

MARCH 2016

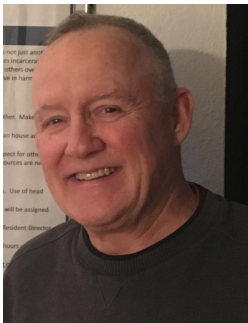
MATTHEW 25 HOUSE

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE MATTHEW 25 HOUSE:

This is my spring 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 two residents, and we have a number of other men approved to come to the house upon parole.

HEAD RESIDENT



One of the long-term goals of the Matthew 25 House Board of Directors has been to find a head resident for the house that is able to live out the mission of the Matthew 25 House. The Board is pleased that Dan Sheeler accepted this role and is living full time in the home. Dan has brought stability and order to the house because of his firm commitment to his relationship with Jesus Christ and his life experiences. Dan served in the United States Air Force from 1965 to 1969. After leaving the Air Force he moved back to Ames, IA and worked full time and attended Marshalltown Community College and Iowa State and graduated in 1982 BLS degree from Iowa State University. In 1999 left the company he had worked for over nineteen years to move to Africa as a Christian missionary to the Turkana people in Kenya. He served this people group for six years to return to Ames, IA. Dan retired in 2013 and has been very active in the Matthew 25 House and homeless shelters in the area. He has a heart for men that are struggling to put their lives back together and has a strong vision how he can assist them with the help of his Lord, Jesus Christ.

The Matthew 25 House is a different place with Dan leading the day to day activities and pouring into the lives of the men. Dan is truly an answer to prayer.

Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or homeless or shivering or sick or in prison and didn't help? He will answer them, "I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you failed to do one of these things to someone who was being overlooked or ignored, that was me – you failed to do it to me."

Matthew 25: 44-45

CURRENT RESIDENTS

Chad M. – Chad moved into the house in early December and is currently working for Holland Painting in Ames, IA. Chad's employer has played an important roll in keep him in the house and is currently employing two men that are associated with the Matthew 25 House. During the short time Chad has been at the Matthew 25 House he has had the opportunity to reconnect with his parents and his daughter. He has been able to spend a number of weekends with them and participate in their lives in positive ways. Chad has also been busy around the house keeping it clean and tightly. He has been attending Christ Community Church with me on Sunday mornings and a men's group at 6:30 a.m. each Wednesday morning. Chad has enjoyed the relationships he has made with this body of believers. He has been willing to participate in a positive manner with the men on Wednesday morning which has brought value to the small group discussion time.

Robert D. – Robert moved into the house in late December and is currently working at Danfoss Manufacturing in Ames, IA. He is working on the assembly line and finding it a job that matches up well with his skills and personality. He has been determined to being a good employee, which is demonstrated by Robert's willingness to get up and leave for work before 5:00 a.m. in the morning so he can be to work by 6:00 a.m. He has made the hour walk to work each day and a number of those mornings have had wind chill below zero degrees. On one morning he walked to work in a blizzard only to find that he had made it to work before most of his co-workers who drove to work. Robert has made great strides since coming to the Matthew 25 House in addressing some of his fears. He has been attending church at Saint Cecillia Church in Ames, IA with Terry H. a board member of the Matthew 25 House. Robert and Terry have both enjoyed the growing relationship they are forming by worshipping Christ together on Sunday morning.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Each Monday and Thursday evening we have Bible study at the house. The current residents attend along with a number of former residents. These former residents continue to attend our Bible study because they desire to develop their walk with Jesus Christ and maintain some of the healthy relationships they formed with other men when they were in the house.

EVENTS

Nine men associated with the Matthew 25 House attend The Iowa Quest Men's Retreat on Feb 26 – 28, 2016, at Pine Lake Christian Camp in Eldora, Iowa. (www.iowaquest.com) This was the fifth year the men of the Matthew 25 House and Board of Directors attended 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 deeper relationships with them while keeping Jesus Christ as the focal point. Like each year before this year was a rich experience for all the men in attendance. I want to thank the Memorial Lutheran Church in Nevada, IA for providing the funds that covered the cost of this event.



David, Bill, Steve, Dan, Kevin, Chad, James, Robert, Terry (not in photo)

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. **Thanks for your support of the Matthew 25 House.**