

A Letter to The Ministry Partners of

Volume 11 Issue 2

August 2010

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DALE'S STORY

When I first came to The Regeneration Center, I was going through a deep valley in my life. One that is possibly the deepest I have ever encountered. I was full of anxiety and did not know what to expect. I was going through a marital separation, unemployed and had health conditions with my spine. I did not know what would happen one day to the next and was filled with despair,

loneliness and deep depression.

After starting Life Skills classes, which included nearly all that were offered, the facilitators and other participants helped me find out that I was not the only one who had issues that needed great healing. I've dealt with a violent upbringing of child abuse, alcoholism (been clean and sober for nearly 6 years),

a broken marriage since May 1st, spinal problems and a host of other issues.

In the past 15 years I have gone through therapy, been put on medications for depression, anxiety and attention deficit. I thought these infirmities had been dealt with, but after coming to TRC, and being a part of the classes and groups, I found that one huge component

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VANESSA'S STORY

I never knew how much God loved me until I tried to kill myself. I was sitting in the bathroom of a motel room thinking that I hated my life, it was never going to get better, and I just couldn't live the way I was living anymore.

There was no hope, no joy, and no peace. Everything that I tried to do to fix my life didn't work, so I gave up.

For the last ten years I have been drinking and doing drugs. I lost everything I had

a couple of times, including my kids. I hurt a lot of people and did a lot of bad things. I have been homeless a few times, hitch hiking around the country, and living in tents, under bridges,

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CURRENT EVENTS

From the contents of the two testimonies included in this prayer letter, you are or should be thrilled at God's power to change the hearts and lives of people.

For the last couple of months, the writers of these testimonies have been attending Life Skills classes conducted at the 6th Avenue

Community Center. These classes are open to residents of the community. As you look over the descriptions of the classes that are available (see enclosed insert), you may find something which you feel could be helpful for you. For more information, call 320-759-0794 or 320-808-9536.

-Betty Coleman-

This year we are holding our **11th Annual Banquet** at **6:00 pm** on **October 1st** at the Holiday Inn, 5637 Hwy 29 S, Alexandria, MN.

Join us for an evening of music, testimonies of what God has been doing through The Regeneration Center and fellowship with friends and fam-

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DALE'S STORY

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was missing in all those years of therapy; developing a closer relationship with God. The classes and groups bring God and His healing Grace into the picture. For the first time in my life, I realized what was missing. I so direly needed to heal and live with these unresolved issues in my life. I needed the Almighty Father, His Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to make my journey complete and ease my burden. Up until my involvement at TRC, they played a small part in it. Now I can't imagine living without them.

The staff at TRC is among some of the most wonderful and beautiful people I've known. This is perhaps the first time in life that I'm com-

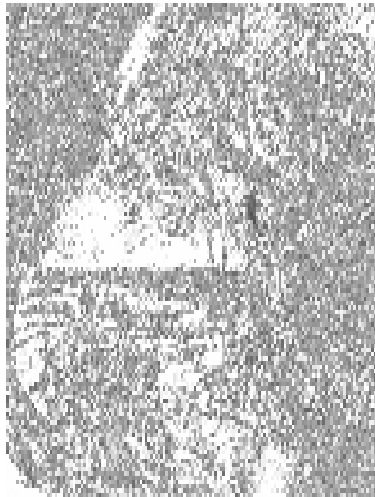
pletely surrounded and lifted up by the most caring, loving and positive people I've experienced. They genuinely care about how you're doing. It's not just a saying or greeting in passing. I am so very grateful for everyone at TRC. In my almost 51 years of life it would be hard to remember a time that I have felt such a powerful and positive Christian group as there is at TRC. Their friendship and support are truly gifts from God that will not be forgotten.

-Dale-

"It would be hard to remember a time that I have felt such a powerful and positive Christian group as there is at The Regeneration Center."

"The classes and groups bring God and His healing Grace into the picture."

KIDS CORNER



To really see what colorful activity we've been up to at Community Kids lately, you have to actually come to our corner! I encourage you to take a drive to the 6th Avenue Community Cen-

ter and look around the corner at the new mural on the North wall. Be prepared to be amazed! In early spring, we applied for a grant from the Minnesota Beautiful project. In May, we received word that we had been chosen to receive 64 gallons of paint from the Valspar Corporation. While waiting for the paint to be delivered, we spoke with two local artists, Jody Anderson & Jordana Reece, about a design for a very large mural project. In a way that only the Lord can orchestrate, both artists came up with such similar and terrific designs that we asked them to collaborate on a final draft. In an amazingly creative effort, they actually each designed one half of this sketch! Pretty cool, huh?

On June 20th, the background paint was started and the mural began on June 25th. Jordana has been the sole artist thus far and has donated a truly generous amount of talent and hours. She has been encouraged by how well it is coming along and how quickly. Her motivation to finish is propelled by the fact that she will be leaving to study art in Italy come September. The final touches to the mural will be flowers created from the handprints of the children that attend Community Kids! Please stop by to see this masterpiece, and if Jordana is there, give her your encouragement.

We have taken the kids out to the Schonberg farm twice this

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VANESSA'S STORY

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and in the woods.

When things were really bad, I would try to forget my problems with alcohol and numb the pain with methamphetamines. I needed more and more to deal with my life. I started drinking almost every day and even started shooting up drugs. I was looking for some other feeling other than the pain and depression inside of me.

I started to scare myself. I would do really crazy things while I was drinking, but I couldn't stop. I tried to, but I couldn't do it on my own. I ended up in jail a few times and almost went to prison. I knew I

was getting too out of control, but I didn't know how to fix myself. I thought that no one loved me, that I wasn't good enough for people to even care about me. I was on my own. The only way I could make things better was suicide.

I never thought that God would want to save me from the mess of my life, but He did. I guess He didn't want me to die that night in the motel room. He saved me. Even at the worst time in my life, when I felt so alone, God was there. All I had to do was call on Him and He was there. He loved me so much that He sent Jesus to die for all my sins so I could be saved.

Wow! That is real love! Even while I was so messed up, he still loved me.

I have been sober since May 13, 2010. I never thought I would ever be sober. I couldn't imagine my life without drugs and alcohol. God has filled my life with His love, joy and peace. I love Him so much for what He has done for me and for what He is going to do. I know that I don't have to go through life alone because Jesus is with me. I am deeply loved, completely forgiven, fully pleasing, totally accepted by God, and absolutely complete in Christ. He is the best thing that has ever happened to me and without him I know I would not be here today.

-Vanessa-

"I never thought God would want to save me from the mess of my life, but He did."

CURRENT EVENTS

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ily. Gospel Musician **Terry G. Hall** will be our entertainment for the evening. Terry Hall has been traveling and singing for 40 years. He started out in his home state of Kentucky, singing bass with various southern gospel groups on weekends. His part time ministry soon expanded to include traveling to other nearby states including Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Virginia and others, and in 2000, Terry and his wife moved to Tennessee and decided to become a full time gospel ministry. Terry's concerts will leave you with great joy for the Lord. Because of his broad voice range, he is able to present a wide variety of singing styles, which thrill the heart of young and old alike.

To find out more about Terry's ministry, visit his website at www.terryghallmusicministry.com.

Dinner is provided; a free will offering will be taken. Seating is limited, so make your reservations early! Final reservations must be made by Sept. 24th. For more information, visit our website at www.regenerationcenter.org or call (320) 759-0794.



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KIDS CORNER

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late Spring/Summer. In the spring we planted a long row of tomatoes. This was a new experience for the kids and for me. The Community Kids received fantastic, patient instruction and encouragement from several Schonberg grandkids and the Hoffman neighbor kids. It was a great experience. Last week we were able to go back again. We were amazed to discover enormous tomato plants in the exact location of our tiny seedlings! Dave put us to work pulling weeds and then we had the fun of picking all the cucumbers and zucchini we could find. It was a wonderful "field" trip for all of us!

The kids enjoyed the challenge of finding the ones that were hiding way under the leaves! There was, of course, a contest to find the largest veggie! Dave rounded out the experience by letting the kids take home all that they could carry. It was a wonderful "field" trip for all of us!

Thank you for your support of the Community Kids. Incredible things are going on!

-Rita Lotti-

*"I encourage you to
take a drive to the 6th
Avenue Community
Center and look
around the corner—you
will be amazed!"*