

From: Dan Hatch [mailto:dhatch@straightahead.org]
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2006 10:09 AM

October 2006

Dear Friends:

In some ways, life in this ministry is like a roller coaster ride. The lows occur when kids reject Christ, backslide within the facility or backslide after returning to the community. The highs are positive responses to the Gospel and young people walking the walk that's pleasing to God.

We read about the lows in the newspapers or hear about them on television. A young person holds up a bank or corner market for drug money or is killed in a high-speed chase while running from the police. Too many return to the juvenile system or 'graduate" to the adult system. They are highly visible.

But the highs - the successes - are not as visible. They fail to make the headlines or the evening news. Their stories are about transformed lives. Let me share just a few of their stories with you.

- Jim* is from the Maine coast but currently resides at Long Creek in South Portland. He regularly attends the Bible study that Carol and I lead and takes every opportunity to hear about God and Jesus through chapel services and other ministry events. He made a decision to follow Christ and encourages others to join us for our Friday night Bible study. When Jim recently had a problem with another resident, he admitted his mistake, apologized to the other boy and accepted responsibility for what he did. In the past, he would have blamed whomever he could and never apologized. I've heard from staff that they see clear changes for the better in Jim.
- Paul* is in the hold-for-court area at Mountain View in Charleston. He came to a Bible study led by one of our ministry teams and decided he needed Christ in his life. Two days before my visit to Mountain View in late September, his family joined him for family-day activities. When his Dad saw the obvious changes in Paul, he told Paul that when he visited again, he wanted to hear about what had happened to bring about these changes. In the Bible study he attended on the night of my visit, Paul's prayer was that he could find the words to share his life-changing decision with his Dad. With the staff's approval, I was able to provide Paul with a brochure to help him explain his newfound faith to his father.
- I met Rose* in the girl's unit at Mountain View on the same night I met Paul. She was due for release in two days and was returning to the Waterville area. We talked about changes she needed to make on the "outs" in order to be successful and avoid the same troubles that originally brought her to Mountain View. When she mentioned that she wanted to find a good church, I was able to suggest a church with a strong youth group and a youth pastor that worked extensively with at-risk youth before taking his current position. She agreed to check it out.

These are only a sampling of the stories of the young people we serve. There are literally hundreds more. Thank you to all who are providing prayer and financial support for this ministry. We appreciate it.

privacy.

In Christ,

* Name changed to protect

Dan

Dan Hatch - E-Mail:

dhatch@straightahead.org
Enclosures

P.O. Box 163, Turner, ME 04282
Phone: (207) 225-3040 E-Mail: dhatch@straightahead.org

***Dan & Carol Hatch-October '06
Praise and Prayer Requests***

Ministry

- Praise for two recently trained volunteers for studies at Mountain View in Charleston.
- Please pray for a volunteer for a girl's study at Long Creek. We have one ready to go and need a ministry partner to join her.
- Please pray for two volunteers for Stepping Stones in Houlton. I met with three pastors who will help us to locate local volunteers.
- Please pray for four new volunteers for newly opened Good Will - Hinckley studies.
- Please pray for Carol and my boys' study at Long Creek. The boys are not consistent.
- Praise for improved financial results for the ministry. September's income was much stronger than the summer months.
- Praise and prayers for a very substantial financial gift from Good News Chapel in Lewiston. Praise for the funds provided to our ministry. Prayer for Good News Chapel's members. They decided to close the church and distribute the assets to several local ministries - including ours. Please pray that their members will find the best church for each to attend and serve.

Personal

- Praise that our Texas daughter-in-law, Melissa, will not be confined to bed rest during her pregnancy as anticipated.
- Please pray for a healthy delivery for our daughter-in-law Danielle and son Matt for our new granddaughter due in mid October.

Financial Report (Fiscal Year is Apr to Mar)

	<u>Sept '06</u>		<u>Year-To-Date</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Receipts	\$6,129	\$6,333	\$32,195	\$37,998

Expenses	\$4,031	\$6,333	\$33,209	\$37,998
----------	---------	---------	----------	----------