

2nd Chances

New Beginnings Ministry Newsletter

May and June 2010

Director's Blog

Another New Start:

Mark Burligame

Director of New Beginnings



As Spring and Summer approaches we are reminded of the fact that God can bring back dead things to life. Just when it seems there is no possibility of life or hope as we scan the brown dead grass and trees we see a tiny glimpse of life. Just a touch of green pushes up out of the seemingly destroyed and barren flowers, bushes and lawn.

Out of hopelessness comes hope, out of ruin comes a rising up and the cycle of life continues to bring forth fruit and reproduction. Maybe that's why I love spring so much! It's another chance to begin again and do it better this time.

New Beginnings is a place for this to happen. Through the Spirit of the Living God We offer a chance at rebirth and hope, a place where the dead roots in a person's heart can be changed and cut away, replaced by the Root of Christ bringing light and life into the dark places of broken lives.

New Beginnings is also a place of heartbreak. When you see roots of pride and rebellion rise up and choke out the seedlings of hope and life it's tough to watch them die and not be able to rescue them. Sadly wrong choices and misdirected emotions sometimes rob us and leave us far from the fruit and favor God had planned for us.

The power of Faith is that as long as God is on the throne and we are open to His LOVE there will always be the Promise of RESURRECTION AND NEW LIFE to all who will humble themselves to his loving care. Your gifts and support are what enable us to continue to make this a City of Refuge to those dead in their addictions. I just want to say Thanks and have a great summer.

Pastor Mark
Director

Testimony

Greg Randall

Student of the month



Hi my name is Greg Randall and I am 36 years old, married with four wonderful children and a bright future ahead of me thanks to Jesus Christ, New Beginnings and the support of the best wife in the world!

Through an injury at work I got hooked on pain pills and have not been free since then. I have been in two other Christian rehabs but they did not work for me like New Beginnings. New Beginnings worked for me because I learned I have to work the program, I don't get better by just attending it.

I have been here for 3 months and am now looking for a job. The biggest thing God has done for me is to restore my family and my self-respect. I am learning how to deal with anger and anxiety through some of the material here like "Anger and Personal rights". It's all about learning to lay them down rather than let them control me.

I may have a long ways to go but at least I have started the journey and I'm not looking back. On behalf of my wife and children I want to say thanks to all who support this ministry it has been God's lifeline to me and my family!

Eric Hustead- Featured Student

One of my favorite children's songs says "Bullfrogs and butterflies, we both been born again." In the case of the butterfly, his life starts as a worm, then, in a sudden event, he bursts out of his cocoon as a transformed being. The bullfrog, starts out as a fish-like tadpole, whose tail and gills disappears over time, while at the same time lungs and legs are slowly developing until the fully formed frog crawls out onto a lily pad.

My experience has been closer to the bullfrog than the butterfly. I was raised in a Christian home, attending Church and Sunday school, but like most kids, I didn't really think much of the talk of sin applied to me. I was one of the "good kids."

When I was twelve, I was baptized in the First Baptist Church of Mansfield. While I still didn't see that there was any particular sin in me, I remember having a real sense that I was committing myself to uphold a higher standard, to try harder to follow the rules.

At the same time, I was being exposed to other voices that told me that I needed to be strong enough to be my own salvation. That it was a sign of weakness to depend on anyone beside myself. As this attitude became stronger, I found myself paying less attention to God and focusing more on myself. I felt "This Jesus stuff is OK, but when times get REALLY tough, we need men who can do what needs to be done."

What changed my attitude was getting married and having children. Suddenly, it was not just about me. I was responsible for, and dependent on the actions of others. I could no longer live as though the world revolved around me. Things happened that I had no control over. I found that I didn't always know the right thing to do, and I didn't always do what I knew to be right. I became less secure in my relationship with God.

After spending about 12 years out of the area, I brought my family back to the Troy. We started attending East Troy Baptist Church. Our minister challenged my wife and me to take a 2 year course of bible study (the Bethel Bible Study).

As I got deeper into God's Word than I had ever been before, I started to realize just how much I had been fooling myself about my own goodness. I also realized that God was not looking for someone who could "follow the rules." He was looking for a relationship with me. I saw that the unconditional love that I felt for my children was a faint reflection of the deep love he felt for me.

I am finding that the relationship only grows deeper with time. I spend more time talking with Jesus and try to be open to his responses. I am amazed at how interested He is in all parts of my life. Study of the Bible, especially the Gospels, seems to open up new insights into how I am to live my life.

I have grown from someone whose goal was to "be good and obey the rules," to someone who desires a relationship with God. The rules were never meant to be the goal in life, they are only helpful as a way of judging how strong our relationship is with our Heavenly Father. My goal now is to abide in His love.

Detail and Wood Shop Opens!

We are excited this spring to reopen our Detail shop with the lowest prices in town and to open our Wood shop made possible by the generous donation of one of the ministries new friends.

We are now making to order planters, birdhouses and plant stands among other things. See the pictures of our items for sale. All you have to do is call and order by number what you want and how many. We deliver for free! (In Bradford county)

You can also order online through our website newbeginningsrehab.com and use PayPal .

This helps us to pay our bills and helps students pay their monthly rent. It seems everything is going up from insurances to utility bills and this is a door we believe God has opened to help us become financially stable. We encourage you to pick up some original pieces from the New Beginnings Wood Shop that will decorate your homes and be a blessing from our house to yours.

Prayer-n-Praises

We praise God for:

- A new chainsaw donated by a ministry friend
- A variety of wood crafting saws donated by a ministry friend
- A new full time staff member joining us in June
- A new push mower donated by a ministry friend
- All our wonderful volunteers who make this ministry possible
- A John Deere riding lawnmower donated by a ministry friend
- A pool table donated by a ministry friend
- A 27" TV donated by a ministry friend

We pray for:

- 10 new churches this year to take us on as home missionaries
- 50 new ministry friends
- Special donations to remodel the men's bathroom (1,000.00)
- Donations to replace the pool liner
- Men's toiletries (please no soap)
- Wood (logs burn better in our fireplace)
- Pots and pans
- Deep fryer

