

**“If for only one”
Luke 5:4-7**

How You Can Help:

- Pray for us
- Donate supplies
- Volunteer at the Gifts of Grace Resale Store
- Teach classes
- Become a Grace Partner

Grace Partners:

Please prayerfully consider becoming a Grace Partner. As a Grace Partner, you join with us to build, strengthen and support the House of Disciples through prayer and by committing to support the ministry with a monthly donation of any amount. As a monthly supporter, you impact the lives of each man here at the House of Disciples.

Board Members:

- Dan Biggs
- Charli Caraway
- Johnny Collier
- Wes Haefs
- Bruce Hinton
- Nathan Pennington
- Mark Rasberry
- Lenard Thompson
- Roy Wiseman

Mission Statement:

To make disciples who know Christ, share Christ, and multiply Christ in the lives of others.



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“My Story” by Brett Foster, Program Director

Paul writes in Romans 6:20-23, “For when you were slaves of sin, you were free from allegiance to righteousness. And what fruit was produced then from the things you are now ashamed of? For the end of those things is death. But now, since you have been liberated from sin and become enslaved to God, you have your fruit, which results in sanctification - and the end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Addiction for me was simply a “way of life.” One of the most powerful weapons the enemy has is ‘confusion’ which leads to an ‘illusion’ that your life isn’t that bad. Denial of what may be obvious to even a casual observer, is often necessary for a habitual life of sin to continue for many years. Years of various false reasoning and an environment conducive to my sinful life-style were essential in my lack of progression in life. Equipped with the self-taught idea that so long as a person tried to do the right thing and was primarily only self-destructive, good and prosperous things must be just around the bend. Growing up, I was good at most things I tried and often experienced the joy of winning. At some point I had decided that I didn’t need God (or conviction from sin) in my life. I started to question everything that I had believed up to that point in my life. Philippians 2:21 says, “all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.” I found freedom in lawlessness and unbridled young adulthood. I enjoyed drinking beer and smoking marijuana at weekend parties. Soon my focus wasn’t on my studies at college, but on a new found discovery. The perfect after-party hangover remedy was to just drink some more that next morning. Not long after that, I decided why not just drink everyday. Blinded with ignorance, I had become an alcoholic at a very young age. Ephesians 6:12 says, “For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the



authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens.” I was prepared for spiritual warfare with a handful of sand and no armor. I spent the next 18 years or so losing battle after battle and not understanding why. God sent many of His servants to cross my path along the way, but I rejected the Truth. As a youth, failure wasn’t in my vocabulary. Ironically, for the one voted “Most likely to succeed”, I had become accustomed to failure and defeat. It was not until I had lost all hope and had finally experienced ‘rock-bottom’, that I considered the option that I had been wrong about God. What if that young lady (Angie), was right about me needing to go try out that new Christian recovery place called House of Disciples? At the very least, there are two little girls that call me ‘daddy’ who deserve for me to give this a shot. After 18 years of darkness, I finally saw a glimmer of light! As deeply rooted as I proclaimed to be in my disbelief, I cried out for Jesus to show me that He was real! He responded in a super-natural vision. First shock, then shame, followed by fear! I knew what I had to do. I needed to get saved and forgiven. I vaguely remembered praying that prayer as a young boy, not at all understanding what it really meant. As I stood in that sanctuary, I again cried out to the Lord! Tears rolled down my cheeks as I proceeded to confess the name of Jesus Christ as my Savior! I felt an overwhelming sense of Peace and that a weight that had been lifted off my shoulders. I made a deal with God, “God if you will get rid of my addiction to sin, I will serve You for the rest of my life.” I came to the House of Disciples two years ago and by the Grace of God, I haven’t had any drugs or alcohol since then. Ephesians 6:11 says, “Put on the full armor of God, so that you can stand against the tactics of the Devil.” Amen!

Point-in-Time (Homeless) Count

The Texas Homeless Network annually coordinates a Point-in-Time homeless survey for communities in Texas during the last week of January. This information is used by local communities in the development of strategies to alleviate homelessness. Recent surveys have reported a rising homeless

population in Gregg County. The 2009 census counted 535 people; this past year's count was 611. The House of Disciples participated in the counting process by providing volunteers to count people in the homeless camps and the White Chocolate band entertained survey participants at New Gate

Mission.

"We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty." - Mother Teresa

Prison Ministry

We had the honor of ministering at three prisons this past month. On January 15th, the House of Disciples, the House of Hope - Madisonville and the White Chocolate Band were at the Ferguson Unit in Midway, Texas. Out of the several hundred inmates in attendance, over fifty responded to the altar call. Steve Roach gave his testimony on how he was previously

incarcerated in that very prison for 30 years. He had been given a life sentence plus 62 years, but he was miraculously paroled after he submitted his life to Christ. The message was inspirational and the inmates could personally relate to his story. The ministry team and Mr. Roach also ministered the next day at the Trusty Camp where we saw another 14 inmates

respond to the altar call. On January 26th, we ministered at the East Texas Treatment Facility in Henderson with our special guest, Eddie Baiseri, from the Christian radio station KBJs 90.3. She shared her tremendous testimony of how God brought her out of a life of drugs through His redemptive grace. The inmates are always thankful when we come and eager to worship.

Welcome Our New Staff



Laura Stone has joined the Wiseman Ministries Staff as part-time bookkeeper.



Boomer Lake has accepted the full-time staff position as the Director of the Isaiah 58 Institute and the Community Connection Coordinator. More info about Isaiah 58 Institute, in the next newsletter.

"Everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another"
John 13:35



Ministry at New Life Church

On Sunday, January 19th the White Chocolate band and the House of Disciples ministered at New Life Church in Henderson, while their Pastor, Joshua Blizzard, was on a mission trip to India. The White Chocolate Band led worship and testimonies were given by HOD resident, Johnny Cole, and graduate, Michael Smith. Our Executive Director, Phillip Briggs, preached a sermon entitled "God's Unwavering Resolution to You". We would like to thank New Life Church for allowing us to minister and for greeting us so warmly.

Upcoming Events

Friday - Monday, Feb. 11 - 14

Valentine's Day Sale at Gifts of Grace Resale

Sunday, Feb. 13 - 6:00 pm

White Chocolate - "Night of Worship",
Mobberly Baptist Church, Longview, TX

Wednesday, Feb. 16

Isa. 58 Inst. - Interns, Mid Term Exams

Friday - Saturday, Feb. 18 - 19

White Chocolate - Recording,
Pennington Studio, Winnsboro, TX

Wednesday, Feb. 23 - 6:30 pm

White Chocolate & HOD - Prison Ministry,
East Texas Treatment Facility, Henderson, TX

Friday, Feb. 25 - 6:30 pm

White Chocolate & HOD - Prison Ministry,
Holiday Unit, Huntsville, TX

Saturday, Mar. 5 - 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

1ST ANNUAL FREEDOM FEST -
For all Recovery groups & Individuals,
Hosted by White Chocolate & House of Disciples.
Mobberly Baptist Church - Longview, TX

Saturday, Mar. 12 - 10:00 am

White Chocolate - "Love Overflowing",
Highland Assembly of God, Kilgore, TX

Wednesday, Mar. 30

Isa. 58 Inst. - Interns, Final Term Exams



Recently, the ministry felt the leading of the Lord to give a truck to Boomer Lake. We are grateful that God allowed us to meet a need in Boomer's life, as all he had was a bicycle to ride. Praise the Lord!

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