

Testimonies from Two Former Students

From Anastasia:

"This Christmas my assurance is in the Lord. I am celebrating what He has been doing for me and how He is saving my life. My family situation has been a rocky road, but in God's family, love and acceptance are always guaranteed. He is my ultimate Christmas present; the inner peace of knowing that He is truly there. This Season reminds me of another big blessing: your support that helps keep me in the Program. Thank you and Merry Christmas."

Christmas 2007

From Marilyn:

"Wow! I can't believe my time here has come to an end! I still remember when I first walked through these doors: broken and with no hope or dreams. I struggled with a drug addiction and through that lifestyle I lost who I really was.

Before I came to NLGH (a move that changed me in ways I never imagined possible), I never knew that God was with me to help me along the way. Now I know! I also know, through my time here at the Home, that dreams DO come true- it was always a dream of mine to work with mentally-challenged or disabled people and I already have a job in this field lined up for me when I graduated.

Thank you, New Life, for giving me a second chance."

Spring 2004



FOUNDATIONS

During our 25th anniversary year this column will be written by those who have been instrumental in our development and growth over the years. This month's column is by Kevin Stenhouse

I was a sceptic; I admit it! When Brother Larry (New Life's founder) came to the County in the mid '80s and started sharing the vision for this ministry I really didn't think it would fly. Even if he could get the churches on board, who would financially support it? How could he ever find the amazing property that God told him was the perfect place for the ministry - and if it was found, who would pay for it? And even if all these "practical" things came to pass, what young woman would give up over a year of her life to come to this relatively unknown corner of Ontario to be mentored and disciplined by a bunch of strangers?

Well... of course, I was wrong. Here we are celebrating 25 years of New Life Girls' Home and I stand back amazed at what God has done. This ministry has literally touched thousands of lives - students, families, church communities, staff, Board Members... and the list goes on! It's touched me - that's for sure! I served as Executive Director from Dec 2002 to Aug 2007 and those years were full of miracles of every kind. As I look back, it's easy for me to say "I should've done this or I could've done that," but I'd rather look at what God did do. I celebrate the students that came and lived out their healing in so many ways (some graduated the program, others didn't quite make it; but all were impacted by the Holy Spirit)! I celebrate the staff who gave sacrificially of their time and talents (and, for a season, their own paycheques). I celebrate the churches and individuals who stepped up during those years and ensured that the work of the Girls' Home would continue.

And, of course, I celebrate a God who heals, delivers and sets free. As I write this, I'm also working on a draft for this Sunday's sermon. It's Pentecost Sunday this week and these words perfectly sum up what God has done and will continue to do at New Life Girls' Home: "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death." I'm a sceptic no more!

Kevin