



# *Off The Streets!*

A Newsletter for Friends and Donors  
of the Idaho Falls City of Refuge

Men's Mission

Summer 2009

## Students at the City of Refuge



Alan, Dean, and Ruben

They begin their day at 5:30 AM, have breakfast and do their chores so they are ready by 8:00 AM to attend a chapel service. Each morning a different man from our community comes to teach from 9:30 to 11:30 on various topics. 11:30 to 12:30 is lunch break. From 1:00 to 5:00 PM is a time for study, homework, self-evaluations, one on one meetings with our case manager, and exercise. In the evening from 5:00 to 6:00, there is time for an hour of TV news, then dinner and from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, another group of men from our community volunteers their time for teaching. From 9:00 until 10:00 PM is a quiet and prayer time. 10:00 PM lights out. It all makes for an intense regimented schedule.

Weekends are a little less structured with time for a store run, work projects and a few hours of free time. Sundays, in the first phases of our program, all of our students go together to worship with different churches in the community each week. Sunday afternoon includes time for visits from family and friends. As the men get into the later phases of the program they will be actively involved in a church of their choice. They will also be choosing the direction of their future either in a vocation or in continuing their education while still staying at and participating in the mission's programs.

***"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jer 29:11***

It is a joy to have men in our mission all day along with the men who have stepped up to the task of teaching and mentoring. I am hearing comments like "This program is just what I needed in my life. I'm learning my purpose and it's wonderful." and "The Lord has healed me mentally, physically and spiritually. Now my foundation is strong. Through the Lord I have learned not to lean on my own understanding." And "The Discipleship Program has turned my life around. All praise and glory be to God."

A special thanks to the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Group for their generous support. They provided lockers for our men as well as a new storage shed and even took the time to prepare and serve dinner.

# From the Director

## Ronnie Lloyd

### Case Manager/Lead Supervisor

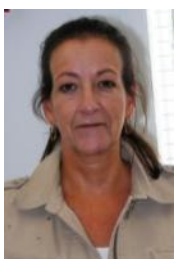


I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community of Idaho falls for your prayers and your support. As you know, we are in troubling times.

Here at the City of Refuge Discipleship program we believe we are blessed with the chance to bring the good news of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ to men on an individual basis. We have been blessed with three men so far who have made a decision to trust in the Lord and lean not on their own understanding. With the Lords guidance and your prayers these men are on their way to a life of joy, peace and fulfillment. I thank you for all that you do and your continued support.

## Meet Cherie Laurance

### Volunteer Coordinator



Cherie is our new volunteer coordinator. I'm sure many of you have had the pleasure of meeting her and seeing how good she is at keeping our kitchen clean, organized and full of cheerful volunteers.

Cherie started with us as a volunteer herself in the thrift store and showed so much motivation and willingness to help that she was easy to choose when we needed a new employee. Cherie tells us that she still needs a few cooks for July and August so you might as well call to get on the schedule for when you're in town, if you don't she will find you and it's a long trip back from Island Park

## Failure and Forgiveness

Life on this earth can be a reflection of spiritual life. We can learn lessons from our experiences here that help us to understand spiritual truths and vice versa. *"Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"* MT 7:9-11. So our relationship to our children can help us see our relationship to our Father in heaven. Moreover, it works the other direction also. Our Father in heaven has given us the examples of how he relates to us in order to help us understand how we should relate to each other. *"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."* Col 3:13

As we live our lives on this earth, we find many times that we fail. We fail our families, our employers, our God and ourselves. It is how we interpret and deal with this failure that is important. Teachers will tell you that failure is how we learn. How does God deal with our failures? *"...God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners (failures), Christ died for us."* Rom 5:8. This should be instructive to us. According to 1John 1:9, *"If we confess our sins (failures), he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins (failures) and purify us from all unrighteousness."* So when those around us fail we need to follow our Father's example and forgive them. *"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against (fails) me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."* MT 18:21-22.

Yours in Christ,



David McKinney





Summer is the time of year most of us are enjoying taking time off to relax and spend time with our family and friends. Camping, boating, hiking, water parks and amusement parks all take our attention off the pressures of our normal busy lives. They also take our attention off the needs of those around us but homelessness and need do not go on a summer vacation. Christmas and Thanksgiving are the traditional times that we are concerned more about the less fortunate among us. A "Christmas" gift in July could help change a homeless man's life this summer.

***"...homelessness and need don't go on a summer vacation."***

The thrift store will be having a "Christmas in July Sale" in our holiday room. So come in and get some early Christmas shopping done. We appreciate the donated items that you have brought in so far. We could still use some household items in good condition. Maybe this summer would be a good time to de-clutter and donate your excess to the City of Refuge Thrift Store. Remember the proceeds from the thrift store help support the work of our mission so your donations and shopping trips do double duty!

*Thanks and Blessings to Butch and Jeri Rardin. They have moved to New Mexico. Butch was God's man for God's time at the City of Refuge. We will miss them both as will the many men and women whose lives they touched.*

## **COR NEEDS**

- **Coffee**
- Fresh Fruit
- Salad Dressing,
- **Cooking oil**
- Paper Plates, Cups, Napkins
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Tuna
- Large Ziploc bags
- Disposable Razors, Deodorant
- Ibuprofen, Tylenol
- **Bleach**
- Powdered Laundry Soap
- Sleeping Bags
- Copy Paper
- Thrift Store Volunteers - Saturday
- Volunteer Cooks
- **Prayer** for: Finances, Leadership, Volunteers, Staff

## **Your 2008 Gifts at Work**

(For Jan 1, 2009 - March 31, 2009)

- 780 bed nights provided
- 46 different residents stayed
- 88% of residents moved to more permanent housing
- 17% were veterans
- 35% were under age 30
- 46% were age 31-50
- 17% were age 51-61
- 2% were age 62 and above
- 75 Bible devotion attendees
- 3555 individual meals served
- 292 food boxes distributed
- 82 people helped with 424 items from the thrift store



Keep praying for "Tim."

# Memorials

(Through May 31, 2008)

## In Memory Of:

**James Evans** by Matt Evans, **J.C. Hansen** by Marianne Noy, **Chris Von Feldt** by Rick Von Felt, **Josh Jenkins** by Dianne Wagoner, **Irving Halling** by Ken Hopkin, **Michael Mucci** by Gwen Monson, **Agnes Murdoch** by David and Michelle Shaw, **Dennis Hochwart** by Louis and Joyce Thiel, **Norm Pace** by Marvin and Sharon Eld, **Lester Allen** by Patricia Allen, **George J. Newman** by Blanche T. Newman, **Jim and John Ferguson** by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Ferguson, **Medreth McGrew** by Clifton and Norma Parker, **George** by Dolores Wachs, **Robert W. Nelson** by Dorothy Allred, **Leonard Fisk** by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wallace, **Dewey and Elaine Myler and Rex Beebe** by Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Beebe, **Arnold Zenk** by Lenyce Zenk, **John Xavier (Jack) Combo** by Gary and Jo Ann Rose, **Bill Donnelly** by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Donnelly, **David E. Stolworthy** by Brenda K. Stolworthy **Elsie Appenzeller** by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Narus, **Ann McKell** by Norma Davis, **Margaret George Moon** by Howard Moon, **Jay C. and Alice Hawker** by Lynn Hawker, **Donald Peck** by Marilyn Peck, **Jerry Love** by Reeves and Karin Smith, **Glen Vaughn** by Mr. and Mrs. James Kilburn, **Jeanne James** by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Zaladonis, **John Noser** by Doug Wood.

## In Honor Of:

**Tommy Snouffer** by Robert Long, **Jesus** by Jackie-Ross Tobin, **Jesus** by Mr. Keith Wilson, **Matt Rady** by Keith Rady, **Easter** by Mr. and Mrs. David Worley, **Homeless Vets** by David and Kim Remien, **Veterans** by Nancy and Barry Carlson.

The City of Refuge is a non-profit organization committed to providing emergency shelter, essential services, and hope to homeless men. COR is the only emergency shelter of its kind in a nine-county region of Eastern Idaho. Meals, food, and personal items are also provided to the hungry and hurting in our area.

## Our Mission Statement

Demonstrating the love of Christ by providing opportunities for the homeless and impoverished to become self-reliant through the utilization of resources provided by God's people, for God's glory.



### Men's Mission & Community Outreach

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City of Refuge is a self-supporting outreach of: **Family Care Center, Inc.** 1675 Curlew Drive, Idaho Falls 83406

**Executive Director:** John Oakley,