Many times the desires of our heart can drive the decisions we make and the paths we choose to follow. We are often unaware of the devastating effects of these choices. Larry had seemingly followed a right path as he was dating his high school sweetheart, went to her church where her father was the pastor, and gave his heart to the Lord. Yet, things fell apart as people let him down and expectations were changed.

Years later, he met and married his first wife Karen and had 3 daughters. His heart was not fully committed to the Lord and when life became too difficult, he turned to booze. His brother, a Vietnam Vet who could not overcome his own cocaine addiction, was using in front of Larry. At a time when Larry was inebriated and angry at his brother, he tried the drug out of spite. This one incident, which happened in his thirties, led to a long-term addiction and a cycle of becoming clean and then using, eventually costing him his marriage.

However, his three daughters with Karen continued to pray for him to get better, hoping he would have a true change of heart. His children knew their father was not the person he became when influenced by the drugs and alcohol. Family was not going to give up on him and neither was our heavenly Father.

Then an accident occurred which altered Larry’s life once again. He fell asleep while driving after leaving work on 3rd shift and ran a red light almost killing the passenger with him. Larry was distraught and kept having nightmares about the accident. Because his boss would not let him transfer from 3rd shift, he quit the job. He used this trauma to return to old habits and continue running from God.

Continued on page 3
As we move forward into the month of September, I would like to update you on our Men’s Residential Renovation Project. Two months ago, we started this new and exciting expansion and renovation project. The program size will increase from 18 men to 36 while areas will be modernized with new bathrooms, floors, rooms, and walls, all of which needed repair or updates. This project is a two-part phase.

Phase 1 of the update has just been completed as a brand new bathroom, shower, floors, and rooms have been given a fresh new look and more efficient set up to accommodate the growing number of men in this program. It has been a wonderful process to see the rooms transformed with vibrant colors, beautiful flooring, spacious showers, and modern restrooms.

Phase II of this renovation started this month on our upper level of the main Mission building. Flooring, bathrooms, walls, and Resident rooms on this level will all be included in Phase II of the renovation. Pictures and progress of this renovation have been posted on our website at www.havenofrest.org.

To all of our dear friends, thank you for making this renovation possible. May the Lord bless you for your kindness, generosity, and faithfulness in serving those in need through rescue ministry.

In His Service
Rev. Jeff Kaiser
CEO

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We just celebrated 27 years of our annual Hope Sports Camp! Sixty-eight boys and girls came to the camp this year, not only to learn basketball and volleyball skills, but to hear the Word of God and witness love from His people.

This year, 22 kids were saved and 8 more rededicated their lives to the Lord! Jack Hugg, Education Coordinator, oversees the camp each day. Coaches train the campers on how to improve their abilities in each sport and compete in various fun & exciting games.

At the end of camp, good character awards are presented to 6 boys and 6 girls voted on by staff, volunteers, and coaches.

We would like to thank you for your many prayers and support! Also, we thank Christ Community Chapel in Hudson for hosting the camp on their site once again!

Contact our new Special Events Coordinator David John to learn more about future activities at djohn@havenofrest.org or call 330-535-1563.

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Larry said the Lord kept moving on his heart to go to Haven of Rest Ministries. He came to the Mission to talk with Jason Hubbard about the Men’s Residential program. The Spirit of the Lord came over Larry, affirming in his heart he was making the right decision and he began to weep as he was filling out the application. The Lord had changed his heart.

To be continued...