



Covered Bridge Therapeutic Communities, Inc.

"A Residential Substance Abuse Aftercare Program"

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April 1, 2008

Volume 6---Issue 3

Dear Friends,

I don't think there are many people that live in the North Country who aren't anticipating with a bit of extra yearning the signs of Spring's arrival. It's been like those winters the old-timers (myself included) speak about. We had record snowfall, but no long stretches of bone-chilling sub-zero temperatures.

Anticipation..... Another Resurrection Sunday has been celebrated.

I don't know about you, but with its passing, I am brought to reflect on the return of The King. Jesus, who will come to receive His Bride. I read about Paul's description of the Betrothed One, the Church, and I understand that the Bride will be

".....a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless." Ephes. 5:27b (NIV)

Do any of us see the Bride rising on tip-toe to bid Her groom, "Come, my Beloved"? Is the Bridge fervently praying for Her betrothed to come quickly? I think not. I fear there is no radiance about Her. Holiness and blamelessness are not adjectives we can use to rightly describe the Bride Of Christ today.

Radiance is the product of refinement. Jesus clearly tells us that there will be that time of trial, of testing. Job (and so many others) spoke of his own experience with this when he said,

".....when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold." Job 23:10 (NIV)

This process involves our willingness to yield to His work in our lives---to allow His Word to renew our minds and change our hearts. In this, His glory is revealed.

Our time of serving at Covered Bridge has deepened our gratitude for this reality in our lives and in the lives of the men who have come to live and grow here.

"Reconciliation To Community By Building Bridges Of Restoration"

Some things we're anticipating...

We'll be hosting another **Walk-A-Thon** next month!! On Saturday, May 17th at 10:00, we'll be praying and walking through the town of St Johnsbury. This will be our 5th year and we've been blessed each year with enthusiastic supporters.

We're REALLY hoping to have someone from every supportive church join us in walking or to solicit pledges on behalf of others who are walking.

If you'd like material, give us a call and we'll send out everything you need!! All money raised is used to help pay for general program expenses.

Here's a Project for your small group..... There's one side of our building that wasn't scraped and painted last summer—we ran out of good painting weather! It's the east-facing backside of the house. It would be great to have your small group come to St Johnsbury on a Friday evening to help with us this project. You can join us in the morning for worship & devotions, a HEARTY breakfast and work time fellowship on Saturday. We would love to get this done before the end of June!! But we do need some help! Give us a call if you'd like to learn more.

Vermont Housing & Conservation Board has approved our grant application for renovation funds!! If all goes according to the timeline, we'll begin work in July. These funds will be used to finish the third floor suite for staff quarters, totally remodel and update the kitchen, rewire the entire house, replace windows, insulate and bring our energy costs down substantially and provide better restroom facilities. WOW!! We are also applying for a grant from Federal Home Loan Bank Affordable Housing Program. If approved, we'll reduce our mortgage debt by almost 50%!! It has been exciting to see how God has brought all this together.

Some of you may remember Max Edson. Max was our third resident, arriving at Covered Bridge back in May 2004. Max's stay was brief—a short 6 weeks. Max, who will turn 25 on July 3rd, returned to Covered Bridge on March 11th. Here's a note from Max:

I am blessed to be back here at Covered Bridge. I've only been here for a few short weeks but God has already moved me in so many ways in such a short period of time. I finally have a safe and stable environment where I can focus on the most important thing of all-GOD.

Before coming I had so many fears and anxieties about where I'd be living and how I'd do once released. Fortunately, God saw it fit that I should come back to Covered Bridge. A

place where I can live among positive people who want to grow beyond their past, a place where I can connect better with the community, where I can have stability, and most of all grow with the Lord. I am so fortunate that they have a place where I can come and focus on my recovery. I can finally start building the life I've always wanted. In no way will it be easy, I imagine there will be many tough spots along the way. But thankfully I have Pastor Steve, Lorie, and the other house members who can give me strength and guidance along the way, and hold me accountable when its needed.

At times I feel so scared and worried about whether or not I'll succeed, and its in those times that I must turn to God and Covered Bridge for help and encouragement. Places like Covered Bridge are desperately needed. So many of us need help and stability-but have few places to turn. So many people who need help have no positive place to go. They are stuck, having to go back to the same atmospheres and places that led them to their problems to begin with. And again and again they continue to fail. Many of them continue to live lives of misery, or they end up in institutions, or even die. And unless places like Covered Bridge don't come forth and try to intervene and help them they never get better. I am so thankful for Covered Bridge and the opportunity to come here and grow with the Lord, and hopes to one day help others as Covered Bridge has helped me. Praise God. Sincerely, Max Edson



Details!!! Actually, that should read: DETAILING. It seems that God has opened an opportunity for Patrick, who has been with us since October. Patrick has begun detailing vehicles at a local shop here in St Johnsbury. The work is beginning to come in for him and it looks like the business may provide some part-time income for other residents of Covered Bridge. It's early yet, but Patrick is leaving it up to God as he dedicates what he does for His glory. If you're in the area give him a call—his car bay is behind Napa Auto on Portland Street. Lorie & I were blessed to have our car done by him this week!! Great Work!! His business is called IMMACULATE DETAILING.

We count it an honor to be here and we want each of you to know how grateful we are for your faithful support. We would not be here if you didn't respond to the Holy Spirit's leading. We know that there are MANY ministries that are worthy of your support and we want you to know that we strive to be good stewards of this ministry to which we've been called. Thank you for your faithfulness !!

In His Love & Ours,
Steve & Lorie Clark