



Old Places, Old Faces, and Old Ways of Life

As a recovering dope fiend/alcoholic, I am required to forsake 3 things without reservation.

- 1) I have to forsake old places and old paths. I cannot head in the direction I once went. When you give your life to Christ, you get a new path to follow. Psalm 16:11 says "You will show me the path of life..." I've discovered the more I stay on course and continue down the path the Lord sets before me the better life gets! Besides, as the saying goes, "If you hang around a barber shop long enough you *will* get a haircut." If I head in the same direction I used to, I will eventually go back to my old ways of life.
- 2) This one is such a must, but the most difficult one to follow. I cannot mingle, hang out or run with the same friends, loved ones and even certain family members anymore. This is where things really get rough because not only do you really miss some of these folks, but they think you are either mad at them or are just too good for them. But thank God for His word and promises! Revelation 21:5, "...Behold I make all things new." He has given me new friends and a new family-the family of God. And, it gets even better, now we have become part of a body of believers where we have a genuine love for one another and a spiritual rapport. This rapport produces a bond that can't be found elsewhere in the secular world.

- 3) I have to forsake the old ways of life, too. In other words, I must repent. The Lord has been showing me that I have got to deal with, mainly, the things I see and hear. I cannot watch the same things I used to watch on television or the movie theater. I cannot listen to the same music I used to listen to. I have to keep and stay focused on things that are holy and pure. The word *pure* derives from the word *holy*. It describes a person who is clean, modest, pure, undefiled, faultless, and without blemish.

Is there any way any of us can pull this off in our own strength? Not a chance! Thank God that His grace is sufficient for us and His strength is made perfect in our weakness. (II Cor 12:9) "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies Himself, just as He is pure." (I John 3:2-3) Christ's ability to overcome temptation and remain pure makes Him a role model for all believers.

Because of Him and for Him,

Steve



"If you hang around a barber shop long enough, you *will* get a haircut."



Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. – Matthew 7:14

Leaves have fallen!

The men of Gateway are always involved in their community and church. Their ministry of helps is a witness to their commitment to the body of Christ and shows an honest love of other people. A few weeks ago, we raked leaves for a couple that were physically unable to do it themselves. We had a great time and learned a lot at the same time.

Service outings are encouraged as part of the program of sanctification at Gateway. By helping others, we help ourselves. We learn cooperation, teamwork, and how to deal with people's appreciative response to our efforts.



This is a great way for us fellows to practice giving back for all we have been given. I have seen, personally, that this type of "giving of one's self" helps to grow and mature us in ways we never imagined.



We found this little angel hiding in the leaves! (This is Sidney, Shawn's little girl!)

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From the House Manager

I have seen many men come and many men go since I started at Gateway. They all walk in saying the same thing, "I want to change." Their problem is that they do not want to give up anything.

When we want the circumstances around us to change in order to make a change in ourselves, we are in trouble. We are just running around and around the mountain without getting anywhere.

We consider the miracles of Jesus and celebrate them and give them special meaning. What we often fail to remember is Jesus' command to: "GO." Go is a word of action. "Go and sin no more. Go and make disciples..."

The people who were truly healed

gave up everything for Christ. Fishermen no longer fished, tax collectors gave out money, and teachers of the law proclaimed the Good News.

We are not any different. We need to "give it up." We need to die to ourselves and everything we ever knew, pick up our cross every day and follow Jesus. When and only when we can do this will we be truly healed and set free. Miracles still happen. I see them at Gateway every day first hand. Miracles still happen. I would like to see more, but I have to remember, "narrow is the gate."

Thank you, everyone for your continuous prayers and support.

Michael



The people who were truly healed gave up everything for Christ.

Thanks, and a Tip of the Hat

We here at Gateway would like to thank the men, our brothers in Christ, who give of themselves as mentors to our guys. The men who have participated as mentors here are respected, mature Christian men who attend Bethesda Christian Church.

The meetings are confidential and cover all topics involved in recovery and spiritual development. A Gateway style of Christian discipling. My mentor, Joe Bulat, is now the chairman of the mentoring program.

Joe, by his example, showed me how to tie my recovery and my Christianity together in order to develop a richer, fuller life. He became my friend and confidant. He showed me that Christians are not weak: they have the power of the Holy Spirit in them. He helped me mature as a Christian and a man.

Mentor at Gateway, Bob Jensen, scratches his head in deep thought!



Every man, upon entering Gateway, is assigned a mentor that the ministry feels he can identify with. Likes, dislikes, hobbies, and many other things are taken into account.

Mentors also help the men in socialization. Many of them have been incarcerated and have forgotten or never learned social etiquette.

Thanks to these men who step up! Thanks and a tip of the hat to them!

Ron



P O Box 863
Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0863

Phone:
586-883-3392

E-Mail:
contact@gateway2glory.org

**Merry
Christmas!**

We're on the Web

www.gateway2glory.org

And Facebook!

A Very Special Day with Very Special Visitors!

In October Gateway had some special visitors come to meet the men who live here and the men who are involved, on a daily basis, with the residents of Gateway. Prison Fellowship's Garland Hunt (President), James Liske (CEO), Denise Harris (Field Director) and Mary Engle (Executive Director) came to meet and encourage the ministry!

Wanting to see first-hand what is happening regarding re-entry in Michigan, Prison Fellowship contacted Gateway in order to find out. Gateway and Prison Fellowship got together at the house to fellowship and encourage one another, and Prison Fellowship got to see, first hand, how God can change lives through a local church community and a transition ministry.

It was a great time of fellowship and mutual encouragement for everyone in attendance.

Remember, your donations make this ministry possible and you are an important part of everything that is done here in His name! Thank you for your faithful giving!



James Liske teaches what it looks like to follow Christ.



Eating...always a great way to get to know each other!



Hunt and Liske, listening to a testimony of God's grace



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P O Box 863
Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0863