

December 19, 2008

Volume 2, Issue 2



SAFE House

Substance Abuse Free Environment

Special Interest Articles:

- Annual SAFE House Winter Benefit Concert
- A Message from SAFE House Board of Directors President

Individual Highlights:

- SAFE House Graduate
- In Everything Give Thanks
- Thoughts from Our Most Recent Graduate

Upcoming Events:

- SAFE House Winter Benefit Concert, Sunday, February 22, 2009 (4:00 - 6:00 pm), First United Methodist Church, 210 W. Church, Champaign
- 12th Annual Gospel Jazz Fest: Sunday, August 23, 2009 (3:00 - 7:00 pm) at Hessel Park in Champaign.



Canaan Development Foundation, 217.367.2158

CHRISTmas Begins with Christ!

by Rev B.J. Tatum, President, Canaan Development Foundation

A few years ago there was a news story that Christmas had been canceled in Bethlehem. The announcement said, "Every year at Christmas time, thousands of Christians converge on the little village of Bethlehem to celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus. Because of the violence and danger to tourists at this particular time, there would be no Christmas in Bethlehem."

At the time of Christ's birth, life was as difficult then as it is now. Taxes were high, unemployment was high, and morals were slipping lower. Many of us have personally been challenged by the current social and economic climate. Our personal trials produce empathy for those at the margins of society and, no matter how taxing the environment becomes, we know that we are better off than many vulnerable segments of our population.

We live in a vicious and violent world. Substance abuse issues are at the core of the most intractable social problems in our society.

Although the news story reported that "there would be no Christmas in

Bethlehem," we rejoice in the fact that Christmas begins with "Christ!" Christmas is a message of Hope!

- **Athens** was the center of Philosophy; our hope is not in philosophy.
- **Rome** was the center of Politics; our hope is not in politics.
- **Jerusalem** was the center of Religion; our hope is not in religion.
- **Bethlehem** was the center of Jesus' birth; our hope is in Jesus!

Roman Law, Greek Philosophy, and even Jewish Religion could not meet the needs of men's hearts. God sent His Son to save us from our sins. "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

This Season of Joy is an opportune time to share the good news that Jesus came to help people break free from controlling addictions and troublesome habits. Since the inception of the SAFE House substance abuse ministry in 1994, seventy-seven graduates have successfully completed

the 12-month residential program. These individuals have been changed and are now meaningful, contributing members of society. This is the major accomplishment of the SAFE House concept.

"When the fulness of time was come, God sent forth His Son" (Gal.4:4). Jesus came to give us a way out--a way out of Mental Anguish; a way out of Drug and Alcohol Abuse; a way out of Poverty!

God SENT His Son to us, a gift wrapped in love. He was sent to bring hope to the hopeless, salvation to the sinner, comfort to the bereaved, healing to the sick, calmness to the tormented, purpose to the aimless, and light to those in darkness. CHRISTmas begins with Christ!

SAFE House Winter Benefit Concert

The 12th Annual Winter SAFE House Benefit Concert will be held on **Sunday, February 22nd, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.** at First United Methodist Church, 210 W. Church, in Champaign.

Special guests include the First Methodist Chancel Ringers, Canaan Mass Choir, Pipe Organist Ray Wiggs, and the University of Illinois Black Chorus (Dr Ollie Watts Davis, conductor).



Proceeds from the event will go directly to the Men's SAFE House. Corporate or individual sponsorship opportunities are available for the SAFE House Ministry. For additional information, please call 217-367-2158.

SAFE House Graduate

Congratulations to Moses Spears, who recently graduated from the SAFE House program! We pray that you will grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (II Peter 3:18).



Brother Green (Left) and Moses Spears (Right)

In Everything Give Thanks...

By Brother Green, Interim Director of the SAFE House, 217.344.7233

Thank you for a wonderful year. We give thanks for the many blessings we have received. Thanks to a \$30,000 grant from an endowment of the Champaign-Urbana Rotary Noon Club, new windows, doors, roof and HVAC were installed. The Brothers no longer have to wear sweaters and coats inside!

Last month Walt Townsend furnished us with a brand new stove that we utilize to make wonderful meals at the house. Walt, along with his church, Good Shepherd Lutheran, has been our Santa Claus at Christmas.

We would also like to thank all the people that stop by the house and give their support throughout the year, including men from Grace Church of Mahomet. They have been meeting at 7:00 a.m. every second Friday to share devotionals and serve **US** breakfast!

Our next project is to repair and restore the porch (see picture below) before it falls away from the house! Call me if you can help.

We praise God for all who share their time, talents and gifts which encourage me, Assistant Director Lenoir, and the residents.

And please pray for Rev. Carter and his recovery. *Pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much* (James 5:16).

We know that there's nothing too hard for God.



Project Porch Restoration

A Message from the President, Board of Directors

SAFE House Steering Committee Members

Canaan Baptist Church

Chris Hamb
Marilyn Heinsohn
William Jones
Phoebe E. Lenear
Linda Randall
Willie T. Summerville

First Presbyterian Church

Paul Hobbs
Byron Kemper
Don Kuhlman
Jeannie Snoeyink

First United Methodist Church

Michael Weber

St. Patrick Church

Wade Franklin

Vineyard Church

Paula Barrickman

Rev. Vincent Carter, Director
Thomas Green, Asst. Director
John LeNoir, Asst. Director

SAFE House Board of Directors

Rev. Vincent Carter
Jeff Johnson
Jon Rector
Willie T. Summerville
Rev. B. J. Tatum
Walter C. Tousey
Michael Weber

For more information,

Visit us at:

<http://www.CanaanSafeHouse.org>



This year-end newsletter reports the exceedingly good news of God's grace as he works through the directors and residents of and volunteers and contributors to the Substance Abuse Free Environment

house.

II Corinthians 9:12 states "this service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people, but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." Unlike most rehabilitation programs, this vital ministry transforms lives through the teaching and application of God's word.

As recent graduate Moses Spears stated: "I now have peace in my heart." Fundamental change of heart is a God thing. And it brings glory to him.

Please consider that only through your heartfelt and generous contributions can we continue to rescue men from their long term drug and alcohol abuse. It is indeed a miracle ministry. We thank you for your past support and hope and pray that you'll want to continue to be a part of His work now and in the future.

Merry Christmas!!!
Michael Weber

Thoughts from Our Most Recent Graduate

By Moses Spears, November 2008 Graduate

"Give yourself a chance. You owe yourself that much."

"Whoever thought that a drug addict who was out there doing and selling drugs could be productive around people that never lived that type of life? God gave me a chance to be around people like that and showed me that I could have a better life."

"SAFE House is a ministry, and God is working within this program. Every day we glorify God by

contributing to the community. We thank God for the SAFE House. We thank Him for what He's doing in our lives. We thank Him for giving us our families back. And we thank Him for the positive people He has placed around us.

"I'm so glad!!! I'm happy today because I'm at peace with me. I really found peace in myself. And I know that it works.

I hang around the SAFE House because

it's like an umbrella. I want to stay close to people that love the Lord. I was so used to sticking around people who loved corruption. Now, I choose to live my life the right way... around people that love God.

Praise God!

Congratulations to our 2008 Graduates

Michael Berry
Roscoe Brown
Roby Craft
Moses Spears
Brandon Trice