

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

January 2012

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Dear Friends,

They say you never really know a person until you live with them. During this Christmas and New Year holiday, a student came and lived at Place of Promise for a short, perhaps sometimes long, two weeks. I'd like to share with you her bird's-eye view of who we are. You are each a large part of who Place of Promise is and who we are becoming. I hope you will be encouraged with this up close and personal view.

Serene called me from Colby Sawyer College about 6 weeks before Christmas and asked if she could volunteer to help over the holidays. I had never met her nor did I know anyone who knew her. She had never heard of Place of Promise until a Christian leader in her school recommended she look into us as a possibility for Christian service. Serene is a freshman at college, away from her home in Malaysia for the first time. She was offering to help out at Place of Promise in exchange for a "home away from home" for the winter break.

I spoke to Serene several more times and then didn't hear from her for a couple weeks. She was busy checking out our website, discussing the option with her parents and fervently seeking God's will for herself. Everyone was a bit nervous about this Christian, sheltered, 20 year old young woman living at Place of Promise with women who are recovering drug/alcohol addicts, ex-convicts, broken, lost, dysfunctional unhealthy people. A couple families of her friends at college offered to let her stay at their homes when they heard of her plans to stay at Place of Promise. Still, Serene sought God for His direction and courageously called and said she had determined to come. She arrived on Friday before Christmas. As soon as she walked in the door, she knew the Presence of God was there to welcome and embrace her.

Serene wrote the following description of Place of Promise at the end of her stay with us. It is followed by a heartfelt prayer given by Serene as we gathered in a prayerful sendoff for her.

The Place of Promise is a place where people go to for recovery from addiction. Still, the Place of Promise is not strictly for recovering addicts; it is also a place for sick people whether in body or at heart. One thing, however, sets the Place of Promise apart from every other rehab or recovery center: God. This is what makes it special, what makes it stand out; that God is the key to the addict's recovery whether or not he realizes it. The condition is not important – it is the person's willingness to want to recover to start fresh with God behind it all.


Residents go about with 5 daily meetings that are centered on God. Morning devotions, private study times, afternoon teaching sessions and night meetings are the collective spiritual food for the residents. Individually, they are encouraged to pray as often as they can and to continually seek God and follow after Him. The key to recovery is to simply recognize one's inability to do it on their own and to allow God to work in one's life regardless of the cost. The Twelve Steps to Recovery by Alcoholic Anonymous serves as a guideline apart from the Word of God that is regularly preached and studied. Residents are also expected to journal their experiences, feelings, and thoughts throughout the program. This helps to track their progress as well as to know where they stand. Apart from journaling assignments, residents are assigned house chores as part of being responsible and serving others.

Living in the community homes, having enough to meet their needs, residents are encouraged to be grateful. They are continually reminded to focus on their recovery and not allow anything to distract them from what they need to do. Living together has also caused a lot of riffs between the residents and it is not unlikely to see an exchange of unkind words. However, one thing is also different; there is no toleration for arguments and bad mouthing. Residents are reminded to "speak the truth in love" and to be patient; to do what Jesus would do. No one is perfect, but residents do try and even with the occasional failures, they manage to create a peaceful environment. Not they, but Him. The love of God is evident in this place and it is because it is welcomed. God is doing an amazing work in the Place of Promise through the amazing, resilient director, staff, and volunteers. Broken hearts are healed, wounds are mended, lives are changed, and pride is stripped away. Praise God for this wonderful love for all men, for giving second chances. This is what the Place of Promise is, a place of hope, faith, love and renewed life. No one is condemned for the past; all are sinners and all need God.

Serene's Prayer: "This is not where I would've wanted to be, but here I am, finding it hard to leave. I've learned so much here, it is hard to leave. You have shown me what You can do with broken lives. You have changed those who despised you to be Your most ardent lovers. Those who did not want You are now calling out Your Name. Those who never believed are now believers. Those who were in bondage have been set free. Those who were ashamed of their past now walk in the freedom You bring. Those who never thought they would live to this day, thank You. Those who never knew what forgiveness meant now understand it perfectly. Those who thought they could do it on their own failed and realize they need You. You are in this place. You will change lives – only You can, Lord. Here I am, coming from a totally safe, clean environment, witnessing the reality of the Gospel. You have opened my eyes to the lives of the people who truly know what it is to be in pain, to suffer, to have nothing. To see who they are becoming because of your Love is phenomenal. This is real. You are real. Amen."

With God as our Center, let us all continue to keep Place of Promise a reality in this broken and hurting world.

Serving in His Name,



Beth Kidd, Director