



March 2013

Dear friends of the Matthew 25 House:

This is my spring 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 five residents, and we have a number of applications from men desiring to be placed in the Matthew 25 House upon parole. As I spend time with the men of the Matthew 25 House I see God working in their lives and orchestrating positive changes. The changes in the residents have also been supported by many volunteer hours from faithful board members and friends of Matthew 25 House who have given rides to job interviews, doctor appointments, church, AA meetings and retreats, and spent time over a cup of strong coffee getting to know the men personally.

Head Resident

Jonathan W. – is still doing an outstanding job as the Head Resident. Jonathan is still wrenching for J & K Contracting, working on construction equipment. Jeremy, the owner of J&K Contracting, has been very supportive of Jonathan and provided the needed assistance and encouragement for him to get his driver's license. Jonathan would tell you that God continues to bless him with many gifts which include his driver's license and the pre-owned car he just purchased. Jonathan continues to invest in the lives of the men and others. The fruit of his involvement and influence in the lives of others is evident in a seventeen year old girl (my daughter) inviting Jonathan to celebrate their upcoming birthdays together. They have the same birthday and she enjoys the positive relationship she has with Jonathan.

Current Residents

Jerry B. – Most recently Jerry's job has been cleaning up a rental house that was left in less than pristine condition. He has started the process of preparing to exit the Matthew 25 House as he approaches the end of his one year commitment. Marcia, one of the Matthew 25 House board members, is assisting Jerry faithfully in executing his exit plan. Jerry's medical and physical challenges add additional stress to his exit plan. Please be praying for Jerry as he works toward finding the appropriate circumstances that will allow him to live independently.

Jerry has continued to build positive relationships with his children and grandchildren and the body of believers at the Collegiate Presbyterian Church.

Jerry's physical limitations continue 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 the lead sales person. He has owned this title for the last three months.

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, and is very active in the local AA. Both of these organizations have recently given him the opportunity to share some of his life experiences as a guest speaker. His involvement in these organizations continues to provide a firm foundation for Jeremiah to build upon.

Jeremiah continues to make time to communicate with and visit his two sons in Marshalltown, IA. He enjoys the time spent with his boys and has a desire to be a positive influence in their lives. He also finds time to work out five days a week and tinker with his car.

Jose B. – Jose moved into the Matthew 25 House in January of 2013. He has brought a unique perspective to the house due to the fact that he is from Cuba. I have enjoyed visiting at length with him about his life in Cuba. Jose works for a business that provides landscaping, construction, and property maintenance.

He is enjoying attending the University Baptist Church and the First Evangelical Free Church early morning men's group. In my conversation with Jose I discovered he has a passion for riding bikes. I flippantly asked him if he would be interested in riding in TOMRV, a two hundred mile ride over two days in and out of the Mississippi River valley. He jumped at the invitation! As I observe his preparation for this early June ride I think I have joined up with a rider who might be out of my league. Jose did tell me he would stop and wait for me along the road. What a thoughtful guy! I will share the outcome of this adventure in my summer update.

Paul D. – Paul moved into the Matthew 25 House in February of 2013. His years of experience in the restaurant business helped him quickly land a job at the Village Inn. I know I am speaking for all the men in the house when I say we are glad Paul is working there. On occasion he brings pies to the house for us to enjoy. If he keeps this up we all will be putting a few inches around our waists!

Paul is enjoying attending First Evangelical Free Church and the morning men's group. He is excited about his walk with Jesus Christ and I can see that in his life. I've enjoyed watching Paul's relationship with his mother. He is excited about continuing to develop the relationship and is always pleased to see her when she comes to visit him. One evening when I stopped over to visit the men I had the chance to observe Paul and his mother engaged in an online game of Scrabble. (She lives in Mason City.) As I watched I discovered a very competitive side of Paul that I hadn't seen before and witnessed his joy in having a good relationship with his mother as they did battle over the internet.

Past Residents

Michael D. – Michael just finished treatment for Melanoma skin cancer. He had a spot on his arm that was removed and his latest report was that he is cancer free. Praise the Lord.

Events

The Quest 2013 retreat at Pine Lake Camp, Eldora, IA was a tremendous success. Three current residents, one past resident, and three board members attended. The weekend gave us a chance to disconnect from the race of life and spend quality time with God and other Christian men. We found opportunities to share from our hearts with each other about life and what was truly going on in our lives. We found time to laugh, cry, play games and eat great food together. The fellowship was rich and I will cherish the experience.

Quest 2013 Band of Brothers



Kevin Geis Jonathan W Terry Herrman Robert Knight Paul D. Jeremiah M. Doug B.

On March 8, 2013 we had a celebration event for the Matthew 25 House. At this event we had the opportunity to honor the founder Don Payer for his years of dedication to prison ministry and the Matthew 25 House. Pastor Rick Admiraal from the New Life Prison Community was the guest speaker. The New Life Prison Community is an organization focused on providing ministry to the Newton Correctional Facility in Newton, IA. The event was a success and provided friends of the Matthew 25 House an opportunity to gather and share an uplifting evening with each other.

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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