

DMC Campfire AUGUST 2013

Touched by the Master's Hand

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort which we ourselves are comforted by God. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

'I was battered and scarred, and the auctioneer thought it scarcely worth his while to waste much time on the old violin, but held it up with a smile:

What am I bidden, good folks," he cried, "Who'll start the bidding for me?" "a dollar, a dollar": then, "Two!" "Only two dollars, and who'll make it three?"

Three dollars, once; three dollars, twice; going for three - " But no, from the room, far back, a gray-haired man came forward and picked up the bow;

Then, wiping the dust from the old violin, and tightening the loose strings, he played a melody pure and sweet as a caroling angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer, with a voice that was quiet and low, said: "What am I bid for the old violin?" And he held it up with the bow.

"A thousand dollars, and who'll make it two? Two thousand! And who'll make it three? Three thousand once, three thousand, twice. And going and gone," said he.

The people cheered, but some of them cried, "We do not quite understand what changed its worth." Swift came the reply: "The touch of a master's hand."

And many a man with life out of tune, and battered and scarred with sin, is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd, much like the old violin.

A "mess of pottage," a glass of wine; a game - and he travels on. He is "going" once, and "going" twice, he's "going" and almost "gone."

But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd never can quite understand the worth of a soul and the change that's wrought by the touch of the Master's hand.

~ Myra Brooks Welch ~

Before coming to Dunklin on July 7, 2010 I was addicted to drugs and alcohol for sixteen years. During that time I tried everything the world had to offer to end my addiction. I went to rehabilitation centers, psychiatric hospitals, and took many types of medication. I tried geographic relocation, new jobs, and even religion. After exhausting all other options, I knew it was time to do something drastic. There were some men in my church that shared my same past but who now had peace, character, and integrity, which is what I wanted. Jay Doss, Tyler and Geoff Sutton planted the seed of a relationship with the Lord and told me of the place where they had met and received Him, Dunklin. Going through the program was the most difficult thing I've done, but also the most worth while. I was no longer in control of making decisions for myself and it's what was needed to open my eyes. Denial and projection had blinded me from seeing who I really was: a self-centered and self-righteous man who took, and was incapable of giving anything back because of my attitudes. In the program I learned how to be in a two-way relationship with another person and, most importantly, with the Lord. Having a "little brother" in the program and being a dorm monitor in Discipleship taught me responsibility and how to care for others. During this time I knew God had a calling on my life. Upon graduation I entered Stage 2, the transitional phase of the program. It was then I realized I not only had a burden to help other men in addiction but also children. I served with Dave and Lacey Crooks in 4-6 year old Sunday school and also served in the Children's Church ministry with the 7-11 year olds. After Stage 2 I entered the year commitment of Servant Leadership Training. This allowed me to go back through the program on the leadership side. Teaching the lessons and serving the men confirmed God's plan and purpose and brought me peace and joy. During SLT the Lord called me to help with the Intake aspect of the program. After SLT I committed to a year of Staff Training and was placed in the Induction phase of the program. I am now honored to be a part of the DMC staff, currently serving in the previously mentioned areas and continuing the plan and purpose God has for me. The most exciting blessing the Lord has given me is a beautiful, godly fiancée, Alexandra Trindade. She also is a testimony of the Lord's grace, as she has graduated from Dunklin's sister program, The Refuge Ranch. She now serves on staff there, working with women who have come through addiction and helping them find healing and a relationship with the Lord. We look forward to all that God has for us as a couple in the months and years to come.

Lance Squires with Alex Trindade





May 17th, 2010 was the date that changed my and my family’s lives forever. It was the day that I made the choice to enter Dunklin. That one simple act allowed God to move in our lives in a way that I never dreamed possible. Initially, I just wanted to “get sober.” But after going through the program, I realized God had completely changed my heart. At Dunklin, God taught me how to submit and be humble, and how to be open and honest with other men in the program. Through confession and repentance, I realized God really does forgive and cleanse you. God used forgiveness to make me a better husband and father. By working through the Family Recovery Process, Advanced Marriage, and Inner Healing, I realized that God’s goal for my family was much greater. He wanted to take my family on a journey that would involve a lot of healing & spiritual growth; but even more work. Upon graduation, we were blessed to be offered the opportunity to complete the Servant Leadership Training program. My family and I learned how to live and work together as a family. During that year I really started to see who I was in Christ, and began to follow God’s command, which is to love my wife, Virginia, just as Christ loved the church. Through all of this, I finally understood what real servanthood looked like. After

SLT, my family and I continued in the Staff Training program. God showed me that while I had a passion and desire to help people, I needed more maturing as a minister and lacked wisdom and patience. I became more involved in the ministry and began to really answer the call God has for us in helping families through restoration. God also showed me my role in working in the industries, which is to be a leader and example to the men in the program. During this year, we heard God call us to Dunklin permanently, and He opened the doors for this to happen. We are overjoyed that we can live and serve in the community that helped to guide and restore us and are blessed to watch others complete the same journey God set us on just three short years ago. Just recently we learned that we are expecting a baby in the spring - our hearts are full! Being here at Dunklin and walking in the purpose that God has for our lives is truly the best place to be. ~ Brian with Virginia and Rylee Neener



After graduating in 2010 I had no idea where the Lord was going to take me, but what I did know was that I was willing to go where He led. He completely changed my heart and helped me overcome a twenty year lifestyle of bondage. I came to Dunklin seeking a way to get off of drugs, but what I received was a new way of life and a desire to help others. The decision to stay for SLT was not my first thought. I remember trying to convince myself that after being separated from my wife for the last two years of my addiction, she needed me to go out there and provide a “good life” for her. My pride wanted to push me to try and make up for all of the damage I caused her by accomplishing “worldly success.” Looking back at those thoughts now brings to mind the saying “What a fool!” I had introduced Peggy to drugs, pushed her to the edge, and nearly ended my marriage years before. She had entered The Refuge Ranch and then the Women’s Refuge and had come out



with a strong relationship with the Lord. It was clear that God had a much bigger plan for our lives than just returning to life in the fast lane. Peggy moved out here and we completed SLT together. She became employed at Dunklin while I was blessed with a leadership role in the carpenter shop and, more importantly, with the opportunity to learn to teach in different stages of the program alongside dedicated men who are called as I am, to serve. In this last year of staff training I grew up not just emotionally, but in the Lord as well. I am blessed to teach side by side with my wife in Family Recovery giving hope to broken couples who have walked the same path from which we have been redeemed. We are so excited and honored to be given the opportunity to stay and further our commitment to the calling God has put on our lives. My plans and God’s plans seemed worlds apart years ago. Today I can say I truly understand the verse that says that His ways are not my ways and His thoughts are not my thoughts. I thank God I followed His guidance and I am very grateful for each new day’s opportunities. ~ Michael with Peggy Ribaud

Ministry Needs ~ We need your prayers daily!
 - Sponsors for men in the program, men in SLT and families in SLT
 - Monthly donations - Donations of musical instruments
 - Donations of any working vehicles, golf carts, 4-wheelers, etc.

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