

# Mighty to Save ministries

*Offering hope and new beginnings to young adults who want to be free from addictions by providing mentoring, discipling and transition assistance.*

**In This Issue...**

**Issue No. 6 - May, 2013**

**A Work in Progress**  
Page 1 & 2



**Participant's Note**  
Page 2

**Before and After  
Save the Date  
Open House**  
Page 3



**Join the Team /  
Contact Us**  
Page 3

## A Work in Progress

“The Lord is gracious and full of compassion. Slow to anger and great in mercy. The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works.”  
Psalm 145: 8 & 9

“Full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy.” What does that look like? If our lives are being transformed and we are to be imitators of Christ, (John 13:15, 1 Corinthians 11:1) then how do we model this particular behavior when we have been hurt and let down by someone? How do we love through bad behavior and bad choices that not only affect their lives but affects ours in the process?

It’s human nature to tend to move away from a relationship when someone has disappointed us. When we have reached out to someone only to have them lie to us and not do what they said they would do, we want to cut that relationship off. To do otherwise is painful; and why would we want to continue to let ourselves be vulnerable to that kind of abuse?

Over the past two months, we have had a young man staying with us as he

transitions out of a life-style of addiction. This is the third time he has come and stayed with us. The other two times when he left, his departure was sudden. This young man’s history is when things get uncomfortable, or “when something is expected of me that I don’t want to do”, or even the rebellion of “no one is going to tell me what to do”, he flees. He runs away like a mighty rushing wind, and leaves only the blur of sometimes broken hearts behind him.

In the past two months, we have seen so much growth in this young man. He has “ears to hear”, (Matthew 11:15) and will regularly step out in faith. Once, at the bus stop, he felt the Lord tell him to go across the street and pray for a woman sitting on the bench. He argued with God for a while, then gave in, and went over to ask the woman if he could pray for her. Not only was she blessed by his prayer, but he was blessed by his stepping out in faith.

But as usual, the enemy was not about to sit by and just watch this young man walk with Christ without putting up a fight. Life was getting busy with work. Devotion time started to dwindle. New relationships started to develop and became a distraction. Pretty soon, old

patterns of behavior started to show themselves.

Then it happened, the running, the not coming home, the not following through, and the not communicating. As we talked with others about what was going on, we got the usual and very logical response. “He has to go”. “He is not respecting you or your home.”

This all made perfect sense. We were hurt and disappointed, almost buying into the lie of “What did we do wrong?”. However, God is faithful and even though we were hurt, we did not become angry. Wow, that is something new. We were worried, but not dismayed. Hmmm, that’s weird. As Van and I talked about what we should do, we kept coming up with the same question... “What is driving this behavior? Let’s look past the behavior and let’s look at his heart. Something is going on here.”

Four days later, we sat down in our living room with this young man and just asked the question, “What’s going on?” Because he knows and trusts us, and because we had not acted out in anger, guilt or condemnation, he felt safe and opened up his heart to us.

*See “Work in Progress ” on page 2*

*“Work in Progress” - from page 1*

He had some revelations, making some connections of “when this happens, this is how I respond”; and was able to work through some of it. He went to the Lord in prayer and laid some things to rest.

Is he completely over this behavior? Probably not yet, but being aware of the behavioral patterns, and being willing to work on them is the beginning of being healed. “I am confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:6. All of us are a work in progress.

A few days after our discussion, this young man decided there are some things that he just isn’t ready to give up at this point in his life. He made the choice to leave our home. We are praying this doesn’t mean he permanently walks out of relationship with us. We still want to come alongside him, still want to be in relationship with him. There is still hope. Jesus has not walked away either. He is still passionate about this young man and he will continue to be there for him whenever he calls out to HIM. HE will never leave him or abandon him.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17 We are holding fast to this promise for our young friend.

~ Christina

**Participant’s Note**

This month I would like to share with you three poems by an inmate named Kenneth Butler.

We were first introduced to Kenny when he was our son’s cell mate at the Snohomish County Jail.

Kenny is in his 40’s, and this is his 7th time going to prison. Kenny writes, “I thank God that HIS word declares, ‘A righteous man may fall seven times and yet rise again.’ (Proverbs 24:16a) He keeps raising me up and I am so grateful.”

“I called on the Lord for the first time in a jail cell in the Snohomish County Jail

a little over 15 years ago, and the Lord has been doing a work in me ever since. He has done so many things and changed me so much since then. He has used prison in a huge way with me, in filling me with His Word. My advice to all who would be disobedient is “DON’T”. There are much easier ways to get a good education in the Bible.”

“I am definite proof that God most assuredly does, “work all things for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.”

“Don’t ever lose heart. Even when we don’t believe we measure up, if He began a good work in you, He will complete it. God/Jesus doesn’t do anything half way. Amen!”

Please keep Kenny and his wife, Cindy, in your prayers as God continues to move in both of their lives. We are trusting in HIM for a full restoration for these two.

**BEST FRIENDS**

By Kenny Butler

I’ve got a friend named Jesus  
Best friend I’ve ever had.  
Seems like He’s always there for me  
Through the good times and the bad.

Can’t say I’ve done the same for Him,  
I leave Him all the time;  
But while I’m gone, He waits for me  
This patient friend of mine.

Well, I looked Him up just recently  
And asked Him to come in.  
He said He’d come and stay with me,  
Forgive me for my sins.

So, come and meet this friend of mine  
And He’ll be your friend too.  
Just ask Him to come in and stay.  
That’s all you have to do.

**Revelations 3:20**

*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.*

**REFLECTIONS**

By Kenneth Butler

Your heart is a mirror  
What does it reflect?  
Does it treat people bad,  
Or with love and respect

Does it crave lots of money,  
Or some worldly thing?  
Does it Praise Jesus  
And cause you sing?

Does it cause you to steal  
Or maybe do dope,  
Or make you a giver  
Who gives people hope?

Take a look at your mirror  
Do you like what you see?  
I did, and I didn’t  
Till Christ set me free.

Now I look in the mirror  
And I see His Face,  
And that’s a reflection  
That can’t be replaced.

**Proverbs 27:19**

*As in water, face reflects face  
So a man’s heart reveals the man.*

**LONGING**

By Kenny Butler

When will I get what I long for?  
And when I do, what will it be?  
For there’s a longing deep inside of me,  
But what it is I cannot see.

I toil and spin and labor.  
For what, I do not know.  
The Lord has told me, “Sit still”,  
Quit wandering to and fro.

You see, I know He’s got a plan for me,  
And things for me to do.  
He’s got a plan for everyone,  
Yes, including you.

So learn His work, and seek His face.  
That’s where we must start.  
For the longing that I’d longed for  
Was Jesus in my heart.

## Before and After

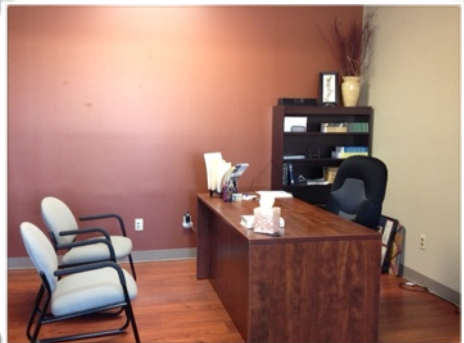
### Save the Date for Our Open House!

With Mary McEathron's interior design abilities and all your generous donations, our office is up and running and looks AMAZING!

A huge THANK YOU to everyone that blessed us with furniture and finances to make it all happen.

**MtSM Open House**  
 Saturday, June 22, 2013  
 12 to 3 pm  
 390 NE Midway Blvd. A103  
 Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Please come by and take a look at our new home.



#### Thank You!

Words are unable to express the extent of our gratitude. Your consistent prayers, words of encouragement and ongoing financial support make it possible for us to be in relationship and offer hope to others.

## Join the Team

**Prayer:** Your prayers are powerful and effective! If you would like to join our team of Mighty to Save Ministries Prayer Warriors, please send an email to: [prayer@mightytosaveministries.org](mailto:prayer@mightytosaveministries.org)

**Financial Support:** Please consider MtSM in your monthly giving. You can give a one time donation or schedule monthly giving using Paypal. Go to [mightytosaveministries.org](http://mightytosaveministries.org) for details.

#### Prayer Request

Please keep **Transitional Housing** in your prayers. Finding a safe place for someone to go once released from jail, prison or other programs is very important. It's our heart's desire to own, operate and offer MtSM Transitional Housing to potential candidates.



**Samantha count down...12 Months** →

Mighty to Save Ministries is registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 entity. Contributions to Mighty to Save Ministries are tax-deductible.

## To Support MtSM

#### **Commit to Pray — Email**

[prayer@mightytosaveministries.org](mailto:prayer@mightytosaveministries.org) and request to be added to the email list.

#### **Finances — MtSM is funded solely by private contributions.**

Your ongoing support helps in funding the purchase of Bibles, teaching materials, travel, meetings, volunteer training, counseling and so much more. Please consider supporting MtSM on a monthly basis.

## To Donate

Mail checks to the below address or go to [mightytosaveministries.org](http://mightytosaveministries.org) and donate online via PayPal.

## Contact Us

#### **Mighty to Save Ministries**

P.O. Box 1738  
 OAK HARBOR, WA 98277  
 (360) 929-2959

[info@mightytosaveministries.org](mailto:info@mightytosaveministries.org)

## Board of Directors

**Christina Bowling — Founder/President**

**Van Bowling — Vice President**

**Shar Dyer — Treasurer/Secretary**

## Finance / Bookkeeping

**Sandi Hiles — Bookkeeping**

P.O. Box 1738 | Oak Harbor | WA | 98277

ministries

Mighty to Save