

Director's Corner

Each month, one of our Directors will share a message here. Something about what is happening in their lives, in the lives of the men, or how God is moving! It will give a voice to the amazing men called to serve as Director's in the Refuge Ministries!

As most of you are probably aware, one of the ways we assist men in becoming responsible men of God is by renewing in them a desire to work. One such avenue we use is HIS Marketplace Services in Columbus, Ohio. This "temp service" allows us to provide services such as light construction, painting, landscaping and other labor services to local business in Columbus and surrounding areas. While operating as part of the Refuge, we have always utilized disciples as the workforce...until now. As part of an ongoing effort to serve men even after their 13 months, HIS Marketplace Services has become Marketplace Staffing.

This will operate by allowing men to transition from working while in the Refuge to working for Marketplace Staffing after their time in the Refuge. In many situations, the men will continue to work for the same employer. Much more important, this will allow the men to stay connected to their brothers and to the ministry. By increasing accountability and keeping connections strong, success will undoubtedly increase as men work through the transition from living in the Refuge, to building God's kingdom and their own lives...truly becoming responsible men of God.

Pastor Bill Fitzpatrick
Columbus Area Director

Contact us at **614.991.0131**

www.mensliveschanged.org



PO Box 919
Grove City, Oh 43123
614.991.0131

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Christmas 2010

Christmas 2010 Newsletter

Sullivant Avenue Property



Over the last months, we have been involved in the arduous journey of working with architects, obtaining permits and passing inspections on our renovation project at 1601 Sullivant Avenue. This location will become the main housing for men in Phase Three of the Refuge ministries. The need to complete this project has now become more important than ever.

Currently, we have no beds available in Columbus, we have 25 men in Phase Two, Vinton County, that are preparing to be promoted to Phase Three and we have a waiting list for men wanting to enter into the ministry. God is preparing the harvest, sending men in need to our ministry and now, we must be diligent in our work to get the Sullivant Property ready for these men.

As always, we need all members of the body in order to

complete this task. To be bold and direct, monetary contributions are the most effective way in which you can help. If God has touched your heart to be a partner in this area, please use the enclosed envelope and mark on the front Sullivant Property.

If you are unable to contribute this way, perhaps you have a skill or know someone in the skilled trades who can volunteer their time, talents and abilities. We have needs in the areas of Plumbing, Electrical, HVAC, Drywall, and a number of other traditional construction skills. Please call 614.991.0131 for additional information.

Most importantly, please continue covering this project and our ministry in prayer.

Disciple Testimony – Jeremy Griffin

This is my testimony of how Jesus Christ touched my heart and changed my life. I won't spend much time wallowing in the past, but I do want to paint a brief picture to show the power of our Lord to transform lives. I will go back nine years, fresh out of college and ready to take on the world. My new found life in the relentless workforce became a harsh reality that was very difficult to deal with.

To cope, I turned to alcohol and found a quick and easy way to temporarily mitigate the pain and fear in my life. For the next few years, I merely existed. My passion was gone. The inner drive to succeed that so once enveloped myself was nothing more than a mere memory. I had lost all purpose and hope in my life. My addiction soon grew to something that my body now needed, not just craved. It was the first thing I reached to in the morning, dictated the course of my day, and was the last thing I saw before I was put into a state of unconsciousness that could hardly be called sleep.

The enemy had accomplished his task, and the vicious downward spiral was in full swing. My day could be summed up as follows Shake, drink, vomit, repeat. That was it. That was what my life had become. The object I had used to numb my pain had become the most painful thing in my life. Seizures, DUI's, car accidents, loss of jobs, nothing seemed to be enough for me to wake up and stop. Long story short, I was sitting in my truck one night, staring at my clothes that had been thrown out into the garage, and realized that I had nowhere else to go.

The successful collegiate student-athlete was now homeless, helpless, lost and one step away from death. Just then, a song came on the radio called "Call My Name". It says, "When you feel like you're alone in your sadness, and you feel like no one in the whole world cares, and you wanna get away from the madness, just call my name."

So that next Tuesday, I entered the Refuge with absolutely no intention of staying for 13 months. I figured I'd stay for 5 or 6 months, get myself together, and leave. Fortunately, God had different plans. For the first time, I actually "felt" His love. I realized that all the years of disobedience, spitting in His face, telling Him that I got this, had been forgiven.

The God who I knew as the one who ruled with the iron fist had become the one who loves me in spite of me. I learned who I was in Jesus Christ. I was not a failure, a disappointment, or a hopeless drunk. I learned that I am God's son. That we obey Him not out of fear of punishment, but rather out of our love for Him. I am so thankful that we serve a God that not only makes promises, but more importantly that He never breaks them. God has, as it says in Joel 2:25, "Restored unto me the years the locusts have eaten". He has given me back the family and friends that I had hurt and destroyed. I have seen more forgiveness in the past year than most probably see in a lifetime. The world will continue to dispute the existence of God, the meaning of life, and the validity of the Bible. But when God reaches down, touches a man's heart and transforms his life, that, my friends, is indisputable. I will leave you with this verse from II Cor. 5:17 "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new."

A Call to Action...

The Refuge Ministries

The Refuge is actively working to become a completely self-sufficient ministry however, we are not there yet. God has blessed the Refuge with three revenue sources in the Marketplace, all of which are completely staffed by men of the Refuge. HIS Marketplace Services, Pioneer Coffee & Ice Cream Company and Nelson's Fundraising & Catering are all doing well especially considering these economic times.

We feel we are moving in the right direction and we constantly seek God and His vision in all we do. Still, your faithful contributions have meant the very literal difference between keeping our doors open and having to close them. We thank each and every one of you who have given over the years. Either a onetime gift or continuing contribution, we do thank God for your blessing. Now, being so close, we still need your contributions to keep us afloat as we draw ever closer to the goal of being self-sufficient. Search your heart, seek God's calling and should you feel called to give, we have several ways that you may do so.

Please visit www.mensliveschanged.org for more information or call 614.991.0131.

As always, may God bless you for all your work and consideration.

Marketplace Staffing

Marketplace Staffing is now looking for talented individuals who are interested in working for a Kingdom business. Marketplace Staffing is a temporary staffing agency focusing in the following areas...

- Light Construction
- Demolition / Tear Outs
- Remodeling
- Painting
- Warehouse
- Seasonal Landscaping

We offer competitive wages, safe work environments and most importantly, we are a Kingdom business operating with Biblical principles.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact us:

Bill Fitzpatrick – Director
614.432.4350
bfitz@marketplacestaffing.org

Jeff Kirby – Staffing Specialist
614.596.5249
jeff@marketplacestaffing.org

Nelson's in The Plains

In the month of September, the Nelson's Team worked alongside the Athens Chapter of the American Red Cross to serve The Plains area of Ohio in their time of need.

As everyone knows, the weather in Ohio can go from idyllic to tempestuous in a matter of moments. In mid-September, The Plains area of Southern Ohio was affected by a massive storm system that created a great deal of damage. The American Red Cross was on the scene within hours to help those in need with shelter and food.

Troy Johnson, an elder at River City Fellowship in Gallipolis, Ohio had recently been meeting with Tom Stansbury, Ohio Area Developer for Nelson's, discussing ways in which the two organizations could work together in fundraising opportunities.

When Troy learned of what had taken place in The Plains, he made call to Tom and a plan began to form. What started as an effort to simply take to a Nelson's cooker and a team to serve the residents for one night, quickly evolved into a week of service and ministry/ Eventually serving 8500 meals during one week's time.

Far beyond simply serving hot meals to both area residents and aid workers, this became an opportunity to pray for and minister to people in need.

With a heart to serve and a mission of charity, the Nelson's team brought a ray of God's Light into an area that was suffering. It was not uncommon to see men from the Nelson's team gathered around someone in prayer. What's more is that during this time of struggle, smiles and laughter could be seen and heard all over.

Ministry does not only come from the pulpit, ministry takes place anywhere there is need and there are people of God willing to meet that need with the heart of Christ!

So well received was Nelson's involvement with this mission that the American Red Cross has asked Nelson's to become a Certified Vendor to be called upon for service in the future.

We are blessed to be a blessing to others. Serving with a heart humility and watching God move in mighty ways.



Bible verse of the Month >>>

James 2:18

But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works."

Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works...



"Quotable..."

When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, "I used everything you gave me."

~Erma Bombeck