



PACM

PRISON AFTERCARE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

PACM News

Christmas Brunch with Christ Baptist Women's Ministry

Contributed by Robin Thorne

Christ Baptist Church ("CBC") graciously invited the residents and staff of Grace Home to attend its Christmas Brunch on December 3rd, 2016. As part of that group from Grace Home attending the event, I can attest to the fact that we were all tired, frazzled, stressed (and one of us was under the weather) due to the busyness that we, like most people, were experiencing between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays...

What a different experience we encountered once we entered the CBC Fellowship Hall! The atmosphere was festive yet tranquil. Ladies from CBC's



HIS Ministry who had planned, implemented, and attended previous activities with and for the
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Grace Home Bible Study Update

Contributed by Julie Gilbert

Richard Rohr, one of my favorite Christian writers, claims that we are all addicted to something. I have come to believe that this is true. Some of our culture's addictions are alcohol, drugs, cigarettes, caffeine, sugar, busyness, spending, relationships, ways of thinking... and on and on. Can you identify where this might be true for you? Our addictions can cause us to make bad decisions, some of which can lead to painful and life altering consequences. However, there is a way to find redemption and a new life grounded in an active faith. This faith, though it be as a mustard seed, can produce big results.



adults who seek God's grace and healing from the injuries and pain resulting from life events and experiences. It combines the 12 steps with biblical principles and scripture and begins the process for one's journey toward lasting change and renewal. Who wouldn't want a piece of that pie!

I have a heart for people who struggle with the pain and hurt that results from poor choices; particularly addiction. Many women struggle with self-esteem and claiming God's grace and forgiveness. My prayer is that through this study we can all find a deeper peace, sense of God's presence, and a faith that propels us forward as we seek to know God's plan and purpose for us.

The workbook we are currently studying at Grace Home is Twelve Steps: A spiritual Journey ~ A Working Guide for Healing. This workbook is for

Julie Gilbert is a member of Hayes-Barton United Methodist Church who volunteers at Grace Home as a Bible study leader.

"Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, so that you too will not be tempted."

Galatians 6:1

Please note that our privacy policy does not permit us to identify Grace Home residents in our publications.

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What's Happening



Grace Home has established a relationship with StepUp for ongoing life skills training.

Grace Home Update

Since our last newsletter, one new Grace Home resident arrived in January. There are presently four residents living in the home. Since this is capacity for Grace Home, we are having to refer new applicants to other potential locations.

All of our residents are regularly attending church and all join the weekly Bible study at Grace Home. All have jobs, with the exception of the most recent arrival, who is attending Jobs Week at StepUp where she receives training on resume preparation and job interview skills.

As part of the program at Grace Home, residents are required to enroll in the nine-month Life Skills education program at StepUp Ministries after they have secured employment. Two of the current residents are actively participating in this program, one is scheduled to start in March and the newcomer will be scheduled once she is employed.

Grace Home residents are also participating in

volunteer activities through the guidance of the Grace Home Coordinator, Dawn Cummings who is also involved extensively in volunteer service. Residents enjoy giving through volunteering where they develop a sense of perspective for the circumstances of others who are in need.

As a final note, we had a need for a number of somewhat urgent and costly repairs at Grace Home. There was water damage on the exterior of the home in some areas. There was a drainage issue that caused problems during heavy rains. There was a plumbing leak between the upper and lower floors of the home. And the front walkway had become broken and uneven presenting a potential trip hazard for residents and visitors.

God heard our prayers and came through with a grant that was targeted specifically for this purpose. Thankfully, these problems have now been addressed.

Christmas Brunch...

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Grace Home ladies sought us out and made us feel loved and welcomed. We were seated at beautifully decorated tables, servers treated us like royalty, the food served was delicious, the music and lecture were Christ-centered, and the fellowship with other sisters in Christ made the event a huge blessing. What a great way to get our hearts and minds in the right place to really celebrate the birth of our precious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



(Photo used with permission of Grace Home Residents)

Because the focus was on Christ, we were able to sit back, relax and get that "peace that passeth all understanding" back! Thank you Christ Baptist for this special event that helped our focus to be on our Prince of Peace! Thank you Jesus for being our Peace!

"I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27

Robin Thorne is a member of Crossroads Fellowship who serves as Director of Grace Home.

"What a difference experience we encountered once we entered the CBC fellowship hall!"

Wells Fargo Bank Provides Training at Grace Home

Contributed by Dawn Cummings

We would like to thank the people at Wells Fargo Bank for their volunteer service to the residents of Grace Home. In the course of conducting banking business at the local branch of Wells Fargo, the staff expressed interest in Grace Home. On learning that it was a transition home for women, they offered to conduct seminars on managing finances.

On Saturday, January 28th, Ms. Grace Preuc, Branch Manager, and Mr. Rodney Clapp, Personal Banker, from the Clark Avenue branch of Wells Fargo, came to Grace Home for the first in a series of seminars. All Grace Home residents were in attendance.

The session included discussion on setting goals,

creating a personal budget, tracking spending, and common pitfalls to avoid.

The session concluded with an interactive discussion of other topics of interest for future sessions. There was interest in the topic of planning for buying a home and how to build or repair your credit rating. This was identified as a potential topic for a future in-home seminar. The Wells Fargo team also provided information regarding public seminars on mortgages and down-payment assistance programs offered by Wells Fargo.

Future Grace Home seminars are scheduled on a quarterly basis. We are thankful to Grace and Rodney for sharing their time and knowledge!

*Dawn Cummings serves as the
Grace Home Coordinator*

Opportunities to Volunteer

We are often asked by partners, and by others who are aware of our ministries, how they can serve. We are thankful for those whom God calls to serve in prison-related ministries and we can use your time and talents.

There are two ministry programs within our parent organization (PACM): the Grace Home residence program, and the ReEntry Jobs-For-Life program. We have ongoing needs in the following areas:

- Women to serve as Christian mentors for Grace Home residents for the duration of their one-year residence
- Women to plan occasional outings/events with residents
- Leaders to conduct Crown Ministry-based Bible study at Grace Home (offered once per year)
- Women to conduct other Bible studies at Grace Home
- Women to serve as financial counselors / budget advisors for residents
- Men or women willing to pray regularly for general or specific needs of residents

- Women to serve as Champions in the ReEntry Jobs-For-Life program at the NC Correctional Institution for Women in Raleigh
- Anyone with skills in the following area:
 - Website design or programming
 - Event photography
 - Home maintenance "handyman"

In addition, we will be needing help in the spring in the following areas at Grace Home:

- Springtime lawn & garden rejuvenation
- Pressure washing
- Exterior trim scraping and painting
- Exterior window cleaning

Your help not only serves a practical need, but it shows the women who are residents at Grace Home, a living example of Christ's words in the 25th chapter of Matthew.

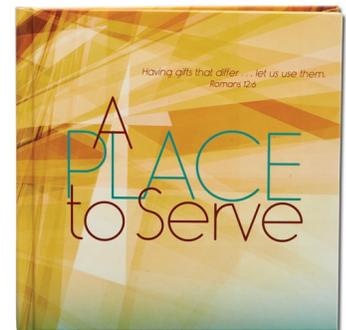
If you would like to help in any of the ways suggested above, please contact us by emailing volunteer@pacm-nc.org.

"...I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40



Local Wells Fargo employees are volunteering at Grace Home



*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in,
I needed clothes and you clothed me,
I was sick and you looked after me,
I was in prison and you came to visit me."*

Matthew 25:35-36

Grace Home is a PACM ministry. Located in Raleigh, North Carolina, Grace Home is a residence for women who are being released from incarceration and who wish to pursue a new direction in life based on their Christian faith. Grace Home provides an alternative that allows them to avoid returning to the unhealthy environments of their past. Christian values, confidentiality, and a commitment to a new life are the foundations of the program. The services provided here are for women who desire a Christian structured home environment and who demonstrate their sincerity by cooperating with guidelines established for the purpose of enriching their life experiences.

Please contact one of the following individuals to arrange a tour of Grace Home and/or to discuss with them the goals and objectives of the residence program.

Dawn Cummings Email: Dawn@pacm-nc.org
Robin Thorne Email: Robin@pacm-nc.org

ReEntry Life Skills is a PACM ministry. Operating inside of the NCCIW Minimum Custody Unit in Raleigh, NC, ReEntry Life Skills is a faith-based transition Initiative that is designed to help students face the challenges of life they will encounter when they are released from prison to rejoin their families and communities.

The teaching modules are furnished by Jobs for Life and Women of Worth Fellowship. Class size is ten students, with a champion/mentor assigned to each student. Classes are facilitated by a team of four instructors and a class coordinator.

Classes focus on topics such as accepting responsibilities, overcoming obstacles to success, taking pride in work, money management, interactive relationship development, goal setting, writing resumes, how to budget, etc. These topics are in our curriculum along with the comprehensive Jobs for Life curriculum.

The ReEntry team is committed to serving our students with excellence in instruction and providing Biblical principles by which to live.

Prison Aftercare Christian Ministries

"For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone and has not another to lift him up!"

Ecclesiastes 4:10



Prison Aftercare Christian Ministries
PO Box 18332
Raleigh, NC 27619

E-mail: info@pacm-nc.org

We're on the web at:
www.pacm-nc.org

Christmas Fellowship at Grace Home

Volunteers and Grace Home Residents gathered at Grace Home in mid-December for our annual Christmas social.

The Grace Home residents, along with the Grace Home Coordinator, Dawn Cummings, had decorated the home with beautiful ornaments and trimmings throughout.

Everyone brought a dish and enjoyed an evening of good food and good Christian fellowship.

It is easy at this busy time of year to get caught up in the commercial distractions, decorating, back-and-forth trips to the mall, entertaining, and all of the other activities that can crowd out focus on Christ Himself. It was truly a welcome opportunity to escape from the hectic pace and focus on the true meaning of the season in the company of like-minded Christian brothers and sisters.

Thank You God for sending us your Son!



(Photo used with permission of Grace Home Residents)