



**Indianapolis, IN 46241**

January 22, 2010

Greetings to all,

I have had the honor of attending two life celebrations (funerals) this past month. Both of the people being honored were Christians and had been most of their lives. At both services they talked about the accomplishments of the people and what they had done with their lives. Both of them had worked and attended church. They had hobbies and things they liked to do but what struck me at both of the events were their life accomplishments. Those they had served and the differences they made in the lives of them around them. One of the pastor's even read poems from the family. At both events there was no mention of the amount of money they had or the type of car they drove. There was no mention of fancy vacations or shopping sprees but of what they had done with family and for their communities. This started me thinking about my own life and what I am doing to improve the lives around me. I started thinking about where my time is going and the lives I am changing. I started thinking about where I spend my money and how it is changing the kingdom. I also started thinking about what I have done this past year to answer the question from last January. "If I died today what would I leave behind?"

While reflecting on this I feel that God is pleased with what is happening here. We have served over 100 clients since opening our doors. We have helped with food, clothes, hygiene products, and showers. We have talked with young people and helped them to find worth in themselves. We have helped them find jobs and complete school. We have encouraged others to further their education past high school and have helped with resources to get this done. We have helped others to have healthy babies by getting them to the doctor and to receive services to keep them healthy. We have helped find housing for some as well as services to keep the utilities on for others. We have been the voice at the dark times and the person to call when the good happens. All of this goes on and we know that we can do more. Restoring Lives is at a place that we know we must continue to grow but are having problems finding more to help and to support the ministry.

I have challenged my board to step outside of their comfort zones this next year and begin sharing the story of Restoring Lives with others. Most of the members are ok talking about Restoring Lives with other individuals but struggle with sharing the needs

of the organization. They do not feel comfortable with asking others to step-up and give time or resources to the organization. I know that it can be hard to be rejected. (I hate being told no now just as much as when I was younger.) I also know that God will help them with the asking and also with the results.

I want to also challenge all of you to do the same. I feel in my heart if we can just all start doing a little more that this agency through God's grace will continue to grow and will soon be all he wants it to be. There are many ways you can give to Restoring Lives. The easiest way is to pray for the ministry. Pray for the clients, volunteers, and staff. You can become one who tells others about us. Many people think of their friends but most don't think to their co-workers, companies, Sunday school classes, churches, service groups or even family members.

Many think that if they cannot give a huge sum that they are not valued. That is not the case here. It is our monthly donors who help to sustain this ministry. Many of them give monthly donations of \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 or more. They are the 'bread and butter' of the organization. The 'jelly' comes from the yearly donor. These are people who give a donation when they receive their tax checks or yearly bonuses. All of these are needed and valued as gifts from the heart. It is our prayer that more of you will find it possible to be a donor of Restoring Lives. We are striving to make this simple for all. We have recently set-up a PayPal account through our website at [www.restoringliveswest.org](http://www.restoringliveswest.org). We also accept checks at Restoring Lives West, Inc 709 S. Lynhurst Dr. Indianapolis, IN 46241 or you can stop by and drop off your check. We love to share what is going on here with you. I hope to hear from many of you in the future.

Yours in Christ,

Hope Garrett  
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