

“If for only one”
Luke 5:4-7

How You Can Help:

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

Grace Partners:

Wiseman Ministries, Inc. is a non-profit, 501c(3) organization. Our ministry operates solely on donations from individuals, churches, businesses and organizations. Please prayerfully consider becoming a Grace Partner. As a Grace Partner, you join with us to fulfill Matthew 25 & Isaiah 58 by providing food to the hungry, clothing to the needy, shelter to the homeless, to minister to those in prison and to help liberate those controlled by addictions.

Mission Statement:

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



Congratulations to Jeremy R., Brandon B. and Matt S. for receiving certificates for being Servant Leaders for the month of February.



“My Story” by Darrell McClendon, HOD Resident



Unfortunately, I was raised in an abusive family. My father and mother fought all the time. As a child, it was so scary to see my father beat my mother, especially when he was intoxicated. When I was six and the fighting got real bad, I used to crawl out my bedroom window and run down to the neighborhood Laundromat and sleep in one of the chairs. Afterwards, my sisters would come and find me and take me home. When I turned 16, my dad gave me a car and I started skipping school, drinking, and smoking pot. I ended up dropping out of school and couldn't keep a job. When I was 21, I intervened when my dad was beating my mom and I was told not to come back. From that time until I was 28, I was in and out of rehabs, state jails and county jails. My dad eventually moved out of the house leaving my mom and sisters in the rundown shack. But praise God, that He blessed them with a new house about 20 feet from the old one. Unfortunately, after 15 years of separation, my dad moved back into the old house, next to my mom. When I was 38, I was sentenced to five years in prison at TDCJ where I worked in the fields with a big heavy garden hoe. Although I wasn't serving God, I prayed and asked Him to get me out of this hard punishment. God answered my prayers and I was allowed to attend vocational and college prep classes. I served 26 months of my five year sentence, before I was released in 2001. I told the parole board not to send me back to my home town, so I went to a halfway house in Beaumont, TX. I got a job and saved enough money to move out on my own, with the okay from my parole officer. For 28 months I was clean, but

this issue

“My Story” by Darrell McClendon **P.1**

“From The Heart” by Tim Wiseman **P.1**

FNL - Elsie Spurlock / The Meal is Served **P.2**

HOD Band Update / Valentine’s Party **P.2**

“Yes You Can” Charity Banquet **P.2**

Community Clean-up / HOD Softball **P.2**

Volunteers Needed / Upcoming Events **P.2**

soon fell back into my old ways, violated parole and went back to prison for five months. When I was released, I did the same thing again and went back to prison for another five months. Upon this release, I ended up going to a halfway house in Houston for a while and transferred to a six-month program at the Star of Hope. While there, I went through two semesters of Heating, AC & Refrigeration training at Houston Community College. But because I had not dealt with my past issues and hadn't turned my life over to Christ, I soon screwed up and went back to state jail for ten months. This downward spiral continued off and on until I soon found myself living on the streets for 3 months. I enrolled and completed Salvation Army's nine-month program, then found myself back on the streets for a year, and finally went back to jail for 8 months. It was not until after I got out of jail the last time, that I found out that my father had murdered my mother, by shooting her in the back of the head, and then committed suicide. Through all my trials and tribulations, God has always been omnipresent. God worked through my youngest sister to lead me to the House of Disciples, where I have found support, love and peace. Since coming here, I understand my place in this world and have become supremely happy. Although I have a biological family, the men and women at the House of Disciples have become as close as family to me. I love my brothers and sisters in Christ! Hebrews 13:17 says, "Obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you." I want my life to be joyful. Thank God for this ministry and for giving me a new life.

“From The Heart” by Tim Wiseman, Executive Director



On Friday, March 1st, Wiseman Ministries gave away a very nice GMC truck to one of our residents who recently completed the 12 month program (see cover photo). When we made the decision to give it to Darrell McClendon, I

could not wait! It took every fiber of my being to not tell him prematurely, over the course of those two weeks. I was so excited! Giving the truck to Darrell allowed me to experience firsthand what Jesus said in Acts 20:35, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” The whole staff was blessed by the act of giving. Winston Churchill

said, “We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.” We too often equate living a life more abundantly with things that we receive. I would beg to differ. We live a life more abundantly in Christ by our giving, not just receiving. Our greatest example for giving is God Himself. “God so loved the world that He GAVE...”

FNL - Elsie Spurlock



We would like to thank Elsie "Mimi" Spurlock for speaking to our residents during Friday Night Live (FNL) on February 8th. Elsie has a remarkable story about her grandson, Dane, who lost his life due to an auto accident, involving alcohol. She recently wrote a book called "And God Sent the Dragonflies". This book is about a loving God who asks us to believe Him when He whispers to us that all is well when our grieving heart believes that truth. This heart-warming story of God's grace and mercy is something we should always be reminded of.

The Meal is Served

We were honored to have a group of gentlemen from a local Tuesday morning Bible study volunteer to serve our residents dinner on Monday, February 4th. It is always a treat when our men get to fellowship with Christian people from the community... people who they know do not have to be here, but are here because of the love of Christ. If your group would like to serve an evening meal to our residents, please feel free to contact the office to get on the schedule. We are also in need of new white 8' round tables for our new dining room, if you feel led to donate, please contact us.



HOD Band Update



The House of Disciples Band ministered at three prisons during the month. The theme was "blame" and Phill & JennJenn Briggs preached and the band performed a skit. On the 13th, they ministered to the male offenders at the East Texas Treatment Facility in Henderson, TX. There were 295 inmates, 34 first time salvations and 77 rededications. The next day, they ministered to the female offenders at the same unit. There were 95 ladies, 24 first time salvations and 12 rededications. On the 17th, they ministered at the Polunsky Prison in Livingston, TX with 305 inmates and 37 rededications. Praise God!



Valentine's Party:

Mrs. Meyer, her assistants, and a little Chihuahua named Chloe; gave candy goodie bags, read poems and provided refreshments for our guys for Valentine's day. The men really enjoyed the special attention.

HOD SOFTBALL:

SPRING SEASON is here! Games are held every Tuesday night at Hinsley Park starting March 18th. We will receive the exact times in the next week and will post online. Come out and show your support.

Volunteers Needed:

We are always in need of volunteers at the House of Disciples and Gifts of Grace Resale Store. From group projects, to regular rotations; there is something for you to do. Duties range from answering the phones, to sorting donated items, to working as a cashier at the store, to teaching a class, to being a peer mentor for our men. If you are interested in helping in any way, give us a call today.

"Yes You Can" Charity Banquet



The First Annual "Yes You Can" Charity Banquet was held in our newly remodeled dining room at the House of Disciples on Friday, February 22. There was a lunch and a dinner presentation. Our guest speaker was two-time



Olympic medalist, Hollis Conway. Mr. Conway was gracious enough to meet with our

residents mid-day and allowed them to try on his Silver and Bronze Olympic medals. The goal of the banquet was to raise ministry awareness and to present the 2013 budget needs. The response from the guests was tremendous. Texas Roadhouse catered the meals and the Butcher Shop donated a beautifully decorated cake. We would like to thank everyone who participated.

Community Clean-Up



The House of Disciples residents participated in an organized Community Clean-Up event held on February 23rd. HOD was responsible for the Stragert Dog Park, which includes 9 acres. The dog park is located alongside the Paul Boorman trail, near the trail parking lot at 121 Summers Drive.

Upcoming Events

Friday, March 1 / 7:00 PM

HOD Band - Worship & Witness in HOD Chapel

Saturday, Mar 2 - Saturday, Mar 9

GOG Mega Sale with \$1 items

Sunday, March 3 / 6:00 PM

HOD Band - Johnston Prison, Winnsboro, TX

Sunday, March 10 / 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

HOD Band - United Methodist Ch, Crystal Beach, TX

Wed, Mar 20 (Men) & Thur. Mar 21 (Women) / 6 PM

HOD Band - ETX Treatment Facility, Henderson, TX

Friday, March 22

GOG \$5 Fill-A-Bag

Friday, March 29 - GOOD FRIDAY

HOD Offices & GOG Store CLOSED for Holiday

Sunday, April 7 / 12:00 PM

HOD Band - Polunsky Prison, Livingston, TX

Wed, Apr 17 (Men) & Thur. Apr 18 (Women) / 6 PM

HOD Band - ETX Treatment Facility, Henderson, TX

Friday, April 26

GOG \$5 Fill-A-Bag

Contact us:

House of Disciples:

www.houseofdisciples.com
info@houseofdisciples.com
 Phone: 903-553-0952
 Fax: 903-234-2303

Mailing:

House of Disciples
 P.O. Box 1207
 Longview, TX 75606

Physical Location:

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

House of Disciples Band:

band@houseofdisciples.com
 Bookings: 903-851-9249