

**“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 Adam C. and Bryan K. for receiving certificates for being a Servant Leaders during the month of July.



HOD Band at First Baptist Church Denison



“My Story” by James “Mud Dog” Smith, Program Graduate (Part A)

I was born on Oct. 12, 1954. I'm originally from Carmi, Illinois. It is a small farm town of about 1500 people. So I guess you can say, I started out a Yankee. I came from a messed up family. Both of my parents were alcoholics, and they split up when I was 4 years old. I have a little brother, 2 years younger. When I was 5 years old, our mother abandoned us on a street corner. She just put us out of the car and drove off. My grandparents took us in and treated us okay, but several years later my grandfather had a stroke and went into nursing home. Grandma could not take care of us on her own, so we got tossed around between different family members. My father showed back up when I was 10, and we started living with him. I had a lot of anger inside me for being abandoned, for how we were treated, and for being shipped around from person to person. My bad attitude didn't help matters and caused me to get into trouble. All the physical and mental abuse, in addition to the rebellion inside me, led me to make the decision to run away from home when I was 13. I ended up in Houston. Turning to drugs and alcohol was a way of escape from all the pain from my childhood. By the time I was 14, I was addicted to heroin and pretty much anything else you can think of. You name it, I did it. Still at the age of 14, I overdosed on heroin and almost died. That did not slow me down any, and I kept on using.

I got married for the first time at 17 to a Mexican girl. The marriage did not last long. She was also an addict, and she got pregnant and had a miscarriage. I went back home to Illinois at 19. It was there I met another girl and got married a second time. We had 2 little girls. In 1974, when my second daughter was born, we moved to Kilgore, TX. Drugs destroyed that marriage as well, and I have not seen my girls since the oldest was 2 years old. Things went well for a little while. I got a good job in the oil field and went almost 4 years drug free. In 1979, I married my third wife, but I fell back into my old pattern of addiction. In 1982 about the same time my son was born, I overdosed on cocaine. Needless to say, that marriage ended in divorce in 1984. During all this time, I had anger and hostility in my heart. I was mad at God and thought He was punishing me, because he took away my grandparents that were good to me, and for the hard life I had to live. It manifested mainly in me mentally abusing the people around me. I did what had always been done to me. Neither I, nor any of my family, or people around me, believed in God or went to church. That was a foreign concept. I was pretty much stuck in a rut for most of my life. The good part of my life started about 2009, when I found the House of Disciples. I got sick and tired of the addict lifestyle and knew I needed help. I was living in a tent out in the woods of Kilgore.

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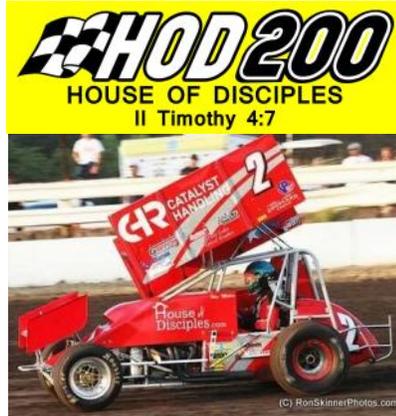
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House of Disciples 200 - Fundraiser Kick-off

Our summer fundraiser kick-off will happen on Saturday, August 16th from 9 AM till 12 PM at the Gifts of Grace Resale Store in Longview. Our focus scripture is II Timothy 4:7, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful." HOD 200 will consist of 200 envelopes with a dollar amount written on each envelope starting at \$1 and consecutively going up to \$200. Contributors will choose one envelope with the dollar

amount that they would like to donate. It is as easy as that. At the kick-off celebration we will have special guest and sprint race car driver, Wes Miller. He will be on site to sign autographs, visit with racing fans and show off his #2 sprint car. Other classic, vintage, muscle, and race car drivers are encouraged to bring their automobiles. We will have door prizes and a live band. Visit our website for more information at www.houseofdisciples.com.



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“My Story” Part B

(Continued...)

I broke down, fell to my knees and cried out to God. Afterwards, I had this strange urge to go to Longview. After a week, I met a couple of guys from HOD. One of the HOD leaders asked me if I was ready to change my life. I went with them that day. That was on a Wednesday. By Sunday, at church, I went forward and accepted Christ as my Savior. Looking back, I now know why I had such a strong call to come to Longview. God was drawing me in. Sometimes people are put in situations they can't control. For a long time, it became a habit to keep my brain fogged up on drugs. Now that I have been sober, I can see that I have plenty of other choices. All the hatred is gone. I truly believe that God brought me here. If I was not here, I probably would have ended up dead. I now know there is a God, and I know that he loves me.

Music Internship



Joshua P. has recently been appointed an internship with the Music Director, Jacob Ramos, of First Baptist Church of Longview. He assists with stage setup and audio production, and is also the Lead Guitarist in their Worship Team for Sunday Services. Joshua also tours with the House of Disciples Band, ministering at various prisons in the area. He edits, mixes, and masters the music that the House of Disciples Band produces during their Prison Ministry. Joshua has dedicated his musical talents to serving the Lord through praise and worship, and is a great inspiration to other residents at House of Disciples.

Volunteer Highlight

Our Volunteer Highlight for this month is Steve & Shirley Fink. This couple began volunteering when their Sunday school class decided to cater a monthly meal to the HOD residents. Steve & Shirley are a great help to HOD's kitchen, which serves 120 meals a day and are dearly loved by the residents and staff of HOD. They have touched the lives of so many residents by engaging and encouraging them. If you would like more information about becoming a HOD volunteer or catering a meal for our residents, please contact our Office at 903-553-0952.



July Birthday:

July's Birthday Boy is Gary G. Carol Meyer hosted the celebration with one of her famous homemade chocolate cakes. The celebration is a monthly event where each resident with a birthday is sung to by the entire house, given a special gift and prayed over by Mrs. Meyer. It is a blessing to have such a great volunteer with a heart to serve at House of Disciples.

July Baptisms:

This past month, Josh P. made the decision to follow Christ through water baptism. He was baptized by Pastor Hilliard of First Baptist Church in Longview. We are overjoyed in his choice to put God first in his life.



HOD Band Update

In July, the House of Disciples Band ministered at two events. The first was at the Billy Moore Prison on July 19 with 241 in attendance. The second was on July 27 at the First Baptist Church in Denison with 230 in attendance. The band also renewed their prison volunteer certifications. Currently, the band is working on their August production with the theme “Break Free”. We also recently received a photo of our ministry work at Diboll Prison. Praise God!



Volunteers Needed



We are always in need of volunteers at the House of Disciples and Gifts of Grace Resale Store. From group projects, to individual regular rotations, there is something for you to do. Duties range from food service, answering the phones, sorting donated items, 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.

High Island hosts VBS

This past month, HOD High Island hosted Vacation Bible School for the children of High Island, Winnie and Crystal Beach. There was an average attendance of 25 kids each day. The event had a Duck Commander Theme, with everyone wearing camo and beards. This was a great opportunity for our guys to be involved with helping children learn about Jesus. Everyone had a lot of fun.



Contact us:

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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

Gifts of Grace Denison Update

On Saturday, July 26, Gifts of Grace Resale Store in Denison, Texas held its grand opening celebration. The following day, our Store Manager, Nate Miller, had the opportunity to share his testimony at the First Baptist Church. The House of Disciples Band also led the congregation in praise and worship. You can support our ministry by dropping off your donations at 2300 W. Morton St. Suite 126 in Denison. Like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/denisonog.



Upcoming Events

- Sunday, Aug 10 / 8:00 AM**
HOD Band / Johnston Prison, Winnsboro, TX
- Tuesday, Aug 12 / 7:00 PM**
HOD Band / Diboll Prison, Diboll, TX
- Wed, Aug 12 (Men) - Thurs, Aug 13 (Ladies) / 7 PM**
HOD Band / ETTF Prison, Henderson, TX
- Friday, Aug 15 / Friday Night Live**
Ricky Sparks / HOD Chapel, Longview, TX
- Saturday, Aug 16 / HOD 200 Fundraiser Event**
Gifts of Grace, 2519 Judson Rd., Longview, TX
- Friday, Aug 22 / Friday Night Live**
Roy Wiseman / HOD Chapel, Longview, TX
- Friday, Aug 22 / 7:00 PM**
HOD Band / Celebrate Recovery, La Quinta, CA
- Friday, Aug 29 / Friday Night Live**
Chuck Roberts / HOD Chapel, Longview, TX