



Covered Bridge Therapeutic Communities, Inc.

"A Residential Substance Abuse Aftercare Program"

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Dear Friends,

Although the dog days of summer have seem to set in, even here in Northeastern Vermont, this has hardly been a season of rest at Covered Bridge. Just as the exterior painting of the house was reaching its completion, the Vermont Housing grant was approved for our interior renovations to begin. This is exciting news as the Lord has really blessed us with this opportunity to get the electrical, heating, and plumbing in the house all up to code and energy efficient. Upon completion this will not only make for a more comfortably functional home (especially the expanded bathroom facilities) for the men living here, but it will also include finishing the efficiency apartment on the third floor. This will serve as the private living space for Pastor Steve and Lorie (imagine that, they won't have to leave the premises for some much needed private time) in the short term, and eventually the future in-house managers.

Another area of excitement here at Covered Bridge has been the arrival of **FOUR** new men at the house. Bob arrived in the latter half of June, Ron (our native Texan) came the first of July, and David and Ted have settled in over the last two weeks. God has been weaving their personalities together with Patrick and Max (existing residents) as well as the staff here in a way that only He could. Please pray for the continued growth and harmony within these relationships as we all seek the ultimate relationship with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

We would like to share with you some of the thoughts and words of Ron and David, two of the men that have recently joined with us here at Covered Bridge:

What is a Covered Bridge?

Covered Bridges today are considered historical landmarks. They are viewed as romantic structures of a time gone by. But, what was the purpose for covering these bridges? Some say that they were built to look like barns so that farm animals would be comfortable crossing over spans of troubled waters. Another explanation was to keep the oiled planks from becoming slippery during

"Reconciliation To Community By Building Bridges Of Restoration"

heavy rains and to keep the snow off them during the winter seasons. The covering also provided shelter and a bit of comfort to weary travelers that may have been caught in a storm.

The life expectancy of a covered bridge was three times longer than that of uncovered bridges. Their great roofs provided shelter to the trusses and helped top preserve them from environmental decay. The covered bridge became so ingrained in our society that almost all bridges were eventually built in this manner even though the cost was much greater. The Babylonians built the first covered bridge in 780 B.C. and the first covered bridge in America wasn't built until 1804 in Connecticut. That bridge, called the Waterford Bridge, spanned the Hudson River and last for 105 years.

I currently live in the Covered Bridge at 184 Pearl Street in St. Johnsbury, Vermont and it seems to have similar reasons for its existence. Its great roof gives comfort to men crossing the stormy life led without Jesus Christ to light their path. Bridges are built here, trussed up by the Word of God, preserving men's lives from the decay found in the lives of the ungodly. For the men that cross through this Covered Bridge, it will forever remain a historical landmark in their hearts and minds. Even though the cost of building and maintaining such a bridge must be considerable, it would be hard to convince this weary traveler that it is not worth it. The lessons taught and learned here will way outlast the great Waterford Bridge of 105 years. For the lessons learned here will carry a man into eternity.

--Ron Beaver

And now from David:

Greetings to you,

My name is David Riley and I have recently been blessed with the privilege to join Pastor Steve and Lorie Clark's group of men here at Covered Bridge. I am currently 31-years-old and, as many of us can attest to, if it wasn't for the grace of God I would not be alive today. My journey through life thus far has had its ups and downs, good and bad, and looking back I am reassured daily that God carried me through and will continue to do so. It is by no mistake that I am here and in His timing. I very much look forward to my future, the challenges posed, and the opportunities to serve my brothers and sisters in Christ.

I have traveled quite a bit since I graduated from high school in 1995, seen many wonders, experienced different cultures, and met all kinds of different people. Yet, I am glad to call Vermont home and delight in all its seasons and the activities that each one brings. I am starting over once again and living one day at a time is the simplest and best way to live. Many of us dream about the future, but never realize that a little bit of it arrives each moment of every day as God reveals Himself to us. The deeper we look, the more we see His fingerprint on everything about us. God created us all and if anyone knows what is best for us, He does. May the peace of God that surpasses all our

earthly understanding comfort you and guide you as you walk in your faith and wait the returning of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Praise be to God! Amen.

--David

We would also like to share with you that Tom Hood, who has been our resident staff person for the past couple of months, will be working a different capacity at Covered Bridge. Although Tom's heart is too serve the men here at Covered Bridge, the combination of health challenges and the reality of needing to be available 24/7 was taking its toll. We are welcoming Tom's continued service as a respite person and he will be continuing to make his residence here at Covered Bridge until God opens up the next door of opportunity for Tom and his unique ministry to men trying to restore their lives.

Please pray for:

- ❖ *Pastor Steve's continued recovery from knee surgery*
- ❖ *The work on our building's renovation in the coming months*
 - ❖ *Favor with GOD & man*
- ❖ *Our cooperation with God in the work of family restoration*

House needs:

- ❖ *Paper goods of all types*
- ❖ *Respite volunteers*

May God continue to bless each and every one of you and we give Him praise for your loyal support.

Only because of His grace . . .

-Bill Beaulac (for all of us here at Covered Bridge)