



Shiloh Messenger

November 2010

Worship, Praise & Thanksgiving

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him”

(John 4:23).

Wow! It's hard to believe that it's been 7 years since I graduated from Shiloh Ministries one year bible school. God has done so much in my life since then it takes my breath away at times. I remember the trip from the airport to Shiloh like it was yesterday. I was telling Pastor Rocky & Sister Debbie how much I knew about God, HOW GREAT A bible SCHOLAR I was & that my sister was a famous Christian Musician. The only truth was about my sister. Truth be known, I was scared about what the next year at Shiloh was going to be like. I quickly found out how little I knew about the bible & really had no assurance of salvation.

After several months of living on holy ground & having my mind protected from outside worldly influences, & sitting under some mighty men & women of God being blasted with the un-compromised "Word of Truth", an amazing thing happened. My mind began to clear! I was seeing that & was a wreck & bound to spend an eternity separated from God in a real devils hell. But then God! He began to melt away the scales over my eyes & soften my heart & then one day I broke like a piece of cheap glass & cried for what seemed like days. I had a very real encounter with God that changed my life forever. After that I loved to hear the Bible being taught because God began to give me little nuggets of spiritual insight of the Holy Scripture. I was catching on to the spiritual meaning behind the words. I also was learning how the old & new testaments were tied together, & began to see Jesus all in the old testament. like I SAID BEFORE, I was learning how little I really new. The year at Shiloh was life giving & changing for me. I was even honored by being able to serve Pastor Rocky as resident counselor for several years. I fell in love with my Pastor & his wife Sister Debbie. They are awesome! They have laid down their lives to serve our Lord by giving ALL they have by giving men like me a place to sit at the feet of Jesus for a year. (To all Shiloh Alumni: These are your spiritual parents, HONOR THEM!)

After leaving Shiloh I went to work at 'The Foundry', a one year residential facility for men & women with a history of drug & alcohol abuse. The Foundry is funded mostly by taking in donated household items & then selling them at their thrift store, which is staffed by many of the 200 plus students that are in their program. They also have a large Automotive repair shop that repairs the donated cars. I was privileged to manage this department for 4 years. I had many fine young men that worked for me while they were in the program. I was not a counselor, but I did quite a bit of counseling while working on a car with a student. It's a wonderful feeling you get when God uses you to impact the life of another. After managing the Auto repair shop during the day, I would go home & manage a "halfway house". There were about 30 men that lived there full time. Some of these men were Foundry employees like myself, but most were graduates & men in the prison reentry program. As you can imagine I had my hands full monitoring behavior, assigning chores, drug testing, & making sure that everyone was home at night. The Foundry bought & restored an old church in Bessemer, Alabama. Using mostly students as the main labor force, they transformed an old rundown building into a beautiful house of worship! I still attend services there from time to time. I am a mechanic. I have been all my life. My grandfather was a tool & die maker, so I guess 'fixing things' just came natural to me. When my grandfather passed away he left many fine instruments, & tools to my father who kept them 'enshrined'. On occasion I would have the need to measure something with a micrometer & I would go to my dad's house & use these tools with his supervision. Several years ago I was given these tools as a birthday gift! To me this said, "Son, I love you & forgive you". These are more than just tools to me. They are my heritage, & I have been given the honor of caring for them.

I don't have a family of my own, but I LOVE MOTORCYCLES! I am a proud member of The Christian Motorcycle Association & I will be on the mechanical ministry team as soon as I find one. Since leaving Shiloh I have 'fixed up' & sold quite a few bikes. This enabled me to purchase a nearly new bike which I rode on a trip through the Blue Ridge Mountains last year with some friends. I remember one morning on our trip noticing how beautiful the mountains were. I was listening to my iPod & worshiping & began to weep as I reflected on how far God has brought me in such a short time. God has restored to me much much more than the enemy took from me. I live "the good life" now. It's not perfect, but then I'm not either. When I see my momma now she's smiling, not crying. I'm a blessed man because of God, family & friends. Love you mom!

Tommy DeShazo



Graduate Testimony

My name is Justin Cooley; I am 23 years old from Anahuac, TX. Growing up in Anahuac was great because I love to hunt, something that was instilled in me by my grandfather. At 13 years of age my great life was turned upside down when my older brother was diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma (cancer). The enemy immediately attacked me with fear and anxiety. After his death, depression and anger ruled my life. During this time I started using drugs and alcohol heavily to numb my mind from this tragedy and life in general. The excess of my drinking and drug abuse produced a long rap sheet with jail time and separation from my family. My last jail time was a felony charge. I began to realize while in jail that I needed to change or I would die. I found reconciliation with God at Shiloh Ministries. It was here I encountered and developed a relationship with Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. My mind has been renewed and my heart has been changed. My parents and grand parents actually speak to me again, all because of God with His grace and mercy upon me. I thank God every day for His restoration in my life; He has transferred me to heavenly places in Jesus Christ. Shiloh is a true gift from God for men like myself. It is in this atmosphere we encounter God by the Holy Spirit. He reveals the heart of Father God to anyone who will diligently seek Him.



More Land To House More Men

(Update!! Current balance needed, \$25,000.00)

Everyday we receive e-mails & phone calls from men & families requesting help in getting set free from addictions. Our heart response is heavy in telling them we have no room. We as Staff have been praying for God to give us more land so we can build to disciple more men. Now we are at a place where we have the opportunity to purchase land adjacent to our existing property. It is 4 acres with a business building on it. The man that is selling the property is asking \$100,000 for it. We know this man & he is honorable. We have believed for this land & have participated in prayer walks over it for years. We know it is God giving it to us. Our Heavenly Father has spoken to us. He has said, "believe & trust Me that I will speak to people & they will give". Therefore we have opened a separate Bank account to receive the money that will come in before January 2011. This is our time frame of receiving the full amount of the \$100,000 that is being asked. We ask that everyone consider sowing a generous financial gift into this much needed addition. So other men that are still in bondage be brought into their "glorious inheritance". Thank you, for your generosity in giving & co-laboring with us in the Lord's Ministry at Shiloh.

(Shiloh Ministries is recognized by the IRS as a 501(C)3 Charitable Organization)

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