



Covered Bridge Therapeutic Communities, Inc.

"A Residential Substance Abuse Aftercare Program"

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Dear Friends,

One half of 2008 has already passed and it's really been a quick six months—filled with changes, adjustments, anticipation, victories and the sustaining grace of God's presence,—day-by-day.

I realize more and more deeply how important it is to remain "interruptible". I see throughout the Gospels that Jesus was often interrupted when he was on His way somewhere. Although He had "set His face" for Jerusalem, He always had His eyes and ears open and His heart attentive to the needs of the people with whom He made contact.

I think it's easy for us to lose our flexibility over time if we're not careful. We can get so focused on the pressing and urgent matters of our "stuff-to-get-done-list" that we become too rigid to bend and yield to the "changing winds".

This last week was interrupted by a call from a man in Texas who learned about Covered Bridge from his sister who lives nearby. Ron is 54 years old and has recently renewed his commitment to the Lord after years of drug & alcohol abuse. He flew into Manchester Airport yesterday and is now settling into the house. Please pray for Ron as he adjusts to some major changes and begins a very different season of his life.

Max, who turns 25 years old this Thursday (the 3rd!!), asked about putting the following in this letter:

I would like to take time to ask for some support and prayer. I came to Covered Bridge for the second time around four months ago and I'm really struggling with some personal issues. Everyday I work to build my faith and continue to grow in my walk with the Lord. But unfortunately, there have been many stumbling blocks along the way.

"Reconciliation To Community By Building Bridges Of Restoration"

We all know that at times life will throw us distractions and that unless we keep our hearts and minds on God we will lose our grounding. I'm just grateful for the opportunity I have and the support that Covered Bridge offers me. I could still use more prayer though and would appreciate it greatly. Thank you for your time and God bless you.

Sincerely, Max Edson

Thanks for remembering Covered Bridge and the men that are here in your prayers!

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This is from Lorie:

Hello Everyone,

As you know, I don't write very often but the Lord put everyone on my heart. I just wanted to thank you for your prayers and your financial help. It's appreciated very much. As Steve has shared with you over the last several months, we've applied for several grants to help with some renovating, upgrades and the third floor living space. We received word on Friday that our grant application to the Bank of Boston's Affordable Housing Program was approved!! This will cut our mortgage debt in half! Isn't God GREAT? We are trusting in Him to pay off the balance within the next five years.

Steve and I took a few days off in June and went to the coast. We spent time together—alone-- just us and God who is our third strand. What a blessing! We were refreshed. Sometimes it's hard to come back. I thank God for his GRACE. Jeremiah 10:10 reads, "But the Lord is the true GOD: he is the living GOD, the Eternal KING."

Thanks again for all your support. We love you and may HE continue to bless each one of you!!

Love, Lorie

So, during the month of June we've had two new men arrive and it's quite likely that we'll have a third new resident within a week or so. It's always challenging when we have several new men arrive within a short time span. It's been a true blessing to have the extra help that's come our way when Tom Hood moved in to assist us. As most of you know, Tom moved into the house back in March and has been helping out with the day-to-day needs of the house and the men here. The help is really needed and an answer to prayer. We're hopeful that we will have a second man on staff (perhaps part-time) within the next six months or so. Will you continue to pray for our staffing needs?

We rejoice with those who have been praying and working diligently to see Jackie's House ready to open. As many of you know, Jackie's House will be providing a place for women in need to live and

receive the support that they need to establish themselves in the community. They have hired two full-time, live-in staff and will be receiving their first residents very soon!

I am scheduled to have both knee joints replaced on July 23rd at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Hospital. As I mentioned last month, I'm quite ready for it to be behind me and to begin the process of recovery. I am very grateful for the help and for Lorie's care!!

Mark your calendar!! Our Fall Banquet will be held at Union Baptist Church on Friday, September 26th!! Details will follow in next month's letter. Have a great July and we pray that you'll have some rest and time with those you love!! Thanks for supporting us and taking the time to call, write, email and PRAY!!

~In His love & ours,

Steve & Lorie Clark