

Praise Reports

- 1) 3 recent baptisms
- 2) Growing faith of Josh and Shawn
- 3) Physical healing for Donnie
- 4) Many volunteers and financial contributors

Will you help?

This ministry can only continue with the support of financial partners like you. Your gift will make a direct impact on those we serve. Also, consider us under the donor choice

Where's Michelle?

Many of you have asked about Michelle, the nineteen year-old girl God used to birth this ministry. For those of you who are not familiar with her, let me share her story with you.

Michelle, like many of the youth we serve, endured a childhood life of abuse, neglect, and drugs in her household. This eventually led her to a life on the streets, caught up in gangs, crime and an addiction to meth. Through God's amazing grace, He showed us how His unconditional love can transform a life. Michelle walked away from her old ways to a new life praising God for her new relationship with Jesus. Next came the blessings of a place to live and a job.

In February of this year, Michelle left Des Moines in hopes of restoring a relationship with her parents in Ohio. Although we feared she'd have her heart broken again, we knew she had to resolve in her mind whether her family loved her.

Michelle continues to call at least once or twice a month. Unfortunately, her hopes of a new relationship with her parents were shattered. Her mother went back to prison and her father had no interest in seeing her. She has taken it very hard but continues to work in Ohio. She talks of coming back to Des Moines, that she now calls home. I honestly don't know if she has fallen back into her old ways. But one thing I do know—God has not let her go for a second. His Spirit continues to remind her of His love for her. She cried as she told me about seeing the "Passion of the Christ", not understanding how Jesus could love us so much that He would endure that pain. Neither do I understand the depth of His love, but I know it's real and that He is passionately in love with the youth we serve. He weeps knowing their pain and abuse.

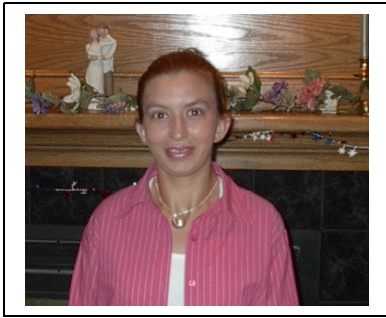
Our ministry is currently serving many kids just like Michelle. Some have come as far, and even farther than Michelle. We praise God that He is transforming lives, for His heart is truly for the fatherless, poor and neglected. As Jesus reminds us, "The first will be last and the last will be first."

Please pray for Michelle and those we serve. Also, pray for provisions for the ministry and my family as my position moves to full time starting August 1st.

Blessings,

Mark Nelson
Executive Director

Testimonies...



Meet Missy . . .

I used to live on the streets. I wasn't getting anywhere with my life. One afternoon me and some friends were sitting in Hawkeye Pantry in the Skywalk, when Mark asked if we wanted to go with him to a Center; I said sure—not knowing what it could be. It turned out to be a great place. Me and my friends were in shock.

WISH LIST

- 1) Stamps
- 2) Large patio umbrella
- 3) Used computers (Pentium II or better)
- 4) Computer paper
- 5) One toaster - 2 slice wide enough for bagel
- 6) Walmart gift cards

I began going everyday it was open. About a month later, me and two others gave our lives to the Lord. We were also baptized where we now attend church regularly. Once I gave my life to God, everything in my life began to get better.

I am now in Job Corps in Denison, where I have a roof over my head, free meals, and school—trades there; all for nothing. I get paid to be there. I give thanks to the Freedom Center for showing me to God.



Meet our volunteers!

Larry Fredericks grew up in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, moved to Indianola in 1968, and to Des Moines in 1992. He has three children and five grand children. He has his masters in history and also in marriage and family counseling. He took early retirement from teaching high school, in order to pursue other opportunities. Larry has attended Lutheran Church of Hope for approximately 4 years and is very involved in small group Bible studies, Stephen's Ministry, and PIGS (Pretty Interesting Guy Stuff) ministry.

Volunteer opportunities

1. Mentors
2. Game room support
3. Prepare & serve meals

Call Joyce or Mark for details

282-4822

Larry is a tremendous help at the Center. He is here all day every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. He says, "It is a joy to teach God's Word, to share with the kids about God's history, and to see God's plan worked out in their lives. It is so rewarding." He continues, "It's such a humbling experience to be part of God's great plan for the Center. In serving others, I've been blessed."

Those of us that are at the Center all the time are blessed by Larry. He is a very generous man and loves to play cards (of course it's more fun when he wins!). He loves God's Word and shares it freely with those who visit the Center.