

MATTHEW 25 HOUSE

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE MATTHEW 25 HOUSE:

This is my summer 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 one open room. We have a number of men approved to come to the house upon parole. There has been significant interest by correctional counselors, parole officers, and others to direct men to apply to the Matthew 25 House.



HEAD RESIDENT

Dan Sheeler, our head resident, continues to bring emotional, spiritual, and common sense direction and support to the men living in the house. Dan’s love of the Bible and people searching for the truth within it’s covers has transformed the atmosphere of the home.

It is not uncommon when I stop in the house for an early morning cup of coffee to find Dan engaged in morning devotions with one of the residents. Dan has found time to enjoy his passion for golf this summer and is scheduled to head west for vacation in a couple of weeks.

CURRENT RESIDENTS

ROBERT D. – Robert moved into the house in late December. It has been rewarding to witness the changes in the way Robert handle the ups and downs of his day to day life. He is learning to handle them in positive ways by reaching out to supportive individuals that are willing to listen and share encouraging words of support. **He has learned to identify triggers that in the past would have driven him to resolve the challenge by drinking.** In Roberts own words he has said, “I cannot believe how different my life is today than it was before I came to the Matthew 25 House”. He continues to attend church at Saint Cecillia Church in Ames, IA with Terry, 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.

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

CHRIS S. – Chris moved into the house in early July and is currently working for Holland Painting in Ames, IA. Chris’s employer has played an important role in providing stable employment and a safe place for Chris to work. Chris is attending Christ Community Church on Sunday mornings. **He has made good connections with a number of people at Christ Community Church especially Tom and Debbie.** Tom and Debbie have reached out and supported Chris in a number of beneficial ways. This is their first real experience engaging in the life of one of the men at the Matthew 25 House. I know it will not be their last.

LONNIE L. – Lonnie moved into the house in early July and is currently working for In God’s Hands Services. His employer Robert Knight is a board member of the Matthew 25 House and also a pastor at a local church. Robert provides a strong Christian-based work place for his employees. Lonnie has adjusted well to his new surroundings. **He has been able to reconnect with his parents that are long-term residents of Ames and his daughter and grandchild.**

EVENTS

The 4th of July weekend two board members, Dan Sheeler, and Lonnie traveled to Realfoot Lake in Tennessee on a fishing trip. The fishing was a little sparse but the relationship bonding and great food made the trip memorable. Thanks to Jeff Boyd and his family in Tennessee for hosting and making the fishing adventure a special time for all that attended.

Over the last year the Matthew 25 House Board has been working with a group of supporters to elevate the awareness of the Matthew 25 House and increase our support network. **We had two major objectives: the first was to create an event to showcase the Matthew 25 House to local businesses and individuals in the Ames area. The second was to raise \$150,000 of additional support over the next three years.** I am excited to announce that we are well on our way to accomplish both goals. On June 13th the Matthew 25 House hosted our 2016 Friends of the Matthew 25 House event. It was well attended and provided a platform for the Matthew 25 House to share our vision. We have currently raised \$117,350 or 78% of our financial goal. I would ask you if the Matthew 25 House is an organization you could support financially. If you do decide to support the Matthew 25 House please return the enclosed pledge card.

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.**



Fishing Trip to Realfoot Lake, TN

