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WINTER NEWSLETTER 2017

The Director's Perspective

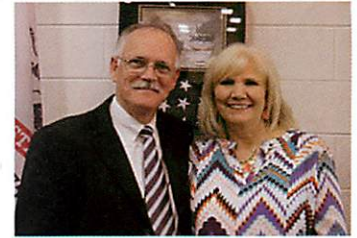
Dear Friends,

It's great to be able to write and tell all the great things the Lord has done and is doing at Crossroads. I just want to take a minute and praise Him! He has been so good to us! All of our outreach programs have been blessed and so many received help from the Lord in 2016. We have had a lot of good men to hang in there and graduate the Sons of God program. I know some may say, "I know some who still have problems..." Well, you are right! But, they got the right start in Christ while they were at Crossroads. All of the people who come through our programs may not always do right, but they can never say that they were not taught the right way at Crossroads! If they use the tools we give them and truly get John 3:3 "BORN AGAIN," their lives will change forever. The young man featured in the testimony article below is a good example. Steve came here with all his own answers and said that he wasn't like the other men and he could learn

every thing he needed in just three months. He was intelligent and knew the ways of the world. But Christ made all the difference in his life, just like so many others. Thank the Lord for letting us open our doors sixteen years ago.

Also, Brother Mike Pool is willing to give us a 123 X 202 metal building, which is 25,000 square feet. We currently pay rent on one warehouse of 12,000 square feet at \$2,000 a month and our 7,000 square foot building for our thrift store is another \$3,200 per month. We are hoping to use this facility as both the warehouse and thrift store, but we need \$115,000 for the concrete slab and insulation. Bro. Pool said they would put the building up for us for free! Praise the Lord! When finished, the building would be worth \$375,000. So pray about helping us with the funds needed.

One of the greatest times of the year will soon be here with our Annual Spring Jubilee.



Bro. Rocky and Mrs. Deborah Shelton, Executive Directors

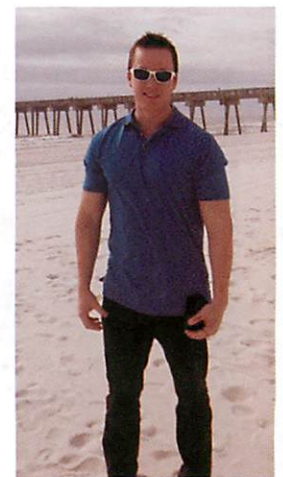
This year's Jubilee time will be Monday, April 24 through Friday, April 28, so mark down the dates and try to attend! Jubilee is always a great time of anointed preaching and singing when God's people can just enjoy some fellowship and rejoice in all that He has done.

We're excited about 2017 and all the Lord has for us. We hope that your year has been blessed thus far and continues to be in the months ahead. Whether this letter is being read by a church, individual, or business, please pray for us at both Crossroads and The Quiet Heart for whatever the Lord has in store for the year ahead! God bless you!

Testimony of Steve Greer

While attending some Reformers Unanimous meetings in Atco, New Jersey I observed the change in men returning home from Crossroads. I saw something new, something different, not perfection but instead a distinguished remodeling of their integrity no conman could masterfully fake or act. I wanted that as well, and to be free from the alcoholism that had me secretly in bondage for so many years, so I came to Crossroads on July 4th, 2015 totally unprepared for what would await me! Imagine such an abrupt swing in life, from North to South in moments, and you awaken in Shelby NC; a land much different than Cherry Hill, NJ. I planned to bypass the 90 day program by "learning the Bible in 30 days" (or so I thought). Well, God had different plans. I was saved August 4th 2015 and six months later completed

the Sons of God program. Prior to this date, I was lost in my own arrogance and self-centeredness. But, He came to me. The Lord slowed my perception of time, as if clock hands were momentarily still, finally yielding me the patience to humbly discern his Word and will from mine. It's true no man can serve two masters. Today, I serve the Lord because he saved me from my sin. After Crossroads the Lord guided me to complete two separate associates degrees in Addictions Counseling and Pre Nursing. I'm attending Solid Rock Baptist Church in Atco New Jersey, working part-time, student full time, and all the glory is God's. I am so thankful that the Lord led me to Crossroads Rescue Mission and for the change He has wrought in my life!





The Lord has really blessed the Quiet Heart in 2016. Ms. Janie Sheffield became our first graduate last August. She is truly a success story when you consider that we have had thirty-seven other women to come through this ministry, but she is the first to complete the entire six months. She has been a great blessing to the ministry. Our second graduate was Ms. Tori Callen. Tori graduated on December 9, 2016. An eighteen year old from Butler, PA, she plans on going to Ambassador Baptist College in the near future. It's always great to see the Lord work in the hearts of young ladies as He molds them to Christlikeness. Our

most recent graduate is Ms. Elizabeth Goodman. From Roanoke, VA, Beth graduated from the program on January 7. As with these other success stories, we can't wait to see many more graduates in the future. We believe it's the Lord's desire to keep working in the lives of the women who have come through The Quiet Heart for the rest of their lives. Please help us pray for the Lord's strength, wisdom, and direction as we launch into 2017.

Other highlights from 2016 were the completion of the privacy fence on our property. Special thanks to Brother Mike Goodson (former pastor at Gilead Baptist Church in Knoxville, TN) for their contribution toward the privacy fence. We also want to send a special thanks to Pastor Mike Pool (Forgiven Baptist Church, West Columbia, SC) and his congregation for their help putting up our fence and their generous contribution toward it as well.

—Director David McKenzie



Other Highlights...

We so greatly appreciate the congregation from Hoye Memorial United Methodist Church for once again feeding the men a *delightful meal on December 19* for the Christmas holidays. In addition to some amazing lasagna and other home-cooked sides, the men had a fun time singing carols, playing games, and winning prizes! They also blessed each resident with a gift bag. (Pictured right)



(Not Pictured) We also would like to thank the congregations of Mount Sinai Baptist Church and Christopher Road Baptist Church for providing Christmas meals for the men and the gifts they provided, as well as everyone who contributed to any of our community outreach programs throughout the year. We simply could not provide these outreaches to our men, ladies, and our communities without your generous support throughout the year.



Thanks to the following ladies ministries from The Quiet Heart, New Buffalo, Faith, Old Rugged, and Gospel Way Baptist Churches for their help decorating the trees!

Donations Given In Memoriam...

- Mr. James E. Wright— By Ms. Jane Harris
- Mr. Bill Phagin— By Mr. & Mrs. John & Joyce Van Dyke
- Ms. Nancy Wiggins— By Ms. Ann Scism
- Mr. Jack Byrd— By Ms. Kathy Keeler
- Mr. Larry Birt— By Ms. Janice Brooks
- Mr. LeRoy Dubre— By Carla L. & C. Mitchel Pickelsimer
- Mr. John Cabiness— By Mr. John Billinsky
- Mr. Gary Dover— By Ms. Debra Dover
- Ms. Irene Hull— By Pastor J. Barry Goodman



Pictured Above: Sons of God graduates Eddie Butler, Arthur Gatz, and Jimmy Marsh
Below: Jeff Kizer, Guy Brim, Shane Shillinglaw, and Bobby McAlpin



Would you like to help? As you can imagine, it takes a lot of supplies to feed, clothe and house up to 45 men at once! We are always in need of cleaning supplies (like Pine-Sol, bleach, laundry detergent, etc.), kitchen items (coffee, sugar, paper plates, trash bags), and other miscellaneous items (toilet paper, paper towels, shaving cream, razors, etc.). If your church, business, or organization would like to help, please let us know!

Thanksgiving 2016 Pics and Highlights



A resident waves HELLO while "gobbling" down his Thanksgiving turkey dinner!



As the autumn and winter months approach, most people's minds are on the beauty of the changing leaves and preparation for Thanksgiving and Christmas. At Crossroads, our minds are focused on how we can help the less fortunate from around our area. Three of our four biggest community outreach events occur each year between August and December (our annual Back-To-School Bookbag Drive, Thanksgiving Community Meal, and

Christmas Toy Drive). All three of these events were once again a huge success, thanks to your generous donations and volunteer work! In addition to our own residents from both the men's and women's missions, we fed hundreds from around the area who otherwise may have not had a warm Thanksgiving meal. We also provide transportation to-and-from several locations from around Shelby to Crossroads, and hand-deliver meals to shut-ins and invalids. What a blessing to be a blessing!



Christmas Toy Drive

"I am so thankful to Crossroads for helping my family with toys this Christmas. I don't know what we would have done without them! The kids were so excited!"

It's been called "the most wonderful time of the year" both in song and by most of us at some point in time. But for many people it is anything but a joyous time of gift-giving and reflection. Often many of us have the tendency to take the simplest things in life for granted, such as the ability to give a child or loved-one a Christmas gift. Thanks to your contributions to our annual Christmas toy drive, we are able to extend the love of Christ to those in

our community who would otherwise have absolutely nothing. This year we chose to work with local churches and schools to find the families who most desperately needed help supplying toys for Christmas to their children. Not only the children, but also their parents were blessed with gift cards to be used for gas and other household necessities. The children of each resident at Crossroads also received toys (pictured above right) so that they as well could have a merry Christmas. We so appreciate your help in being an extension of the love of Jesus Christ to our community.



Back-To-School Bookbag Drive 2016



Special thanks to Fifth-Third Bank for helping sponsor the 2016 Bookbag

Each year we are honored to be able to serve our community's young people as they prepare to return back to school by giving away free bookbags packed full of the supplies such as notebooks, pens, pencils, glue, rulers and other necessities. We firmly believe that by helping these children with getting back to school and giving them a great start each year, they are less likely to use drugs or alcohol in the future. Our children are the future! And we want their futures to be the best that they can possibly be!



There are so many opportunities for you to help be a part of Crossroads Rescue Mission. Give us a call for more information!

