

Spring 2020

A Letter from The Executive Director

As Stand at the Crossroads Ministries' 20th Anniversary approaches in April, we are rejoicing! Thanks to your responses to our Christmas letter and God's grace, we were able to purchase and annex the "house next door" as part of Stand at the Crossroads Ministry. **Grace House**, as we have named it, will soon accommodate up to three women with children in this temporary lodging while they seek more sustainable situations. We receive calls every week from families in desperate straits whom we cannot yet help, so we are making this house our priority.

We hope to open the door to Grace House by April; but before we do that, there is some remodeling on which we are working: customizing the kitchen with individual pantries for the residents; insulating and drywalling the sun porch to make it a safe all-weather playroom for the children; creating a bedroom for a house manager; and generally refitting the common areas to make them responsive to multiple families. We have much of the furniture that we need, again thanks to donors; but there are costs associated with the materials and some of the labor for remodeling.

We have also begun the search for a woman with a heart to be a live-in Manager for Grace House. If you have any interest in, skills, time, materials, or funds for this project, we would love to hear from you!

I am also delighted to announce and invite you to our 20th Anniversary Open House on Saturday, April 25, between 2 and 4 p.m. at the Stand at the Crossroads Campus. We will provide tours, refreshments, and at 3 p.m., the residents and I will have a special presentation! This is our opportunity to thank all of you who have encouraged and supported us over the years, so please come and enjoy this opportunity for fellowship and praise.

Our feature story tells the amazing origin of Stand at the Crossroads Ministries, My Father's House. As you read it, I am sure you will realize how God built and has protected and provided this ministry for more than twenty years - you are a big part of that story!

Thank you again for your continued assistance to and provision for Stand at the Crossroads Ministries.

In Christ's Love,
Deborah Lamb





My Father's House

About 22 years ago, my aging and ailing parents were in possession of property for which they could no longer care but on which they were still dependent for the rental income from a house and a couple of cottages that sat on it. The challenge was compounded by the fact that the big house (which had been converted to contain two apartments) had suffered severe fire damage, had a seriously leaky roof, and was infested by termites. The cottages had also fallen into serious disrepair over the years. Though I wanted to help them in any way I could I had few resources, knew nothing about home renovation and had no building skills. Nonetheless, when my father offered to give me the house if I would fix up the cottages to bring in rental income for them, I could only say yes.

It seemed a double blessing - a way to do something for my parents and a big house that might prove an extension of a modest vision of ministry that God had planted and was tending in my deepest heart...providing sanctuary for women facing challenges and seeking a deeper relationship with the Lord. With the help of a small group of girls from a Bible study I conducted in my home, and whatever materials I could scrounge as needed, I cleaned out, repaired and painted the cottages to get them rented.

Then, we bravely (naively) tackled the house. By this time, the girls and I saw that this could be a home for a couple of them who needed a more secure roof over their heads, so we decided to restore the house to include five bedrooms and three bathrooms. We tore down walls, patching the roof, renovating one room at a time, learning skills we never knew we had, until at least part of it was livable.

As soon as a bedroom, bath and the kitchen were restored, the girls were able to move into the house, and we held Bible Study there. The Bible Study group grew, as did the help we started to receive from my church and the community. Thus was born, the house my earthly father gave to me - the discarded treasure our Heavenly Father helped us to redeem...***My Father's House.***

Nearly twenty years after it officially became home to a handful of women who needed transitional shelter and support as they found their way back to productive lives, My Father's House is part of the non-profit ministry Stand at the Crossroads Ministry. SATCM is now a campus that will soon have grown to provide sanctuary and supportive community for up to 18 women - 8 single women and 10 women with children! In addition to two houses and two apartment buildings, we have a Community Center for meetings and child care with an attached laundry cottage, an office, a thrift store (Redeemed Treasures Boutique), gardens, a playground, and several storage buildings.

Never in my most far-flung prayers or wildest imaginings, could I have foreseen what God would do with my small dream - or what He can do when we trust in Him and follow His lead. He brought in the volunteers, donors, and resources needed to build His House into a Community, and as we have continued to pray and remain faithful to His guidance, He has never failed us. Though we are not able to accommodate all the women who turn to us, we believe that the Lord brings in those who need us most.





2-4 PM

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