

The Joy of Teaching at Straight Street

Reflecting on teaching at “The Street” has made it clear that there is joy, real joy, in sharing God’s word with men in recovery. When God’s word is shared in the right way--when God shows up in discussions over his word, when God’s men are humble--he gives joy nothing and no one else can copy!

Like many who teach God’s word, I have had those experiences when my efforts were empty. But when the Word is shared the right way, His Spirit leads, and lives are changed. It is rich. Focusing on the Bible and what it has to say is so much more powerful than any one person’s experiences or knowledge. When I prepare and share the Word honestly, not leaving anything out or adding my knowledge to it, God moves. When we dive into his word together and wait on Him, He answers and there is joy!

God loves us so much He is not satisfied to leave any of us where we are. He is constantly at work in our lives, completing the work he began in us. When he shows up, there is joy! When we wait patiently on Him, He moves in our hearts and minds in ways beyond what any person could orchestrate. He teaches us new points on passages we have studied for years; His Word becomes fresh all over again. When we grasp new concepts or insights it’s like a light goes on in our hearts. One of my greatest joys in teaching comes when one of God’s men grasps a truth from God’s Word and understands how it applies to his life. That is real joy!

I have only recently started teaching at “The Street” on a regular basis. I have accompanied Pastor Todd the past two years and substituted a few times. That experience humbles me because I have learned about the number of men who invest their time and talents into teaching. Every teacher is yoked with Christ and our Lord makes the burden light. Every man is part of the team of men, fellow servants in this ministry. When the men of Straight Street express their appreciation, I am humbled all over again. And yes, I am filled with the joy of the Lord.

When I picture the scene that describes teaching at “The Street,” it looks like prepared hearts, dependent on our God who moves, striving together for the glory of God. It is a picture of God’s indescribable joy!



Mike Lawrence

Never give up. These three words, to me, describe the essence of the Christian walk. My first experience with the Damascus Home Ministries was in 2009. I learned more of the Word and of God’s character in those 90 days than at any point in my life, yet when I left Straight Street my head knowledge was inadequate to manifest itself into a transformed life. I knew the codes of conduct and was even successful at keeping up the appearance of what I thought a Christian should look like for a couple years, but I slowly spiraled back down into behaviors that have been ingrained in me for the previous twenty years. The truth is I didn’t want to follow Christ. I was motivated still by strictly selfish motives and it was all about what God could do for me. A “take only” relationship isn’t a relationship at all. There were a couple of incidents between 2009 and 2018 where I acquiesced to get help and did small stints at various recovery facilities, but I never wanted it. In August of 2018 while at a facility in Zwolle, Louisiana, where I knew I was just passing the time, I heard a commercial for something in Maud, Texas over the radio. Immediately my head went to The Street and I knew God was telling me to go there. I decided then and there to start walking. It made all the difference in the world (to me at least) when I knew God was telling me to do something specifically, and an even bigger difference to step out in faith and actually do it. Since then I have been seeking every day for God’s voice, and I have been rewarded with a sense of amazement at how he speaks through all things. He is actively involved in the lives of those who listen for Him and obey. Now finally, the head knowledge I have had for all these years can actually be put to some use. It is now March of 2019 and I am still here in Maud, where he told me to come to. I know he has a plan, but I’m on a need-to-know basis. All I need to know right now is that it isn’t even about me. It’s about Him. Never give up. It’s not that I never gave up, because I did. He just never gave up on me.



Floyd Gates

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Damascus Home of
Redwater Campaign
Code USA013

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DAMASCUS HOME

DISCOVERING HOPE AND A PURPOSE

YOU HAVE 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 two decades 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).

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The
End
of
Me

“VESSELS OF HONOR”

Join us for the Damascus Home Ministry’s 7th Annual Homecoming and 21st Anniversary celebration on April 28, 2019! You will have the opportunity to fellowship, rekindle old friendships, learn more about the recovery ministry and connect with others who love the Lord! The theme of this year’s event is “Vessels of Honor.” 2 Timothy 2:21 states, *“Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.”* In order to become a vessel for honor, we must come to the end of ourselves. We have to be emptied of everything that displaces The Lord Jesus Christ in order that God may fill us with Himself.

The mission of Straight Street Restoration Center is to offer those struggling with chemical dependency the opportunity to make this exchange. Our Annual Homecoming is a time to celebrate these transformations and give glory to the only one who does this – The Lord Jesus Christ.

Please come and share this experience with us! Whether you are a graduate, family member of a graduate, friend of a graduate or just someone who wants to learn more about our ministry you are welcomed!



(Past Homecoming photo)

The Damascus Home Resale Store is approaching its third year of ownership by Damascus Home of Redwater, Inc. The store was purchased in June 2016 and we went quickly into remodel/repair mode. Our opening day was August 9, 2016. Since that time, we have covered a lot of ground. In past newsletters I have mentioned our wonderful donors, volunteers, customers and staff. The Damascus Home Resale Store has been doing what non-profit thrift stores do. WE HAVE BEEN WORKING! We are so grateful for all the wonderful people who cross our path each day. Dedicated loving people help us keep the place clean and shoppable. Daily we hear from customers that we have the best thrift store in town. We have the best quality and prices in town too. It is the cleanest and most well-organized thrift store in town. We also have the opportunity to evangelize and encourage people.

We are so thankful for all the incredible donations. The most loving people come in and give us their items with joy. We have wedding gowns and accessories, fur coats, purses, china sets, glassware, pots and pans, beautiful art, toys, men's and ladies dress clothes. In our Home Decor department, you can find vintage items: the latest in coffee makers and "as seen on TV." We recently updated our shelving area that hosts a large variety of items that usually interest men. We call it "the man cave." In that area we have a variety of camping and picnic supplies. Let's not forget the stadium seats too. On a regular basis we have good luggage and baby seats, high chairs, beds, walkers, and activity centers too. We are so blessed with a variety of costume jewelry, scarves and hair bows. Ms. Linda is the manager of the clothing and shoe department and she is so skilled. I refer to her as my on-staff expert. It's true now. I am telling you. She is really good. She cares about what goes out onto the floor. She goes to great lengths to make sure items are in good shape and qualify for the sales floor. We are so blessed to have Ms. Linda. We couldn't do what we do without our dedicated volunteers and staff.

We continue to endeavor to reach the masses through social media, this newsletter, radio, advertisement and word of mouth. A group of college students have approached us and their organization would like to help us with projects such as passing around flyers, collecting donations and volunteering in the store. That kind of help is always welcomed. Beginning in 2018 to present, we ran the Wednesday and Saturday clothing and shoes 1/2 off sale. Because of its popularity, we are planning a sale on Tuesdays and Thursdays featuring our home decor, kitchenware, small kitchen appliances, lamps and lighting, in general. It will be called the "White Sticker Sale." Items in those departments will always be 1/2 off on those two days wherever they are marked with a white sticker. We also have the discount room now and the "Orange Sticker" has been a real hit. We have been discussing an extra 25% sale on Fridays in the discount room to include toys and our electronic games, general electronics, baby equipment and "man cave" items.

The Damascus Home Resale Store's main purpose is to support the ministry of the Damascus Home alcohol/drug rehabilitation services provided by our Straight Street Restoration Center. We also look forward to the time we can reopen a second campus to again assist women in alcohol/drug addiction. Our funds will have to continue to increase in order to realize another facility. You cannot adequately provide services without paid staff, (see our gofundme page). Over the past 20 years we have seen and learned a lot in this ministry but the one thing that remains the same is "Jesus Saves." He is the defining factor in each life. We are so thankful the day He saved us. We just want to tell somebody. Check us out on the web, www.damascushome.org, visit with us on Facebook, DamascusHome StraightStreet and Damascus Home Resale Store. Blessings!

Donate to help men
break the chains of
addiction!



<https://www.gofundme.com/donate-to-help-men-break-the-chains-of-addiction>

DAMASCUS HOME RESALE STORE VOLUNTEERS



From left to right, Thomas, Ms. Linda, Volunteer Katie, Mattie, Sherri and Ms. Versie

A Journey down "The Street!"

"The God of all Comfort"

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 Corinthians 1:3, 4 (NKJV)

Why am I afraid to tell you who I am? This question, in John Bowell's book by the same title, answers the question in this way, "I am afraid to tell you who I am because you may not like who I am and that's all I've got!"

A great deal of our resistance in receiving comfort and or care has to do with what is going on inside of us. We may fear that we truly won't be comforted or appropriately cared for, or that we might even receive unpleasant treatment. This may include the anxiety that once we extend our helplessness and it becomes fully known, the Christian Mentor won't be able to help and may even abandon and not accept us. In the reluctance to receive comfort arises the fear of losing the image we have of ourselves and the appearance of self-sufficiency. We do not desire to accept that we need help and furthermore the fact that we can't fix it on our own! From a Christian perspective, to admit that we need help, to accept the offer of comfort, to receive care, involves "Surrendering." Likewise, letting go of an image of self-sufficiency and self-dependence is allowing our "old image" to die. Admitting that we need help and comfort means the very "Pride" that makes us believe we can invariably make it on our own must come to an end! Jesus tells us in this way:

"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

Matthew 16:24, 25. (NKJV).

People, including professing Christians, will not readily admit desperation. Although, if and when they would choose to surrender and humbly admit they need Jesus, "the Kingdom of Heaven draws near," remarked Philip Yancey in his book, The Jesus I Never Knew. To receive comfort from a brother or sister in Christ is to receive care from Jesus himself.

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."

John 13:20 (NKJV)

To receive comfort and care from Jesus is to trust Him with the: weaknesses, brokenness, incompleteness, failures, and the disappointments of our lives. When we trust Jesus with all of our shortcomings, we deepen our relationship with Him and we discover the new life that He brings and offers.

"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

John 10:10b (NKJV)

You may ask, "How do we bring ourselves to the point of receiving comfort and care?" We don't! When in the need of comfort, we must pray for the Holy Spirit to be at work in us, creating humility and faith; the humility to acknowledge our need for comfort from Jesus, and the faith that our Savior is reaching out to take our burdens and share His yoke. Resting with assurance that Jesus will treat us with gentle comfort and love!

"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Matthew 11:29-30 (NKJV)

Such a humility and faith in our Lord can overcome the fear of being comforted and cared for. Damascus Home Ministries' ninety days of disciplining at "Straight Street" is where men are free to acknowledge their brokenness and burdens. They are free to receive the comfort and care they need - to discover the truths that are found in 2 Peter 1: 3, 4

...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, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Sharing His love, one to another,

~Lee Woods

ALL THINGS HAVE BECOME NEW

From the desk of Jim Cooley

In John 11:43-44, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. When he came forth, Lazarus was bound from head to foot. Jesus told his followers to loose him from his grave clothes. I think this is a picture of discipleship. When a person gets saved, they go from death to life. They were bound up in grave clothes. As disciples of Christ we are to help new Christians "remove the grave clothes" so they can walk in newness of life. I believe the grave clothes are the past. When we disciple and teach spiritual truths, new Christians begin to walk, talk, and produce spiritual fruit! 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new."