



July 2013

Dear friends of the Matthew 25 House:

This is my summer update covering the comings, goings and doings in the house and the lives of the men who call 330 South 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. The residents of the House are just like you and me when it comes to living life: there are new challenges that arise daily and cause us to evaluate our priorities and make the correct decisions. As I spend time with the men of the Matthew 25 House I see them wrestling with these choices. I see God working in their lives as they make important life decisions.

### **Head Resident**

Jonathan – Jonathan is providing valuable leadership to the Matthew 25 House as the Head Resident. He is still wrenching for J & K Contracting, working on construction equipment. With the construction season in full swing he is finding it a challenge to balance the hours of his day to cover work, his responsibilities at the House, and sleep. Jonathan has begun a conversation with the board of the Matthew 25 House about exiting his role as the Head Resident later this year. He has purchased property and is in the process of getting it ready to move into. It is rewarding to see Jonathan taking the next step in creating this new life which started a number of years ago.

### **Current Residents**

Jeremiah – Jeremiah is still working at Viking Marketing and has found success in his position. He went for more than four straight months as the lead sales person for the company. He is looking down the road to his one-year anniversary at the Matthew 25 House. He has started to plan for leaving the Matthew 25 House and stepping into the next stage of his life. His plan is to stay in the Ames/Nevada area and continue to work and finish his education at Marshalltown Community College.

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. Not long ago he lead the morning men’s group and did a very good job. He took shared how his life had changed since he allowed God into it. It was a powerful, real life example of what God wants to do in each of our lives if we will give Him the opportunity.

Jeremiah continues to make time to communicate with and visit his two sons in Marshalltown, IA. He has enjoyed camping at the lake with his sons and his mother on weekends. He is still very active in lifting weights and tinkering with his car.

Jose – Jose has been employed by Caruth Construction working on a commercial concrete crew. Caruth Construction has been a good friend of the Matthew 25 House. They currently have a couple of men working for them who have graduated from the House. Jose has had a couple of major stumbles over the last couple of months and is attempting to find his way back on track.

In my last update I shared about a bike ride Jose and I were going to participate in. Unfortunately we were not able to share in this ride because of some decisions Jose made. I hope Jose and I can share a biking story in a future update.

Paul – Paul is still working at the Village Inn. He splits his time at work between the kitchen and serving. His desire is to do more serving and even move into a management role over time. He still finds opportunities to bring pies to the Matthew 25 House for us to enjoy!

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. Paul and his mother have been planning a vacation to South Dakota this summer. They will be visiting family and enjoying the many scenic places in western South Dakota. To pass time and satisfy his competitive appetite Paul enjoys online gaming in the world of Scrabble and chess. I enjoy hearing him talk about the challengers he has defeated and the few who have defeated him. One of his arch chess rivals is a fellow Matthew 25 House member Jeremiah.

Michael – Mike is our newest resident and has been at the house for about a month. He is employed at Falcon Packaging where he is a forklift operator. He enjoys both the work and the people he works with. Mike is passionate about changing his life. He is very active in AA, attending three to four meetings each week. I have had a number of late night/early morning conversations with Mike discussing/debating "life" and why people make certain life choices.

Mike is working toward getting his drivers license reinstated in the next couple of months. He is looking forward to the freedom that his license will bring him.

### **Past Residents**

Jerry B – Jerry has moved out of the Matthew 25 House and is living in an apartment in Ames, Iowa. He is adjusting to living alone and the newly found freedom that comes with that. He still finds time to attend the Tuesday evening Bible study at the Matthew 25 House each week.

### **Events**

The summer is going by quickly at the Matthew 25 House, just like it is at your home. We are looking forward to a couple of graduations from the House during the second half of the year, and the new residents who will be stepping in to fill the openings.

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 residents 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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