

Place of Promise

A Multi-Service Advocacy Center

"I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people." Leviticus 26:12

August 2011

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him."

1 Corinthians 2:9

Dear Friends,

"Who would've thought?" It's an old expression used by most of us when something happens that we aren't expecting. Usually our thinking, our thoughts are shaped and molded by circumstances, people, places, and things as we see them, as we know them to be today. Sometimes our thoughts are determined today by what was true in our yesterdays. Unfortunately, it seems to be rarely true that we think by faith and not by sight.

For example, who would've thought that a year ago Jimmy, a resident of Place of Promise, would be attending his daughter's college graduation with the rest of her family this month? Who would've thought he'd be smiling, clapping, hugging his daughter? Who would've thought he'd be clean and sober all this time? Who would've thought he'd be alive? Who would've thought he'd be excitedly sharing his acceptance of Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior with anyone who would listen? Most thought he was dead or alone in an institution somewhere. Those who knew him when he first came to Place of Promise never heard him speak. He lived in the shadows of others. His whole presentation was one of desperate loneliness and utter despair. Who would've thought – he didn't think. He was just waiting silently to die. Today, faith has trumped all thoughts! Jimmy has been born again; he is alive! His life has been redeemed; lifted up from the darkest pit. God has put a song in his heart. Today, he can't stop smiling! He knows and believes Jesus loves him and has forgiven him. Today, he believes God has a plan and a purpose for him; he is on a new journey towards abundant life. Does he still weep, still struggle, still stumble and fall? Absolutely he does and will, and yet he greets every morning with anticipatory joy because he is a beloved child of the King! He will never again walk alone! Today, he knows and believes he is a part of the Place of Promise family of God. Today, you can't make Jimmy stop talking, telling his story of amazing grace. He once was lost; now he's found. He once was blind; now he sees. He once was full of despair, existing as though he were dead. Today, he is filled with hope and that blessed assurance that Jesus chose and loves him! Who would've thought?!

Who would've thought a year ago that Cory would have custody of his two sons and be preparing to begin his last semester of college? Who would've thought a couple of years ago that Geoff, who thought drunkenness and jail was all there was to life, would be beginning his second year of college, preparing for a degree in human services? Who would've thought that Lynn, who came in the door of Place of Promise 18 months ago, declaring adamantly that she was Jewish and would have nothing to do with Jesus, would today be attending a leadership conference with me at Grace Chapel? Today, she loves Jesus so much that it is her heart's desire to serve Him in a special way. Who would've thought?

Who would've thought over 2 years ago that this man Peter that was referred to me from Tewksbury Detox, would ever make it for more than a couple weeks in the program? Peter was from Lowell; that fact alone generated thoughts of defeat in my mind. This city was his home for over forty years and he'd been drinking since age 9. How could he stay sober in Lowell? That thought was beyond me. Peter had given up on life. He was all alone. His young adult children would have nothing to do with him. He was uneducated, disabled, severely depressed, and had no faith in God. His psych/social history screamed, "FAILURE; DOOMED TO DIE A VICTIM OF ALCOHOLISM." I resisted interviewing this man because my thoughts were all negative as I read through the paperwork they sent me, but I always pray over every person referred to Place of Promise. You see, I know and believe God's thoughts are not our thoughts, nor are His ways our ways. "So God," I prayed, "help me to accept this man, Peter, in faith believing You have a plan and purpose for him. Let me have the courage to act in faith and not according to how things appear to be in my mind. Give Peter the courage and strength to do the same. Thank you! Amen."

Well, who would've thought? Peter is a strong man of God today. Is he perfect? Not by any means, but he is a man who has been set free from his own negative thinking as well as that of others. Today, he knows God loves him and he loves God for forgiving him and for transforming him. He is developing the mind of Christ today. The Holy Spirit is recreating Peter into a man of God today, "for the display of His splendor!" He has character and integrity today. He can be trusted today. His daughter even trusts him to baby-sit for her! His son listens to his father's voice today because, even in the midst of his own bondage, he knows his father has found "The Way" out! Peter even got his GED!

It became Peter's greatest desire to serve the God he loves by giving back to Place of Promise. Peter knows that every day we transport residents all around to various appointments with doctors, hospitals, social security, schools, etc. There is often too much driving to keep up with. Peter began saving his money to get his driver's license back. Then the Long's donated a station wagon to Place of Promise. Peter did all the work to have the car prepared for him to be able to drive. Thursday, he passed the driving test, and he and Jimmy are driving residents to and from appointments with great joy! What a great help they are to me and all of us at Place of Promise! What a great example to all of us how God can change a life of failure to a victorious life, not by thought, but by faith! Who would've thought?

Who would've thought way back in 1992 when God gave me a vision to start Place of Promise that we would become who we are today? Who would've thought so many, many lives would be changed from death into life here at Place of Promise? We're not the "little engine that could" and we've all gotten on board shouting, "We think we can, we think we can." No! We, the people of Place of Promise, are a people who have come to believe that no matter what we think or anyone else thinks, we can by God's grace! We are, we live, we give, we pray, we volunteer; whatever it is we do, we do it all by faith in the Son of God who loves us and gave Himself for us. Thank God for each of you who support Place of Promise so faithfully, not by thought, but by faith in action. Please continue to walk with us.

Walking by Faith,



Beth Kidd, Director