



Covered Bridge Therapeutic Communities, Inc.

"A Residential Substance Abuse Aftercare Program"

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Dear Friends,

In thinking back over these past few years of sharing with you month by month the things that have been happening at Covered Bridge, I realize just how often I've shared the goodness and faithfulness of God with you. We've experienced this in His guidance and in His provision in every way for us and for this ministry that's so dear to His heart. It has been humbling for us and it's a great honor to be a part of it!!

I'm sure that you too are aware that adjusting to the unforeseen is one of our great challenges in this walk called "faith". It's through His grace that we experience His faithfulness and that we grow to trust in Him through whatever comes our way or into whatever He brings us.

Through these monthly letters we've been able to share with you and keep you abreast of things here—the exciting and the saddening. The month of October ends with Jose's sudden departure from this ministry. Jose decided that he needed to move on for reasons that I'm still unclear about. We are able to trust God for what is next for us and we're able to pray that Jose will someday understand the reasons for his leaving. We certainly will appreciate your prayers during this time of adjustment.

In light of our present staffing situation, I'll be unable to continue pastoring at Passumpsic. I hope to be able to continue to preach for a while as God directs. Right now, with five men here, Covered Bridge is very much a full-time need.

We are very blessed to see God's work in the house in each of the men that are here. It's also so evident in how they are growing in their relationships with one another as they minister to each other. There is a willingness to share the

responsibilities here and to serve. Each morning's devotional time is led by one of the men and they're also each taking turns with the evening meal preparation. It's especially encouraging to see that needs are being recognized and initiative is being taken to meet the need!!

As I mentioned, we now have five men here! Our newest resident, Patrick, arrived on October 9th and continues to settle in. Here are a few words of introduction from Patrick.

Hello,

I'm the newest member of the family here at Covered Bridge. I say family because that's how I felt being welcomed here on October 9th. This ministry, this family has all the benefits and responsibilities of family membership. Being a Christian, a member of God's Church, you get so much more than you put in. I've learned the key is giving. I go to AA meetings here in the childhood home of Dr. Bob, one of the founders of Alcoholics Anonymous. Admittedly, sometimes it's just to share the joy of my Higher Power who is Jesus Christ, my Savior and Deliverer from over 25 years of alcoholism. I thank God, Pastor Steve & Lorie and all of you for supporting this ministry. ~Patrick Laughlin

As most of you know, Lorie traveled with a team of 12 to the nation of Mozambique in southeast Africa. The team, which left on October 8th, served with the long-established ministry of Iris Ministries in Maputo, the capital city. The team ministered to children at the ministry's orphanage of 300 children. Lorie and others also spent time in the dumps from which many of these children are rescued. We know that a number of you helped Lorie financially with the expenses and more of you prayed for the team while they were gone. Lorie and I thank you for remembering them in your prayers and giving. We're thankful for their safe return to Vermont on the 20th of October. Lorie told me quite a few years ago that one day she would minister to children in Africa! I'm grateful that God reveals His plan (or at least some of it) and readies us for what



He will call us to do! Lorie's not the same person who left just a few short weeks ago! I guess I'm not either!!

Scott, who arrived here on the day after Memorial Day would like to share the following:

Greetings!

Just a short message to tell all of you what God has done for me and how He has moved in my life. Since coming to Covered Bridge the Lord has used me to bring my Mother, Father, Sister-in-Law, and Brother to Him!! Covered Bridge has provided me with a safe haven to realize my short-comings and with the Lord's help to correct them. "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." Php 1:6

I continue in my Biblical studies and am working on transferring the knowledge to my heart. Thank you all for your prayers for Covered Bridge and the new residents that have come to be my brothers. I have become a member of New Beginnings Christian Church and while my mother and father are so far away I have connected with Larry, Reenie and Courtney Bergeron as my spiritual family who are also members of the Church and respite providers for Covered Bridge. I cannot close without mentioning Pastor Steve and Lorie Clark. For without their high Godly standards, love and attention to detail I would not be where I am today. Sincerely, Scott Westall

Is the Lord leading you to serve Him with Covered Bridge? We need people who have a heart and vision for the ministry who are able to serve on The Board Of Directors. For more information, call Steve Clark at 748-6948.

As always, "THANK YOU!!!" for the blessing of your support.

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!!**

In his love & ours,
Steve & Lorie Clark