



Covered Bridge Therapeutic Communities, Inc.

"A Residential Substance Abuse Aftercare Program"

P.O. Box 569; St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
(802) 748-6948

December 1, 2007

Volume 5 Issue 12

Dear friends,

It was in last December's newsletter that I first shared with you the news about our purchase and sale agreement for our present location at 184 Pearl Street. It really has been quite a year! It's been wonderful to see God's gracious hand on this ministry. This house has been such a blessing for us as we now have the space that we need for 8-9 adults to live under one roof. We still have work to be done in order to make things more efficient—the third floor suite and bathroom space are definitely needed. But, we're here and we now have six men with us!

In working toward improving and caring for the property, during November we submitted an application to Vermont Housing & Conservation Board for grant money to address our need for upgrade and renovations capital. Among the projects that will be tackled are: the electrical system, conversion of steam to conventional hot-water baseboard, energy conservation, the third floor and renovations to the bathroom and kitchen. We also hope to "retire" our mortgage in the next four years.

One of my concerns (fears actually) in purchasing a property such as this was the amount of time and attention its stewardship would require. My question was, "Is this house going to take away from our ability to keep the focus where it belongs--on the men we serve?" Today I can answer that it has not detracted in any way. In fact, this house has provided opportunities to demonstrate over and over the importance of stewardship and faith in our God who provides for our every need.

As we enter into the season of Christmas we remember that God so loved the world that He Gave. He has provided for our greatest need—a relationship with Him through His Son.

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:1-2 (NIV)

"Reconciliation To Community By Building Bridges Of Restoration"

As I mentioned, we now have six men here. Our newest resident, Alex arrived on November 15th. At 19, Alex is also the youngest resident we have served. Alex is now enrolled in full time classes at Community High School in order to obtain his high school diploma. In spite of the fact that 4 out of 5 of the other residents are over twice his age, Alex has done well in settling into the house. On his third day here, Alex and the other men attended the birthday celebration of our dear friend Gwen Maynard in Glover. On the return trip, somewhere on Interstate 91 southbound, Alex invited Jesus to be Lord and Savior of his life. Alex has a new joy in his heart and we see a real desire to allow God to direct his life from now on.

Isn't that exciting? Lorie and I are grateful for how God has brought these men to Covered Bridge. His work here has been marvelous to witness.

Resident Updates

David continues to work full-time at Lyndon Furniture. Balancing full time work and the demands of the house requires diligence and grace. David has shown both of these and is a good example to his new roommate, Alex.

Scott continues his studies with Semlink (Gordon-Conwell distance learning). Scott is also becoming quite proficient with Powerpoint and other presentation software. Scott's been providing audio-visual ministry for Celebrate Recovery at Union Baptist Church on Friday nights.

Patrick, Don and Rich are all in the process of "work-search". There isn't an abundance of job opportunities out there and some of the openings that are available are for shift work that would conflict with other responsibilities.

Will you pray for these men as they pursue employment and wait on what God has for them?

Transportation Needs

Another matter for prayer is our transportation needs. This all has come to the forefront in the past month with Alex's arrival. Our mini-van seats seven passengers and we now have eight in the house. If we're all headed to the same destination, obviously we now need to take two vehicles. The other matter is that Covered Bridge doesn't own any vehicles—both the van and the Ford Ranger belong to Lorie and me. So.....Covered Bridge really needs a large van. Will you keep your eyes and ears open for us?

Staffing Needs

As most of you know, we have need of staffing help. We're hopeful that we will once again have "live-in" help. We've been blessed to have a resident intern in the past when Steve Towsley served in that capacity. Will you pray that God will once again raise up someone who will grow into that place of ministry?

This Season

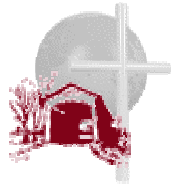
This Christmas will be our fourth at Covered Bridge. Each year we've been privileged to see how God transforms the views of the men in regard to Christmas. For many, the Christmas season holds bad memories, regrets and disappointments. Our redemptive God brings healing and hope by bringing a new and fresh perspective on giving and receiving through the certain promises of restoration and reconciliation. You see, the Good News is that the Babe of the Manger was born to redeem what was lost at the fall. On the horizon, is the Cross and the Resurrection victory of Jesus. Victory has been won for all who come by faith to His Cross.--and resurrection power for this life! To Him alone be glory and honor and power!

We pray that you and your families will experience the Joy of this season and that you'll know God's richest blessings in the New Year as you seek Him!

~MERRY CHRISTMAS~

In His love & ours,

Steve & Lorie Clark
For Covered Bridge



Prayer Needs

- **A House Manager**
- **A van for the ministry**
- **We'd like to be able to get out to share the ministry with churches in the area!**
- **Wisdom and spiritual protection!!**