



January 2015

Dear friends of the Matthew 25 House:

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

The house currently has three residents, and we have two more men scheduled to arrive in January. This will give us a full house. As the Matthew 25 House Board was interviewing one of the men coming to the house in January, I was surprised to realize I knew him from 25 years ago when I lived in Clarion, IA. You just never know who God is going to bring back into your life. I am excited to reconnect with him after all these years.

Head Resident

Eric is still our head resident and is doing a good job. He has faced some challenges in the last three months and has been able to overcome them with the support of good men and his relationship with Jesus Christ. Eric would tell you in the past these challenges would have taken him to the bottom of the pit. Eric is currently working for J & K Contractors in Ames, Iowa. He finds time to attend AA meetings and attends a couple local churches. Eric has also had the opportunity to continue to develop a deeper relationship with his son. Just last night David and Eric took Eric's son to The World's Toughest Rodeo event in Des Moines. They had a great time watching the cowboys and clowns perform.

I stopped by the Matthew 25 House yesterday morning to warm up from the cold on my bike ride. I was the only biker I saw out on the snow and ice covered streets of Ames, IA this morning. I am not sure where the normal bikers were hiding today. As I dismounted my bike at the house, the garage door flew open and Eric gave me a loud greeting. I entered the warm garage to find Eric and a friend playing a game of pool. My spirit was lifted because of the warmth from the furnace on such a cold winter morning but more so as I watched Eric and his friend laughing and sharing with each other as they played pool in a safe comfortable place.

Current Residents

David R. – David is currently working at Okoboji Grill, an eatery in Ames. He is enjoying his job and finding it to be a challenge at times. He has done well since coming to the Matthew 25 House, and I have seen positive growth in his approach to life. David is working hard to reconnect with his two sons who live in Des Moines and spends time with them whenever he can. I stopped by the house early in the morning one day last week to share a cup of coffee before work with anyone who might be up at the house. Dave normally works late, so he sleeps in later in the morning; as a matter of fact I have never stopped by the house in the early morning and found him up. That day was an exception. He was up and the only man in the house. As we shared a cup of coffee together our conversation started out about the weather and a few other shallow topics. Soon we were discussing some heavier topics about how we look at life and deal appropriately with life's challenges. All of a sudden I realized I was late leaving town for an early morning meeting in Des Moines. As I prepared to leave David said, "I did not expect us to have such a deep conversation this morning." As I left I thanked God for placing me in the Matthew 25 House early that morning.

David M. – David is our newest member to the Matthew 25 House. He has been in the house for a couple of weeks and is adjusting to the house and some of the freedoms it allows the residents. David is currently working a couple part time jobs and is looking for full time employment. He is attending The Body of Christ Church in downtown Ames and finding it a very welcoming and supportive body of believers.

Former Residents

Over the Christmas season I had the opportunity to connect with a number of the former residents from the Matthew 25 House (Jonathan, Doug, Jerry, Mike, Nahshon, Jeremiah, Ken). It was good to find out what was going on in their lives and to encourage them to continue to fight the good fight. Many of them are doing well and others are struggling with some new challenges and some old challenges.

Events

Dan Sheeler has recently been elected to the Matthew 25 House Board of Directors. We are excited about having Dan as part of our leadership team. He has good insight into the lifestyles of the men who live in the Matthew 25 House.

The Iowa Quest Men's Retreat is coming up on Feb 27 – Mar 1, 2015, at Pine Lake Christian Camp in Eldora, Iowa. This will be the fourth year that the men of the Matthew 25 House and Board of Directors will be attending this retreat. This retreat is the highlight each year of any house events. We have the opportunity to disconnect from the world for a couple days and focus on what Jesus Christ is doing in our lives and what He might be calling us to do. This is a great time for the Board of Directors to connect with the men of the Matthew 25 House and create firmer relationships with them while keeping Jesus Christ as the focal point.

www.iowaquest.com



2014 Quest

I hope this short update provides you with a glimpse of life at 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.

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