

To: Supporting Local church and supporting Donors

Re: Missions Update Report

Date: August 14, 2005

Dear Supporting friends:

As a supported missionary I felt that we needed to take opportunity to provide an in-depth report as to the ministry purpose, impact and ongoing needs. This update is to you to fully understand our ministry work, the valued support that you provide and how it is used along with the ongoing needs of the ministry as we continue to pursue the call of God. "Grace House" serves a five county area, though we are located in Buffalo, our residents and families are from all over Western New York.

The Ministry has by God's grace and mercy witnessed significant growth and made substantial impact to the communities we serve. Today "Grace House" stands as a testimony to the working power of God that through His people, walking by faith, the church, in collaboration with business and government, can deliver and provide sustainable services meeting the needs of those individuals desperately in need. As we witness men leave "Grace House" with changed hearts, new found spiritual freedom and opportunity to live a life crime free, drug free and the shackles of the past removed, becoming contributing members of society, we are reminded that God is the only hope for change in a dying sinful world.

What is "Grace House"

This vital community project provides a highly structured, transitional residence that holds accountable men on parole (men on parole typically have two to three felony convictions, served in excess of ten years in State prison and limited social skills) to become productive members of their families and communities. While living at "Grace House" the participants are introduced to mentoring and Christian life study courses, which includes money management, job training, parenting skills and other applicable training to deal with life issues.

The Mission Statement and Objective

To provide a smooth transition to community life for men recently released from a correctional facility, who have demonstrated a consistent commitment to change, by providing a highly structured program based on Christian principles.

Ministry Impact to Prevent Homelessness in Western New York

The “Grace House” Transitional Residence provides a unified delivery of vital community services to a target population (men on Parole mandated to the program in lieu of jail or prison) that statistically return to society unprepared to reintegrate and become meaningful productive members of society. The typical client is below poverty level with little education, job experience and may have learning disability. The typical client is persistently homeless and exhibits behavior problems. Often times, due to the history of drug abuse, criminal history, and length of incarceration the clients exhibit various forms of mental illness and require ongoing mental health treatment. Based on the current data the recidivism rate is increasing within our target group. Currently over 4,000 men are on parole within the Buffalo city limits.

The project is vital to the community. Clients of “Grace House” are held accountable to their Parole mandates, afforded medical, mental health treatment, mentored and introduced to life skills training equipping each resident client to manage his life affairs and become a productive member of society and the kingdom of God. Many ‘Collaborating Programs’ are available throughout the Buffalo region designed to assist resident needs. The “Grace House” staff screens and refers residents to community social service agencies that meet needs or can provide assistance with their case requirements.

The men commit to a 90 day minimum stay. Case Workers assess individual needs introducing social program as individually needed; welfare to work job training program, family restoration program, Youth Initiative, mentoring intervention and life skills training to prevent homelessness encouraging individuals to become and maintain being productive members of society.

The individuals that we service are categorized extremely low– income and are at risk to becoming homeless by HUD Section 8 guidelines. Many clients are illiterate and history indicates up to 25% to 30% are people living with HIV/ AIDS.

What the Ministry provides - Activities & Services

Fully Furnished Room includes bedding, bath towels, toiletries and products for personal hygiene. Includes Utilities, Gas, Electric, Water. Telephone privileges, Food includes breakfast, lunch and dinner, snacks and special event meals. Laundry area provided Upon entry to program resident receive underwear, socks, shirts, pants and access to select other articles form clothing inventory. Typically includes, dress shirts, suits, socks, shoes and outerwear for various weather conditions.

Counseling: addiction treatment, anger management, life skills, family restoration and other related needs, Medical referrals, Process “in-house” for Medicaid and related social service assistance program in collaboration with the Erie County Department of Social Services.

Transportation, Family counseling, Mentoring Program, Family restoration program Job training , Assistance with acquiring personal ID and related documentation. I.e. Birth certificates, ID cards, drivers license when applicable, Parole, Probation reporting,

Community programs and neighborhood support projects, Job Training, HIV/ aids Intervention

Program Goals & Objectives

Projected number of homeless individuals or families who are expected to benefit from the program. FY 2005

- 130 - Residents per year
- 455 - family members per year
- 220 - Counseling Referrals
- 60 - job Training Participants
- 400 - Community outreach, food, Clothes, life Skills Program, restorative care, job referral.
- 988 - Estimated number of People served

“Grace House” Buffalo, New York Current operations

Currently houses 20 men from prison in transitional residence, maintains a staff of eight, witnessed the renovation in year 2004 of over \$100,000 of new remodeling and has a program waiting list of over one year. The existing Buffalo facility is at capacity and the need to expand is present and pressing.

Presently our agency is expanding to Utica, NY, Erie, Pa and in Buffalo we are acquiring the properties to our left and right for expansion. In partnership with the Federal agency (HUD), City of Buffalo office of Strategic planning we are pursuing acquiring these properties to establish a eight bed women’s facility and an eight resident independent living center to house graduates of “Grace House”.

Through this success (outcomes and program performance) we are currently examining plans to partner with New York State developing the nations first "Special Needs" Medical Transitional Residence designed to accommodate men from prison with special medical needs. Typical cases are those men with mental health issues, sex offenders, HIV/AIDS/, undergoing cancer treatment, disabled or challenged with limited mobility. Plans under review propose a new building, constructed to accommodate 20 beds located on our Buffalo property adjoining our existing structure. Significant site planning, due diligence and prayerful consideration remains in order for this project to be fulfilled.

Through the White House Office of Faith Based Initiative, our agency became a City of Buffalo, contract provider of Homeless Housing assistance through HUD and specifically the HOME funds program thus reimbursing our agency for related utilities, program expense and limited program overhead costs.

I have taken liberty to enclose numerous letters of support and correspondence that articulates the program impact and value Saving Grace Ministries is having upon the Western New York Community.

Operational Use of Missionary Support

The ministry relies on “Home Mission” support from area churches and individual donors to provide ongoing financial support. This support is used to fund program expenses related to the ministry outreach and work associated with the life skills training, christian curriculum and related case management.

The ongoing monthly support is vital to budget planning and staffing requirements.

The ministry also relies on “special offerings” “special gifts” and donations from area religious organizations that dedicate these dollars to fund special requests, facility special construction or remodeling needs and specific program items.

Though we have experienced a breakthrough in government specific support for various program activities and expenses, as a ministry we rely fully on the body of Christ to supply the ongoing operational needs that maintain and expand our Christian foundation.

Current Prayer Needs and Projects

The Ministry has an immediate need to complete the residential kitchen. The kitchen area has all mechanical upgrades completed and meets all city licensing and inspections. The need is to acquire and install the final kitchen equipment and kitchen utensils for the residential kitchen to become operable. Currently the facility utilizes one kitchen and shares the single stove with residents and staff. Considering the increased caseload and staffing levels the completion of the second kitchen area is necessary.

The (commercial kitchen) requires \$1,500 to complete.

Time Table

Considering the immediate need and the mechanical renovations are completed, the agency anticipates installing the equipment immediately upon delivery from the equipment suppliers. We remain hopeful to place the second kitchen are into service by November 1st, 2005.

We ask that you would pray that God meets this need.

We also request prayer for the current staffing search to find a suitable candidate to become the Ministry Assistant Executive Director of the Buffalo area operations.

Pray that God continues to bring men with open minds, open hearts, and willingness to allow God to touch their lives.

Pray to that God brings forth passionate workers, laborers and volunteers to assist in this missionary field.

Pray that God provides guidance and direction as to how your church can assist this vital community work, either through missions support, men's or women's ministry or perhaps a youth outreach project.

I remain hopeful that his update will provide insight to the depth, scope and impact Saving Grace Ministries is having throughout Western New York and beyond. The dollars you are investing in lives and Saving Grace Ministries missionary work in Buffalo are being used with wisdom, understanding, and a steadfastness to focus on the call of Christ to touch the lost in fervent hope of restoration and enjoyment in the new Life of Christ.

May God give you discernment in the missionary review and use you mightily to touch the nation and the world.

In His service,

Rev. Terry King
Executive Director