

**“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:

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.

Mission Statement:

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



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“Angry at God?” by Jennifer “JennJenn” Briggs, Creative Director

Have you ever been angry at God? I know this may sound like an odd question. You may ask, "God can do no wrong, how could you be offended at Him?" I totally agree with that. God can do no wrong. But it is possible in life to build up an offense against someone, who in fact, did no wrong.



I was saved at an early age and all through my life I tried to live pleasing to God. Anytime someone hurt my feelings, I was quick to forgive them and I was not someone to hold grudges. I would always think, tongue-in-check, that the devil made them act that way and just let it go. A few years ago, I went through something that shook me to my core. My husband and I were working full time at a church. One day, during my prayer time, I had a vision of an angel taking a sword and cutting our church in half and in the process the sword cut into me and wounded me deeply. The vision was so realistic that in the natural, I literally fell to my knees and sobbed. For weeks, I was extremely troubled by this and could not get the vision out of my thoughts and committed it to prayer. A couple of months later, we were contacted by a state leader of our denomination and asked a few questions about our church procedures and some things that they were told our Pastor was not handling by denominational standards. We answered truthfully and were told that we would remain anonymous. To make a long story short, the outcome was that the state leader decided to make an example out of us, in hopes of getting the Pastor back on board with the denomination guidelines. We were fired and told never to step foot back on the church property again. I was falsely accused of many things and my reputation was muddied. Out of all of my church friends, only one asked me if any of this was actually true. Everyone else believed what they were told and turned their backs on me. I felt rejected and shunned. Since my husband and I both worked at the church, we instantly lost all of our income. Our car was repossessed and we had to live with friends. We eventually moved into the House of Disciples, as live-in staff.

Through all this, I fell into a deep depression, was very emotional and had nightmares where I would wake up sobbing. I did not leave my house for eight months, unless I had to. One night when I was in our living room bawling my eyes out, my husband came in and asked me what was wrong. I told him that I didn't know, I just felt so lonely and hurt. My husband then told me, "Jenn, you need to forgive God. Tell Him how you feel. He is a big God, He can take it and He understands." That hit me like a ton of bricks. For the first time, I realized that I was mad at God. I had served Him my whole life, how could He let me go through all of this? As I cried out to God, I felt his loving arms wrap around me and it was then that my healing began.

Eph. 4:26-27 says, "Be angry and sin not... Neither give place to the devil." You may be angry when you see injustice. The problem comes when we let anger turn into bitterness and allow the devil to take control over our emotions. That is exactly what I allowed the devil to do in my life. The bible has many examples of people who were angry at God; from David, to Jonah, to Jeremiah. The key for their and our victories is talking to God. 1 Thess. 5:18, "In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you". That has become my life verse. God warned me in advance, through my vision, that I was about to go through something that would be painful. He warned me to give me a hope that He would bring me through it. Recently, we received an apology from the denominational leaders; although, I no longer "needed" it. Anything of great significance has been birthed through great sacrifice. It is no different for my life or for yours. God has a plan and a purpose. I am thankful for where I am today. Romans 8:28, "He works all things out for our good". I encourage you today to examine your heart. Are you angry at God? Have you taken up an offense? Talk to God, He loves you and He understands.



Congratulations to Allen, Harold, Zach, Eddie and Shawn for receiving certificates for being Servant Leaders for the month of March.

Volunteer Appeal

Have a desire or passion to help others? Have you ever wondered what it would be like to share the Good News of Christ? Maybe it was that feeling you got when someone benefited from something you said or did. With House of Disciples, you can fulfill that passion by getting involved with one or several opportunities ranging from light clerical work, teaching in one of our several classes, helping our community with group projects or giving a helping hand with our Gifts of Grace resale store sorting and displaying merchandise. A Volunteer Orientation has been scheduled for 6:30 PM on Thursday, April 12th. Come see how you can get involved.

Take it to the Streets



"Take it to the Streets" is an event held on the streets of Shreveport a few times a year. Its focus is to connect the needy to helpful resources and provide them with food, clothing, and mobile medical care. HOD staff volunteered at the children's booths and Brett Foster was invited to share about our new HOD facility in Shreveport. Phill Briggs & Brett Foster were also a part of the prayer team.

Homeless Outreach



Every Saturday on Hwy 80 in Longview, Gary Don Holley with On Mission Ministries, along with volunteers from various churches and denominations, set up and minister to the homeless. They feed them, give out clothing and toiletries, have a devotional and love on them. The White Chocolate ministry team and some upper phase residents of HOD were happy to help out this past month.

Freedom Fest 2012:



Our 2nd Annual Freedom Fest was a wonderful night of celebration. Testimonies by Eddy Williams of 12 Way and Denise Bowens of Celebrate Recovery at Woodland Hills, were inspirational. The highlight of the event was when both bands, Consumed 217 and White Chocolate, shared the stage to end the night with a combined worship set.

Prison Ministry Speakers

The White Chocolate ministry team and HOD have the privilege of ministering several times a month at various prisons across Texas. Prison ministry is one of the most spiritually rewarding opportunities that we have ever experienced. Every month at the East Texas Treatment Facility in Henderson, TX, we are able to invite guest speakers for both the men and women offenders. This month our speaker for the ladies was Teresa Richenberger who gave a powerful testimony of coming out of the exotic dancer



lifestyle after finding the love of Christ. Her testimony was recently featured on the 700 Club. For the men, our speaker was the dynamic Eddie "Fly" Williams who found freedom through Christ from a 35 year drug addiction.

March Graduates

Congratulations to our March 2012 Graduates of the House of Disciples Life Recovery Center. We pray God's blessings on you and that you will always remember to put God first in everything.



WC at LETU:

This past month, the White Chocolate ministry team had the honor of ministering at the chapel service for LeTourneau University. It was a pleasure to lead the students in praise and worship and they responded so well. Thank you very much for allowing us to minister.



HOD Shreveport Update

Progress Report:

- Brett Foster continues to develop community relations.
- Our first resident from Shreveport arrived in Longview.
- Our focus has been on the 1st floor. Furniture has been staged, everything cleaned, and some of the rooms have been repainted.

Next Projects:

- 1st floor: Finish painting; strip and wax floors.
- 2nd floor: paint, plumbing and set up for residents.

A Grand Opening has been planned for Saturday, May 5th from 11 AM to 7 PM.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 31 - Saturday, April 7

Gifts of Grace Resale Store - \$1 MEGA SALE

Thursday, April 12 / 8:00 AM

White Chocolate & HOD - Prison Ministry, Polunsky Unit, Livingston, TX

Thursday, April 12 / 6:30 PM

Volunteer & Teacher Orientation, HOD Chapel, Longview, TX

Wed, April 18 (Men) & Thur. April 19 (Women)

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

Saturday, May 5 / 11 AM to 7 PM

OPEN HOUSE for new HOD Facility in the old YWCA, 710 Travis St., Shreveport, LA

Sunday, May 6 / 3:00 PM

Teacher Appreciation Ceremony, HOD Chapel, Longview, TX

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