

this issue

“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
- Become a Mentor
- 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 Gus W., Brendyn H., Ethan B., Keith B., Beau G., Caleb H., Robert M., Eric E., and Jeremy S. for being Servant Leaders for the month of April.



“My Story” by Augustine Rincon, Program Resident

I grew up in Laredo, Texas, a city bordering Mexico. Laredo is a major port of entry for illegal drugs coming into the United States, and it was not that difficult for me to get caught up with the wrong kind of people. I got involved in gang life from the early age of 17 up until my 31st birthday. I started out as a street-level gangster, protecting our hood from gangs of other neighborhoods. We supported our operations by doing armed robberies, burglarizing homes, renting our services when somebody needed to be muscled or beat up. Our reputation on the streets was growing and so was our membership. We started working with local drug traffickers who had cartel connections, and so I started moving up the chain. I obeyed orders and took gang discipline like it was love. That is what made me a commodity within the organized crime families who were directly tied in to the Mexican Drug Cartels. I was taken in by the lifestyle. We lived by a set of rules and regulations called ‘The Holy Scriptures’. We called each other ‘Brothers’, our gang meetings were called ‘Mass’ and each squad tithed into the gang collection and offering. What drew me to become a gang member was that I felt I belonged, was loved and very much respected for the work I put in. I finally ended up in prison for my crimes. In prison, we were in an all-out war with

a rival gang, and I got stabbed five times and left lying on the floor bleeding out and dying. I survived and spent the last two years of my sentence in ad-seg or protective custody, but I lived with daily death threats and I was scared that one day my enemies would succeed and take me out. The fear of death gripped me, but the love of God drew me. I gave my life to Christ, left the gang life behind and started my new life as a soldier for Jesus in the Army of the Lord. I have been licensed and ordained twice to preach the gospel; I have dedicated the rest of my life to working in Life Recovery ministries where the Holy Spirit is the overseer. I made up my mind that instead of taking, I was going to give back to Christ what He gave me. 1 Timothy 1:15-17 (KJV), “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.” Galatians 2:20 (KJV), “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” I thank God for bringing me into the family of House of Disciples to continue the work He has begun in my life. I plan to plant deep roots here at House of Disciples and become a pillar of the ministry, to help wherever I am needed and to follow my leaders as they follow Christ.

“From The Heart” by Tim Wiseman, Executive Director (Part A)



A common mistake people have made throughout the course of human existence is to believe that they are wiser than God. We read about this issue in the Bible, even before the creation of man. Lucifer allowed pride to get the best of him, ultimately causing his fall. I’ve been reading about the de-

structive path of pride in a novel, *The Veritas Conflict*, by Shaunti Feldhahn. Throughout this novel, many different false philosophies are identified and each one is birthed through pride. There is nothing wrong with having some variation in the nonessential beliefs. One of America’s greatest universities, Harvard, identifies itself as being a “Market Place for Ideas.” I applauded! However, where people began going astray is when they allowed the

foundational, essential beliefs of the Word of God to get distorted. Aristotle defined philosophy as “the pursuit of truth through reason.” If you want to pursue truth, you have to start with God’s word. The Bible must be the foundation that every brick of reasoning is built from. What causes people to believe in false ideas is their departure from the foundational truth. In this novel, students discuss the philosophy of Humanism. (Continued on back page)

“From the Heart” Part B

Humanism believes that human reason and scientific method are the only sure means of arriving at knowledge. Humanism is particularly dangerous because one of the essential teachings of the Gospel is to have total reliance on God as our source. Humanism slams the door shut on any consideration that God can be a source of knowledge. Not only are the followers of humanism relying on their intellect for life's decisions, they are not open to having a relationship with Christ at all. You have to be atheist or agnostic at best to believe in humanism. Philosophies like humanism derive from pride that believes they are wiser than God. God makes a clear statement through a series of questions on the issue of pride in I Corinthians 1:20 "Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God

made foolish the wisdom of this world?" (NKJV) To the last question posed before us in this scripture, we must answer with a definite "Yes!" A creation can never be wiser than its creator. If you read this scripture in its true context, God is actually challenging anyone to stand up and face Him if they can. God is not asking these questions to gather information. No! These are rhetorical questions. This is God saying that He has sat down anyone who challenged Him in the past, He will sit down anyone challenging Him in the future. Humans have debates with one party arguing the point of another. God leaves His opponents speechless. Remember His "cast the first stone" question? Not a word was spoken by His debaters. We serve an All-Knowing; All-Powerful; All-Present God. That's what I believe!

Volunteer Highlight

Our Volunteer Highlight for this month is Ms. Virginia Benjamin. She has volunteered at the Gifts of Grace Resale Store for a little over a year. She is 69 years old and is a very hard worker. Her son, Dana, has also volunteered on several occasions. Her favorite thing about volunteering is the people she meets. She chose our ministry to help because of the immediate connection she felt toward the staff. She has sent our items to her sister in Chicago for bingo night at the Senior Citizen's Center and we donated items for her family reunion in Alabama. We love Ms. Virginia. For more information about volunteering at the store, call 903-234-2341.



April Birthday:

April's Birthday Boy is Eric E. Mrs Meyer hosted the birthday party and offered up prayers for the birthday boy. She also provided a variety of cakes and drinks for the men to enjoy.

HOD Softball Schedule: The Spring Season of softball is here! Games are held every Tuesday night at Hinsley Park on Field 1. Come out and show your support.

Game times are:
5-06 9:45 PM
5-13 8:45 PM
5-20 9:45 PM

HOD Band Update

In April, the House of Disciples Band ministered at the following 8 events: Apr. 11 - HOD Friday Night Live with 45 in attendance. Apr. 12 - Diboll Prison with 128 offenders and 6 responded to the altar call. Apr. 13 - The Gathering at First Baptist Church with 58 in attendance. Apr. 13 - Johnston Prison with 171 offenders and 125 responded to the altar call. Apr. 15 - Billy Moore Prison with 132 and 86 responded to the altar call. Apr. 16 - ETTF men's prison with 342 and 178 responded to the altar call. Apr. 17 - ETTF ladies' prison with 84 and 56 responded to altar call. Apr. 27 - New Life Church with 132 and 18 responded to the altar call. Praise the Lord!

Encompass Cares



The Encompass Cares Community Project donated a Heartstart Defibrillator and Blood Pressure Monitor to the House of Disciples. The staff members of Encompass Home Health of East Texas presented the life saving device to the House of Disciples Program Director, Matt Stelter, outside the Longview facility. The team also held a training class on how to properly use the defibrillator. You can find out more about this project at www.encompasscares.org.

Shade Tree Ministry

House of Disciples was part of the Shade Tree Ministry held Saturday, April 19th next to the old Elks Lodge building off HWY 80 in Longview, TX. The residents participated in the set-up and tear down of the event and also assisted in food preparation and service. Shade Tree is held every Saturday at this location and benefits the homeless by feeding, clothing and sharing the gospel. Pictured is HOD resident, Brad C., serving meals to the homeless.



April Baptisms:



This past month, Jacob J. & Michael E. made decisions to follow Christ through water baptism. They were baptized by Pastor Hilliard of First Baptist Church in Longview and we are overjoyed in their choice to put God first in their lives.

FBC Prayer Breakfast

House of Disciples has begun regularly attending the First Baptist Church Men's Prayer Breakfast every Tuesday morning at 6:30. The residents enjoy a time of fellowship and prayer while they eat a good old-fashioned breakfast together with the men of First Baptist Church. The lessons learned from these men of faith are invaluable to our residents.



Upcoming Events

Friday, May 2 / 7:00 PM - Friday Night Live
David Leventry / HOD Chapel, Longview, TX
Friday, May 9 / 7:00 PM - Friday Night Live
Elsie Spurlock / HOD Chapel, Longview, TX
Sunday, May 11 / 11:30 AM - Crab Fest
HOD Band / High Island, TX
Friday, May 16 / 7:00 PM - Friday Night Live
Paul Shafer / HOD Chapel, Longview, TX
Friday, May 23 / 7:00 PM - Friday Night Live
George Martin / HOD Chapel, Longview, TX
Thursday, May 29 / 7:00 PM - HOD GRADUATION
First Baptist Church - Theater Room, Longview, TX
Friday, May 30 / 7:00 PM - Friday Night Live
Brent & Rebekah Pearson / HOD Chapel, Longview, TX

Contact us:

House of Disciples:
www.houseofdisciples.com
info@houseofdisciples.com
Phone: 903-553-0952
[Facebook.com/houseofdisciples](https://www.facebook.com/houseofdisciples)

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
Bookings: 903-851-9249

Gifts of Grace Resale Store:
[Facebook.com/giftsofgraceresale](https://www.facebook.com/giftsofgraceresale)
Store: 903-234-2341