



**Spring 2021**

**Hello to all our faithful Friends from the Director,**

Spring and warmer weather are here, and we hope you are all doing well. Stand at the Crossroads had a remarkably good 2020, and things are progressing smoothly here in 2021. We have already accomplished much since our Christmas newsletter went out!

We are thrilled to let you know that renovations on Grace House, purchased to accommodate more women with children, are complete; and we can now take applications because of all your extra support and work. And the Lord answered our prayers for a Resident Manager in Grace House, bringing Carol and her son Michael to us just after it was completed! We are especially thankful for our Thursday volunteers, who have continued to do projects, renovations and maintenance throughout this challenging time. Some of the renovations undertaken at Grace House included taking down walls, a fireplace and a chimney; closing in the screened-in porch; and constructing a new entrance and playroom. All needed furniture and two refrigerators were donated. We pray that Grace House will be a place of peace and healing for many women and children. You are invited to come see it, to appreciate what a beautiful, hospitable home it is.



Because of your generous donations in response to our Christmas letter, Stand at the Crossroads Ministries was able to finish Grace House *and* pay off the store loan, so Redeemed Treasures is fully ours! We are striving to pay off the Grace House mortgage quickly to be debt free again, so we can devote more funds toward helping our residents. We are \$70,000 away from being able to do that.

We obtained a much-needed riding mower to keep up with the increased yard maintenance. Volunteers will be helping with that, now that we have a good running mower. In addition, our Thursday crew is focusing on renovations to the upstairs apartment behind Redeemed Treasures (to house a single woman or woman with one child) and performing maintenance on My Father's House. It seems that some work done when we first started 20 years ago now needs updating.

We were able to provide one of our residents with a car and see two other ladies get their licenses and purchase cars. Another of our residents moved on this year, and her story is in this newsletter. It has been a joy watching her respond to God's Word and His love and see the healing in her heart and relationships with her family restored.

This is what Stand at the Crossroads Ministries is all about: God's love and His Word, changing hearts, minds and lives. So, rejoice with us, and please keep praying that God continues to direct us and bring us the women He is calling to come and experience His love and goodness.

Thank you, and bless you all for your love, support and prayers.

**Debbie Lamb, Director**



## Elana's Story (In her own words)

My name is Elana and this is my testimony. I came to My Father's House on Dec. 13, 2019. Before coming to the doors of SATCM I was broken in so many ways, but most importantly I was spiritually bankrupt. My relationship with God was a one-sided street based solely on my self-will and refusing to surrender it to Him – always wondering why He wasn't helping me. The irony of it is that He was helping me because He brought me here.

My destructive behaviors and drinking career of many years led me to being locked up, in psych wards and on the streets numerous times. It wasn't until my marriage fell apart and my husband told me he couldn't live with me anymore – I had to leave my home. I'm actually grateful for him not enabling me anymore because if I didn't have to face these consequences, I would have missed out on the journey of where I am today. I had thrown away all of the relationships I had – with God, my husband, family and friends. My life was full of no's – no home, driver's license, car, job, money and oftentimes food and shelter. These were the physical things. The unseen things were far more devastating to me because I was listening to Satan's lies that I was unworthy. I was living on the streets of Aiken – leading an existence of no hope in my life. Through God's grace, I heard of My Father's House. I felt pulled here after crying out to God, begging him to save me from the person I had become. I pleaded for him to reach out and grab hold of me. I was now willing to do whatever it took to get out of the misery I was living. Coming to My Father's House was the new beginning I was praying for. Thank you God!

I dived right into the routine and appreciated our daily devotions that gave me a good shot of God's Word. "The Word of God is alive and exerts power." Hebrews 4:12. I turned to reading the Bible more and more – studying on how I could apply it to my life, meditating and reflecting on God's will for me and the perfect example my savior, Jesus Christ set for me. Through AA and Celebrate Recovery, I immediately became active in my recovery. I got a sponsor, went to meetings and started to work the steps. This laid a solid foundation for me to give me the strength to become the person God created me to be. The strength to repair my relationships in my life that I had damaged and to start over.

After 13 years of no job, at age 52 I started working, got my license, saved up and bought my own car and started repairing my marriage in a short time. My husband saw such a change in me in four months that he asked me if I wanted to come home. I knew I had to work on myself more first, but was visiting him twice a month. But in April 2020, I lost my husband. He died of a heart attack in his sleep the night before he was to pick me up for a visit. How was I to cope with this? I was truly devastated, but God held me close and I leaned on SATCM for their overflowing love and the words of my sponsor to do the next right thing and trust God. I rest well knowing that my husband got to see the person I was becoming.

What is it like for me today? I am a new woman in Christ, ever-evolving. I am 15 months sober and counting. I have repaired the relationships I have with my family. I'm leaving here fully confident in my new life. I'm moving to the New Bern, NC area through a leap of faith that God is leading me to. I got my own apartment that is close to where my family lives. I am truly thankful to SATCM, Ms. Debbie Lamb and Ms. Linda Anderson and the volunteers and all who donate to this ministry for without you, I wouldn't be here today. I can testify that SATCM is the key that God uses to unlock the bars that were caging me. **Today I am free!**



*"Stand at the Crossroads and look: and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is and walk in it and you will find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:*

## Our New Grace house manager



God answered our many prayers for a Resident Manager over Grace House and Crossroads Community by bringing us Carol Kilbourn.

Carol came all the way from Missouri, then after a short stay in North Carolina believed God led her here to our ministry. She won't officially be our resident manager until after three months of seeing if it's a good fit for us and them. Carol's 13-year-old son, Michael is mildly autistic but has a sweet spirit. Carol has had a past of similar experiences of that of the ladies here at SATCM, so she can relate to their needs and difficulties. She has been willing to do anything for us; helping with our gardens, leading devotions, joining our Monday prayer group, helping in the store, and organizing our supplies. We are so grateful to have her here.

## Future Plans for SATCM

We're excited about all that God has been doing in our ministry. We continue to see God expand this ministry in ways never imagined 20 years ago. Some plans for the future are:

- Work on the upstairs apartment for a resident.
- Continue paying off Grace House.
- Add more landscaping around Grace House to beautify it.
- We're praying to eventually purchase the house between My Father's House and the apartments, to use for an office because we have outgrown our little space.
- Continue pouring into the ladies He brings here to help them grow deeper in their faith.

## New Parenting Classes

Last month we started a monthly parenting class for our moms here at SATCM. Denise Sherrard has volunteered to teach ladies lessons that she has learned as a single mom in the past as well as information from a job she once taught at First Steps here in Aiken. We have wanted to use some of the excellent information from the book, *Parenting by the Book* by John Rosemond, and now Denise will be using that as well to help the ladies. So far, Denise has covered different personality trends, potty training, and answered questions from the moms. We're so thankful for this opportunity.

## Wednesday Night Bible Study Change

We have moved our Wednesday night Bible Study to Calvary Chapel each week. The ladies are able to go through a book of the Bible in a short study with the pastor, then go to their own class as a separate group to discuss the teaching. Going to the church has provided babysitting for the moms with children, allowing more of our ladies the opportunity to grow in their faith. This has also given the ladies a chance to meet other godly Christian women and to glean from their experiences and biblical understanding.



# REDEEMED TREASURES THRIFT STORE



**Open Tuesday – Friday 10am – 4pm & Saturday 10AM- 2PM**

Stop by to find your treasure and help our ministry! Redeemed Treasures sells lamps, jewelry, household items, clothing, shoes, furniture, linens and more! Summer items are now out.

Our store helps our ladies with employment & to work off hours in lieu of housing/program fees until they have a job. It gives ladies needed clothing when they come into our program, and gives us added income.

## How Can You Help?

### Volunteer:

We would love to have more volunteers helping in the store or praying with us on Mondays or joining the Thursday men working on projects here. We are so thankful for all the “little” blessings & gifts we’ve been given by so many people: seeds for our garden, Valentine gift bags, haircuts, Easter bags, quilts, groceries, help with the back fence, security lights, and more.

### Donate:

House Supplies  
Personal care items for residents  
Store Items  
Cars  
Gift cards  
Monetary Donations

Stand at the Crossroads Ministries is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.  
Donations are tax deductible.

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