Thankfulness: What does it look like at Waypoint?

Eph. 5:20...always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

How do we become thankful for everything? It is certain that it doesn’t happen in our own strength. For the short time I have been on staff here at Waypoint, I have learned one major life lesson: God shows up and He helps everyone, staff and men in the program alike, to see Him in all areas of their lives. Even in the depths of addiction and especially in the recovery from it, God is there.

Yes, gradually and with sincerity, thankfulness comes even for the hard parts of life. It is not about the struggle, but about who we depend on in that struggle. When we are His and know it, we can lean on Him and know His strength will sustain us.

When I hear men say that their past life led them to Waypoint, and they are glad to be here and not back there, I know God is working.

So, what does “Thankfulness” look like at Waypoint?

Phil. 2:13b,14
But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

On the inside pages of this newsletter you will find testimonies from Waypoint men. I encourage you to read each one. You will be touched by their words and by the way God is working in each of them. Pray for all the Waypoint men as God leads.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Barbara

Stay Warm—Buy Firewood from Waypoint

For weeks, the buzz of power saws could be heard as they ripped through fresh cut wood. Due to the skills and strengths of several of our men here, we are now able to offer something new at the Thrift Store. Waypoint is selling firewood. The best sounds, however, were the voices of the guys as they talked back and forth. Working on more than cutting wood, they were also developing relationships. Amid the sounds of men lifting and moving heavy logs was laughter, teasing, and sometimes serious words. God is stretching these men from different backgrounds, teaching them to work together, to depend on each other, and to grow into community. We appreciate your support!

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Stephen

My name is Stephen. I am from Dyersburg, TN. When I was 15 years old, I moved to my mother and stepfather’s house in Birmingham, AL. I bounced back and forth between parents until I was 21. At that time, I started working in restaurants and delved deeply into social alcohol and drug use. The more I did, the more problems I found myself having. Eventually, drinking and the like was no longer a libation, but more so a vice.

Before coming to Waypoint Center, I have known for several years that I couldn’t live the way that I wanted to live. In March of this year, 2012, I crumbled under the misery of my situation. I cried out to God with sincere supplication that I be delivered. I didn’t expect it to take form in the manner that it has, but nonetheless, I was delivered within the month.

Throughout my time at Waypoint, I have seen many parts of my character that have needed, for a very long time, to be removed or worked on. I have received ministry and for the first time in nearly a decade, I am not ashamed of my life. Prayers are heard and likewise answered.

Jason

Where did I come from?
Hi, my name is Jason. I come from a lifestyle of doing everything my way—drugs, sex, whatever. I did what I wanted when I wanted, no matter what. I used drugs up to the point of me overdosing and dying; that still wasn’t enough for me to stop. One day I just decided that I’d had enough.

What is God doing in my life?
God has given me enough courage to go against my flesh and get myself in this program. He has allowed me to re-dedicate my life to Him, and has already started easing some of my pain. AND He is giving me hope.

Where Am I Going?
I honestly don’t 100% know, but I do know that as long as I continue to do what is right by God, and follow Him, wherever I end up will be a million times better than where I came from.

Paul

I came from sexual, emotional, and physical abuse. I was a little boy and I did not understand why anyone would be doing this to me.

After twenty-three years of being clean and being at Dunklin Memorial Camp in 1990 for five years, I am learning that God is in control of my life. I am receiving a deeper healing of old wounds and learning to hear and be obedient to the Holy Spirit and do what He tells me to do. I am going to go back and be the head of my home, love my wife like Christ loves the church. I also feel that some how, some way, my wife and I will be, with God’s help, ministers to married couples or to men and women through use of the Genesis program.

I do believe there is a God, and I am not Him!!
Greg

My name is Greg and I am from Cocoa Beach, FL. I came to Waypoint in sheer desperation with my life damaged by many years of addiction to drugs and alcohol. All hope was lost in a world of fear and depression and I was unable to stop a downward spiral. My life was full of broken relationships and a ruined career; it seemed that ending it all was the only solution.

I prayed every morning for God to change me, even yelling at the top of my lungs crying out for help as I felt all alone. It is really remarkable for someone as selfish and stubborn as me to admit that God is real and that He led me here to a place that is changing me more and more each day.

I have learned that only God can create this change in me and if I seek and follow His will for my life that I, for the first time in my life, can live in Joy and Peace, breathing the clean fresh air, looking forward and past the pain of addiction.

Jeff

My name is Jeffrey. I was born in Seoul, South Korea in 1982. I was adopted when I was 8 months old by Nancy and Greg. I was raised and lived all my life in Chesterfield, MI. I had a good set of parents who raised me right. Mother was a great woman of God, my father a great man, but not a Christian. My sister was also adopted and I was always proud of her, a good kid. I fell into a life of addiction and struggled with pain pills and anxiety pills for 11 years. I turned away from God and the way my parents raised me. I got into trouble, but God was still always there to protect me.

I have been here at Waypoint for only 2 months, but I can truthfully say God is already working in me and on me. This is not easy, but He is showing me that He is the only way out of the mess I have made, and that I must also help others, not just myself, because that is His plan for me. I am learning it is His way or nothing at all. I cannot beat addiction alone. I need Jesus; my way never worked. I know I must surrender to Him.

I truly feel God has a plan for my life. I have always been told that, but right now I must wait on the Lord and get healing and learn how to have healthy relationships with others, also to forgive myself; only then will He be able to use me in the form He wants to. I am in a good place. God has spared my life for a reason and His Glory, that I know.

Thank You, Lord.

McKee

On July 6th of this year, I was presented with an experience not unknown to most heroin addicts: get help now, or die.

I, unlike most other heroin addicts today, was fortunate enough to have been given a second chance at life, which in retrospect was not chance at all. It was God telling me that His plans for me would not be superseded by my own. Only upon entering Waypoint were these plans for a bright future made plain to me, and I thank the Lord every day now for bringing me here. I came in here with no hope, and He has restored it to me. My desire to live had left me, but He was merciful enough to let me see the purpose I have in not only my life, but the lives of those I love.
John 6:35

Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.”

My name is William Livingston. I am proud to say I am a graduate of this program. I came to Waypoint in 2009. I came in search of something to fill that hole in my life—something new that I’d never known before. At Waypoint I found a true relationship with Jesus Christ! That’s what I had always wanted, but never had the courage to surrender until that moment.

After graduating in 2010, I returned to Waypoint in January of 2012 as a volunteer in Servant Leadership Training (S.L.T.). I am now on staff and have the privilege of managing our industries. The Thrift Store, E-bay and Nursery are more than just businesses. They are places where the men get to put into practice what they learn in the classroom.

I’ve also had the privilege of first teaching Discipleship and now teaching Orientation (the first stage in our program). This is an awesome opportunity for me to get to know the men as they first come into the program. Teaching the men is also helping me to relearn the lessons. I am excited to be learning from our Program Director, Dave Garton as well. Please keep me and the men in your prayers as we learn and grow together.

In closing, I would like to introduce you to my best friend, my blessing, my partner, and my wife, Jennifer. It is so cool to have a relationship with someone who loves Jesus more than they love me!! Together with the Lord leading us, we can do anything.

If you find your walk with Jesus boring, ask yourself, “Why?” Be obedient and see what exciting things he has planned for you!

The next time you stop by the industries (located at 27 Panter Dr., Dahlonega, GA), look me up!

William and Jennifer Livingston