!"

That was the emphatic statement that was made a couple of days into one of your current resident's time at Grace House.

In case you're wondering, Grace House is a faith-based organization that encourages life-transformation through the power of Christ alive in a humble person. We believe that true life-change only happens when a person realizes his (or her) inability to live life effectively on life's terms and total dependence on God and his terms. Obviously, based on this gentleman's insistence on "doing it my way" was going to make for an interesting stay.

However, like many times before, God is able to break through the walls that some residents have build up and communicate His love and will to the hardest of hearts.

Most of the guys who come into the Grace House program have a very limited understanding of God's care for people. Limited understanding makes it difficult to trust in an all-loving God. Not trusting in God forces us to walk through life on our own strength. And that, speaking for myself, never ends up pretty.

But God is faithful. Every morning, the guys of the house, including staff, several IWU students, and members of the Marion community join together in the lounge and open the Word of God and look for encouragement and accountability from God. It's amazing to see how God can take the wondering and put them on the right path when we open our hearts to Him.

As Richard shared in group this morning, "Jesus may be standing at the door and knocking, but we have to open the door and let him in." Life-transformation is possible through the work of God in our lives, but it takes effort on our part – more effort than we often like to admit.

Each weekend, all the residents pour forth effort, opening the door by studying an assigned passage from the Bible and presenting their findings to the group on Monday morning. It amazes me to witness how God has open the eyes of the once spiritually blind to see a Truth that they once knew nothing about. Praise God, it's happening!

In fact, as I was driving back to Grace House from taking "the atheist" to a temporary agency, he turned to me and said:

"A couple of weeks ago I would never have admitted that God could help we deal with my destructive lifestyle, but in the short time I've been at Grace House I can see that it works. It's working for others in the house, and it's working for me!"

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

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.

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

“Saving Grace” 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



Pizza Hut Fundraiser



VISIT OUR WEB SITE

www.gracehouse-marion.org

Grace House Projects



Race for Grace Fundraiser



Immediate Needs

Linens: Sheets (long twin), pillows, bath towels, wash cloths.

(2) Snow shovels,

Laundry/utility sink,

Faucet and plumbing,

Counter base cabinets,

Coffee, cleaning supplies

Become Actively

Involved . . .

Call us today



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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