

"It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life, that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

April
2017

This **Grace** in which we now stand...

Weekly Calendar

Monday

7:00 to 8:30 pm
*Authentic Manhood:
Winning at Work & Home*

Tuesday

7:00 to 9:00 pm
Celebrate Recovery

Wednesday

*No meetings: We are
attending our local church*

Thursday

7:00 to 8:30 pm
*The Quest for
Authentic Manhood*

Friday

7:00 to 8:00 pm
Bible Study

All of our meetings are open to the community.

Visit our website for more details about each of these weekly meetings.

www.InsideOutRecovery.org



God has always been a God of grace, and Easter highlights this place of undeserved privilege.

The culmination of the events that took place on that first Easter weekend, leads us to a place of grace and peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

As Romans 5:1-2 says:

*"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this **grace** in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God."*

We all know and some have experienced that wrong choices can leave painfully deep wounds filled with broken dreams and shattered lives, but no matter the size of the

wounds or the depth of the pain, God's Grace gives us hope in the glory of God.

We ALL have sinned, but we are told in Romans that where there is sin... there is grace and where sin abounds, grace super abounds.

How easy it could've been for Peter to despair and feel unworthy of forgiveness like Judas did. But Peter felt sorrow and repentance, not hopelessness. He knew that what he had done was terrible, but he also knew that Jesus' love and forgiveness, guaranteed by the resurrection, was big enough to cover his worst sin.

Inside this newsletter you will read the testimonies of Greg and Darin. Both of these men also know sorrow and repentance and both know and feel

the love and forgiveness of Christ. All because...

He Came: God wanted to have a relationship with us so He sent His Son to lead us to Him.

He Died: Our Holy God cannot ignore our sins, so He sacrificed His Son's life on the cross so that we can have forgiveness.

He Arose: Jesus was raised from the dead, proving that God accepted His sacrifice for our sins.

He Ascended: After His resurrection, Jesus returned to Heaven to prepare a place for us, to intercede on our behalf with His Father and to send the Holy Spirit to us.

He's Coming Back: Jesus will return to earth to defeat Satan, end evil, gather His followers, and establish the kingdom of God.

Inside Out Recovery

Testimony: Darin Williams—Part I



“It was three in the morning on July 9, 1999 when the judge read the guilty verdict handed down by the jury. And at the age of 34 I was convicted of robbery and attempted murder and sentenced to 80 years in prison.”

“I remember two neurosurgeons telling me my wife had a 30% chance of making it through the surgery to remove wood splinters from her brain, and if she does make it she will most likely be blind.”

Hello, my name is Darin Williams and I am currently incarcerated at the Putnamville Correctional Facility.

It was three in the morning on July 9, 1999 when the judge read the guilty verdict handed down by the jury. And at the age of 34 I was convicted of robbery and attempted murder and sentenced to 80 years in prison.

As I laid there in that dark, dingy, smelly cell asking myself how in the world did I end up in this place and then telling myself it didn't matter anyway, because my life was over.

Looking back now, I had it all wrong, because my life was not over; in fact it was just beginning. I was at the lowest point in my life and God was about to transform me in ways I could never have expected.

I grew up in a two-parent, middle-class home in a small farming community with good morals and family values... a good work ethic and the importance of a good education were instilled in me. All through school, I made good grades, was involved in school activities, and played sports until I was in high school and decided I would rather work. I started working at a young age, and as I grew up, work and the ability to make my own money became more and more important to me. As I look back now, I was already starting to idolize money and material possessions. From all

outward appearances I was doing all the right things, graduating from high school and preparing to head off to college.

As they say, appearances can be deceiving and such was the case with me. During my high school years I began drinking beer with my friends and going to parties. My drinking then didn't interfere with school or work but it was a terrible thing to start. I attribute my drinking to my dad as he always drank alcohol from as far back as I can remember, he even gave me my first beer, so it must be okay if dad does it.

After my first year of college, I quit and went to work full time. I landed a factory job that led to a department supervisor position. It was a good job that paid well, but I hated it... During that time, my father and I became drinking buddies on the weekends, and out of that came the idea of buying a bar and me running it. My dad had always wanted to own a bar and since I did not like what I was doing it seemed like the right thing to do.

They say that mothers always know best, and this time was no exception. My mother voiced her reservations about me going into the bar business, but I believe she knew the decision had already been made. So at the age of 23 I went into the bar business with my father. I loved the business and was good at it and the business began to grow so I immediately began expanding.

After being in business for 7 years and have been married for 5 years to a smart, beautiful woman who was working with me on a daily basis to manage our businesses which had grown from one to four bars. Business was good, life was good, and we were enjoying the fruits of our labor. I didn't see it then but I was a workaholic who was addicted to the money, power, and attention. I drank very little because I always wanted to be sharp so I wouldn't make bad decisions.

On June 21, 1995 my world as I knew it changed forever. My wife was on her way to the bank and was in an accident in which an unsecured piece of lumber blew off a contractor's truck and came through her windshield striking her on the right side of her face. I remember two neurosurgeons telling me my wife had a 30% chance of making it through the surgery to remove wood splinters from her brain, and if she does make it she will most likely be blind.

I had never heard such sobering words in my life and I can still remember the feelings when I received the news. That was the first time in my life I ever remember sincerely asking God for anything.

In the neurosurgery waiting area I stumbled through a prayer and just asked God to save her life and we would figure out the rest. By God's grace she made it through surgery but lost her right eye and was left legally blind in her left eye.

After nearly two weeks in the hospital I brought my wife home. Being the tough woman she is, she worked hard to adjust to her new world and was successful as always. I promised her I would never leave her and would always be there to help her no matter what. For a year I did just that, but then I made a choice that started the downward spiral that ended with me in prison.

Proverbs 16:32 states, *“He who commits adultery lacks sense, he who does it destroys himself.”* I am living proof!

In August of 1996 I began an affair with one of my employees and two months later I asked my wife for a divorce. She begged me not to leave, reminding me of my promise to never leave her.

I had become such a callous self-centered person that I paid no attention to her or her feelings and was only concerned about what I wanted. I treated my marriage like a contract that I

April

Testimony: Greg Barkdull



Hello, My name is Greg Barkdull. I am currently incarcerated at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Facility (IREF).

My past poor choices have led me to prison for the fourth time for drinking and driving. I started drinking as a teenager and I am now 60 years old. Alcohol was my crutch. I used it daily except for brief times when I attempted recovery.

The party lifestyle was more important to me than my family. My family owned a welding fabrication company and I learned a great vocation working there. I eventually quit and went to work for General Motors. I was making more money than I ever had. My drinking escalated to a point I

went to an inpatient treatment center, that only worked for a year and I was right back in that lifestyle. That was in 1986.

Since then I have been in treatment 4 more times with the results always ending with my relapse.

My life always seems to be in turmoil, and I had to leave GM as a result of my multiple DUI's. I have lost 13 years of freedom, because of these poor choices. I have lived with a tremendous amount of guilt because of my alcohol abuse.

When I was arrested for a DUI in 2013, I was facing up to 18 years because of my driving record.

I was given a Celebrate Recovery bible while at the jail waiting on the outcome. I started reading and praying with a completely different attitude. Something had changed within me. My heart was softening to the idea of a Holy Spirit. The more I read and prayed, the more I wanted to learn about God and his healing ability. I had never really believed that he would want anything to do with me because of my past.

Brokenness had finally happened. I started to learn about God's grace and his love for me. I was sentenced to 4 years and will be

home in September of 2017. He intervened on my behalf. My relationship with my family has healed. I have two beautiful daughters, two grandchildren with one more on the way. I have two favorite passages: Heb. 12:5-6 (*my child don't make light of the Lord's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. For the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes each one He accepts as his child.*) Jer. 29:11-13 (*For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me whole heartedly, you will find me.*)

It has to start with me accepting God's grace. As my faith grows so will my recovery. I carried around so much anger, it kept me beat down. It is nice to wake up each day with a different purpose in my life, and that purpose is to celebrate my recovery and to give God all the glory.

Helen Keller said "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved." It has taken me many years to give up my will. To let God lead me down a different path. Knowing that I am forgiven by God's grace through Jesus Christ and I can leave all my troubles at the foot of the cross.

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Testimony: Darin Williams—Part I Continued...

could break because I didn't like the terms anymore instead of the covenant I had entered into when I got married and swore to stay in until death do us part. I was a coward running from my responsibility because I wasn't "happy" instead of being the man I should have been and putting in the work necessary to maintain a good, strong marriage. How I wish I could take back the decision to have an affair and leaving my wife. That was the worst decision I ever made.

Over the next two years I tried to build a life with the woman I

started the affair with but to say it was rocky would be an understatement. I was not faithful to her either, and every time we split up I went immediately to another woman.

I went back to the woman I had the affair with again and this time I thought getting engaged would make things work, but it actually made the situation worse. She was now pressuring me to resolve my divorce so we could move on with our lives.

My dad was pressuring me not to lose anything to my estranged wife in the divorce. I missed my wife

and the life we once had before her accident but I was too stubborn and proud to admit this to anyone. My life was a wreck but I continued to keep my game face on and act as if I had everything under control instead of asking for help.

During this period God was still trying to get my attention. One afternoon in the house I was sharing with my fiancé, as I was preparing to go to work, as I was walking into the kitchen I heard a voice say, "You don't belong here" as clear as a bell. I took two more steps and heard the same voice

again. If I am honest, in my heart, I knew it was God warning me that something bad was going to happen if I didn't get out of that relationship and get my life straight. If I had listened, I probably wouldn't be writing this testimony from prison, but once again I was too stubborn and proud to listen.

We will conclude Darin's testimony in next months issue...



Believing in the power of a second chance

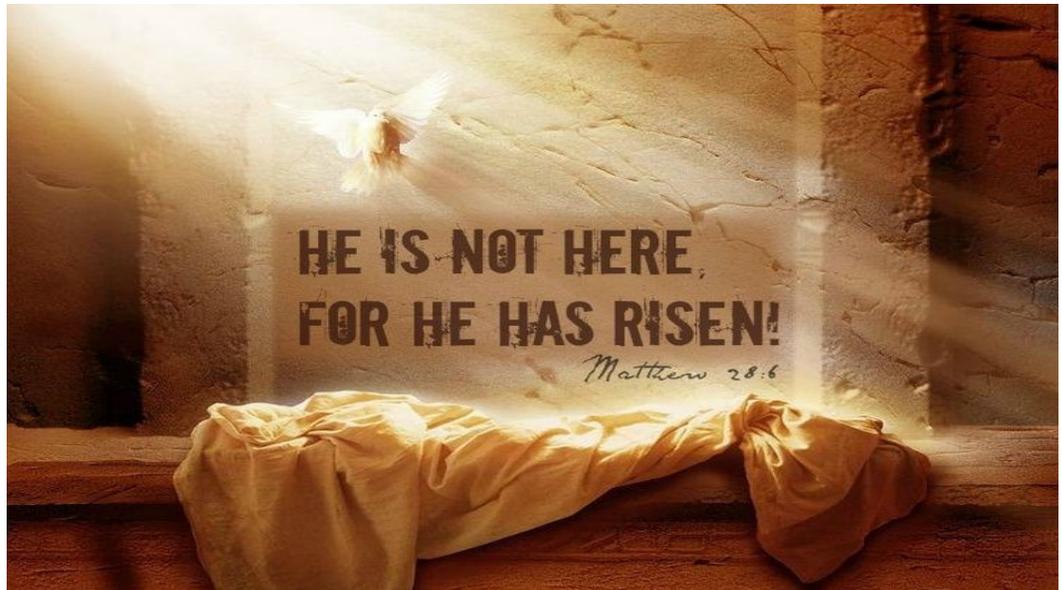
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"Believing in the power of a second chance could not be possible without the generous donations from people like you."

How You Can Help...

Inside Out Recovery is supported by donations from individuals like you.

Your gift helps us reunite men with their families and their communities in a Christ-centered atmosphere.

Your gift provides the residents of Inside Out Recovery with the opportunity, guidance and direction to change their lives in a positive way, giving them **purpose, strength and hope.**

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Many people making even the smallest donations enables us to positively impact our residents, their families and our community.

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