

November 2013



Dear friends of the Matthew 25 House:

This is my autumn 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 a number of applications from men desiring to be placed in the Matthew 25 House upon parole. I would anticipate within the next couple of weeks we could have a full house once again. It is exciting to see men who have a desire to apply with the belief that God is calling them to be part of the Matthew 25 House.

Head Resident

Jonathan – Jonathan has given the board of Matthew 25 House notice that he is looking at moving on to the next stage of his life. Jonathan has been in the house for over two years and we will miss his leadership and friendship when he is gone. He has agreed to continue in the role as Head Resident until we are able to find a suitable replacement for him. We are currently taking applications for the position. If you know of any one who might have interest please contact the Matthew 25 House.

Current Residents

Brady – Brady has been in the house for just a short time and is hard at work looking for a job. He has strong skills in the construction industry. This time of year can be more challenging to find work in that field. I am excited about Brady's positive approach to life and the Matthew 25 House. One of the passions he has that I believe will carry him a long way in creating a different life is his love for his children. He has a deep desire to start to rebuild his relationship with his young children. He had the chance to celebrate Thanksgiving with his family in Hampton, IA. His highlight was spending quality time with his children and family. When I stopped in to visit him upon his return he was beaming with excitement about the two days spent with family.

Raymond – Raymond is our newest member of the house and I am enjoying time spent with him. He is also looking for work and appears to have settled into the house well. I stopped by tonight just to say hi to the men and Raymond invited me over for supper tomorrow. He was fixing fried pork chops, biscuits and gravy, green beans, and rice. I found out that Raymond and I have at least one thing in common and that is the love of good old-fashioned cooked meals. Raymond is originally from the southern United States and knows what good comfort food is. I am looking forward to eating some of his home cooking.

Past Residents

Jeremiah – We had the honor of celebrating Jeremiah's graduation from the Matthew 25 House. He fulfilled his twelve-month commitment and left the house well prepared for the next stage of his life. Shortly before he left he was able to get a job with John Deere as a machinist. He had gone to school for this occupation and was overjoyed to finally get the opportunity to use his education. I visited with Jeremiah this week and asked for an update as to what was happening in his life. He told me he had received his four-year sobriety pin from AA, he will get off of parole this month, and he has been able to spend quality time with his two boys, and he is enjoying his apartment and his new life.

As happens on occasion we have had a couple of residents make life decisions that required them to move out of the Matthew 25 House. Some who have left under these conditions are doing fine and others are not doing

well. I am always amazed and saddened at how quickly a person can self-destruct when he places himself in compromising situations.

Events

The last part of this year is going by quickly at the Matthew 25 House, just like it is at your home. The Matthew 25 House Board recently had a weekend planning retreat that created many new ideas and excitement about how we can assist men in changing their lives and growing closer to Jesus Christ. At our last Monday night meeting board members and residents took the opportunity to share from their heart about our hopes for the month to come. I found myself very emotional about the opportunities I see for Brady and Raymond. I have known these men for only a short period of time but I have a deep desire to travel with them down their road of life.

We find that many of the men enjoy weight lifting and have appreciated being able to use Jeremiah's weights. Unfortunately when Jeremiah moved on, so did his weights. If you know of anyone who would desire to rid him or herself of a set of weights that might be collecting dust, the Matthew 25 House would be very interested in a donation or purchasing them.

We are encouraging individuals to consider ways they might be willing to invest in the Matthew 25 House. We are a non-profit organization and the majority of our operating costs is covered by donations. If you would desire to share a gift with the Matthew 25 House you can send it to the address below.

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.



President of the Matthew 25 House board,
Terry Herrman presents Jeremiah with his
certificate of completion from the Matthew
25 House.

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