

BARBERTON RESCUE MISSION NEWS



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My Photo Album

Client Testimony By
Mike Haynes



Mike Haynes

This past Thanksgiving was the first time in twelve years that I have spent over 24 hours with my mother. Although awkward at first, it was a glorious crash course in learning to relax and let "Momma" be my mother again. The food was plentiful and delicious!

It was wonderful to reconnect with my brothers after all this time. My little sister is now a beautiful woman. I played games with my brother's children and fellowshiped with other family and friends including my grandmother and aunt whom I had not seen in seven years! It was the best Thanksgiving I have ever had with these loved ones.

There were a lot of photographs taken during this holiday. I haven't seen them yet, but I am sure these pictures will show my family experiencing joy and gratitude to be together again. The best thing is that these photos will show me being healthy, happy and sober. (In fact, the entire family is now sober!) I discovered that I didn't need alcohol or drugs to enjoy life that day. There was a time in my past

when I believed that riotous living, alcohol and drugs were essential to life itself.

Although parts of my childhood were considered average, some things were not. I was introduced to addictive substances at a young age and came to view it as "normal." I remember being given "whiffs" of marijuana at age six so I could fall asleep and the adults could party and do their own thing. The music and atmosphere at these frequent parties were exciting and seductive to me.

My mom would often take pictures at these parties, as well as other normal family events. The family photo album is full of pictures. There are some showing my brothers and me playing in the yard, playing with toys we got for Christmas, or other such events. In contrast to these innocent and wholesome ex-

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*From the Desk of
Rev. Paul Collins*

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

This familiar doxology expresses the thoughts of my heart for this new month. I suppose that some of you may read this and ask whether I feel this way all the time? Well, truthfully, no. But, I do recognize that we all make choices each day to either look at the negative or to look at the positive. There are plenty of negative events, etc. for us to concentrate on if we choose, but I am choosing to focus on the positive things that God is doing.

God continues to bless the mission and staff. Sure, there are days and situations that are difficult, but God has met every need. Most importantly, God is still changing lives at the treatment center! If the time ever comes when lives are not being changed, then we have no reason to exist.

Last month I shared with you some details of my travels to various churches. I inadvertently left out one of the places we visited, so I will mention it here. On November 30th we visited the Macedonia Baptist Church in Akron, Ohio. This church has been a real blessing to us and is especially a treat for us when we visit. The reason it is such a blessing is because it is the home church of one of our program graduates. We are happy that Dale was at the service and helped us out by singing a special song. Dale is still doing well. He is a student at Akron University majoring in social work.

I haven't been visiting any other churches recently because of the holidays. Most congrega-

tions have so many activities around the Christmas season, that it is not practical for them to schedule a service. We are beginning to get out now that we are well into a new year, and I will be sharing more about our travels in the coming issues.

I am excited about some additional activities that I will be involved in. After some discussion it was decided that I would try to visit our program graduates and do some follow-up with them. My goal will be two-fold. First of all I want to just visit with the graduates to give them some encouragement and let them know that we are still thinking about them and counting on them to stay true to the Lord and their commitment to stay clean and sober.

A second reason for keeping in contact with program graduates is so we can have more testimonies to share with our supporters. From time to time we hear very good reports about former graduates, but we don't usually hear the full story about how God is working in their lives today. It is one thing to hear how God is working with clients that are still here in treatment, but it is another thing to hear how men are doing after one, two or more years of sobriety. It truly blesses our hearts to hear their stories.

I solicit your prayers.

In Christ
Paul



**BARBERTON RESCUE
MISSION NEWSLETTER**

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Editor: Lester A. Rowan

**A listing of our staff is provided
to enable our readers to pray
for us by name.**

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ANGRY PEOPLE

(Continued from last month)

By R.W. Bolois, Ph.D., CCDC III-E

As we move on to look at the final three thoughts about the nature of anger, you will notice how they affect the self-esteem and values of the angry person.

People do not properly mature while angry because of the personal consequences they inflict upon their own minds and emotions. We can follow the process that takes place within the mind that devastates any person's hope of just walking away from an angry life.

Let us now look at the first of those thoughts. *An angry person will engage in self-focused rumination.* The person focuses all of his attention on perceived injustices and blame, which produces a negative state of mind. Then, he continues brooding on those issues.

Throughout this mindset the "why" questions begin to play a major part in the loss of self-respect. One of the "why" questions asked almost daily is, "Why do other people treat me the way they do?" As one tries to think of the answers, which are not readily available and highly inferential, this likely leads to further angry associations in memory that help it "grow" and causes them to brood all the more.

I want to break this all

down and show you how it works within the framework of the angry person.

It is always difficult to find a good reason to blame oneself when others are involved. We are often quick to think that *others* either are *wrong* or have *caused* us to respond in an inappropriate manner. If people would just leave us alone, we would keep the halo over our head

It is always easier to blame someone else than to take responsibility for our own behavior.

and the smile on our face. There are so many damaging things that are done to us, we just cannot keep our cool and refrain from expressing ourselves in a hostile or aggressive manner.

When an injustice is committed, we may respond immediately and then continue to brood over the thoughts. We tell ourselves that it just isn't right to let them off the hook that easy, so we try to put together in our minds a measure of punishment that will help us to again feel comfortable by getting even. If we had been able to let it go, we would not be spending unnecessary time trying to establish a good reason to show how wrong someone else was instead of looking at our

own lives.

It is always easier to blame someone else than take responsibility for our own behavior. When we blame or feel like we are taken advantage of, we consistently ask ourselves, "Why do other people treat me the way do? My mother loved me and we got along beautifully. My grandparents thought I was adorable. I can remember one school teacher telling me that I was a perfect student. I can think of the many nice comments that others have made about me because I am a good person. So, I find it very difficult to think that there is now something wrong with me that would cause anyone to mistreat me."

As the angry person continues this intra-personal dialogue within, it often produces a very different self-image than the image others have of them. This keeps perceived injustices alive in the memory and fuels further cause for retaliation.

Now, look at yourself. What do you see? Are you a person of peace and understanding, or are you always on the brink of creating some new disturbance because you never see yourself the way others do. Take a good, long look in the mirror and figure out who it is that is looking back at you! Å



WHY CAN'T HE STAY?

By
Lester A. Rowan

One of my responsibilities is to screen the clients who are seeking admission into our treatment program. This task is one that can be both rewarding and discouraging.

What do I look for when I interview prospective clients? There are a number of issues that are evaluated before someone is accepted into the treatment program that we offer. Some of the factors are very specific while others are not so specific.

One of the specific factors that is considered is the client's history of drug/alcohol use. As I ask questions the person has used, how long the use has continued and other information relating to the use of mind-altering substances. This information helps to substantiate whether the individual is, in fact, dependent on those substances. Clinically speaking, a person doesn't belong in a residential treatment facility if he is not truly dependent on the substances.

Some of the questions I ask are for the purpose of evaluating the extent of impact the substance use has been in the life of the prospective client. I look for indications that employment problems, family problems, and legal problems have come about as a result of substance use. These answers will also give some indications as to the severity of dependency the client has.

My purpose at the screening process is not to make a specific "diagnosis," but to determine if this person demonstrates a need for a residential treatment program.

I also ask specific questions relating to physical health and mental health. These issues are important

for the simple reason that we are not equipped to treat every condition. Some physical and mental conditions require more specialized treatment than we are able to offer. Therefore, some clients are not accepted into our program because they are outside our "scope of treatment." In such cases, it would actually be detrimental to the client to have him in a setting that is not appropriate for his specific needs.

If a person is outside our scope of treatment, we do not just "toss them out on the streets." We always do our best to refer them to another agency that is better equipped for their needs. In any of these cases, we want what is best for the client.

Sometimes family members are frustrated with us and feel like we are not showing compassion when we decide not to accept someone. It seems that when people hear about our program and the success that many men have had here, they automatically think that this is absolutely the best place for their loved one. That makes it very difficult for us when we have to turn someone away. We just pray that family members will understand that we want what is best for their loved one, and if we can't provide what is needed, then he would be hindered by being here.

On a more subjective level, I also screen clients for appropriate attitudes. This may be one of the hardest things to do. Quite frankly, most of the prospective clients *do not* have a good attitude when I see them because they have been under the influence of alcohol or drugs. They will naturally have inappropriate thinking patterns and negative attitudes about almost everything. This is especially true when interviewing clients that are in jail.

Through explaining our program and rules, I try to determine how sincere a person is about seeking help. I try to evaluate whether the individual is likely to cause a lot of trouble or if he really wants to change his lifestyle. I also make sure to explain to them how strongly we emphasize faith and spiritual issues at our facility.

Once I have explained all of these things, I evaluate their reactions, body language and comments in order to identify those who are serious about getting help. Our experience has been that a person must truly want help before we can provide any benefit to them. We've also learned that one person with a really bad attitude can negatively effect the whole group that is here.

As you can imagine, this is not an easy task. Probably everyone of us on the staff here can think of people that had horrible attitudes and spread a lot of negativity, but they drastically changed. There have been others that didn't seem so bad, who turned out to be real problems.

I would appreciate your prayers that God will give us daily wisdom in doing the screening interviews. When I share with Dr. Bolois the results of the interview and we make the decision about whether to accept or deny the prospective client, we truly want God's will. We want the people here that He wants here. We are not infallible. We may make mistakes from time to time. But, if you are ever tempted to ask, "Why can't he stay?" Please remember that there are a lot of factors that go into our decision and we are only trying to do what is best for the client. Å

CHRISTMAS JOYS

For many men in our treatment center Christmas is a time that brings some unpleasant memories. A large number of them talk about years past when they were either drunk or high throughout the entire holiday and they have few positive memories. Some have even shared the heart-breaking stories of taking their children's gifts to sell so they could buy more drugs.

This was the second year we have solicited the help of our supporters as well as some local businesses in order to fund our "Dads Still Care" project. The funds raised enabled us to buy gifts for our clients to give to their children. We designated the afternoon of December 21st as the day for families to come to the treatment center so the children could receive the gifts from their fathers. It truly was an exciting time as the children opened the gifts and got to spend some time with their dads.

The appeal went out to our newsletter readers, area churches, and local businesses for help with this large project. Help came from many sources. Nearly \$4300 was donated to purchase the gifts. Toys and gifts were also donated by a local corporation in Barberton and a church Bible study group in



Henry wraps a gift for his child.



Jeff helps his daughter check out the new toy.

Hudson, Ohio. As the finances came in, our Volunteer Coordinator, Carla Doss, collected gift lists from the clients.

After the gifts were purchased, several volunteers came to the center to help the men wrap their presents. The names of the ladies who volunteered to help wrap gifts are: Monica Brink, Lillian Collins, Paula Sanderfer, and Kaydee Yoder.

Several other people added their volunteer services to help make the event on the twenty-first a huge success. Four ladies, along with board member Cecil Young and his wife, baked dozens of cookies and helped serve the refreshments at the party. A total of 67 people attended this event.

Our chief financial officer, Roger Kittelson, volunteered his time and equipment to print out a family photo for each family in attendance. Some of them commented that this was the first family photo ever taken.

We want to publicly thank all those who helped make this event a great success. The men seemed so grateful and the children were full of beautiful smiles. It was a very practical way for us to show the love of Jesus Christ during this celebration of His

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Christmas Joys

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birth. It was also an opportunity for the men to have something to give their children to let them know how much they love them and "daddy still cares."

In addition to this special project for the children, there was another thoughtful Christmas project that was done by the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Hudson, Ohio. A photo was taken of each client and each staff member. Then the members of this church made little hand-crafted Christmas stockings with the photo on the outside and candy on the inside. These were then given to each client and staff member at the treatment center.



Charlie enjoys the day with his family.



Judy Snyder, Betty Triplett, Ruth Ison, and Janet Nash helped serve refreshments.

This project was a very

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Several weeks ago there was a public service announcement placed in the Akron Beacon Journal newspaper regarding volunteer opportunities here at the New Destiny Treatment Center. Since that announcement was published we have had eight brand new volunteers in the month of November and twelve new volunteers in the month of December. As more and more people find out about the treatment center there are more who want to be involved in various ways.

A very hearty thanks is offered to everyone who has given of their time and talents to help us!

School Group Performs Christmas Program

The high school choir from Kingsway Christian School in Orville, Ohio came to the New Destiny Treatment Center to present a special Christmas program for the clients. Some of the choir members were unable to attend due to illness, however the group did a fine job presenting the familiar Christmas story.

The program lasted approximately 30-45 minutes and consisted of Scripture readings mingled with musical selections. Three of the students alternated as piano accompanists for the choir. One of these students also played her flute in the program.

The clients and staff in attendance enjoyed the presentation. We are thankful for the wonderful program that these students presented. We hope that the Lord blesses them as much as they blessed us with their talents.



I Feel Free Again

Born in Jackson, Mississippi, Lee was one of six children in his family—the only boy. As he was growing up, Lee was very close to his sisters and his mother. Although he was born with a mild case of Cerebral Palsy, Lee remembers his childhood and adolescence as a carefree time filled with his hobby of photography and job readiness preparation programs. Lee had a bright future ahead of him even though he was not very close to his father, and his parents were divorced when he was still in High School.

In 1980, Lee gained employment at a Wendy's restaurant and was very devoted to his work. He even moved into his own apartment and he remembers his mother giving him a couch from their home as his first piece of furniture. But in 1988, Lee's father passed away and that's when Lee says he began to suffer from depression. Over the next 10 years Lee would turn his back on all the blessings he had been given and enter a life full of storms.

Looking for acceptance and affection, Lee began to get involved with a group of "friends" that introduced him to drugs. In the beginning, Lee was experimenting with marijuana and alcohol. In November 1988 the news of George Bush becoming president was playing on a radio

in a hotel room when Lee had his first experience with crack cocaine.

Lee learned that he could receive a government check for his disability and shared this with



**Program Graduate
LEE WILLIAMS**

his friends. They invited him to live with them and promised they would take care of him if he would sign his check over to them each month. Lee never saw his money from month to month. He even sold the couch his mother had given him so he could get high. When his mother found out about his drug problem, Lee says he felt like he had put a knife in his mother's heart.

Lee bounced from shelter to shelter, on and off the streets, and in and out of treatment programs. In 1998 Lee finally arrived at Barberton Rescue Mission (now known as New Destiny Treatment Center) in Clin-

ton, Ohio. In denial of his drug problem, Lee left the program.

On May 18, 2000, Lee remembers during his last drug use, a Bible verse came to mind pertaining to having the strength and will to fight evil. Lee made his way back to the New Destiny Treatment Center. After nine painful and difficult months, the loving staff of this agency was able to get to Lee and he surrendered his underlying problems that led him to drugs. In March of 2001, Lee completed the program and found his way to Columbus, Georgia where one of his sisters was living.

In March of 2003 Lee decided it was time to get his life back and begin working again – a passion he had missed for 15 years. He entered a job training program at Goodwill and is currently seeking employment as a housekeeping or janitorial specialist. Lee is now in his own apartment again and is very involved in his church. He says he has finally gained his independence again.

Lee knows he will never be 100% free from temptation, but he stands firm on a foundation of faith. He hopes to begin taking pictures again, his real love, and says now his life feels carefree again as it was so many years ago. Â

My Photo Album
(Continued from p. 1)

periences there is a photo of me "sloppy drunk" on my eighth birthday. There are other pictures of my father and other family members while they were drunk.

As time passed, there were less pictures and more pain. There was more arguing than dancing. There were a lot of fights. Alcohol was not a "privilege" anymore—it was a duty. (For example, my grandfather once told me on the way home from the state liquor store, "Don't drop that bottle boy... that's blood!")

High school was an increasing burden to me. I had already started going to bars and dating "fast girls." My father left home, and drugs had a bigger grip on my life. By the age of seventeen I was sneaking my mom's vodka, begging grandma for hers and purchasing my own beer and marijuana. I eventually dropped out of school, but I kept on working.

I was a good worker, so employers often liked me. Before long I was in retail management. I had a bright future, but alcohol and drugs made that future turn dim.

The first "snapshot" of me in jail would occur when I was 20 years old. My new love affair with crack cocaine caused me to lie, steal, and manipulate to stay high. I could not keep a job or the respect of family and friends. I could not be trusted any longer.

God gave me an "angel" back when I was working in retail business. Her name is Tanisha. During my relationship and marriage with Tanisha three children were born. I was in and out of treatment centers, giving my family only brief glimpses of a good father and husband. Finally, the divorce

came. I had hurt them for the last time. I found myself in prison on additional felony charges.

When I got out of prison I intended to change, but eventually found myself hopeless, helpless and homeless.

It was on a Monday that God persuaded me to seek help. I found that help six months ago at the New Destiny Treatment Center. I have trusted Jesus to put my life back together. He has begun to change me. One example is I have been delivered from cigarettes since shortly after my arrival here.

Tanisha and the children are back in my life today. They have a new man! Never will I have to look at a picture of myself drunk again. God is making a new photo album!

Mailing List Changes: When you write with your requests to be removed from our mailing list or to change your address, it would help us a great deal if you would send your current mailing label along with your request. Also remember that it often takes a month or two before the changes actually take effect.

Thank you,
Editor

Barberton Rescue Mission

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