

Editor's Corner

The year 2013 saw momentous changes for the Bridge. This house of hope previously had 15 men, but became city approved for 22 men and has been at full capacity ever since, with a waiting list for openings. There is a waiting list for openings. Also, five house graduates moved into the “Second Phase” of the program and live apart in the Larsen House. These second phase men are recent graduates that are now more independent and working on their own, but are still under the umbrella of Bridge accountability.

The third annual B2B ride and the seventh annual banquet were both huge successes. Your continued volunteer support and contributions made this possible. Look for even more exciting changes in these events next year. Watch for upcoming newsletters for more on these special events and also visit the tbrm.org webpage.

The Bridge Board of Directors added new board members including Jeffrey Ernest, Jin Jung, Fred Amoroso, and Randy Grounds. Each brings special abilities and expertise to the board, and all have a loving heart for this ministry and the men in it.

The Second Chance Thrift Store has blossomed under Michele's supervision and store re-organization. The Bridge men are gaining valuable experience there by learning occupational and management skills; and they are a testimony to all shoppers of the life changing power of the Bridge's ministry. Please continue to support the Second Chance store with your shopping as well as donations of clothing and household items.

In December, the Bridge Ministry became responsible for the operation of Calvary's Grille. Mike plans to use it as a culinary school so that the Bridge men can learn food preparation and services, valuable training for the Monterey area with it's extensive food and hospitality industry. At the same time, the Grille will continue providing meals for Calvary at standard church functions as well as special church related events.

The Fall issue of this newsletter brought a new look for you the readers. It is now larger, more colorful and easier to read. A new feature is the puzzle piece seen with the article. Each piece: the men of the Bridge along with their families, volunteers, Board members, and the community, all fit together to give the Bridge a solid structure with Christ

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Counting the Blessings

The Bridge has come a long way over the past eight years and we have reached far beyond what I could have ever hoped for or imagined. We have celebrated victory over new additions and we mourn the two men who quit The Bridge program and then lost their lives after a return to drug addiction.

We are looking forward to what the Lord has in store for us. We are praying about opening a women's facility. We are excited about our involvement in shaping the new direction of the Grille at Calvary. It's such a blessing to watch the men gain skills as they learn to navigate the kitchen. Serving the body of Christ is something that changes a man's heart. We are so used to doing the things that the world says we should do instead of hearing and doing what the Lord says.

Please pray for us as we begin a new year and have opportunities to pour into the lives of more men, and possibly women.

Blessings, Pastor Mike



Second Chance Thrift Store

There are so many things to say about the store. As many of you know, The Bridge experience includes a working program which provides training on a variety of levels such as job skills, conflict

resolution, holding down a consistent daily schedule, showing up to work sober, and following daily rules. The store is only one aspect of the work portion of the program, there is also training in landscaping, maintenance, janitorial and food service. Some of the residents cross over into multiple work areas. Here at Second Chance, the guys are definitely working hands-on with the public whether with customers in the store, or out on pick-ups at someone's house. Sometimes there are interactions that, I believe, are divinely orchestrated by the Lord, like when a customer needs just a bit of encouragement or hope and somehow there is an opportunity for someone to share about something God is doing in their life. It's a real treat to see when that happens. As I think back over the year, I can recall several times a customer has come in to the shop and has been blessed by a totally unexpected conversation with one of the guys. I love when that happens!

We are also so extremely blessed by our volunteers. We have several people who volunteer here in various capacities. We are so grateful for them. Many hands make the work much lighter. Our volunteers are also a wealth of information and I am so grateful for all the input they give. It continues to amaze me how many different types of donations we get. We look things up in the computer and pick the brains of volunteers constantly. Some of our most popular questions are: What is it? What do you do with it? How much is it worth? What is it currently selling for? How much should we sell it for? Those can be some pretty hefty questions and real conversation starters, especially for some of our real unusual pieces. Thank you so much to everyone who helps us with the many duties here. We appreciate you!

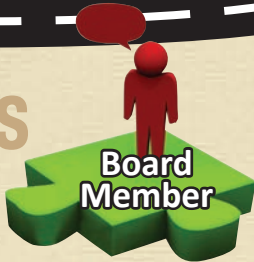
Happy New Year from all of us at Second Chance!

Michele Casey, Program/Store Manager



Updates

God's Blessing...



All of us experience it every day with the air we breath, the food we eat, and our fellowship with others, celebrating in His love and mercy.

At this time of year, it seems appropriate to look back and see the miracles of God and give testimony to his love for us. In Joshua 4, the 12 tribes of Israel each chose a stone to built a remembrance of God's blessing...These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever...and they are there to this day.

The Bridge has begun the “Walk of Hope”...a remembrance of those that have gone before, crossing into a new life. As 2014 begins, we pray that you will join with us in the Hope of God's Blessing upon the Bridge and the men and families that make up the ministry. We too will join in prayer as we thank the Lord for bringing the blessing of your support that helps the ministry continue as a memorial of God's love.

Rick Barnett
Board Chair

Editor's Corner *continued*

Jesus as the centerpiece and its rock solid foundation. The inter-related efforts of all these pieces brings this ministry the power to change men's lives and bless the community. Read the newsletter and see how these pieces fit together.

As this new year of 2014 begins, you can see how this ministry has been blessed by God during the past year. Please consider how you may help it continue to grow through your prayers, your volunteered time, and contributions of money and goods. Become and remain a part of this life changing ministry that affects the Bridge members, their families and the community.

Clay Buhl



The Bridge
Bringing the pieces together.



Nick Phillips

My Testimony



My name is Nick Phillips. This is my second enrollment and year in the Bridge program. The first year, I found a family, served the church and learned quite a lot about myself, although I didn't take my walk and sobriety very seriously. I gained a lot back in my life including being a worship musician for Most Excellent Way, an employee at Calvary Monterey, as a sound technician and musician, and the Second Chance Thrift Store clothing manager.

But, on the 10th month, I ended up relapsing and falling back into jail. I spent Christmas and New Year's Day in jail. I quickly understood how serious the situation was when my probation officer was completely convinced that I should go to prison for 6 years. I couldn't believe that I could ever get myself into this sort of mess. When I gained clarity inside the jail, I remember being mortified at what I had caused myself to lose. I remember praying to God and asking for help. My father was ill and it seemed certain that he would die while I was incarcerated. My son would not be able to have a relationship with his father until he was 16, and I would lose my new found family as well as the person I am in love with. During the most crucial point of my incarceration, Mike and Michelle went to bat for me. Mike pestered my probation officer countless times to find out what could be done, he showed up every week to visit me and at all of my court dates, helped me obtain legal counsel, and organized support

from many people from the church who wrote letters of support to the judge. My probation officer had a feeling that I had enough support to give me another try at the program. I remember being so happy and grateful, I broke into tears. When I came back to the program I decided to really take the program seriously.

My father, Roger Phillips, died in August 2013. I was devastated, but also relieved that my prayers were answered and I was able to be counseled by a pastor and not deal with the grief by myself in jail. God also provided a family, and I feel I've become closer to Mike and Michelle during a pivotal time in my life. I've learned about myself and am grateful for gaining back the really beautiful things of life. I reunite, in a healthier way, with my girlfriend Amanda who has been ultra supportive and faithful. I was able to attend my son's birthday for the first time in 3 years. I work at the Second Chance Store again, and love playing the piano there on Saturdays. I have regained my position as a volunteer sound technician, and in doing so I have been blessed to be a part of a huge growing movement in the worship ministry for The Most Excellent Way. I've learned what it really means to serve God and not expect anything back. I learned that it would not be a bad thing to never leave this family.

In the future, I desire to go through the Second Phase part of the bridge, to work at the Second Chance store, to keep my commitments to the Bridge Ministry and Calvary, and to rebuild my career as a musician and music teacher. Even greater things are yet to come.

I thank God every day that he had his hand on me. I am no longer imprisoned by my habits and self-will.

Upcoming Event



New 5 Mile Course Added!

Saturday, May 17, 2014



Second Chance Thrift Store

A Ministry of **The Bridge**

Support Second Chance thrift store by shopping there often, volunteering your time to work there with the men of The Bridge, and/or donating items to the store. For donations, our van will come to your house for pick-up.

Mon, Wed, Sat 9-5 and Tues, Thurs, Fri 10-6
831-717-4479

105 Central Ave. • Pacific Grove, CA 93950

B2B14 - New Date May 17, 2014 & New Distance 5 Mile!



January is one of our favorite months. For us it represents the moment you begin to act out what you have decided you need to change after personal reflection. Last year we celebrated the most successful Bridge to Bridge Bike Ride ever, raising nearly \$25,000 for the Bridge Restoration Ministry! Now we have the pleasure to reveal some of the details about this year's **Fourth Annual B2B** Bike Ride and show you where you fit in!

The date for **B2B 2014** has moved up in the year to Saturday, May 17th, 2014. By moving the date up to springtime we will get more sunlight and enable more young adult riders to participate because school will still be in session. In addition to the already successful 20, 50 and 100 mile distance, we will be adding a 5 mile course to help encourage new riders to take part in the event. We believe these improvements will help the event grow, while maintaining a focus on our mission, "To create funds for and awareness of The Bridge Restoration Ministry."

Where do you come in? Ride, donate, volunteer on that day or serve on our leadership team. With four distances, making the commitment to ride has never been easier. Dust off that old bike in the

Joel 2:25 - "I will restore to you the years that the locust has eaten"

garage and make it a family event. If riding would be unsafe, or you are unable to join us in Pacific Grove on that day, consider sponsoring a friend, family member, or past Bridge graduate as we seek to raise the funds necessary to sustain the Bridge. Volunteer your time if you are passionate about the cause, but disinterested in bicycles. Finally, if you have time, talents and/or interest in joining our leadership team please reach out to us today by emailing b2bRide@gmail.com or calling 831.204.8789! We are seeking roughly 8-10 leaders who will help plan and manage the event. Please think and pray about where you fit in!

For most Americans, January is merely a time for "New Year's Resolutions." But, so often we cease to complete our resolution as the months go on. This year take a leap of faith and join us in committing to the men of the Bridge through involvement in the 2014 **B2B** Bike Ride.

Best Regards,
Andrew Kipsey & Jeffrey Ernest

B2B Bike Ride - "Ride to Restore"
b2bRide@gmail.com (831) 204-8789



The Bridge men at the Second Chance are here to help you.

The Bridge
LIFE RESTORED
FAITH • FAMILY • COMMUNITY
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