



ANCHOR HOUSE  
THE HOUSE OF HOPE  
EST. 1967



# New Beginnings

Christmas Edition 2015

*From Our House  
To Yours,  
Merry Christmas  
and a blessed  
New Year!*

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### *The Reason for the Season*

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

*Luke 1:8-14*

# *Life should be celebrated!*

*It is a precious gift packaged in different shapes and colors.*



## From the Desk of:

### *"God's Favor"*

Just as a child is born and grows to adulthood, so is the ministry of Anchor House; growing and expanding. As staff you're on the road to your daily destination and as a resident you're on a whirlwind of blessings and favor from the Lord.

God spoke to the founder of this organization, Rev. Cotto-Thorner, who became obedient to Him and said "Yes". Each year Anchor House continues to service the public in different ways.

As I come to work and serve, one thing I have to confess is that He meets our needs. I share with the clients, "Although you're here working on your recovery, God will continue to care for your concerns."

One day outside of Anchor House I heard a man of God say "Obey God's word and leave the consequences to Him." To this I agree. There are some who enter treatment and leave without completing but they too testify, there's no other place like Anchor House; their lives were touched. Christ has an army of testimonies.

From the desk of Larry Utley  
Clinical Intake Counselor



# Our Families

As we celebrate this 2015 Holiday season we are reminded of the blessing of provision that Anchor House has been to our family. As we sat around our Thanksgiving table we were amazed at the miracle of restoration that Anchor House has been a part of for our family. Our daughter graduated the program a little over a year ago and what God has done for her is nothing less than amazing!

After several years of substance abuse that led to a subsequent arrest we were led by a fellow minister to Anchor House. From my first phone call which was answered by Ms. Alison, to our daughter's admission into the program, I could sense the anointing and favor of God on the program. Every time we came as a family to see her on Family Night it made us feel comfortable and we were convinced that this was God's provision for us. Our conversations with Ms. Beatriz and the warm hugs and reassurance from Ms. Pat assured us that God was working and using these wonderful women to bring His restoration to my daughter.

While the process was difficult for our daughter she began to change back to the girl we know and raised years before her battle with drugs. Within a few months she was well on her way to recovery and the restoration to the plan and purpose that God had for her from her conception.

Today she not only has everything that she had lost but restored back tenfold. We have our family back and it's stronger and more on fire for God than ever before. She is committed to giving back to the community and fulfilling her purpose in this life. We had "THE BEST" Thanksgiving this year that we have ever had.

I thank God daily for the vision, administration, staff, volunteers and donors that continue to make Anchor House what it is by His Grace. It is an anchor and safe haven in the time of storm. It is a warm and welcoming place where the broken hearted lives of wonderful men and women can come and find rest, purpose and hope for the future that was once taken from them.

Anchor House has given back to my family the best Christmas present we ever got, our daughter. The sound of her laughter, her ability to cope and overcome the trials of this life and her ability to learn to love herself and others as God loves her is the greatest gift a father could ask for. Thank you Anchor House and thank you Jesus!

Pastor Dono

# Prayer Station



## *"Thank You"*

Lord I worship you and I magnify you for you are worthy of praise.

I thank you for another chance at life and another chance to make it right at Anchor House.

I thank you Lord for all that you are doing for us at Anchor House and all that you're about to do in our lives.

I thank you Lord for your love, grace and mercy; you restore on us daily.

I thank you for your Son Jesus Christ, who transforms minds, hearts and souls.

*"Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven and it's righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."*

*Matthew 6:33*

God please help us stay focused on You and to devote our lives to you. Lord please help us to live according to your will and fill our lives with peace, love, joy, patience, kindness, faithfulness, goodness, gentleness and self-control.

In Jesus' Name, Amen!

F.S.

## *"Father God"*

Father God we kneel before you and ask for your mercy. We ask that you would forgive us of our sins. Our Father God we are witnesses that you created everything perfect. You use us to help build and encourage one another in the faith. As we continue to walk and you walk alongside us we ask that you to keep shining your light upon us. Keep our hearts open to you and help us hear your voice as you speak to us. Thank you for all the miracles you did in my life.

W.M.

# Prayer



# Words of Encouragement

## "On Your Birthday Lord"

We celebrate your birthday Jesus,  
on Christmas day.  
I'm so very, very, very thankful,  
I just have to say.

Your birth, your labor and your sacrifice on the  
cross that you made just for me  
is the ultimate gift to mankind.

I'm so glad that now I see.

So on your birthday Lord, I will celebrate.

Your name I will gladly praise.

I will sing, dance, clap my hands and pray.

I will worship you, Lord with all my days.

K.B.

## "Letting Go and Letting God"

When I arrived at Anchor House I was full of  
resentment and anger, not willing to turn my will  
over to God nor the staff. I was struggling  
accepting my situation; in rehab in NY during the  
summer away from my family. Not where I  
wanted to be. Due to the fact that I don't believe  
in luck or coincidence I know I'm right where God  
wants me to be. As time went on I began to feel  
Jesus working on me. My attitude changed, I  
looked at things differently. I began to pray asking  
God to show me what it is I need to do to be closer  
to Him; to see His face. I then began to develop a  
closer relationship with God just as I prayed for  
with the help of Anchor House staff. I know I  
believe again in my heart that all things are  
possible through Christ who strengthens me!!

God is good all the time and I'm here to say God is  
Love!!

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but He  
loved us and sent His son to be the propitiation for  
our sins." - 1 John 4:10

We love Him because He first loved us.

TTW

## "Just Me"

So what can I say other than  
God thought I was worth saving.

So what must I say to explain  
these things that I'm still feeling.

In spite of the fact that I'm not perfect  
but I'm still real and I will do what I need to do in order  
to survive.

Due to the fact that I search inside a couple of times I  
realize I already done died.

So it's not too much that can really bother me.

I try to emerge anew

and break these habits that hang over me from the past.

As I gave up so much of these things that I don't need

I found out I was really a child of a King.

God gave His only begotten Son for me a sinner so I may  
become clean

All I needed to do was believe in His word and apply  
myself correctly

I allowed God to correct me and in the midst of it all I  
started adjusting so much. I stand in awe of so many  
things I faced; I lost so much. Just knowing if I keep on  
striving there's so much in store for me. My will to  
survive is so much more than before and I throw my  
hands up and submit to the will of God knowing I will  
win. I ask Him for the strength to turn into a servant  
and do whatever job that He wants. I pray and I say, I  
"God, please help little ole me because I'm so tired of  
this."

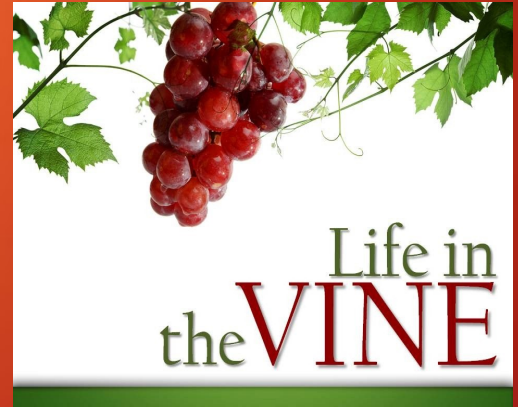
F.M.



# Di-Vine Poetry

*"I am the Vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*

*John 15:5 (NIV)*



As a baby, Jesus came from His home above  
He left His throne, and who He was,  
to teach us how to love

As a baby, Jesus came  
wrapped in swaddling cloth,  
willingly took on humanity  
Though he was one with God above

As a baby, Jesus came  
to one day grow to be  
The Savior of the human race,  
for you and for me

As a baby, Jesus came  
as God's eternal light  
that will never be extinguished  
but forever shine out bright

As a baby, Jesus came  
the hope of eternal life  
reconciling us back to God  
giving meaning to our lives

As a man, Jesus died  
His blood poured out for all  
cleansing and forgiving us,  
for to this He was called

We thank Him that He came a babe  
and grew to be a man  
and for his sacrificial love,  
His nailed scarred feet and hands

Through it all we can live on  
with Jesus Christ our Lord  
the babe that came that first Christmas  
is what we thank Him for.

D.M.

## *"Celebrating Jesus Birthday"*

Christmas is not about massive amount of  
money spent.

Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ.  
Christmas is about God's free gift of eternal  
life.

It's not an opportunity for greed, lust,  
gluttony or drunkenness.

It's a wonderful time to help this world's  
afflicted and starving poor.

Christmas is the season for peace on earth,  
loving, caring and forgiving.

Santa Claus is not a hero of Christmas  
but Jesus is the Hero of Christmas!!

Santa Claus doesn't bring unlimited amounts  
of goodness and gifts to the world  
but scripture says that all good things come  
only from God.

Jesus Christ was God's gift to the entire  
world.

Christmas is a time of showing the love of  
Christ.

Christmas is the time of year to be thankful  
for God giving us a chance to have a new life;  
by accepting His Son into our lives so we  
may live with love and righteousness and  
inherit eternal life with Him forever.

*"For God so loved the world that He gave  
His one and only Son that whosoever  
believes in Him shall not perish but have  
everlasting life."*

John 3:16

L.S.





*This hope we have as  
anchor of the soul. A  
hope both sure and  
steadfast.....*

*Hebrews 6:19*

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To learn more about Anchor  
House please visit our website  
at:  
[anchorhouseinc.com](http://anchorhouseinc.com)

**OASAS**  
Licensed Intensive Residential  
Treatment Program

# Our Alumni

*"I Can Do All Things..."*

I grew up in the church, a stereotypical pastor's daughter who felt like she never fit in. Unfortunately, I strayed away from the church and got involved in a lifestyle where I felt like I fit in. Once I was deep into 10 years of addiction, I realized that I was trapped. What once felt like freedom became prison. Anchor House saved my life and brought me back to the realization that I was powerless on my own; powerless without God. I spent the most important 8 months of my life in Anchor House realizing who I really am and what I can do with God in my life. After leaving Anchor House, by the grace of God, I have 21 months clean and sober. I have a great job, a car, my family back and people in my life I can call true friends. I built relationships with people that will last a lifetime and I can't see how I could have done this on my own.

E.D.

