

### “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:

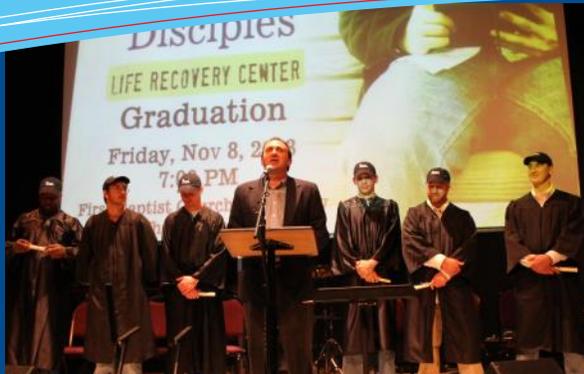
Wiseman Ministries, Inc. is a non-profit, 501c(3) organization. Our ministry operates solely on donations from individuals, churches, businesses and organizations. Please prayerfully consider becoming a Grace Partner. As a Grace Partner, you join with us to fulfill Matthew 25 & Isaiah 58 by providing food to the hungry, clothing to the needy, shelter to the homeless, to minister to those in prison and to help liberate those controlled by addictions.

#### Mission Statement:

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



Congratulations to Steve J., Eric E. and Keith B. for receiving certificates for being Servant Leaders for the month of November.



### “My Story” by Nate Miller, HOD Resident - Longview



If someone would have told me five years ago that I would come to a point of complete brokenness to where the only thing that I had to my name was a fierce wake of selfishness and self-destruction left behind me, I would have called you crazy. However, as self-will would have it,

that is exactly what ensued. It was a chain of events that left a college graduate with a \$45k a year job homeless and even worse, hopeless. When I ended up living day-to-day on skid row with few friends and no family, as one would imagine, it was a heart-breaking means of existence. Taking into consideration my upbringing and education, this kind of lifestyle was foreign to say the least and without further warning I began drinking continuously in attempt to anesthetize my emotions, my conscience and ultimately any hopes for a better life.

During that time of transient homelessness, I met a young man who had graduated from a place that I must have walked by several times a day for probably close to a year. He told me about this place which was called House of Disciples and explained the purpose that the organization served. How it helped men struggling with homelessness and addiction by giving them a safe, structured environment where one could learn about how to rewrite their way of thinking, and more importantly, grow

this issue

- My Story / From the Heart P.1
- HOD Graduation / Jobs for Life Graduates P.2
- Holiday Food Giveaway / HOD Band Update P.2
- Youth Group Volunteers / Thanksgiving P.2
- November Birthdays / Congrats to Corey P.2
- Eric E. Baptized / Gifts of Grace Promotion P.2
- Upcoming Events P.2

closer to God. Very shortly afterward, I willingly decided to join the program, which in turn has been more of a blessing than I could have ever imagined. After fully surrendering to God, I decided to work the program with complete abandon. In doing so, I have received abundant spiritual instruction, discipline and most importantly, growth.

Romans 8:28 says: “And we know that in *all* things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.” In retrospect, I now realize that God allowed me to go through such unfortunate circumstances to not only relate to - but also to empathize with the men who come through the doors beat down, broken and terribly lost. It is hard to describe the joy that I have found in not only my newly-strengthened relationship with God, but the fact that He chose to use someone like me to reach so many that are hurting and in need of the love of Christ.

In closing, James 2:5 says: “Has God not chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom He promised to those who love Him?” I now see that what the world considers unacceptable, just might be the next great leader coming through the door in need of some food, a place to lay his head, and God’s perfect will for the rest of his life. My name is Nate Miller, a recent graduate of HOD (pictured above), and a grateful believer in Jesus Christ.

### “From The Heart” by Tim Wiseman, Executive Director (Continued on Back)



What did David mean when he said in Psalm 18:23 “...I kept myself from my iniquity”? David also used the word “iniquity” in Psalm

51:5 “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in iniquity my mother conceived me.” Hang on just a minute! How can a baby, just being conceived, already be experiencing iniquity? Let’s begin by digging deeper into the word “iniquity”. In the Hebrew, “iniquity” is “avon”, which means:

To Bend; Curved; to Distort; *Twisted*. I thought David was a man after God’s own heart? How in the world could he have been TWISTED? I believe the answers to these questions are actually found in the objective of a popular game called Twister. Here is the Milton Bradley Company written objective for creating this game Twister: “...to put the players in unlikely or precarious positions, eventually causing someone to fall.” I whole-heartedly believe that David is not unique in this. I believe that each one of

us have something that we are “bent” toward. It might not be drugs, alcohol or pornography. But it might be pride, food, material things, etc. It’s important to note that it’s not who we are; it’s just something we are “bent” toward and Satan uses it to eventually cause us to fall. The Cross Spider can be used as an analogy for this. Scientists have proven through a study at B.C. Berkley that the cross spider’s web uses the very electricity created from the wings of its flying prey to lure and pull them to its sticky web. ....

## “From the Heart” Part B Continued...

For example, the honeybee creates as much as 200 volts when flapping its wings. That electricity bounces from the cross spider's web back to the honeybee with such a powerful attraction that it causes the bee to fly directly to its death. Satan uses the thing that we are attracted toward to lure us in, causing us to fall at times. You might be saying, “Tim, this is Christmastime. You should be writing about a Christmas song, the cradle, the North star.” Well, let me conclude this article by bringing you good tidings. It's found in I John 4:4, “Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world”. This is why Jesus came. This is why we can celebrate in this season. God gave us a beautiful gift, Jesus. And because of Jesus, we never have to fall into our temptations. We do not have to give in to those desires. Jesus is greater in us, than that “bend” we lean toward. Thank you Jesus!

## Jobs for Life - Graduates



Two of our residents, Steve J. and James K., graduated from the “Jobs for Life” program through Buckner's Community Transformation Center in Longview. The ceremony was held at First Baptist Church and had 14 graduates in total. “Jobs for Life” is a faith-based curriculum that helps people identify their skills and talents and determine what kinds of jobs they're best suited for. It also teaches essential job search skills: how to complete an application, how to make a great impression in an interview, and how to sell their skills and experience.

## Holiday Food Giveaway

With the holiday season approaching and food stamp help shrinking, many people are facing some uncertainty when it comes to putting food on the table. This month, H.O.D. teamed up with Harvest Outreach Ministry, Highway 80 Rescue Mission, Gregg County Sheriffs Department, Global Heart International and over 45 volunteers to provide assistance to local families. The giveaway distributed over 320 food baskets of fresh fruits, vegetables and non-perishable foods to families in need. The food baskets included 250 turkeys, chicken, yams, cranberry sauce, potatoes and drinks donated by the Made-Rite Company.



**November Birthday:** Mrs. Meyer hosted the November Birthday Party for our resident, John V., complete with a gift and refreshments.

## Congrats to Corey:



We would like to congratulate Corey H. for not only completing the 12-month Life Recovery program at H.O.D., but for also obtaining his driver's license and earning his GED. This is quite the accomplishment. We are proud of you and pray you will continue to be blessed.

## HOD Band

The House of Disciples Band had four ministry events this month. On November 15th, they participated in the Cardboard Box City at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. During this event, people slept in cardboard boxes to raise money and awareness for the homeless. (pictured) On the 17th, they ministered at First Baptist Church for the Gathering Service. On the 20th and 21st, the band ministered at the East Texas Treatment Facility in Henderson.



## Youth Group Volunteers



We would like to thank the youth group from Oakland Heights Baptist Church for donating their time and talents to volunteer at Gifts of Grace on Saturday, November 16th. This amazing group of kids and adults got a lot accomplished. They cleaned the store, processed donations, and put out a large inventory of Christmas items.

We are so thankful to all our volunteers. We could not do ministry without you.

## Thanksgiving

The residents of H.O.D. may have packed on a few extra pounds this holiday season, but how could they not, with all the delicious Thanksgiving feasts that have been provided for them. Not only did the men have an onsite celebration, but several community groups and individuals also blessed us with some great food and fellowship. Thank you to everyone who participated in all the festivities.



## Eric E. Baptized:

This past month, Eric E. was baptized by Pastor Cary Hilliard of First Baptist Church in Longview. We have seen a lot of growth in Eric and pray he continues to put God first. He is always willing to volunteer and has a great attitude.



## Contact us:

**House of Disciples:**  
[www.houseofdisciples.com](http://www.houseofdisciples.com)  
[info@houseofdisciples.com](mailto:info@houseofdisciples.com)  
 Phone: 903-553-0952  
 Fax: 903-234-2303

**Mailing:**  
 House of Disciples  
 P.O. Box 1207  
 Longview, TX 75606

**Physical Location #1:**  
 House of Disciples  
 210 S. Green St.  
 Longview, TX 75601

**Physical Location #2:**  
 House of Disciples  
 2028 9th St.  
 High Island, TX 77623

**House of Disciples Band:**  
[band@houseofdisciples.com](mailto:band@houseofdisciples.com)  
 Bookings: 903-851-9249

## Gifts of Grace Promotion

We are always looking for ways to bless our community and one way is through our \$5 Fill-A-Bag promotion. On the last Friday of every month, we allow our customers to fill one of our bags with clothing and shoes and pay only \$5. Many people return every month for this great deal.



## Upcoming Events

**Friday, Dec 6 / 7 PM**

Downings Plus Band - Friday Night Live at HOD-Longview

**Tuesday, Dec 10 / 6 PM**

Food Outreach at Harvest Outreach, Longview, TX

**Wednesday, Dec 18 - Thursday, Dec 19 / 6 PM**

HOD Band - ETX Treatment Facility, Henderson, TX

**Tuesday, Dec 24 - Wednesday, Dec 25**

Gifts of Grace Resale Store - CLOSED

**Wednesday, Dec 25 - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**

**Tuesday, Dec 31 - NEW YEARS EVE**

Gifts of Grace Resale Store - CLOSING at 4 PM