

February 15, 2008

Dear Friend,

People come here at every stage of their healing journey. Some are brand new and terrified. Others have been in recovery for awhile but experience a huge breakthrough. Still others are in a place of spiritual and relational health for the first time in their lives and praising God for it.

“John” is a brand new client. He came here due to an arrest for soliciting prostitutes. It was his third time. While sitting in his jail cell he decided to end his life. As he was about to make his move he heard the Lord distinctly say, “Don’t do this. This isn’t the answer.” Upon his release the next day he knew he needed help but had no idea where to go. He opened up to a friend who told him about NCM. John had no idea that such an organization existed. He made an appointment immediately. Since working with Toni he is seeing that God guided him to this very place so that he could change.

“William” has been here for a year. Raised in a violent alcoholic home he experienced things that no boy should ever see. It taught him not to trust anyone or ever let them in. In his loneliness he turned to any woman who would have him (being attractive and likeable enabled him to have many such women). A few years ago he came to Christ and eventually came to NCM for help with his sexual sin and brokenness.

William devours his Bible and has a thirst for God but has never really felt God’s personal love for *him*. He isn’t acting out with women anymore but the “shield” over his heart (as he calls it) keeps him from feeling much of anything. Being in counseling and group has helped but the biggest breakthroughs have come through worship. During the regular worship times in our weekly groups he has felt the Lord draw nearer and nearer. William beams now as he shares about God’s love for him. And if we’ve learned anything around here we’ve learned that once a person tastes this in the core of his being freedom is just around the corner.

I don’t have time to tell you about “Nancy” who has struggled since childhood with lesbianism and a hatred for her body who is now in love and letting a man into her heart for the first time, or “Eric” the Mormon elder and life-long sex addict who is finding answers that years of therapy and church involvement never gave him.

These are the kinds of people you enable us to help through your giving and praying. **Would you pray for us and give toward our work this month?** It’s because of you and the grace of God that we’re still here almost twenty-five years later. Thank you for your support and love.

Russell Willingham