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NEWSLETTER

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A New Year has begun and with it the 2015 plans for Jesus is the Way are also off to a great start. I will be visiting pastors, businesses and individuals to spread the mission of JITW; our chaplains will continue ministering in prisons and jails as faithfully as they have in the past. Plans to celebrate this year's banquet on August 28, 2015, in a newer, much larger convention center are taking shape. I am anticipating a greater move of God's Spirit in all of these endeavors as well as in the aftercare program. We have has a group of men complete the course requirements and will be graduated soon in our second commencement exercises. We have applications from several more men who will be entering the program soon. To help JITW continue this training, we want to welcome our new Director of the Aftercare Program, Mrs. Mary Evans.

Dennis Daniel

Executive Director

I was born in Decatur, IL on May 22, 1955, the only child born to Harold and Hilda Esh. I was raised in a loving, but very strict home and attended the First Congregational Church. My parents instilled family values, a strong work ethic, and were always loving and supportive.

A "Daddy's Girl," I loved school and singing in the school and church choirs. At age 19, my world was shattered by the news that my father had been diagnosed with aggressive lung cancer. At Daddy's funeral, three months after diagnosis, I decided God had killed my father and was NOT loving or trustworthy. Grief propelled me down a dark path of alcohol and drug addiction. Within 5 years I flunked out of college, married and divorced, buried my first-born son, and found myself contemplating suicide. Miraculously, on March 30, 1980, I cried out to God for mercy and forgiveness; He answered with His amazing grace. God led me to an on-fire-for-Jesus church where I was baptized in water and the Holy Spirit; the prodigal daughter had returned home.

In 1985 I received the call to serve others battling addiction. I enrolled at the University of Illinois, finished my BA, and earned my MA in Counseling. My 25 year career includes serving in residential and outpatient settings as a Counselor, Clinical Supervisor, and Clinical Director. In 2010 I received a new assignment from the Lord to serve as primary care giver for my aging mother. I resigned my Clinical Director position at Prairie Center, opened a small Christian counseling practice, and cared for mother until she transitioned to her Heavenly Home.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

My husband, Jerry, and I celebrated our 20th anniversary in 2014 and live in Champaign. We share a blended family of 4 daughters, 1 son, 7 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild, and 8 furry grand-pets. We fellowship at The Vineyard in Urbana and enjoy traveling (we love the beach!), music, fishing, and spending time with family. Our favorite scripture is Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

Jesus is the Way is a wonderful ministry with staff and volunteers that truly love the Lord. I look forward to serving with you as we assist our Aftercare members learn more about Jesus and build a new life in Him. Blessings to each of you!

Mary Evans

Aftercare Director

NUTRITION CLASS



NEEDS

Paper Towels
Toilet Paper
Dish Soap
Toilet Cleaner

Kleenex
Window Cleaner
Laundry Soap
Electric Stapler

MY LIFE GROWING UP

Growing up as a child I thought love was a way of showing how much a person cares. But I was wrong; I was abused by my Grandmother for no reason. I did not know why she did not love me, but I soon found out, why, but that's another story. It did change my life, I started hanging out in the street, I joined the gang, and soon I started doing drugs.

My life changed again when I met my wife of ten years, and then I went back to doing drugs and lost my family. I soon went to prison and that is when I gave my life to Jesus. There were things in my life that drove me away from God, but I found my way back. I thought everything in my life was coming together and this is when I started selling drugs.

Again that life took me back to prison. This time in prison I started going to a Bible study done by a volunteer (John Henderson) of Jesus is the Way Prison Ministry. I went to his Bible study for two years, and soon after applied to come to Jesus is the Way for more treatment. Being here at Jesus is the Way I have learned how to stop living a life of selling drugs and live a life of following Jesus. I thank God so much for giving me another chance of living a good life. Jesus is the Way is helping me in a lot of ways. They have classes that help me to learn more about anger management, corrective thinking, relapse prevention and being responsible for my own actions.

My future plan is having my own place, to have a job, and just live a drug free life, and keep God first in my life and try to help other people who have walked in similar circumstances as I have walked.

Moses Spears

STAFF AND RESIDENTS AT CELEBRATE RECOVERY CHAMPAIGN'S 5TH BIRTHDAY



Founder
Jesse Mathes (1942-2008)



Executive Director
Dennis Daniel

Aftercare Director
Mary Evans

Assistant to the Aftercare Director
Scott Krile

Aftercare Support Services
Dexter Patterson

Prison Services Coordinator
John Henderson

Jail Service Coordinators
Darrel Dunnigan
David Nisbet
Women's Division
MaryAnn Bridges

Case Manager
Kathy Mayberry

Support Staff
Edith Mathes

Rantoul Staff
Brenda Krile
Vicki Schoonover

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POTLUCK WITH RESIDENTS, STAFF AND A LOCAL CHURCH



SAVE THE DATE!

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