

**“If for only one”  
Luke 5:4-7**

**How You Can Help:**

- Pray for us
- Supply toiletries
- Volunteer at the Gifts of Grace Resale Store
- Teach classes
- Become a Grace Partner

**Grace Partners:**

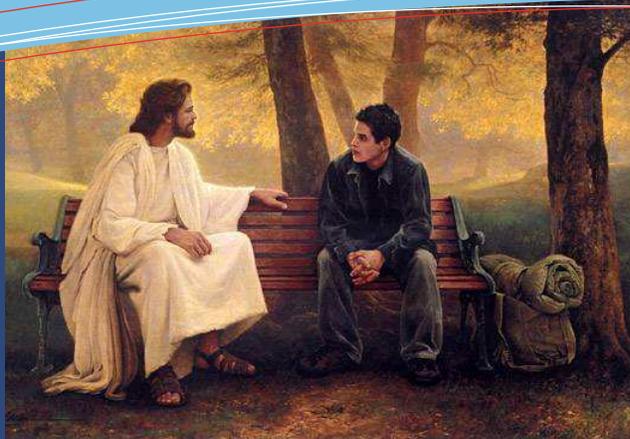
Please prayerfully consider becoming a Grace Partner. As a Grace Partner, you join with us to build, strengthen and support the House of Disciples through prayer and by committing to support the ministry with a monthly donation of any amount. As a monthly supporter, you impact the lives of each man here at the House of Disciples.

**Board Members:**

- Dan Biggs
- Charli Caraway
- Johnny Collier
- Wes Haefs
- Bruce Hinton
- Nathan Pennington
- Mark Rasberry
- Lenard Thompson
- Roy Wiseman

**Mission Statement:**

To make disciples who know Christ, share Christ, and multiply Christ in the lives of others.



**“He ran to his son” by Pastor Marty Strait, Pathway Church**

“He ran to his son”, these words from Luke 15 are from one of Christ’s greatest allegories, the prodigal son. These words reveal so much of the great love, compassion, faithfulness, and grace of our Father that have many times left me overwhelmed. The son returns home because it has become his only hope of survival. Ashamed, naked, filthy and poor he returns. Full of guilt, shame, and condemnation he walks. Not hoping for restoration, but simply toleration, he comes home. What was the Father’s reaction? He runs to his son. You must remember their last conversation. His son says, “give me my inheritance”, but wait, his father wasn’t dead. Let me translate, “you are worth more to me dead than alive”. Words so sharp that they would cripple any hope of restoration, but still the Father ran.

You see, he had been waiting, watching, looking, and longing for his son to return. He knew the pain that existed away from home, away from him. He knew his son would most likely fall prey to the devourer that lurked in the distance. But while his son had expressed his discontentment with their relationship, the Father had never given up hope. Hope that at some point, at some time, his son would come home and when finally he did, the father ran. He didn’t ask him where

he had been. There was no “I told you so”. He didn’t ask where the money was. He didn’t point out his failure. He ran to him, he kissed him - he welcomed him home. Not as a servant, but as a son. The father wasn’t waiting on a servant to return, he was waiting on a son to come home - his son.

The son had a speech, “I’m sorry... I’m not worthy”. The father disregarded it. Forgiveness wasn’t the issue; forgiveness had been granted the day he left. Forgiveness was no feat for the father, his focus was restoration, and his desire was wholeness. The son exhausted, the father exuberant. The son was broken. The father was compassionate. The father didn’t merely accept him; he restored him. He covered his shame. He restored his position, his dignity, and his wealth. Righteousness wasn’t the requirement; righteousness was the gift. The father did what the son was powerless to do - he restored. Given a lifetime the son could never merit this gift, but if merited it wouldn’t be grace, would it? The father was not caught up in performance, he was concerned about position - he wanted his son back. What had been lost was found. A son, who had left, had returned. There was no punishment; there was a party and so “he ran to his son”.

**The White Chocolate Whataburger Tour**

We should have made some t-shirts with “White Chocolate ~ Whataburger Tour 2010” imprinted on them. That would have been funny. Over the past several weeks the White Chocolate (WC) ministry team set up at eight different Whataburgers across East Texas and played an acoustic

set of Christmas music and Praise & Worship songs. They set up during the lunch hour and entertained the patrons. They were also able to give out information about the House of Disciples. It was well received and WC had a blast doing it. Just like Buddy the Elf says, “The best way to spread



Christmas cheer, is singing loud for all to hear”.

**this issue**

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## Toys for Kids & Christmas Celebration

The staff and residents of HOD were so humbled this year by the support and love from the community. Pathway Church took on the task of helping all the children of the HOD residents get Christmas gifts. It was wonderful to see the men's faces light up as they wrapped their gifts and put personal cards inside for each child. Some gifts were mailed and others were

personally delivered by the dads to their children. This was such an awesome step towards reconciliation for families. We were also given permission to use the ROC facility of First Baptist Church - Longview for our Christmas Celebration. We even had a surprise visit from Santa Claus, who passed out candy and hugged necks. Foremost in our hearts, we

wanted to remember the reason for the season and two ladies helped us do just that. Mrs. Spurlock shared the Biblical Christmas Story with the men and Mrs. Hagmon led the men in Holy Communion. Thank you to everyone who participated in making this a joyful holiday for us here at the House of Disciples. God bless you.



## Blankets for the Homeless Project

On Saturday, December 18, we had a visit from a group in the community led by Anup Bhandari. Anup is a Kilgore artist and college student. His humanitarian efforts have been recorded in the Longview News Journal and in the local television news reports. Under his leadership, various community residents and

a group of children and parents from the "Sai Spiritual Education" program, collected over 300 blankets to distribute to the needy. They delivered to us here at the House of Disciples, to the House of Hope Ladies Shelter, Newgate Mission, the Hwy 80 Rescue Mission, Hope Haven, and to the homeless on

the streets. This is a wonderful example to us as Christians, that no matter who we are or what we believe, human compassion should be exemplified. When there is no other agenda or scheme except to show love, the heart strings resound more loudly

and the echo carries on through generations.



## Staff Appreciation Service

An Appreciation Service to honor the Founders, Staff and Pastors of the House of Disciples was held on Saturday, December 18. The event was put on entirely by the men of HOD. The program included: special music, a praise dance, drama, sermonettes, and testimonies of how men's lives have been touched and forever impacted. There was not a dry eye in the place. As Phillip Briggs said in closing remarks to the men of HOD, "Without you

allowing us to serve you in this way, we would not be able to fulfill the calling of God on our lives. Thank you." That sentiment is very true for everyone of us on staff and who volunteer here at HOD. Jesus was the greatest servant of all, and by His example, we are honored to serve the men of HOD. 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40 NIV



## Upcoming Events

### Monday, Jan. 3

Internship Semester Begins,  
House of Disciples, Longview, TX

### Saturday, Jan. 15 - 6:00 pm

White Chocolate - Prison Ministry,  
Ferguson Unit, Midway, TX

### Sunday, Jan. 16 - 8:00 am

White Chocolate - Prison Ministry,  
Trustee Camp - Ferguson Unit, Midway, TX

### Sunday, Jan. 23 - 10:00 am

White Chocolate & HOD men,  
New Life Church, Henderson, TX

### Wednesday, Jan. 26 - 6:30 pm

White Chocolate - Prison Ministry,  
East Texas Treatment Facility, Henderson, TX

### Friday - Saturday, Jan. 28 - 29

White Chocolate - Recording,  
Pennington Studio, Mt. Vernon, TX

### Sunday, Feb. 13 - 6:00 pm

White Chocolate - Night of Worship,  
Mobberly Baptist Church, Longview, TX

### Wednesday, Feb. 16

Internship - Mid Term Exams,  
House of Disciples, Longview, TX

### Wednesday, Feb. 16 - 6:30 pm

White Chocolate - Prison Ministry,  
East Texas Treatment Facility, Henderson, TX

### Friday, Feb. 25 - 6:30 pm

White Chocolate - Prison Ministry,  
Holiday Unit, Huntsville, TX

### Contact us:

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### Mailing:

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Longview, TX 75606

### Location:

House of Disciples  
210 S. Green St.  
Longview, TX 75601

### Partner Location:

House of Hope  
901 W. Trinity  
Madisonville, TX 77864

### White Chocolate:

[www.wcministry.com](http://www.wcministry.com)  
Bookings: 903-851-9249