



MAY 2013 ISSUE

# Disciple Times

Newsletter

## "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 Nathan H., Corey H. and John H. for receiving certificates for being Servant Leaders for the month of April.



RIGA, LATVIA



### "My Story" by Steve Alcala, HOD Board Member

I know now that God has always loved me, and that He has a purpose for my life. I labored through half of my life, however, completely disconnected from God's truth, believing that I was in control and all that mattered was the pursuit of my own desires. Of course, this approach only led to frustration, emptiness and pain. The purpose of my hardship was to humble me to the point where I was ready to repent and submit to Him.

That day came on June 25, 1989. I had hit bottom and, without even knowing who God was, I asked Him to deliver me. The only truth I really knew then was that my life was in ruins. I was a high school dropout, an alcoholic and a drug addict; out of work because of a recent drunk driving arrest. I felt so powerless, having failed at every attempt to change my life for the better. I was desperate and out of options.

Having grown up in Los Angeles in an agnostic household, I had no conception of God. But the Holy Spirit somehow stirred in me that night, and, as I sat alone on a dimly lit street, I turned to the Heavens and prayed to God for the first time. I reflected. I cried. I confessed. His answer came; in the wave of peace that overcame me, and in the exhilarating sense of purpose I felt. I had been down and desperate before, but never before had I reached out and asked for God's help. I still understood nothing about God, but now I knew He was real, and that He was with me.

From that night on, I have tried to live out God's will for my life. The impact of this decision was immediate and powerful. I have never drank or used again! God led me to Alcoholic's Anonymous, and this June, I will be

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24 years sober. My addictions all those years blocked out the Spirit, leaving me to stumble down a selfish, self-destructive path devoid of the joy and purpose that comes from living for God. Having relieved me of my obsessions, He went about transforming my character for the better on every level.

Enlivened by the Spirit, I attended my AA meetings regularly and poured myself into the service of others, devoting time to working with a foundation that served meals to the homeless in downtown Los Angeles. I began attending community college, and, to the amazement of everyone, I excelled in school. I transferred to UCLA and, ultimately, graduated from Yale Law School in 2000.

Life remains challenging and humbling, but throughout it all, God has strengthened and provided for me. He has blessed me with two children, Steven and Natalie, and, in His wisdom, led me to Texas where I met and married the wonderful Jana Beddingfield Alcala, younger sister of Jody Beddingfield. This marriage has further strengthened my relationship with the Lord, and led to my role on the HOD Board of Directors. I am truly inspired by the way God uses the ministries of HOD to serve those who so desperately need God's love and grace. It is a privilege to be a small part of this amazing ministry.

God's purpose for my life is a constant revelation, but I know He wants to use my life as an example for others who struggle with addiction. My life is testimony to the truth that, through Christ, all things are possible--there is always hope, even in our darkest day and deepest heartbreak. He is our salvation.

### "From The Heart" by Tim Wiseman, Executive Director



We serve a God who reigns sovereignly from His throne. Knowing that, I find it humbling that God allowed me to be born in America; in a Christian home. Why me? Who am I? I recently took a mission trip to Latvia where less than 1% of the nation believes in

Christianity. In America, 70% claim to be Christians (Wikipedia). The overwhelming majority of the nation does not have access to a Bible that is translated into the Latvian language. In America, Bibles can be found easily. I'm so grateful to God for choosing America as my birth place. However, I also feel a strong sense of responsibility to use the freedoms that I experience in Ameri-

ca to "go into all the world" to make disciples. Next time you are tempted to speak negatively about our nation's leaders, consider how blessed you truly are to be a citizen here and pray for our leaders. Next time you are tempted to complain about how our systems work, consider how blessed you truly are to live in a country that even has a system and pray for God to heal our land.

## HOD Band Ministers in Latvia

This past month, the House of Disciples Band had the wonderful opportunity to minister at a Teacher's Conference in Riga, Latvia. Pastor Petr Samoylich of the Salvation Temple Baptist Church holds these conferences three times a year. His goal is to equip the teachers with the tools they need to reach the next generation for the kingdom of God. In Latvia, only 1% of the population is Christian and most do not have a Bible. Another one of Peter's goals is to print at least 10,000 Bibles in the Latvian language each year, then provide those Bibles to the Latvian people.

At the conference, the HOD Band had the pleasure of leading worship with Valdis Indrisonoks. Valdis is a talented and anointed praise and worship leader from Latvia. The band was able to sing many

songs in English and Valdis followed by singing the same songs in Latvian. It was beautiful and the congregation was really receptive. Several attendees commented that this was the first time that they had experienced such heartfelt worship.

Alcoholism is widespread in Latvia and the House of Disciples has been asked to pray about opening a recovery center there. The band was able to tour a possible location for this new work. This would be a first of its kind in Latvia. Please keep this in your prayers.



## HOD HI Grand Opening



We had a wonderful turn out at our new facility in High Island on Saturday, April 27 for our Open House and on Sunday, April 28 for our Grand Opening. On Sunday we had a potluck on the grounds and a concert by the HOD Band. The community support was encouraging. We are excited about this new work.

## Oakland Heights Youth



We would like to thank the youth from Oakland Heights Baptist Church for volunteering at Gifts of Grace Resale Store on Wednesday, April 3rd. They were a tremendous help straightening the sales floor, restocking, and cleaning. We were so blessed by their willingness to serve.

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, May 5 / 6:00 PM

HOD Band - Johnston Prison, Winnsboro, TX

### Wed, May 15 (Men) & Thur, May 16 (Women) / 6 PM

HOD Band - ETX Treatment Facility, Henderson, TX

### Sunday, May 19 / 10:00 AM

HOD Band - New Life Church, Henderson, TX

### Tuesday, May 21 / 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Volunteer Appreciation, HOD - Longview, TX

### Sunday, May 26 / 12:00 PM

HOD Band - Polunsky Prison, Livingston, TX

## Dining Room Dedication

On April 14th, our dining room was dedicated to the Lord in honor of the First Baptist Church - Longview, with special thanks to: the Deacon Board, the Adult 2 Class, the Mack Small Group, the Precept Class and the R.O.C. We would also like to thank all those who participated in this project: Mark & Suzette Acme Air, Electrician-Ray Hamilton, Sherwin Williams, Painter-Neal Pitts, Roy Wiseman, All Seasons Windows, City of Longview Building Dept, Phillips Flooring Co., Firetrol, Bricklayer-Brian Scott, A/P Rentals, Overhead Door, Donnie Powers/Panel Truss, Cassity Jones, Lowes, Home Depot, Interface, East Texas Acoustical, Gifts of Grace and our HOD Men.



## April Birthday's:

On April 15th, Mrs. Meyer and her assistants hosted the April birthday party for our residents, Corey Harrell and Nathan Miller.

## HOD SOFTBALL:

Games are held every Tuesday night at Hinsley Park. Come out and show your support.

05-07 6:45 PM

05-14 TBD



## Graduation Scheduled:

You are invited to attend the HOD Graduation Ceremony on Sunday, June 2nd at 3:00 PM. We have several graduates who have completed the 12-month recovery program. A reception will follow in our dining hall. This is a great accomplishment. Please come out and show your support for these men.

## Contact us:

### House of Disciples:

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Phone: 903-553-0952

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### Mailing:

House of Disciples

P.O. Box 1207

Longview, TX 75606

### Physical Location #1:

House of Disciples

210 S. Green St.

Longview, TX 75601

### Physical Location #2:

House of Disciples

2028 9th St.

High Island, TX 77623

### House of Disciples Band:

[band@houseofdisciples.com](mailto:band@houseofdisciples.com)

Bookings: 903-851-9249

### Monday, May 27 / 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Milford Swanner Memorial, HOD - Longview, TX

### Friday, May 31 / 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Gifts of Grace Resale Store / \$5 Fill-A-Bag

### Saturday, June 1 - Saturday, June 8 / 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Gifts of Grace Resale Store / MEGA SALE

### Sunday, June 2 / 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

HOD Graduation - Longview, TX

### Sunday, June 30 / 6:00 PM (Opening for Tim Hawkins)

HOD Band - New Heights Church, Longview, TX