

Faith Discipleship Center

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Training Men To Stand Firm In Christ NEWSLETTER

Faith Discipleship Center is a twelve month Christian based training center for men. We believe that Jesus Christ is the answer to all of life's problems including alcohol and drug abuse. At Faith Discipleship Center the Bible is taught, how to be obedient to authority and how to live according to the instructions in the Bible, the way Christian men should. Please feel free to stop by and visit us.



March 2020

From the Director

God gives us rest when needed. I needed rest and God granted me a short reprieve when we only had two residents at FDC. We cut our day classes and took time to reflect on the FDC ministry. I used the time to spend with the Lord. And to specifically ask if this was a time that He wanted any changes at FDC. I believe He said Dennis, I know when you need rest and a time for you to draw near to me !! That I did :) I also had a dear friend of mine come to FDC and spend a week. We had time to fellowship get into the Word and reminisce about old times together in another ministry. And it gave time for what he likes to say "recharge his batteries"! Dan Hughes has become an awesome friend and brother in Christ. I appreciate you Dan more than you will know!! Dan Hughes and I also had another dear friend and brother in Christ who we referred to as little Dan. As many of you know Little Dan is now with our Lord! We miss you Dan Richter! The three of us spent a lot of time together here at FDC. Many relationships get started and continue to grow at FDC. I thank the Lord for my many brothers and sisters in Christ; it would probably take this whole newsletter to name them all. So I will just say here, thank you all for your friendship and to a group of brothers who hold me accountable. I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of you for donating to FDC to keep our doors open and lights on!! And to welcome back our daytime teachers as the house here at FDC fills back up!!

May God Bless you all, Dennis

Daniel's Testimony

Gratitude

That is one of first words that comes to me when I think about my time spent as a resident at FDC. I will be forever grateful to the staff (Dennis) and the committee for accepting me into the program.

With the help and patience of the wonderful teachers and counselors, I came back from a world of darkness to a world filled with love and grace. And being freely given these, I have been able to show this love and grace to others who needed them at least as much as I needed them.

I have been blessed with opportunities to come back to the Center. These times give Dennis a break and my wife (LeAnn). Sometimes she will even help me pack!!!! She has never once said that I could not go. She knows how important it is for me to be around people like me. I don't know what it is -- I go to Bible study here, I go to my AA meetings, I go to Sunday School and Church here. But coming back to the Center and seeing Dennis and the friends I have made here gives me a kind of peace that is different!

I know that getting sober is never easy. I also know that staying sober is a lot harder than people think it is! While trying to stay sober and something goes awry, the natural thing for alcoholics or addicts to do is to default back to what would have been done in the past --- drink or use. It is at this point in time when prayer and picking up the phone to call someone who has been in this situation allows you to come out the other side sober! Staying clean and sober while at the Center isn't too difficult. It's when a person goes back out into the world where it gets tough!

Most of us alcoholics and addicts think we are tough! In reality we are childish, self-centered and over sensitive. Some of us harbor secrets that we feel can never be shared with anyone. I believe in the 12 steps of Celebrate Recovery. I believe that if a person can take the time to be honest and work through these steps, they will come out of the other side a new person!

I know that being a resident I learned a lot about and developed a relationship with my Lord Jesus Christ! All one has to do is open one's heart and mind and you can get that! For myself it is not enough! Maybe I need help with my unbelief! I don't know! But for me I know that I need to be around people like me. I need to be around people who have some of the same thoughts that I have (good or bad). I get that at AA meetings and by coming back to the Center.

Staying clean and sober is not an easy thing. But given the right tools and learning how to use them; and developing a relationship with our Lord makes it possible.

Brother : Daniel

Rick's Testimony

Hi my name is Rick Higgins. I came to FDC in 2018. When I got here I was a prideful arrogant person, with a hang up with drugs and alcohol. Since I've been here at FDC I've met a lot of good people who run the program, the other residents and members of the Evangelical Free Church here in Oelwein. I've learned a lot about the Bible with three plus classes daily. One thing I learned is to put others needs before mine. I lived a lot of years with a selfish spirit not

thinking of others. Now I want to serve others and be God's hands and feet where ever needed. I learned if I draw near to God, He will draw near to me and this crowds out the evil one! The word evil means the absence of good. I draw close to Him by reading the Bible to know His Word and by praying. But knowing the Word isn't enough to change the heart, it happens only by the Spirit of God that resides in me. Thank you Jesus ! Now I use the life Jesus lived on earth as an example of how to live my life ! I've learned that prayer is a powerful thing. I prayed for God to provide a car for me and three months later that prayer was answered! I also prayed that God would restore my relationship with my ex-wife, but Gods answer to that was no. Along with that He gave me the heart to accept that answer. My daughter told me my ex remarried. I would never discredit my ex because there is a lot of good in her and she is a good mother to our daughter. God knows what we need and when we need it. Someday I would like a woman in my life to worship God and grow old together with, but only as God wills it! I've learned that sometimes what we think we need or want, isn't what God wants for us! Today I have a good prayer life, I don't pray big fancy long prayers but God knows my heart. I have also been baptized since coming to F.D.C. God is changing me and molding me to His likeness! I give all Glory to God!

David's Testimony

Blessings...I have an 85-year old Godly mentor that has been a man of inspiration and motivation. We met while I was enrolled as a resident at Faith Discipleship Center in Oelwein, Iowa, where God restores the lives of lost and broken men. He is a volunteer teacher at FDC, where he genuinely pours his love, wisdom, and counsel into the lives of other men. The first lesson that I heard him deliver resonated with me. It was entitled, "Talk-the-talk, Walk-the-Walk."

Don and I meet frequently for breakfast on Saturdays to check-in, fellowship, and pray for one another. While connecting during this treasured time, Don never fails to ask – a crackerjack smirk on his brown, leathery face, and glint in his transparent, blue eyes – **"How's your soul?"**.

I love that gut check. No beating around the bush. No empty small talk. No distance through a screen. Don **talks-the-talk** and he **walks-the-walk**. He has poured into me for 3+ years, and our time together has been a precious commodity for both of us (at least he claims that it is!). His example encourages me to love, engage, and invest in others – as any Brother in Christ would.

Have a blessed day,
David DeZur

Let Everything Praise the LORD

By Nick

Verse 1

Let everything that has breath Praise the LORD
 Let everything that has breath Praise the LORD
 Praise Him with a joyful song
 Praise His Name all day long
 Praise Him with all you can
 Praise Him as a new man

Verse 2

Let everything that has breath Exalt His Name
 Let everything that has breath Exalt His Name
 Exalt Him in the morn
 Exalt Him when we mourn
 Exalt Him when it turns to night
 Exalt Him when it hurts to fight

Verse 3

Let everything that has breath Worship the LORD
 Let everything that has breath Worship the LORD

Worship when the day is long
 Worship when He shows our wrong
 Worship when the night is short
 Worship in His Holy Court

Bridge

So the rocks need not cry out
 'Til the world hears our shout
 So the rocks need not cry out
 'Til the world hears our shout

Verse 4

Let everything that has breath Serve the LORD
 Let everything that has breath Serve the LORD
 Serve Him with humble hearts
 Serve Him when hit by fiery darts
 Serve Him when we help our brothers
 Serve Him in our love of others

NEEDS LIST:	
Bacon	Laundry Soap(HE)
Pork Chops	2-n-1 Men's Body Wash
Chicken Breasts	Dish Soap
Ground Pork	13 Gallon Trash Bags
Peanut Butter	
Vegetable Oil	Finances to repair vehicles
Baked Beans	
Pizza Sauce	
Sugar	
Soft Spread	
Canned Vegetables	

**TRAINING MEN TO STAND FIRM IN CHRIST,
 IN WORD,
 IN CONVERSATION,
 IN CHARITY,
 IN SPIRIT,
 IN PURITY**

May God Bless!