



January 2013

Dear friends of the Matthew 25 House:

This is my winter 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 three residents, and we have approved two more men who will arrive in the next couple of weeks. We currently are communicating with eight additional men who have applied for admission to the Matthew 25 House. All the residents are working hard on making changes in their lives that will assist them in becoming the men they desire and God desires. As I 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 W. – is still doing an outstanding job as the Head Resident. Jonathan has taken a new job with J & K Contracting as a mechanic working on construction equipment. He is very excited about his new job and the opportunities it will provide him. He is proud of his newest possession: the big red tool box he was able to purchase with money from his savings! Jonathan would tell you that God continues to bless him with many gifts both small and large and the tool box is one of them. I have been very pleased with the life changes I continue to see Jonathan making. One of these changes is his desire to be a mentor and friend to his teenage nephew. At times it might appear that the Matthew 25 House has another resident, but it is Jonathan's nephew. He has become a friend to all the other men in the house and most of the Matthew 25 House board members. Because of Jonathan's involvement in his nephew's life he has started attending church each Sunday and has found Jonathan to be a friend to visit with about life's challenges.

Current Residents

Jerry B. – Has just recently started the process of looking for a different job. He is currently working with a career counselor to assist him in discovering his vocational interests and skills so he can find employment that is satisfying and rewarding. He is also working on his exit plan from the Matthew 25 House later this spring. Jerry's year of residency at the Matthew 25 House ends April 1, 2013. This is a stressful time for many of the men as they take the next step toward independence.

Jerry has continued to build positive relationships with his children and grandchildren. He is also finding opportunities to develop new friendships and deepen relationships as he participates in the life of the Collegiate Presbyterian Church.

Jerry's back pain continues to be a major challenge in 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 M. – Jeremiah is currently working at Viking Marketing and is one of the lead sales persons in Ames, IA. Last week he set a new daily record for the office in total dollar sales in one day. Jeremiah is currently working toward meeting the requirements for him to reenroll in school and finish his degree. This would give him the credentials to obtain a job in the Machine Trades Practitioner field. With his motivation and drive I know he will accomplish this goal!

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 very active in the local AA and is headed to a large AA convention in Chicago in a couple of weeks. These activities provide him with a good anchor as he works to keep his life headed in the direction he desires.

Jeremiah had the opportunity over the holidays to spend time with his two sons and extended family in Marshalltown, IA. He enjoys the time spent with his two boys and continues to have a desire to be a positive influence in their lives.

Past Residents

Nahshon P. – On November 24, 2012 we celebrated Nahshon's graduation from the Matthew 25 House. Friends and board members joined Nahshon to celebrate his next step in life. He is renting an apartment with a friend and living in Ames, IA. I keep in contact with Nahshon and he attends church with me most Sundays. He is still enjoying his hobby of napping flint and creating small sculptures. He is hoping to make enough products over the next couple of months to sell in the spring and summer fairs and art shows. God has truly given him a gift in this area.



Don Payer (Board Member) and Nahshon Platt



Celebration Cake

Upcoming Events

The first weekend in March is the Quest 2013 retreat at Pine Lake Camp, Eldora, IA. All the members of the Matthew 25 House and two past members and two board members are planning to attend. Last year this was a significant experience for the men who attended. It gave them an opportunity to turn off the world and focus on their relationship with Jesus Christ for a couple of days. It also built better relationships between the men and allowed them to disclose more completely what was happening in their lives. I look forward to discovering what God has in store for us at the Quest 2013 retreat.

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 the address below, or I would be glad to provide their email address or cell phone number.

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