



From Pastor Jim's  
Desk

September 2019

Dear Freedom House Friends,

The mornings now have a little crisp air signaling that our summer has crested. Another sign is the campus petunias all around us are starting to wither as well. These are unmistakable signs that tell me clearly... that our annual auction and Brisket dinner is now coming into view! This year we are planning on hosting this major event October 5<sup>th</sup> and we hope you have that date on your calendar. There are only a few seats left as I write so do finalize your plans and call us at (503) 347-9966 to reserve seating.



From my vantage point I continue to watch men settle in here to their full year commitment who are responding to the healing virtue of faith and hope as a result of their studies, while they steep their souls in the Word of God. Each one is coming out of some extreme, troubled and sin-sick experiences while in the care of this safe residential option that allows them to focus on a new way of living. Each man's basic needs are being met and the message of Christ is sown within on a daily basis. It is deeply moving to have the earnest prayers and partnership of those of you who support us monthly, who are believing as we do that *Jesus is the answer* to help navigate men to freedom from addiction's grip. There is an added benefit as the Lord begins to heal their spirit and restore them from the many horrific consequences they are so often trapped in. We rejoice with each victory as the chains are broken and hope begins to arise within.



I frequently groan with a heavy heart to see our culture try to wrestle with this monster issue as they choose to legalize and make a profit off of these sin problems by opening a gateway to smoking weed legally; a decision that launches millions of lost lives into the vortex of deeper drug use. Our politicians and medical models continue to feed the addict different "pills" in weak attempts to supposedly help. These "therapeutic" meds often have huge negative side effects while neglecting the spiritual root of the issue, (i.e., Methadone, Suboxone) which in themselves include physical and psychological dependency/abuse that keeps a person practicing drug use and their addictive cycle going. Withdrawal is quite painful in itself. And then there is the Methadone approach in which through daily use has proven to affect the brain cells and memory issues. Withdrawal is often more extreme than if one was to go cold turkey off of Heroin, as this replacement drug therapy permeates the bones and teeth of the users. Blind leading the blind.



The point I am trying to highlight is the fact that these issues have affected society as a whole and the news gets bleaker as the days fly by. We are all affected by the associated problems of criminal behavior, homelessness, health issues, accidents under the influence, as well as the emotional price paid in family and marital breakdown, etc. all of which seem to invade our news daily.

Take heart my friends, *where sin abounds... grace does much more abound.* Romans 5: 20-21. We get to see lives turn around daily as your prayers and charitable giving now partner with His Holy Spirit and Word to meet these broken and oft homeless men, by providing a long term answer to their dilemma. Think of it, such rescue and relief efforts effect these hearts not only in their present practical needs but sow seeds of Godly faith and character which when they take root, begin guiding good decisions on into their future. Families, homes and marriages are restored and everyone wins. Praise His Name. This month I just want to stress an important fact... reminding all that together we continue to make a real difference in the lives of men, their loved ones and families. *How I appreciate each one of you who stand alongside.* *Thank you* for being part of a great solution with the added promise of an eternal reward ahead too.



His greatest blessings to you all!

Pastor Jim

Pastor Jim Cottrell  
Exec Director

*“And let us not grow weary  
of doing good, for in due  
season we will reap,  
if we do not give up.”  
Galatians 6:9*

*Helping those who desire freedom from addictions and life-controlling problems.*