

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

October 2011

Dear Friends,

This month, I have decided to send you a copy of the Director's Report for the Annual Board of Directors Meeting that was just held on October 24th. The Director's Report covers our Fiscal Year for July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011. I remain in awe of God as I see the hand of God directing His Body of Christ called Place of Promise. The residents, the Board of Directors, staff, and I would like to thank you for your continued prayers and support for this ministry.

Director's Report 2011 Place of Promise Annual Meeting

"When you saw Me naked, you clothed me. When you saw Me hungry, you fed me. When I was sick or in prison, you visited Me. When I was a stranger, you invited me into your home... For whatever you have done for the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you have done it unto Me."

Matthew 25:36, 40

This has been a year of great changes at Place of Promise. People have left our staff, and God has chosen others to work by our side; the profile, background, and lifestyle of the average resident has changed; and the current economic climate has made it more challenging to meet our financial needs. Amongst all of these changes, God has remained faithful as we learn, grow, and trust Him to guide us.

God called our brother, Rob Surratt, to leave Place of Promise and attend Gordon-Conwell Seminary. Rob had been on-staff at Place of Promise for several years and though we were all excited to watch God continue His workmanship on this young man's life, we were left without a male staff to minister daily to our men. As God has so faithfully done over the years, He again provided for our needs and did this within our means. God chose and called Jeff Kiel to join Place of Promise as a volunteer. He comes every day to Place of Promise and teaches a Bible study to the men! He has also fine-tuned and perfected our administrative inner workings. This role became especially vital to us because Taisha Anderson had to be laid off from her staff position in administration due to decreased levels of donations. God has continued every day to demonstrate the truth of His word that teaches us to "Trust in the Lord with all our hearts and lean not on our own understanding. In all our ways, acknowledge Him and he will direct our path." God is Jehovah Jireh, our Provider! He is the Great Redeemer! We continue to seek Him and His Righteousness, and everything we need is given unto us! Pray that we as a people of God never alter our direction away from Jesus as our Way, Truth, and Life.

Until recently, Place of Promise almost exclusively served the urban community. Now, we have a population some of whom are younger and coming from relatively more affluent, suburban family settings. In addition to ministering to our residents, we must also find ways to relate and demonstrate God's love to their very suffering families. Even more challenging are the residents who come to us from the established church. They have grown up and learned to use a Christian facade to cover over their very broken, troubled lives. They are habitually concerned with outer appearance, and it is very difficult to direct them inward towards a healing of the inner self and a resurrected soul. We work with them daily to help them focus on spiritual transformation and growth and not on outer appearance.

This has been a year of economic downturn and recession within our country and within our world. We, at Place of Promise, have tried our best to reduce costs as much as possible while still ministering with excellence. While we have added new church partners, especially in the greater Lowell area, overall church support is down. Additionally, the number of individual donors has decreased as well. This is occurring within an environment of government funding cuts, especially in the mental health and substance abuse treatment services. While Place of Promise does not receive government funding of any kind, we have seen most of our resident's government assisted health insurance and benefits cut or drastically reduced, and we are being flooded with referrals for new residents every day from prisons, hospitals, rehabs, and churches due to other programs being cut back or eliminated. Even during these difficult economic times, God has continued to provide financially through His people in amazing ways. People continue to give sacrificially; some have gotten their corporations where they work to match their gifts or contribute funds separately; and some have provided much needed funds to us by including Place of Promise in their wills. People can contribute stock to Place of Promise through our Fidelity account and can now contribute on-line through PayPal. So, as in the history of the church, Place of Promise continues to demonstrate God's love in the midst of very difficult, dark times.

We, as a people of God, have been witness to the hand of God in some very desperate, seemingly hopeless situations this past year. I believe we have, therefore, grown in faith. I, as Director, believe I am even more firmly planted and yoked together with Jesus, and therefore have more confidence to lead. I have learned how to stand firm, wait upon the Lord, renew my strength, and then stand in awe of God! God very miraculously provided for and blessed the twins born at Place of Promise! God also chose and brought each resident that has been and continues to be a part of Place of Promise. We learn, we grow, we make mistakes, we learn, we grow. Jesus is our Way, Truth, and Life at Place of Promise. His Word continues to be a "lamp to our feet and a light to our path." I hold on to the hope that God's Word never returns empty. Each person hears the Word of God all day every day at Place of Promise. We have five meetings a day, striving to be empowered to choose Life and walk with God on this journey towards our home in Heaven.

There's a story in John 11 of a family that has a sick brother named Lazarus. The sisters, Mary and Martha, plead with Jesus to come and heal their sick and suffering brother. Jesus waits, and Lazarus dies. Jesus says, "This will not end in death, but in Glory to God." He comes to the family and asks them to take Him to the tomb. He then asks the friends who are there mourning to remove the stone from the entrance to the tomb. Jesus prays to His Father for resurrection power and calls Lazarus to come out of the tomb. Jesus never enters the dead man's grave. Lazarus must hop out, bound in grave clothes. Again, Jesus enlists the help of those who are there to remove the grave clothes and let him go.

We bring Jesus to the sick and suffering at Place of Promise. Though most who come are dead in their sins, they are made alive by the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ! He calls them from their pits of despair, and they must do the work to come out. We, and you, through the Place of Promise, remove stones and grave clothes and let them go, hopefully to carry the message of new Life to someone else; to bring Jesus to someone else who is walking dead. Nothing at Place of Promise ends in death. Every end is a beginning. To God be the Glory!

Respectfully Submitted,



Beth Kidd, Director