



# Covered Bridge Therapeutic Communities, Inc.

*"A Residential Substance Abuse Aftercare Program"*

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Dear friends,

Within a few hours the month of September will take its place on the calendar, another season will soon arrive, ushering us into the end of another year. Wow! It has been a wonderful year for Covered Bridge in many ways. The long-awaited renovations on our building are underway and we're gratefully anticipating their completion and the lowered energy bills that will be the result of an improved heating system, added insulation, energy efficient windows, doors and lighting fixtures. In addition to this and the completion of living space on our third floor for house managers (Lorie & I), Covered Bridge's debt (mortgage) has been reduced by 50%! We are hopeful and faithfully anticipating that our mortgage (which stands at \$72,500) will be eliminated during the next three years! With the recent grant award, our monthly mortgage payment is now \$550, reduced from \$974!

While all these things provide cause to rejoice and give thanks, we are especially grateful for this season of spiritual fertility. We have been experiencing a time of spiritual transformation and growth that is unlike anything we've experienced in our time at Covered Bridge. It's certainly by God's sovereign move. What we see is a hunger and thirst for God in the men that are here. God's Word is life and power to renew and transform. And the men who are here are believing and receiving what God's Word has to say about their lives and the Life that is available to them through Jesus. We read just last night these words, "He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--*how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?*" Romans 8:32 (NIV)

We want you to know that we're grateful for all your support and for your friendship. Thank you, too for the cards, emails and calls after the surgery on my knees in July. It's been a huge challenge for me that has been accompanied by some changed perspectives on my part. As I'm sure many of you know, our incapacity and incapability (hospital bed time or other) is usually a time of growth if we're willing to listen and learn.

Thank you Lord for Your AMAZING GRACE!!

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*"Reconciliation To Community By Building Bridges Of Restoration"*

The following is a partial "transcript" of a morning devotion that was led by Ron recently. As you may recall, Ron arrived at Covered Bridge at the end of June, coming by way of Dallas. As an aside, our morning devotional time is led each morning by one of the men here.

### "Something's Different"

Sometimes I feel that what I'm doing here is hard, sometimes it feels tedious, sometimes even redundant. Sometimes I feel like I'm giving up a lot and I go through periods of longing to be more free; that is, sometimes I just want to get up, walk out and not tell a soul where I'm going or what I'm doing, or when I'm going to return. Sometimes, when I wake up in the middle of the night and can't sleep I just want to go downstairs, grab a bowl of ice cream, flip on the TV, prop my feet up and watch TV in my underwear. Or sometimes, I just want to turn the hot water on in the shower and sit down in the tub and let the hot water pour over my body and just sit there until the paint on the walls starts to peel or the hot water heater runs out of heated water.

Or sometimes, I just want to go outside and stoke the old Webber up with charcoal and mesquite wood and let it burn down while I suck down a cold beer then when the coals are just right I'll throw on that perfectly seasoned rib eye steak that's so thick it looks like it's got shoulders on it. Then when its perfectly medium-done, I'll place it on a plate the size of a Cadillac hub cap right next to that baked potato that looks like someone used too much miracle grow and left it in the ground a little longer than it should have been. Let me see now....about one stick of butter, about a half a tub of sour cream and a half pound of chopped up bacon bits..... Okay, maybe I'm getting a little carried away.

But something's different here. This isn't the old me. The old me would not only think of doing these things, but I would find a way to do them. The old me would have already walked out this door, hopped on a plane that someone else paid for, jumped back into a meat truck in Dallas where I would go out and con my way into someone's wallet or purse or bank account. Well, you know the rest of the story. What happened to, "For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice?" Something has changed...Now, the evil that I sometimes want to, I do not do. And the good that I sometimes don't want to do, I do.

It used to be that when the going got tough, I got going. I think they call that, "taking the easy way out." Something's different. And the few weeks that I've been here have already changed my life forever. Now I understand.

The old me is dead, crucified on the cross with Jesus Christ. Oh, the old man still tries to resurrect himself from time to time, but it doesn't take long for the Holy Spirit that dwells within me to crucify him once again. Romans 8:36 states, "For your sake we are

killed all day long, we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Verses 37 through 39 tells us, "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come. Nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." AMEN. ~Ron Beaver

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We won't be hosting a banquet this fall as we have in the past several years. There is just too much happening here right now. The Board agreed with me that it would be good to have an APPRECIATION banquet next spring after the renovations are completed. The fall banquet has been held as a "fundraising" banquet in years past and, as important as it is to build our base of support, I feel it's very important to express our appreciation to you, our faithful supporters, who have provided for this ministry's needs over the past nearly 6 years. Without your generosity and faithful support we would not be where we are today. Our prayer is that you will know the depth of our gratitude and the fruit of your faith-filled giving.

I hope to include some photos of our renovation work in the next several month's letter. Please remember us in prayer as we adjust to the challenges of the ongoing work at the house. Thanks for being there for us and the men and families that we serve!!

~In His Love & ours,  
Pastor Steve & Lorie Clark

<p>Some Needs</p> <p>HP Printer Cartridges 74 &amp; 75</p> <p>8-1/2 x 11 Copy Paper</p>
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