

October 2012

Dear friends of the Matthew 25 House:

This is my fall update covering the comings, goings and doings in the house and the lives of the men who call 330 South 2nd Street “home.”

The house currently has four men who call it home. These men are working hard on changing old lifestyles into Christ-based lifestyles. As we all know, change is harder than it sounds. As I have the honor to spend time with each man I see positive, life changing attitudes and decision-making processes emerging. I know that many of these changes are the result of the guys allowing God to take greater control of their lives.

Head Resident

Jonathan – is still doing an outstanding job as the Head Resident. The Matthew 25 House is running very smoothly. The attitude in the home is positive and supportive. There is a real feeling that this is a home and not just a place to serve time until you can be on your own. Jonathan has taken a new job with Iowa State University in their food service division. He is enjoying the fast pace of his new job and the challenges that go with it. I have been very pleased with the life changes I continue to see Jonathan making. His reliance on Jesus Christ to change his life and actions is very evident. He recently had the opportunity to reconnect with his daughter from western Montana. The reunion was both exciting and painful as they both worked on rebuilding their relationship with each other. Jonathan and I visit daily about many things having to do with the Matthew 25 House and personal events occurring in his life. I find myself laughing as I listen to him share his frustrations and excitement about the Matthew 25 House. I tell him he sounds like a father describing the life events of his family.

On August 25th we celebrated Jonathan’s one year anniversary at the Matthew 25 House. I am amazed to see the man he has become in the last twelve months compared to who he was the day he entered the Matthew 25 House. God has done a great work in Jonathan.



Jonathan receiving his certificate of completion from Matthew 25 House Board Pres. Terry Herrman



Congratulated by the founder of the Matthew 25 House - Don Payer

Current Residents

Nahshon – Is still working at Caruth Construction and enjoying the work and the people he works with. Nahshon recently took up the hobby of napping flint. This is the technique used to make arrow heads and spear points out of flint and other suitable rocks. He is a fast learner and I am amazed at the quality of the items he has produced. He claims he is a natural due to his Native American heritage. He continues to grow in his relationship with God as he attends the First Evangelical Free Church. Nahshon will have lived in the Matthew 25 House a year this November. He is currently working on his exit plan and hopes to stay in Ames, IA.

Jerry – Is working at Viking Marketing and Dollar General as a retail clerk. The two jobs keep him busy and provide a consistent cash flow.

Jerry has continued to have opportunities to build positive relationships with his children and grandchildren. He has enjoyed celebrating birthdays and other special events with his family. One activity Jerry dreams of doing with his sons is bow hunting for White Tail deer. He's currently looking for a cross bow as the first step toward this dream.

Jerry's back pain continues to be a major challenge in finding other employment and accomplishing many of the daily activities we all consider routine. Yet he has not given up and continues to believe that through God all things are possible.

Jeremiah – Jeremiah moved back into the Matthew 25 House the middle of September after spending about nine months in the Story County Jail. We are glad to have Jeremiah back and look forward to seeing the progress he makes in changing his life.

He is currently working at Viking Marketing and is one of the lead sale persons in Ames, IA. Jeremiah wants a job where he can use his education as a Machine Trades Practitioner. With his motivation and drive I know he will find such a position.

He is enjoying attending the First Evangelical Free Church in Ames, especially an early morning (6:30 a.m.) men's group that focuses on how Christian men live in today's world.

Jeremiah is working at keeping in contact with his two young sons who live in Marshalltown, IA. He has been able to make it to a couple of their Saturday morning football games.

Past Residents

Michael D. – Michael has recently taken a new job with Almaco in Nevada, IA. He is enjoying the work and making management wonder where they found this new team member. (For those of you who know Michael, you will understand that comment.)

Upcoming & Past Events

Graduation! In November we will celebrate Nahshon Platt's successful completion of his one-year commitment to the Matthew 25 House residency program.

The annual Matthew 25 House bike ride in late August was a success. The ride is designed to increase awareness of the Matthew 25 House in the Ames community (and the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of people coming out of prison) and to raise funds to operate the House. We enjoyed the ride and the lunch at the Matthew 25 House where we had the opportunity to share with both old and new friends of the Matthew 25 House.



I hope this short update provides you some insight into the Matthew 25 House and the men currently living there. If you have any questions about the house or the application process, please contact me. If you desire to communicate with any of the men currently living in the house you may send them a letter at 330 South 2nd St. Ames, IA 50010, or I would be glad to provide their email address or cell phone number.

The Matthew 25 House is funded 100% by donations from individuals and organizations with a heart for men who have been incarcerated and who now want a chance to live a different life. If you have the desire and ability to support the Matthew 25 House you may send your tax-deductible contribution to the address below.

Church's currently supporting the Matthew 25 House: St. John's Episcopal, St. Cecilia Catholic, Collegiate Presbyterian, New Birth Baptist, University Baptist, and First Evangelical Free

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