

(Continued from previous page...) David Markham sang, *My Alabaster Box* to accompany the messages given. He explained, 'It's about a vessel this lady brought to Jesus. She was willing to break it for Him. The symbolism of the song is, broken, the contents of the box are poured out. She couldn't spare any of it. She had to give it all away...' *"I've come to pour my praise on Him just like oil from Mary's Alabaster box. You were not there, oh the night that He found me, and you did not feel the Love I felt when He wrapped His loving arms around me. You don't know the cost of the oil. Oh...you don't know the cost of my praise."* I invite you to hear the incredible messages both in music and through the speakers by accessing the service on The First Baptist Church Redwater, TX Facebook page.

After worship and hearing from our speakers, the theme of "Vessels of Honor" was extended to the Dining Hall, where the fellowship and luncheon took place. As its centerpiece, each table displayed some kind of vessel or semblance of a vessel: some externally attractive and decorative, some shiny and new, some dimmed with use. Some were cracked or pieced. Some were even shattered -- the artist left it up to the observer to derive their own message from each. Thanks to Lonnie Creed and a group of friends for putting their hands, feet and hearts to work to so beautifully adorn the dining area. Our appreciation also goes to Connie Gregory and a team of volunteers who put together a wonderful banquet of seasoned chicken, salad, breadsticks, corn casserole and dessert. We are grateful to Olive Garden for their donation of salad and breadsticks, to Chicken Express for sweet tea and cups, to Albertson's for dessert, to First Baptist Church of Redwater and local retailers for the balance of the food.

Each year during the luncheon fellowship a number of items are given away. Among them is the annual Anniversary Quilt Giveaway. Each quilt was donated by a friend of the ministry. It is always a surprise and a joy to deliver these beautiful treasures into the hands of one of the Homecoming guests. This year, a young teen named Avery was the recipient of the quilt. We will give one away each year for as long as we have one to give.



Jim and Donna Cooley were recognized with official missionary status through the North American Mission Board in the year 2000. They have dedicated their lives to helping those God places in their path. Jim and Donna are looking for other leaders who are called to follow in their footsteps. It is a call not to be taken lightly. They have reminded each other many times, "if it were easy, everyone would be doing it." Thank you to all who have helped Damascus Home of Redwater to reach the 21-year anniversary.

Thank you (in advance) to all who will help now and in the future. In the Precious Name of Jesus, for there but by the grace of God go I.

What is new at the Damascus Home Resale Store? I am so glad you asked! You will probably hear the following statements on any day you come in the store: "Welcome to the Damascus Home Resale Store," or "Good morning, our sale today is _____." That's right we have a sale every day. Last year we noticed a positive response by having an established sale every Wednesday and Saturday; Half Off Clothes and Shoes. Our customers loved it. So we decided to have a sale on the other days of the week: Every Tuesday and Thursday our home decor and kitchenware is now half off. Mondays are called "Monday Madness". This could be anything we decided to list. Fridays are 25% off of items in the discount room.

Also, we are so blessed with donated items that sometimes we share them with other non-profits who help others who have loss due to a house fire or who qualify for the Open Door Project and are moving into their own apartment and need furnishings. There are some really good people helping; so many people in need and we want to bless them with our abundance.

We have been blessed over the past couple of years with volunteers from all walks of life and ages. We have tapped into Community Service, Motivational Educational Training, Students in the Workforce and Re-employability (Workers Comp program) and continue to be blessed by some very faithful volunteers. I have found that running a thrift store has many variables; things change constantly. It is very hard work and we are grateful to everyone who donates their belongings, their time and talents, their prayers, and the many who shop. All of the above are necessary to have a successful and productive non-profit thrift store.

Prayer request for the future: we continue to search for other ways to cut costs and raise funds through local online sales and other internet markets. We still need advertisement venues to grow the ministry and find those who will help us financially. We continue to look for staff members who are qualified and called to the ministry as we fulfill the task laid before us. Our once a year Homecoming events provide a peek into the difference this ministry has made in many lives over 20 plus years of service. We do not regret a minute. We continue to be thankful and hopeful as God thru the Power of the Holy Spirit continues to lead us. In His Precious Name, Donna Cooley

Senior Citizens and High School students come together through the Texas Workforce Commission to help the Damascus Home Ministry. ★

Happy Birthday!



Birthday wishes to Linda Rodgers, clothing specialist and Assistant Manager



The Damascus Home Resale Store

Located at:
2604 New Boston Road
Texarkana, TX

903-794-7875

Find the Resale Store on Facebook:
@DamascusHomeResaleStore



Damascus Home Resale Store Frequent Shopper Card

Receive 1 punch for every \$10 you purchase. Complete your card and receive \$5.00 off your next visit/purchase. Qualify for a monthly drawing as well.



From left to right- Ms. Lavonda, Mr. Valentine, Ms. Sherry, Jheguez, Mr. Taylor

A Journey down "The Street"

Long ago, God spoke of man's disposition regarding "self": "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone to his own way,"
Isaiah 53:6.

Please read the two poems before reading forward.

Each poem depicts an outwardly expressing of human dispositions and a contrast of self-glorification. A major stumbling-block, if not the largest obstacle, toward a closer relationship with Jesus is – SELF! The above left poem is an extreme portrayal of pride and self-aggrandizement, although for most of us, self is not as domineering. Nevertheless, the smallest amount of dependency on "self" is off the path of discipleship unto the Lord. Jesus' own words on this issue are: "If anyone would come after me (discipleship), he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

Self-edification is a primary explanation of why lives are as troubled, broken, and bound to such things as: pride, fear, anger, jealousy, and misplaced dependencies. At Straight Street we make no claim in regard to having the answers to life's shortcomings, but we do proclaim and stand bold in knowing the One, "In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2: 3). And as stated in 2 Peter 1:3 "...all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him...!"

Sharing His love, one to another,

~Lee Woods

"If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." Luke 9:23

*Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.*

*In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.*

*Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find me, unafraid.*

*It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,*

I am the master of my fate:

I am the CAPTAIN of my soul.

"INVICTUS", ~Wm. Henley

*Out of the light that dazzles me,
Bright as the sun from pole to pole
I thank the God I know to be
For Christ ---- the Conqueror of my soul.*

*Since His the sway of circumstance
I would not wince, nor cry aloud.
Under that rule which men call
chance,
My head, with joy, is humbly
bowed.*

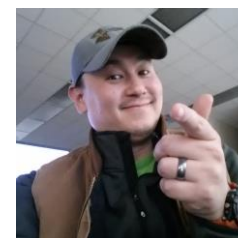
*Beyond this place of sin and tears,
That life with Him ---- and His the aid
That spike the menace of the years,
Keeps, and will keep me unafraid*

*I have no fear though strait the
gate;
He cleared from punishment the
scroll,
Christ is the Master of my fate!
Christ is the Captain of my soul.*

"MY CAPTAIN", ~ D. Day

God is still in the miracle business. I will always reflect fondly upon my ninety days at Straight Street because it was there that my life was transformed by God from one of intense pain, utter misery and dark hopelessness, to one of undeserved mercy, bountiful grace and peaceful joy.

My addiction was only a side effect of a deeper problem. I was completely selfish. My trust and hope had been placed on people and things that would ultimately fail me. I attempted to fill the void I felt inside of me with almost everything the world had to offer, all of which proved to be very temporary, unfulfilling and poisonous. I spent literally everything I had during my downward spiral of worldly living, losing everyone and everything I held dear. Finally, I found myself with nothing, wallowing in the mud with pigs.



Will Tomlin

But much like the prodigal son that Jesus spoke of, I came to my senses to the reality that there is a better way to live. I was able to be brutally honest in the fact that I had been living a life that was sinful against heaven and the Father. Then I got up and went to my Father to repent of my many sins.

I found that the Father saw me coming from a long way off. He met me, where I was, with compassion, forgiveness and unconditional love. He blessed me with everything I was lacking. He rejoiced in the fact that one of His sons who was dead, is now alive; was lost, but now is found.

I wake up each day content with the fact that His grace is sufficient, that He will never leave me or forsake me, and that I can do all things through Him as long as my faith and trust remains on my Lord, Jesus Christ.

"What marks a believer from an unbeliever? The object of your worship." John MacArthur

“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any sin, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.” Galatians 6:1

I once shared with a brother, who was new to the Gospel Ministry, that one of the most difficult places to minister can be the church house. On the surface, such a comment would seem to be quite paradoxical. However, in my experience, the comfort, safety, routines of the House of God can often lull the congregation into a sense of complacency. In other words, it is all too easy for church folks to forget that we are just as dependent on the Lord for our daily needs as the lost man struggling on the street. From the minister's point of view, teaching the Word to the "comfortably numb" can be exasperating. As he will often hear a chorus of "amens," see a wave of heads nodding in agreement, but note very little true response to the message delivered.

As I was explaining this puzzle to the brother I was discipling, I went on to share where he would likely find the most receptive and malleable audiences. "The easiest place to teach and preach," I explained, "are the groups that are aware of their desperation." The person who is desperate for a change is like the proverbial deer panting for the water. In truth, this category should and does include us all. Unfortunately, the comforts of religion often rock us to sleep, and we forget our daily need for Jesus.

One of the primary reasons I love teaching at Straight Street is because I get to forego the teeth pull stage of re-convincing the attendees that "you are messed up, and you desperately need Jesus...right now". The men that God has called to The Street are well aware that they have issues...I am well aware that I have issues...we are all a bunch of messed up men on a search for THE ANSWER. Anytime a broken and contrite heart comes before our God, He opens His arms, welcomes it in, and applies the love and change it so desperately needs. God's promises to the desperate are still true: Seek...Ask...Knock, Draw near to me and I'll draw near to you, blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of God.

I once heard a preacher say, "Evangelism is just one beggar showing another beggar where the food is." Wow! How simple, yet how profound. I'm just a beggar, in need of bread. When I gather with the men at Straight Street, we experience the privilege of pulling up to the Master's table together. And there's nothing more fulfilling than feasting from the Father's supply.



David Markham



DONATE TO HELP MEN BREAK THE CHAINS OF ADDICTION!

Damascus Home runs solely off the donations made by individuals, churches, and businesses.

Because we take a strong stance in faith, we are not able to take money from insurance companies like other rehabilitation centers are able to. At the same time, we have continued to produce better results than other rehabs. Because of this, many people are not able to pay their application fee. Your donations help sponsor others to attend who wouldn't be there without the support of others.

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

Damascus Home of Redwater
P.O. Box 573
Redwater, Texas 75573



Damascus Home of Redwater
Campaign Code USA013

July/August/Sept. 2019



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 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).

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A New Creation

God is opening some new doors for us. We are now going into Bowie County Jail to share the Gospel. What a place to share John 3:3- Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God. II Corinthians 5:17- Old things are passed away behold all things are become new. If you find yourself in the same old places (jail), old lustful living, and sinful life you are deceiving yourself and misrepresenting Christ to others and displeasing God. Christians have a new life, they desire to please God, they delight in His ways, word, will and work. If nothing has changed here, nothing has changed in eternity. - Jim Cooley

The 7th Annual Damascus Home Ministry Homecoming

The 7th Annual Homecoming was held during the morning service at First Baptist Church Redwater on April 28, 2019. This year's theme was "Vessels of Honor." The church was full of family, graduates and friends. The atmosphere, as always, was sweet and welcoming. From the beginning, members and leadership of First Baptist Church Redwater have been a pivotal part of this ministry. Jim and Donna are so grateful for the thousands of people who over the past 21 years helped support it prayerfully, monetarily, served on the Board of Directors, mentored residents, taught classes and gave of their resources and many talents.

The Damascus Homecoming is a time to gather and celebrate. As always, this year's event truly was a time of celebration. Each year people reunite and everywhere there is evidence of light and transformation in the lives of the gatherers. It is a joyous event because we knew their condition before and are able to see fruit of changed lives, their growth and recovery. Many go on to help others just like Jesus said to do.

Each year there affords the opportunity to hear from a special guest who has been directly impacted by Damascus Home. This year we were so excited to have Chad Trent as keynote speaker. Chad is the spouse of *Damascus Women's Center* graduate, Denise Trent. Chad shared his struggle and his hope. We were so delighted to hear from his perspective how he was encouraged and how he and Denise have been delivered from the bondage of addiction and family dysfunction.



Tucker Long, a graduate of the men's facility, also spoke. He gave his testimony of addiction to ADHD medication from childhood and how Jesus Christ delivered him from addiction and from his sin. When he graduated from *Straight Street*, Tucker elected to continue in the program and entered into the 12-month aftercare phase offered by the Damascus Home Ministry. Upon completion, he was admitted to seminary classes at LeTourneau University. He traveled to Lebanon to teach English as a second language on a mission project. He returned in July. When we received word from him, he relayed a message to the prayer warriors on behalf of the people of Lebanon who are in so much pain, abuse and darkness. His request made our hearts burn for the people to whom he ministers that he was able to reach and touch. It is always a blessing to see men and women turn their hearts and lives over to Jesus Christ. Tucker Long is just one example of the power of Love through Jesus Christ.

Jim Cooley, the ministry's Executive Director, also spoke. His message focused on what it means to have the Damascus Home Ministry: how it has helped so many people and that so many more are out there. He shared his love for his church and how the Lord gave him a helpmate in his wife Donna. The need is so great -- and the ministry needs financial support to operate. "We need help" was his plea with a reminder that the gospel message to the addict is a mission field. (Continued next page...)

