

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

YOU HAVE A Purpose

September/October 2018

The message at "The Street" is so clear. We talk to the men and their families as they make preparation for 90 days at the Straight Street Restoration Center. Their lives have become unmanageable and everyone is tired and devastated. Then as God begins to work and salvation comes, the light comes on and Jesus begins the healing in their lives.

What a beautiful thing, redemption and restoration from God through the Power of the Holy Spirit!

All things become new, thank you Jesus!

-Jim Cooley



Russell Turner

Graduate Testimony-Russell Turner

To my Lord Jesus be the glory...even as a child I pursued everything that would get a person into trouble. When I reached my teenage years, I turned to drugs and alcohol and the lifestyle that went with it. My life was full of destruction and chaos. By the time I was 19 I had been locked up multiple times and had been busted smuggling drugs into the US from Mexico. I moved to Dallas, TX at the age of 22 and my goal was to sell drugs and get high and that is exactly what I did for the next 4 or 5 years. During this time, I became a drug addict beyond imagination. When I was about 27 I decided to get out of Dallas thinking that I could stop the life I was living. I moved in with my parents in East Texas, but nothing changed; it just got worse. I never really stayed at my parents' because it was not a place that I could live the lifestyle that I lived. My parents are believers. I continued down the road of sin and iniquity. I was so far gone that many nights I wanted to die. I would sit in my car just wanting to die; however, I just kept doing what I had been doing my whole life; pursuing Satan. When I was 35 I was involved in a drug bust. I had multiple charges, the penalty for which totaled up to 120 years in prison. In that case, my lawyer got me out of the charges.

In January of 2013, I was again arrested for drugs. This time was different. I was 37 and the only thing in my possession was my car and they seized that. I had nothing left in my life...no hope, nothing. I gave up living. I went to jail, and I did not want out this time. Somehow my brother Nathan and my dad found out what happened. My brother lived in Redwater, Texas and went to church at First Baptist Redwater. While I was locked up they told me about a place called "The Street." They said if I agreed to go there, they would get me out of jail. I did not have anywhere else to go and I suppose I did not even care anymore, so I got out of jail and went to Straight Street. After being there for 2 or 3 weeks, I was in one of the classes there taught by Mike Lee. He was teaching on the Old Testament sacrifices. All I heard was that Jesus was the sacrifice for my sin. From that point on, scripture started to speak to me. I could not get enough of the Word of God. I started to pray for the first time in my whole life and wanted to go to church and be with other believers.

After 90 days I left "The Street." My last week there a man named Mark Richey called around and found Grace Baptist, a church in Gilmer, Texas (where I was going to be living.) They were so kind and loving and I got connected with a man named Chuck Blanchard, whom I love dearly. He discipled me, prayed with me and loved me. As time went on I met a wonderful lady named Sarah. We began spending some time together. It was not long at all that I realized how much she loved the Lord Jesus. Soon thereafter, we got married. The Lord blessed me with a wife that I do not deserve. She truly is the greatest person, second to my Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord has blessed me with six children: Glenna, Avery, Dalton, Hazel, Mabel, and little Russell. I have many brothers and sisters in Christ whom I love and am thankful for. All the glory goes to my Lord Jesus for dying in my place. He sacrificed Himself for my sin so that I could live. He has given me life not only for eternity, but in the present. I am no longer a slave to sin. If anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation, old things have passed away, behold all things have become new. Thank you, Jesus, thank you Jesus.



Damascus Home Resale Store

Located at:
2604 New Boston Road
Texarkana, TX

903-794-7875

Find the Resale Store on Facebook
@DamascusHomeResaleStore



Warren Ingram graduated the 90-day program on September 9, 2018. He plans to have a ceremony on September 13th with his wife to renew their vows. As part of this event, he will bury his cross in the "graveyard" behind Straight Street Restoration Center to symbolize the death of his old life and the birth of his new life in Christ. Glory to God!



Nicole Ford (Resale Store employee) and new baby Levi Joseph Ford born August 21, 2018. Mama and baby are doing great!



Ms. Helen Melton and Mrs. Valarie Fischer celebrated birthdays at the Damascus Home Resale Store. Both are faithful volunteers at the store and are willing to help any way they can. We are so blessed to have them with us!

Damascus Home is looking for help in two areas:

- Grant Writer
- Skilled person to help start an online sales business (Resale Store)

Prayer Door at Damascus Home Resale Store



Join us in praying for "Roy"



Who is he? What is his story? Have you ever asked yourself those questions?

Damascus Home Resale Store is a nonprofit organization that helps raise money to fund Straight Street Restoration Center. This is the chief purpose of the store but there is another purpose for our day-to-day activities. It is to be kind, helpful, thankful, merciful, flexible, teachable, loving, and the hands and feet of Jesus. We are given the opportunity to "love on people" and share the love of Christ. We have seen a lot of folks come through the door over the past two years and have been blessed and challenged in our efforts to minister to whomever God sends our way. I am reminded of a quote from one of my dear mentors (Mrs. Ruth Smith) "It is easy to love the lovable."

With that thought in mind, I would like to share about a gentleman customer who comes into the store on a regular basis, named "Roy." (We believe his name is Roy.) "Roy" loves cassettes. He does not always use appropriate words/language while in the store. He is unkempt and sometimes frightens other customers with his behavior. Recently, I have been able to talk to "Roy" more and feel like there is a depth to and loneliness in him.

Would you join us in praying for "Roy?" I believe he has a need that is masked by his appearance, his conversation and struggle for survival. I know the Lord Jesus knows what is going on with "Roy." I feel he has been placed in our path for such a time as this. Thank you again for your loving support, donations and prayers!

Love in Jesus name-Donna Cooley "But by the grace of God go I."



Therefore, it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed. (Romans 4:16)

Whether your journey has included “The Street” or has not, one thing we all will be faced with through life: is the choice between resting in the Promises of God or submerging ourselves in the lies of the world, or a combination of the two. For the purposes of this reading, let us refer to the above principles and influences, as our own personal “doctrine.” According to Webster, “doctrine” is defined as – *“a belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a church, political party, traditions, or other secular group.”* As we consider how this definition applies to us, we see that our understanding of rules, principles, and ideas taught to us will form our beliefs-which is subject to many influences!

It’s no wonder we find ourselves trapped in the grips of bondages; this fallen world has many! The Lord has His promises; we can and should have great confidence concerning them. Our Heavenly Father does not want us to be overwhelmed with anxiety concerning the fulfillment of His promises. In all that God has promised, it is His desire for us to stand on the bedrock of assurance: ***“that the promise might be sure to all the seed.”*** This certainty is grounded in two sets of truths: one between His promises and His grace, and another between His grace and our faith in Him.

His promises and His grace...trusting and abiding in God’s promises ushers in the abundant grace of God. The *“peace of God that surpasses all understanding,”* (Phil. 4:7) the force behind the promises of God, is the Grace of God. If God’s promises are to be indisputable in our lives, we must seek them ***“according to grace.”*** If we are counting on any other means of hope (worldly lies) besides grace to make God’s promises certain, we will never experience the assurance of His promises being fulfilled. If God’s promises are depending upon our performance, we will never walk in full assurance. The fulfillment of God’s promises depends wholly upon His grace. Become His Promise seeker!

Now, how do we seek and treat God’s promises in a way that does not neglect the grace that is behind them? The only correct response is by faith. ***“Therefore, it is of faith that it might be according to grace.”*** Any other worldly response produces a discord (lie) with God’s grace. Abraham and Sarah made this mistake early in their journey with the Lord. When they relied upon their own fleshly resourcefulness by using Hagar to try to supply the son God had promised, they were operating outside “God’s promises” and they were trusting in themselves and the influences of the “world’s lies.”

“The Street” is a place where we can have time to see our life from God’s perspective. We study His promises, provisions, and precepts. Given enough time and possessing a heart of desire for an exchange of our personal doctrine (filled with all your own understandings, responses, knowledge, fears, and false hopes) with His “doctrinal” teachings (bursting with love, joy, peace, hope, truth, life abundant, and strength...) a transformational change takes place. This transformation is characteristic of the *“renewing and changed attitudes of our minds”* (Romans 12: 1, 2 and Eph. 4:20-24), and therefore, we find ourselves becoming less like our old selves and more like Jesus; *“He must increase, but I must decrease”* (John 3:30).

Without a shadow of doubt, the primary cornerstone of the gospel’s promises is the promised Savior, who sacrificed Himself on the cross for our sins and set us free! If we attempt to base God’s saving work on worldly lies and/or our personal performance, we are setting aside God’s grace. We are assuming that His death, burial, and resurrection for us are avoidable or insufficient. *“I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain”* (Galatians 2:21).

My Straight Street Teaching Experience

For the past six years it has been my joy to “teach” on Thursday mornings at “The Street.” I said *teach* with quotation marks for a reason. In the summer of 2012 when God moved us to be the Pastor at Redwater I had no idea about all that He had in mind. With a new church came lots of new responsibilities and opportunities, so I was not really surprised when Jim Cooley asked me if I would consider doing a weekly class. Without hesitation I knew it was something I was supposed to do, but it also made me just a little nervous. I was concerned about what I should teach to be effective and about when in the world I would have time to prepare another lesson each week?! Little did I know that Thursday mornings for the next six years would be the best seminary class I could ever attend! From the very first week I was blown away with what the Holy Spirit did with my measly efforts. Then I quickly learned that what I thought was going to be “teaching” became a lot more about learning. God graciously showed me an interactive way to do Bible study with these guys that opened the door for Him to speak to each of us and prove to us all that HE IS the Teacher. It never ceases to amaze me what comes out of these guys hearts and mouths as God uses everyone in the room to show us what He is doing. Week after week we dive into a passage of scripture and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus to us through His Word. There have been SO MANY weeks when what came out of our class time was SO MUCH MORE than what we were ever prepared for.

(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

The Lord has shown me so much about Himself, about His Word, and even about trusting Him that I can honestly say I've learned more about Him while sitting on the ottoman in the living quarters at Straight Street than in any one other single spot in the world. I have left on multiple days literally in tears at what just happened and having to pull over on the side of the road and just write things down that the Lord had shown us. On many occasions' men will just break down as the Holy Spirit takes the Word and shows them that they are lost but that redemption is just a cry away. Or, as He shows us just how relevant His Word is to our right now situations. 1 John 2:27 says, "But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him."

In reality, of all the things God has afforded us the opportunity to be involved in, few things have been as rewarding and fruitful as these years on Thursday mornings at Straight Street. It is truly the highlight of my week. In future newsletters, as space allows I would like to share with you just a few of the things God has shown us and share the stories of what He has done and is still doing.

In His Service, TODD REED, Sr. Pastor FBCRW

I
N
H
I
M

CHRISTIAN BUYING CLUB – free to participate – all profits go to ministry of your choice!

Damascus Home of Redwater Campaign Code USA013

BUY: BUY through BuyGive.com what you normally would purchase elsewhere.

GIVE: GIVE by entering your chosen mission code at checkout (Damascus Home Campaign Code USA013).

SHIPPING POLICY: Free shipping for orders over \$25. The only exception is the Office Supplies category requires a minimum of \$25 just in that category.

TAX EXEMPTION: If you are purchasing for a church or organization and are tax exempt contact BuyGive.com at (903) 796-4350 to process your exemption before placing an order. If your order is placed before tax exemption is in place you will be responsible for taxes on that order.

MISSION STATEMENT: It is the mission of BuyGive.com to sell products from its site and direct profits to the Christian mission field.

LOCALLY OPERATED: BuyGive.com was founded and is operated in Atlanta, TX. Support for missionaries, however, is worldwide (see CommissionBox.org).

STRATEGY: The products on BuyGive.com site are routinely ordered by consumers. By keeping overhead costs at a minimum and negotiating aggressive contracts with manufacturers and distributors, BuyGive.com maximizes the profit base for your chosen Christian missions. Staff verifies each mission before they receive a code to be used at the BuyGive.com checkout. You may research, contact the mission personally, and verify each mission project yourself at CommissionBox.org.

At the end of each month, profits are calculated and then distributed to the campaign owners. It is BuyGive's goal to have all the profits of the preceding month distributed by the 10th of the following month. You may then review the progress of the campaign(s) you support, by monitoring their funding graphs at CommissionBox.org.



Damascus Home of Redwater
P.O. Box 583
Redwater, Texas 75573

