

# The Beacon

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Issue #11

## LEAVE YOUR PAST BEHIND



**A** few weeks ago, I spoke with a man who was wholeheartedly convinced that he needed to return to his past in order to find healing for his future. Against the advice of his support network, he chose to return home, moving back into a very unsafe and unhealthy environment, believing that his newfound sobriety was enough to sustain him. Sadly, it wasn't. A few days later, I received the call that he had committed suicide. He was unable to deal with the stress of returning to his past and his unhealthy environment.

As heartbreaking as this story is, it happens often.

### *Hurting people seek escape...*

Drugs, alcohol, needles, illicit relationships, power, etc. will never heal the hurt. If I could have had one last conversation with this man, I would have pleaded with him to leave the past behind and press forward toward the goal of pursuing Jesus (Phil. 3:13-14). Yes,

drugs and alcohol are a temporary escape from the hurt; however, they are not the answer. Alcohol can numb the pain for a time, but it is not the answer. Needles can satisfy for a time, but they are not the answer. Illicit relationships feel good in the moment, but they are not the answer. Power and control may seem to help for a moment, but they are not the answer. There is only **one** answer to life's hurt and problems; this answer can be found in 2 Corinthians chapter five, which says, "If anyone is *in Christ*, he is a new creation; the old things have gone, and all things have become new."

### *A personal relationship with JESUS CHRIST is the only answer!*

We at The Lighthouse strive to stand with the hurting and downcast, sharing hope in the madness, directing conversations, and sharing the good news of the gospel.

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## Moving Forward

Choosing a different path is a major part of leaving your past behind. This is exactly what one of our Life Recovery Home residents did last month! Dustin chose to take a bold stand for Christ and was baptized. It is exciting to watch him grow. His baptism is a great testimony to the change Christ is making in his life.

Before he was baptized, Dustin was given the opportunity to share his story. He shared about his family, his love of sports, his two boys, and how drugs led him down a terrible path. He shared about his overdose on heroin and how his son pleaded with him to get help after finding him lying on the floor. This overdose was a turning point in his life, a turning point that led him toward Christ and a new way of living.

We celebrated Dustin's decision to follow Christ. I will never forget what he told me. He said, "Brandon, following Jesus is my new life, and getting baptized was a sign for others to see how serious I am. Being changed by God gave me a cleansing sensation for my soul which produces great joy and freedom."

Please pray for Dustin as he continues to grow! Pray that he will be sensitive to God's leading, that God will open doors for him, and that Dustin will follow Him eagerly for the remainder of his life. Congratulations, Dustin, on taking such a major step in your walk with Christ. We look forward to what God has in store for Dustin's life.



I recently had a conversation with the Allen County Health Commissioner. In our conversation, she expressed that the need against heroin in our community is for more beds at residential rehabilitation centers. She is thrilled with the idea that we will be able to expand the number of beds we have available. I promised her that this is a necessity that we need the support of our local judges, and she expressed the same need. She has people waiting for help; however, there is a lot of need, and we want to do more! All the beds at our Life Recovery Home are spoken for, and we are looking for more. We are calling on you to help invest in the future, to stand up and fight, to help make a way for the gospel. If you have a house or building that we could use, or have the ability to assist us in any way, please let us know. The Lord of the harvest will send more workers and a place for more beds!

**Press forward. Cling to Jesus.  
Don't let go. And don't go back!**

Don't get me wrong, I believe that there are valuable lessons we can learn from our past. It's not healthy to settle there (or dwell there, Isaiah 43:18-19).

**There is hope for your hurt.**

We want to talk to you about the hope you can find in Jesus. Call us at The Lighthouse, and we will take the time to talk. Or visit our friends at RemedyLive.com, which is a great place to find support.

It's too late for my friend. He made a forever choice, but it's not too late for you! Reach out; ask for help.

If you are reading this and you have found the freedom and hope that Christ offers, I plead with you to join The Lighthouse and invest in the lives of the hurting. We are told, "Go into all the world..." (Mark 16:15). Help us reach the hurting in our community.



In Christ Alone,  
*Brandon Bower*  
Brandon Bower  
Founder and Director

He stated that one of the greatest needs in the fight in our work at The Lighthouse and asked when we will we are working to fulfill. A week later, I ran into one is no bed space open in our community. The need is looking for a second house with more beds to meet the for us to expand our services and reach more men with ay, we need to talk. The need is great. Pray that the



The Lighthouse is seeking to hire a Program Director to help with our Life Recovery Groups, our Mentor Program, and reaching the lost with the Gospel! If you are interested in being a part of what God is doing through The Lighthouse, email your resume to:

[BiblicalLifeRecoveryCenter@gmail.com](mailto:BiblicalLifeRecoveryCenter@gmail.com)



If you are interested in counseling, men's ministry, nonprofit work, or just putting something great on your resume, we have a fantastic internship for you! You might participate in our men's discipleship program, or you could be on the front lines raising support and awareness for our ministry, or possibly planning our next event. I know one thing for sure; you will be down in the trenches with the whole team, helping with administration stuff like data management, social media, and marketing. If your next step is making a difference for Christ, we have a spot for you at The Lighthouse. Contact us today!



**W**e need a van! If you can help us locate a 12 passenger van, please contact us! We are in need of a van to transport the men in our Life Recovery Home to church, groups, and events. The work will continue without it; however, a van will assist us in many ways!



## Prayer Points:

- Please pray for our upcoming Community Training Seminar.
- Pray for the men in our program, and the ones who will be coming in the next few weeks.
- Pray for our Mentors, Board Members, and Volunteers.
- Pray for a van, second house, and office space.
- Pray for additional, monthly financial partners.
- Pray for the salvation of lost souls and that we will be sensitive to His leading.

**U**ppcoming events: Mark your calendars for the following:

**Pizza Parties** - Join us for a meet and greet pizza party! We will be meeting the following Sundays through the summer: May 7th, June 4th, July 16th, and August 13th at Aboite Baptist Church (5700 Homestead Road). Lunch begins at 12:30 p.m. Please RSVP for more details.

**Community Training Seminar** - Join us as we host a community training seminar on July 15th starting at 9:00 a.m. **This is a free event.** Lunch will be provided for a \$10 donation. This event is open to the public, and the training will provide you the chance to learn how to biblically address life's problems. Our speaker is pastor, teacher, and author Dr. Mark Shaw...save the date!

*A special thanks to Sweetwater Sound and Bott Radio for partnering with The Lighthouse in sponsoring our Faith & Family Night Event.*

