

It was at that point that one of the men who usually didn't give much input spoke up. He strongly disagreed with us, and over the next few moments we watched as The Spirit took the Word and revealed Truth to a broken man. He stated that a sacrifice is when you give up something of value, often for something of lesser value. Then he tearfully declared that "It is not a sacrifice when you trade your trash for The Bank!" At that moment The Holy Spirit made Jason realize the value of the offer that was before him. He saw his life as "trash" without Jesus, and without Hope, just like the apostle Paul did. And he cried out to God for the new life that only Jesus our Treasure can bring. It was an extremely powerful moment, and the Lord used it to challenge all of our lives. From that point on we began to expect God to blow our minds with His Word in our times of study together and He never ceases to do just that.

If a man has really found the treasure, he will spend the rest of his life unearthing it. I like to think of the treasure not merely as a pot or box of valuable jewels or coins, but as a vein of gold. The one who discovers it, secures it, sells out to it, and spends the rest of his life trying to find out how deep it is, how wide it is, and how far it goes. As we begin to dig and to search it doesn't take long for us to realize that we will never uncover it all, but we will have plenty to share. The Word of God is so rich.

Now when I preach from Matthew 13:44 I call the sermon "Dig This!", and I thank God for the beauty of all that I have learned from Him watching Him speak through guys who never knew they could hear from God like this. Thank you Lord. Now, let me challenge you, dear reader, dig in and see what God will show you about you, and about Himself.
In His Service, TODD REED, Sr. Pastor FBCRW

Ministry Volunteer Testimony – Mike Lee

Several years ago, I was praying for God to use me in some way to further His ministry. After 35 years in Houston, my wife Carolyn and I returned to Atlanta, our home. While in Houston I learned under one of God's great teachers for about ten years and it was time to share what I knew with others.

Jim and Donna Cooley came to my church at Piney Grove to share their vision for the ministry to men and women addicted to drugs and alcohol. Brother Lee Woods acted as spokesperson and shared with us their plans for the future of Damascus Home. Cassandra Allday brought several female residents of Damascus Women's Center in Queen City to the event and, after hearing about the ministry and seeing what God was doing in the lives of the residents, it all came together.

After the service, I spoke to Donna and asked to help in their ministry. I said that my help in building, carpentry or plumbing was limited, but what I could do was teach. She referred me to Lee Woods and we met, had lunch and both of us also prayed about the matter. I also met with Cassandra and all seemed to fit. Brother Woods asked me to put together an outline for a once-per-week study that could be taught from start to finish each 90-day cycle.

When I sat down to do so I found it to be easy, as God directed every single study. When I submitted it, we all found that it fit well into both male and female programs. I began teaching the Bible weekly and have done so ever since. I have taught it from that time almost exactly as God originally gave it to me. On occasion, I have tried to change or "improve" upon it, only to find that I have messed it up and return to its original format.

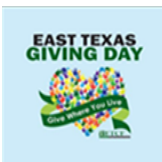
That was some six years ago, and oh, what a blessing I have received. I have seen lives restored, wives & husbands reunited, bridges that were burned, rebuilt. From this I know God is alive, is still on the throne and continues to change the lives of those surrendered to Him.

When one of my former students comes to me and shares what Jesus has done in their lives and realize God has allowed me to have a part in His work, it makes it all worthwhile. I give God all the credit because only He can change a heart!

In this short space, I can only give credit to God; and it is not only me through whom He works-there are others that faithfully serve and teach God's Word. When I volunteered, God opened doors. When I saw what God could do through His Word, it really opened my eyes and I have since ministered the Word in many venues. We are all just the messengers that deliver The Good News. God transforms the spirit of mankind. Join me in giving praise and glory to the One and Only who does this work!
I thank you God for this opportunity, Mike Lee



Mike Lee



April 24, 2019

East Texas Giving Day Kickoff

January 3, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

Regional Arts & Humanities Council
321 W. 4th Street
Texarkana, Texas 75501



Damascus Home of Redwater Campaign
Code USA013

Damascus Home of Redwater, Inc.

P.O. Box 583

Redwater, Texas 75573



DAMASCUS HOME

DISCOVERING HOPE AND A PURPOSE



ABOUT US

We provide quality care and services for men, women, and their families suffering from the crippling effects of addiction. As a non-medical treatment and recovery program, our vision is to empower men and women through a faith-based, 12 step recovery program. We provide extensive spiritual application and life skills to help them discover hope and God's purpose for their lives.

Over a decade ago and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the organization of Damascus Home of Redwater, Inc. was established. Damascus Home Rehabilitation Center is a non-profit organization in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. This ministry for recovering adults has maintained uninterrupted status with the Texas Department of State Health Services as a "Faith-based Chemical Dependency Treatment Facility" (FB3152).

CONTACT US

damascushome.org/contact/

903-585-3186

admin@damascushome.org

damascushomenewsletter@gmail.com

P.O. Box 583
Redwater, Texas 75573

Do you know that you know that you know your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life? As Christians we believe the Bible to be the Word of God. I talk to people all the time who say, 'I think I'm saved,' or 'I hope I'm saved.'

I John 5:13 tells us, "I write these things so you may *know* that you have eternal life." Not that you may *question* if you have eternal life but that you will *know* it. The Gospel of John 1:1-2 says, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. John 7:7 states, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." I want to encourage you to read the Gospel of John if you really want to know the Word of God (*the Person*). John 8:32 says, "You shall know the Truth (*the Person*) and the Truth (*the Person*) shall make you free." Truth is a Person!

Get this settled in your heart and take Him at His Word! - Jim Cooley



Keith Roadcap and family

I want to share my personal experience regarding Damascus Home of Redwater ministry and the impact it has had on my life. My name is Keith Roadcap. Before I went to Straight Street Restoration Center, I attended multiple secular rehabilitation programs and battled most of my adult life with drug and alcohol abuse. I had all but given up hope of a normal life and having a family. I thought the world was a place I didn't belong. The only comfort I found was in substances.

When I entered the program at Straight Street, I was looking for some freedom from substance abuse and truly did not recognize that my lack of relationship with God was my real problem. "The Street" gave me time to dive into God's word and build a relationship with Jesus Christ. This time in God's Word unveiled that the real issue in my life was a lack of relationship with Jesus Christ. The teachers and the staff at "The Street" helped direct me to the Lord. While at SSRC I gave my life to Jesus Christ. I once thought I had just a drug problem, However I realized what I had was a sin problem. From my own personal experience, I can say that without Jesus Christ I had no hope. In Jesus Christ I found hope, peace, and love. The fact is, through Jesus Christ, I am clothed in His righteousness. At one point early in my stay, I thought I was trapped at "The Street," until I realized that God was wrapping His arms around me. Jesus' love showed me there was another way to live. Now that Jesus is Lord of my life, I truly have freedom from addiction and freedom from sin. I am no longer the man I once was as Christ lives within me. God has used the Damascus Ministry to show me His living Word and it made me into a productive member of society, a father, and a member of the body of Christ.

Today I can see God's hand at work in my life surrounding me with a hedge of protection. God knew and loved me before I knew Him. He knew the man I could be before I was able to recognize it. God created me to be under His authority. What a blessing "The Street" has been to me and my family!

Since I graduated and left The Street, God has been gracious and continues to rain down His blessings. I have a beautiful wife and four children. God has blessed my family with a home and me with a job. Words cannot express how grateful I am for my relationship with God and how He continues to protect and provide for my family. I recognize today that sin is a tool that the devil uses to cripple men and women. The Good News is there is hope and freedom found in the finished work of my Lord Jesus Christ. The creator of the universe has chosen us to do His work on earth and bring glory to His Name. I want to get in on the glory train! I serve the same awesome mighty God in the valley as I serve on the mountaintop. Today I live as a child of The King, no longer bound by Satan. I no longer search for my next fix. I find everything I need in my relationship with God. The creator of the universe said in His Word, "He who started a good work in you will be faithful to complete it" (Phil 1:6). If God is for us, who can be against us (Romans 8:31)? I challenge you to give God a chance.



I'd like to introduce to you a most remarkable lady, Wilma Covington. Wilma has volunteered at the Damascus Home Resale Store for about four years. Wilma came to us when her loving husband Gene passed away with little warning. Finding herself in the midst of a life change, she began volunteering here each Saturday. A very thoughtful, kind, encouraging, hardworking, and multi-talented lady, Wilma inspires others with her self-discipline and godly character. Her favorite color is red. She enjoys reading, caring for her yard and has deep love for God's Word and for her family. As the hub of her family, Wilma looks forward to every moment she can spend with them.

One of Wilma's several life statements that am fond of is, "Hey turn the page and get over it." She even put it on a tee shirt which she wears occasionally. We appreciate her good natured, no nonsense personality. She is a blessing to all who know her. Thank the Lord for Wilma! – Donna Cooley



The Damascus Home Resale Store

Located at:
2604 New Boston Road
Texarkana, TX

903-794-7875

Find the Resale Store on Facebook
@DamascusHomeResaleStore

The Damascus Home Resale Store works hard to provide a neat, clean, inviting store for its shoppers. As the end of 2018 draws to a close, I have to say how grateful we are to those who have helped us in this endeavor. Thank you to those who have faithfully donated beautiful clothes, books, home furnishings, vintage items and so much more! Thank you, also, to our hardworking staff and volunteers. But most of all thank you Lord Jesus! When we began, we really didn't know what it would take to be successful or how much time, expense, labor and knowledge would be necessary to build a customer base. But time, OJT and prayer bring about growth. I truly love how the Lord does things. "Wax on, Wax off Grasshopper," if you know what I mean.

This coming year is going to be a really good year. We have learned so much and are putting it to work! Our customer base is expanding in response to enhanced marketing: an online sales page, Facebook and hash tags attract more people. Newly added bright orange window signs draw the attention of frontage traffic; people now see THRIFT STORE from two directions. An established clothing & shoes Half-price Sale each Wednesday and Saturday has been a real hit. Between now and year-end, nearly everything else in the store is 50% off. The *Frequent Shopper Rewards Card* has received an excellent response. The surplus of older items is donated to other ministries and strengthens our relationships in the industry. We network at every opportunity.

Occasionally the men from "Straight Street Restoration Center" help out, but we sure need more regularly scheduled volunteers. ***We continue our search for that person called to be our Volunteer Coordinator. If you know anyone you would like to recommend, please do.*** As we hurtle toward the Holiday Season, again we voice our gratitude for all that the Lord has done and is going to do. I am reminded of what a friend said to me recently, "I'll pray for you and you pray for me and God is going to do something." Blessings to all of you and your families. Glory to the Lamb! - Donna Cooley

Resale Store Items:



Beautiful Pitcher and bowl



Home Decor



Beanie Babies



A happy customer!



Follow-up to Sept/Oct Newsletter

Our readers might recall the "Old Man Graveyard" mentioned in last issue's piece about SSRC graduate Warren Ingram, but you may not know exactly what the "Old Man Graveyard" is. Above is a photo of the SSRC "graveyard." The graveyard is a place at the back of Straight Street grounds where men can symbolically "bury" their "old man," for they have become "new creatures in Christ" (see 2 Cor. 5:17). Residents of SSRC and visitors alike have found it to be a powerful reminder that their former manner of living has passed away.

GIVE

Damascus Home: Depends on End-of-Year Giving

Spring is typically a very busy time of year for SSRC. For many reasons, persons struggling with chemical dependency commit to changing their lives at the beginning of the year.

Unfortunately, this often coincides with low first-quarter giving as individuals concentrate on new year outlays and paying off Christmas expenses. One-hundred percent of the ministry's donations come from private citizens and privately held businesses. As a faith-based program, DHR receives no federal or state funding. Please plan now to make a generous End-of-Year contribution to Damascus Home of Redwater to ensure that everyone who needs treatment and the Good News of Jesus Christ receives it.

GIVE BIG!

A Journey down "The Street!"

Settled for a Portion or Seeking for Fullness?

If we were to be brutally honest with ourselves, we could look back into our past, or gaze upon our present life, and pray that we be loosened from some sort of bondage(s). Why is it that average Christians (including ourselves) do not experience freedom in Christ within our daily lives? After all, Jesus *did* say... "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" John 10:10b. "Abundant Life" sounds like it would be filled with freedom to me! Therefore, I've pondered on and sought out answers to this personal and ever-so-often shared dilemma.

So where is the disconnect for so many Christians? We all *know* our sins are forgiven and we are *going* to Heaven, BUT *what about today?* Even knowing these truths, we still find ourselves overwhelmed with doubts, fears, anger, bondage, etc. Surely there must be something more to this Christian Life. Well there is and it comes through understanding the riches and fullness of the gospel. As mentioned above, as a young born again Christian (and this may be true with many non-disciplined young believers), I understood Jesus died for my sins and I was going to spend eternity with the Lord in Heaven. And one could say that it was the extent of my understanding and, hence, the extent of its impact on my life. But as I continued (abiding) in the Word (see John 8:30-32), it was soon revealed to me that, though "forgiveness" and "eternity" were definitely of utmost importance, it was only a portion of the gospel. It is also through His resurrection, ascension, and the sending of the Helper (Holy Spirit) that I could realize the full gospel. I've heard and have come to know that the full gospel is summed up like this: ***Jesus Christ gave His life for us, so that He could give His life to us, so that He can live His life through us!***

At Straight Street and on whatever "street" you are traveling, I pray that we all seek and find the richness and the blessings of the full gospel, "through the knowledge of Him!"

2 Peter 1:3 (NKJV) ³ as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, **through the knowledge of Him** who called us by glory and virtue.

Sharing His love, one to another~Lee Woods

My Straight Street Teaching Experience

Over the last 6 years of teaching at Straight Street (Our 90-day addiction recovery center), one of the most exciting things for me has been learning a new way to do and lead group Bible studies that developed as the Holy Spirit would visit our times together. I noticed that as God led me to ask the guys questions about the passage we were studying, answers I had never thought of would begin to pop up. At first, we called it "pop-corn" days! That is, days when the Spirit began to make the Word come alive as He revealed different truths to different ones of us around the room and it exploded in us like pop-corn! Soon that became the norm and God has used it bring LIFE to our times together. One of our favorite passages to do this with over the last several years has been Matthew 13:44.

Mt 13:44 ¶ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

Let me share with you some of the things we have gleaned. As we begin our class, we would pause for a couple of minutes in silence and ask the Holy Spirit to open our eyes, our hearts, and our ears. Then I would have several guys read the verse several times, before telling them that we are going to break the verse down into 3 parts, the FIELD, the FINDER, and the TREASURE. I remind them that we have asked the Lord to show us everything He wants us to see, then I ask, "what's everything you can tell me about the FIELD in this verse?" Here are just a few of the things the Lord has shown us:

THE FIELD: The field has value. It has a treasure in it. It belongs to someone else. The field is for sale (or at least it's Purchasable.) The field is accessible. Someone owns it...these are just a few. I ask them not to try to figure out what it represents yet, just the facts. Then we move to the "FINDER."

THE FINDER: I've heard some say, "He's shady because he hid the treasure." (Often the first descriptions of the finder reveal something about the character or the past of the individual who noticed it. We seem to recognize what we are familiar with first.) Some say the Finder has integrity because he didn't steal the treasure. Some call him a trespasser because he's in someone else's field. He can recognize treasure when he sees it. He has possessions, he has the capacity for joy, he is willing to sell all that he has, he didn't assume the treasure was his just because he knew where it was... and much more. Then we move to the TREASURE.

THE TREASURE: These are some of the responses when I ask, "What's everything you can tell me about the treasure?" They note that it is hidden. It is valuable, it is more valuable than everything the finder owns. The treasure has the capacity to give joy. It is worth everything. Although the treasure is hidden, it is discoverable. It gives the field its value...and many more.

At this point I usually ask them what they think each part represents. There are two main ways to interpret this passage. The first interpretation is that the field is the world, you are the treasure, and Jesus is the finder who pays all to purchase you. That's pretty good, but remember that this is a parable, and actually has multiple meanings. I favor the other interpretation. I suggest to them "What if the field is the gospel, Jesus is the treasure, and you are the finder?" This seems to elevate Christ more since He is the treasure rather than man being the treasure. Lots of people know the field (the Gospel story) like the back of their hand but have never found the treasure (Jesus Himself) that is right in the middle of it. They simply don't know and walk with a personal Jesus, who has powerfully revealed Himself to them in a personal way.

One day while finishing up our study time I asked what it would look like for us in present day to "sell all we have" in order to buy the field and what that represents in our life. After some discussion we settled on the picture of us being willing to sacrifice everything Jesus required so we could know him. (Continued on page 4)

Mark Your Calendars: **DAMASCUS HOMECOMING APRIL 30, 2019**