

**“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:**

- 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.



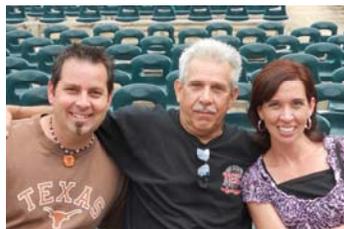
**Restoration**  
 “I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten...” Joel 2:25

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**“Never, Never, Never Give Up”** by Phill Briggs Jr., Exec. Director

My mom and dad divorced when I was six and because of work and the economy, my dad stayed in Arizona while my mom and step dad found work in Texas. Time and distance separated my dad from my sister and myself with an occasional phone call and one summer visitation. On the night of my high school graduation, my dad came from Phoenix, AZ by bus and after that night and a meal at Dairy Queen, it would be nearly 20 years before I would see him again.



First family photo in 33 years  
 (Phil Jr., Phil Sr., Jensung)

When House of Disciples began in the summer of 2008, our purpose and desire was simple. To offer those wanting change, a way and opportunity to start over. After a few men had made the decision to enter our program I realized I was clueless when it came to dealing with homelessness, drug addictions, and life issues. I know there have been books written about people and their struggles, movies depicting individuals overcoming the challenges of life, but nothing can compare to experiencing the challenges of walking with those who have those struggles and obstacles. The moment you see hope returned to that individual who carried hopelessness; when a father holds his kids for the first time in months; when a man surrenders his life to Christ and makes a difference to those around him. Those are the moments when I see the inner workings of God.

In the months to follow and experiencing life with those coming into our ministry, I began to ask God, "Where is my Dad, is he even alive?" One night while sitting at my desk doing paperwork, I received a text message from my mother asking me to call her A.S.A.P that she had something to tell me. I immediately called her and she began to tell me that while she was searching on the internet looking for my step brother in the Arizona Correctional Database she decided to type in my dad's name to which returned a match and when she clicked the "image" button she confirmed that it was his picture. She forwarded the web site for me to see and sure enough with the exception of some gray hair, I would

see my dad for the first time in 17 years. A couple of months later I would conjure up enough courage to write him hoping to reconnect. My biggest fear was, would he respond. A few weeks later, I received my first correspondence from a dad I thought might be dead.

Now for those who might read this and have questioned whether God really answer prayers, here is the part of the story where I can say only God can answer our prayers. It is people that God uses to answer some prayers. Last April, my mother, who had been battling cancer, was sent home after exhausting all the doctors could do for her condition. While visiting her, I received a phone call from a familiar voice from my past - my dad. When I asked what he was up to, he responded with, "I'm coming to see you." I told him that because of mom's health and situation, I was not home and he said, "I'm coming to where you are because I need to see your mom". The next day, I would embrace my dad. It was one month short of 20 years since our last hug. But that's not the miracle. That evening I took dad to where my mother was resting, so that he could see her, my sister and rest of the family that was by her bedside. When he walked into the room, he walked over and hugged my mom for the first time in 33 years. That would be the last time, because a month later she passed away on Mother's Day.

Here is the miracle: when they hugged, God recalled to my memory the time when I was 5 years old and my parents were separated. I said a little prayer, "God, please let my mommy and daddy hug one more time." God's timing is perfect and just when we think a prayer was missed or not answered, something like this happens. This past Christmas, my dad, my sister and I celebrated our first Christmas together in 33 years. Today, Dad is by my side in the ministry that God created to help restore lives and families. I know, because mine has been restored. Mark 11:24, "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." (NIV)

## Point-in-time (Homeless) Count

The annual Point-in-Time Survey was held Thursday, January 26, 2012. The survey was conducted across the nation as a way to gather information on the number of people experiencing homelessness at that particular point in time. The final report will be used to address the gaps in services to assist the homeless. Volunteers go to the shelters, homeless programs, motels, and the unsheltered to survey individuals and families who are homeless. According to the 2011 Report, on the day that the count was conducted Longview had a homeless count of 487 people, 54 of which were children. According to the

annual estimate of homeless in Longview, the total was 905 individuals. Other statistics include: 65% are male, 35% are female; 62% reported their race as white, 7% Hispanic, while 31% reported black or other; 15% were veterans; and interestingly 73% reported to have completed high school. The unifying condition for virtually all of Texas' homeless population is extreme poverty. Furthermore, many people who are homeless also experience some type of personal vulnerability that places them at risk, such as: family violence, physical disability, chronic



medical problems, mental illness, substance abuse, developmental disability or brain injury, or a criminal background. Of these the highest is mental illness, followed by substance abuse. This only confirms to us why the House of Disciples exists; getting men off the streets and introducing them to a Savior who loves them and can set them free. We were honored to again participate in this year's count. The White Chocolate ministry team entertained participants at Newgate Mission, while lunch was served and census staff conducted their surveys.

## HOD Basketball:

The HOD basketball team has one more game this season. Please come out and show your support. Games are held on Tuesday Nights at the Pine Tree Pace Gym. The last game is:  
02-07 6:45 PM



## Trinity Baptist Choir:

The Trinity Baptist Church Choir held a musical performance in our chapel for our men on January 6th. Over twenty singers donated their time to minister in song. It was a beautiful presentation. Before the event started, the choir members were taken on a tour of our facility and afterwards had time to fellowship with our programmers.

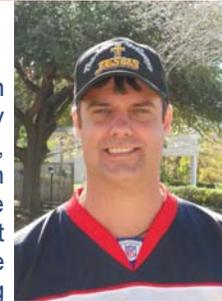


## "Three Years" by Brett Foster, Sr. Program Director

Thanks to God's miraculous hand, January of 2012 marks three years since I've had alcohol or any other mind altering chemicals in my body!! Anyone who knows me from my past can testify that it would be a miracle for me to go even a day without at least drinking a few! Psalms 62:5-6 reads, "Rest in God alone, my soul, for my hope comes from Him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I will not be shaken."

I find it difficult to describe what it feels like to have reached this milestone. Pastor Marty Strait says, "Peace isn't the absence of conflict, rather, it's the presence of a Person (Jesus)." Although this world hasn't changed much in the last three years, my perspective on it has. I no longer see this life from a lost soul's mind gazing through chemically stained glasses. Hebrews 12:1-2 says "...let us lay aside every weight

and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith..." Every day is another opportunity for me to glorify the King with my decisions.



**HOT DOGS & ENTERTAINMENT**  
**SAT. MARCH 3, 2012**  
**2ND ANNUAL**  
**FREEDOM FEST**  
**6-8PM**

**HOSTED BY: WHITE CHOCOLATE & HOUSE OF DISCIPLES**  
MINISTRIES OF WISEMAN MINISTRIES

**BOOTHS FROM VARIOUS RECOVERY GROUPS**  
**CELEBRATING FREEDOM FROM LIFE CONTROLLING ISSUES THROUGH CHRIST**

**FOR INFO CONTACT:**  
**903-553-0952**  
**INFO@HOUSEOFDISCIPLES.COM**  
**WWW.HOUSEOFDISCIPLES.COM**

**CONCERTS BY:**  
**WHITE CHOCOLATE** **CONSUMED 217**

**NEW HEIGHTS CHURCH**  
**1500 W. HAWKINS PKWY, LONGVIEW, TX**

## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, February 9 / 7:00 AM**

White Chocolate & HOD - Prison Ministry,  
Polinsky Unit, Livingston, TX

**Wed, Feb 15 (Men) & Thur. Feb 16 (Women)**

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

**Sunday, February 19 / 9:00 AM**

White Chocolate & HOD - Prison Ministry,  
Polinsky Unit, Livingston, TX

**Saturday, March 3 / 6:00 PM**

2nd Annual - Freedom Fest  
New Heights Church, Longview, TX

**Saturday, March 11 / 3:00 PM**

HOD Graduation Ceremony - HOD Chapel

**Friday, March 23 / 10:30 AM**

White Chocolate - LETU Students Chapel Service

## Contact us:

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 Phone: 903-553-0952

### Mailing:

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P.O. Box 1207  
Longview, TX 75606

### Location:

House of Disciples  
210 S. Green St.  
Longview, TX 75601

### Partner Location:

House of Hope  
901 W. Trinity  
Madisonville, TX 77864

### White Chocolate:

[www.wcministry.com](http://www.wcministry.com)  
 Bookings: 903-851-9249