

Grace Notes

SAVING GRACE MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2004

"If the son sets you free you are free indeed" John 8:36

"Challenge of Faith" Benefit Dinner Opens Doors

On October 11th 2003 in downtown Buffalo, the Adam's Mark Hotel was the site of the gala benefit event for Saving Grace Ministries.

Highlights of the evening included speeches by Mr. Jeremy White, Mr. Joel Giambra, Erie County Executive and Mr. Thomas

Tatoro, N.Y.S. Division of Parole. The Tabernacle of Orchard Park introduced a newly designed video tape for the ministry and the Korean Church presented the new website.

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Rev. Terry invited to the White House



Left to right: Mr. Kevin Helfer, Rev. Terry king, Mr. Jeremy White, Mrs. Roberta Rifkin and Deputy County Commissioner Carl Calabrese.

Introducing the new website... SGMWORLD.ORG Log on now!

A special thank you to the Korean Church at the Tab. For their donation.



Saving Grace Ministries
P.O. Box 1013
Williamsville, N.Y. 14231

“There is no greater love than this, than a man lay his life down for his friends.”

The “Challenge of Faith” dinner testifies of the power of God to build a mighty nation through people called by His name. Called to serve, called to share, called to reach those desperately in need and seeking a life free from the ravages of the past and a life void of God.

The Bible teaches: Mathew 7:7, “Ask and it will be given; seek and you shall find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks the door will be opened.” Through prayer and active obedience to God’s will, Buffalo celebrated Grace House and the public tribute to God’s people responding to

A Word from the Director



the needs of the community. God opens doors, unifies hearts, transforms a nation, and ignites the passion to serve. The evening re-emphasized that God is still changing lives and restoring a community one person at a time.

As Jeremy White Associate Director of the White House Office of Faith Based Initiative arrived in Buffalo, I was overwhelmed with emotion.

Thinking of my past, a life void of

God and filled with the greed our culture perpetuates, my life was so messed up. Yet, on this day, Kevin Helfer of Erie County contract compliance and I were picking up a member of the White House Staff, meeting with county government officials, state and federal policy makers. I was humbled and reminded.....

When God Calls...A tribute to a friend and servant, Ron Heinrich



Ron and his wife, Jean, at the dedication of Grace House. (above)



Ron hard at work building Grace House as a volunteer. (above)
Ron with Mike Renzi and Rochester Church men’s group adding the fence around Grace House. (below).



by Mike Renzi

Jesus said to His disciples in Matt 9:37,38 “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

What will your response be when God calls for you to go? Where will you be and what will you be doing when you first hear His voice?

I was sitting in a Sunday school class trying to mind my own business, but this day was different. Pastor Terry King was sharing with

passion the vision for Saving Grace Ministries and Grace House. Although I really had little desire for this ministry, God spoke to me to get involved. After taking a step of faith and becoming involved in the harvest, God brought many blessings.

One of the greatest blessings came when I met a man named Ron Heinrich. God brought us together in ministry: called from separate church families and introduced by Rev. Terry. It felt as though I knew Ron before. We would joke about it and say that the Lord must make us feel this way. Our work relationship quickly became a lasting friendship. One day, Ron told his father about me and my occupation as a pile driver. It turned out that Ron’s dad and my grandfather worked together doing the same thing and that our cousins were married to each other. We always missed meeting at family functions, but God ordained that we meet while laboring at Grace House. Ron was the glue that kept Grace House construction together. Volunteers would come and go. Contractors and

churches would pledge and then not follow through. Yet, Ron kept focused.

When we felt like giving up, Ron’s great big smile and wonderful laugh would encourage us to continue. I still hear and see them today.

One day we received a phone call that Ron had been in an accident and had died. My wife, Karen, and I were shocked. How could a man like Ron be killed in such a way? Why did God allow for such a thing? I heard God say to me “the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few” Ron is with the Lord now. Rather than being angry, I choose to be grateful for the friend, brother, and co-laborer God had given me. What a gift. I look forward to the day I get to see that great smile and hear that wonderful laugh of Ron’s. I miss him, but the sorrow is quickly replaced by the sound of his laugh.

Isaiah 6:8,9 says “I heard the voice of the Lord saying, whom shall I send and who will go for us?” Then I said “here am I” Send me” and He said [”Go”.

Well done my good and faithful servant, friend and brother.



Sharing the Miracle: Grace House Erie Pennsylvania takes root.....

By John Finkbeiner

Sharing the miracle ,the seeding of Grace House has begun through the passion and vision of Rev. David Bemus of the Family Worship Center, Erie Pa. The Family Worship center located in downtown Erie has a tremendous impact uniting people and sharing the Gospel. City leaders, and Rev. Dave faithfully heeded God’s direction and hosted a meeting of area religious leaders, government officials and business supporters to hear about the Miracle of Grace House.

The response was overwhelming. From the city Mayor to the County Executive, to area religious leaders,

the commitment by all was to begin the process of establishing a Grace House Erie Pa..



Grace House Erie Pa. Board of Directors:
Rev. John Finkbeiner, Bishop William Dockery ,
Rev. David Bemus, Rev. Terry King, ,Mr. David Sawtelle.

Much work remains ,but through the last several months the Lord has opened doors and brought men of like passion to begin the foundation of a newly created Board of Directors.

Rev. David Bemus, Senior pastor of the Family Worship Center, Mr. David Sawtelle, assistant Director of Yoke Fellowship, Erie Pa. Rev. John Finkbeiner, retired Pennsylvania State Prison Chaplain and Rev. Terry King represent the founding Board. As the work progresses, others with like passion will be added to support the ministry efforts.

Saving Grace ministries, Buffalo New York anticipates entering into a management oversight agreement to assist the Erie effort over the next three years. The intent is that within three years the Erie effort will be self supportive and develop its own local identity.

We look forward to many good reports from Erie in the months to come as God opens doors and seeds are planted.

A word for the director.....

that only through the grace of God this was possible.

Mr. White toured Grace House and commented that it is a model for national prisoner re-entry. He offered to work with us on behalf of the White House to assist with expansion and capacity building. We then toured the “Response to Love” Center ran by Sister Johnice and

then the James A. Dockery Community Center and Day Care. Mr. White was shown the out pouring of God’s provision through these agencies and the dedication of volunteers. When we give without any expectation of return, God will meet us to get the job done. Heb.11:1 “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”

Important Update

Please note that our address has changed to:

Saving Grace Ministries
P.O. Box 1013
Williamsville, New York 14231

Who is Marlene?

Marlene Mura began working for Saving Grace Ministries in 2001.

She has 3 children and makes Lovejoy Full Gospel her home church.

She is a vital part of the Ministry and we appreciate her hard work and dedication seeding into the lives of the men.



Marlene Mura
Grace House
Secretary

Ministry Update

Where we are now?

- Facility running in Buffalo with current renovations to add 10 beds by summer 2004.
- Monthly board meetings for Grace House Erie Pa.
- Weekly Thurs. Bible study for men.

Where are we going?

- Grace House Erie target completion 2005.
- Ongoing planning in Rochester and Niagara Falls and Ithaca /Rome.

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