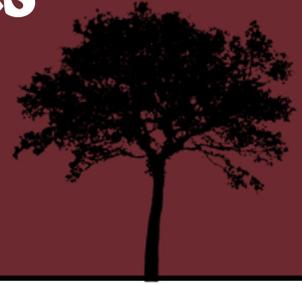


Changed Lives Ministry



Volume 1, Issue 2
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LOWCOUNTRY GIVING DAY

On May 5th, CLM participated along with other local nonprofit organizations in Lowcountry Giving Day, sponsored by Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina. This event was a huge success for CLM.

A local donor (The Cohen Family Fund) set a fixed incentive of \$10,000 for CLM, meaning if we raise \$10,000 they would match it with \$10,000. Praise the Lord we met this challenge. A big thank you goes out for all who stepped up to help us meet this goal.

For more information on this event, go to www.lowcountry-givingday.org.

GRADUATION

A CLM graduation was hosted at Santee Circle Community Church on May 31st. Ryan Bradford and Robert Cobb shared their testimonies and Elder David O'Dell presented a message to those in attendance. This was a wonderful celebration that started off with the SCCC praise band performing in concert and closing out with refreshments and fellowship.

However, attendance was down, so we encourage everyone to make a point to attend future graduations. This will be the last time to see these men off as they begin a new chapter in their lives and transition back into society.

There are over 75 men who share devotions at CLM and over 13 churches that support this ministry. All of you play a big part in their spiritual growth. Don't miss out on this awesome blessing. So, let's make every effort to attend this glorious celebration.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Life is filled with ups and downs; it's like an emotional rollercoaster. Whenever you are feeling troubled and life has got you down, take a moment and meditate on what Paul tells us in 2 Cor. 4:17: "For our light, and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all." Times will get tough and times will get hard, God never said it would be easy, but we can rest assured that He is in control, for one day the truth of 2 Cor 4:17 will be revealed when we see Jesus.

It is humbling to watch men walk into our doors searching for answers and see them transformed in the time they spend with us. Many of them aren't even sure what they desire, need or want. It is such a blessing to see these men at the end of their ten weeks, transformed into new creations, anchored in truth, and having a foundation to reenter the world with the confidence that only the Lord can assure them.

Everyone who supports CLM plays a huge part in taking what they have, and sharing it with the men. The interaction these men experience through LIF groups, worship services, devotions, fellowships, and serving others is priceless. Time

and time again we hear comments of how Christians have shown them love and compassion when they thought there was no one who loved them or cared about them.

It isn't the material things that make a difference in these men's lives; it's the spiritual, the love, and caring spirit of each of you. CLM and everyone involved helps provide a protective barrier from the outside world and a place they feel safe. In this setting, we are seeing miracles through spiritual transformation. God has invited us to join him in making a difference.

We have joined in a ministry that should overwhelm us, but through Christ, He provides victory to people who face addictions, broken spirits, and fractured families. To be successful, we need to be like Peter, and be willing to give all that we have. God can take that, multiply it and use it in fantastic ways. Thanks to everyone who supports this Ministry. Pray daily for this ministry, the men, and the staff.

In Christ,
Keith Griggs

RUN FOR CHANGE



The 3rd annual Run For Change 5K Run/Walk was held on Saturday May 16, 2015. There were over 140 participants on campus for the opening ceremony hosted by Pastor David Clanton with Suzanne Raney singing the national anthem and Pastor Mickey White leading the invocation. The event concluded downtown Moncks Corner at the New Athletic Complex. A big thank you goes out to all who participated and volunteered for this successful event. All Proceeds will go to Changed Lives Ministry and Habitat for Humanity.



What CLM Means to Me

BOARD MEMBER JACKIE BLACKMON

Jackie serves on the CLM Board of Directors and has been involved with CLM for many years. He and his wife Tammy have been instrumental in helping with organizing our annual golf tournament. They have 2 daughters Demi and Parker. Demi is also involved with CLM and is the Editor of our quarterly newsletter. Jackie is a go-getter and has been a blessing to this ministry. I've ask him to share a little of his heart and testimony.



Jackie Blackmon: "I've been involved with Changed Lives Ministry for 9 years now. I, myself, suffered from an addiction to alcohol and found myself admitted to a secular rehab program in Wilmington, N.C. I stayed there for 21 days at the cost of \$18,000 just to be told that I was

an addict and would always be an addict. Upon my departure from there I started attending AA and NA meetings every single day. Even though I was staying sober, there was still a void in me that only God could fill. Pastor Henry Simmons of Berkeley Baptist Church told me about CLM. I started attending the evening devotions, and it didn't take long for me to realize that all I needed was God. That void inside of me was quickly filled, and God told me that I never had to say I was an addict again. I'm so grateful for the opportunity now to serve on the Board of Directors for CLM.

I'm thankful not only for being able to serve but for the godly influence I receive from the other men on the board. Changed Lives has done just that. It has changed my life."

VOLUNTEER STANLEY BRUCE



Stanley is a member of Berkeley Baptist Church and has been volunteering his time with CLM for over 5 years. He and his wife Judy have been married for 47 years. They have a son, Scott and a daughter Gwen and 4 grandchildren.

Stanley is a Deacon and Disciple team member at Berkeley Baptist. The Sunday school class he leads prepares a meal once a month and brings it to the campus where they serve and share a devotion with the men. Stanley is heavily involved in missions and many other functions in serving the Lord. He is truly a man of God and CLM is bless-

ed to have him serve and mentor the students. Just a great example of how a man of God is supposed to live.

Stanley Bruce: "What a blessing it has been to me to have been involved with Changed Lives Ministry for the last 69 months. Last September was 5 years that we have prepared a meal and devotion for the guys at CLM. Cooking has always been one of my passions and sharing Gods word another, so what better way to do both? But try as I might, I still receive the greatest blessing from my time there. You can always find me at the ministry on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Please continue to pray for the men that come through the program."

RECENT GRADUATE TESTIMONY

My name is Robert Cobb; I am 34, from Bethlehem, GA, and the father of two boys, DJ 14, and Reilly who is 11. I lived a relatively sober life when I was younger and about the age of thirty I started to notice a change in my personality and emotions. Dealing with constant feelings of sadness and insecurity, my life suddenly seemed out of control. I didn't drink alcohol or do drugs and in my emotional state, I was desperate to find any relief from the depression that now gripped me. This is when I started using prescription pain pills. I realized the pills were controlling me and I had a problem, but didn't want to admit it to my family. At the age of 31, a psychiatrist prescribed me medication for depression and A.D.D. I did not notice any measurable effect from the anti-depressant, but did from the Adderall and starting abusing it.

I lost my job in February of 2012 because of my addiction and it also had an adverse effect on my marriage. My wife and I separated on June 4, 2013 and shortly thereafter, all communication with my family ceased. Unknown to the whereabouts of my family, I was crushed and felt lost and abandoned.

This brought my depression to its lowest point and on Father's Day 2013, I tried to put a permanent end to my pain through suicide. Days later I woke up in the hospital ICU confused, disoriented, and in worse shape than ever. I was discharged and admitted to a behavioral health center where I spent five days talking to counselors and psychiatrists. Once again, I was

prescribed anti-depressants and again with no measurable effect. One day while talking with a neighbor about my mental state, he introduces me to crystal meth. I used methamphetamines for about a year and began noticing my health starting to deteriorate. On September 22, 2014, I confessed to my mom about my addiction. Thereafter, I checked into a Christian based rehab in Aynor, SC and for the first time I felt broken. I humbled myself and began developing a real relationship with Christ. Though I was growing I still felt like I was missing something.

On October of 2014 I met Neil Raney who helped change my life. He encouraged me to read my Bible and was there to answer questions about life or God. He stood by me, a shoulder to cry on; never passed judgment, prayed with me, encouraged me, and gave me hope. I am forever grateful to him and to God for placing him in my life. For the first time, I started to see myself in a different light. I learned how to not just talk to God but to listen to Him.

When my time in the program was coming to an end, I was listening for God to tell me what to do, but no clear answer. A friend advised me simply to wait! As I waited, a series of events occurred that could have only been orchestrated by the hand of God, which led me to Changed Lives Ministry. My knowledge of God has grown from the reading of the daily bread, proverbs, principles and devotions; I've also learned how to live by God's Word. Before, I put all my hope, values, and understanding in the things of this

world. God showed me how blind and shortsighted I had been and how to completely surrender myself to Him. I lacked belief and faith and ask myself, how could someone as detestable as I, be worthy of forgiveness and a life of prosperity?

Genesis 32:10 says "I am not worthy of all the unfailing love and faithfulness you have shown to me, your servant." So if the man whose descendants were to be as numerous as the sands along the seashore felt unworthy, then I was in pretty good company. James 1:2-4 reads "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

I know I am not where I need to be spiritually, but, as I read the bible, my understanding of God's word is growing and my faith is developing. In times of extreme anguish, I cry out to God and he eases my troubled mind, heals my wounds and catches every teardrop.

Here at CLM, I am rebuilding the foundation for a new life on solid ground, with Christ as my cornerstone and God's word as my foundation. I now boldly proclaim that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior. I thank God for rescuing me, my mother for never giving up on me, all my brothers for their patience and kindness, the Board, devotional speakers, and the churches who support CLM and show how Christians should truly live. 1

Timothy 1:17 says, "All honor and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; He alone is God. Amen."

Thank you and God bless
Robert Cobb.



CLM APPRECIATION DINNER



This event was held on Thursday April 23rd on the CLM campus. What a great experience it was for all who attended.

The campus was well groomed, the weather was perfect, the food was excellent, and the testimonies were heartfelt. A special thanks to the guest speaker, Senator Larry Grooms who delivered a powerful message. A big thank you goes out to the caterer's Morris/Barbara Wilburn, Pastor Jared Knight for providing

the music/ audio, Christine Meadows and Kim O'Dell for planning and organizing the meal, and all who helped to make this event a success.



CLM PRODUCTION

TMI Productions is in the process of producing a Video of Changed Lives Ministry. You may have seen them filming at various events, Run For Change, Graduations, Men's Fellowships, Hope Repair etc. The purpose is to tell about the ministry and how it is affecting the lives of those who experience it.

Calendar

CLM Graduation @ 6 p.m.

June 28, 2015

Santee Circle Community Church .

Fourth of July Picnic @ 2 p.m.

July 4, 2015

Pastor Mickey's house in Pinopolis

CLM Graduation @ 6 p.m.

July 12, 2015

Berkeley Baptist Church @ 6 p.m.

Screven Men's Fellowship @ 7

July 20, 2015

Jedburg Baptist Church

Find us at www.scclm.org



HOPE REPAIR

One Saturday per month the men at CLM along with Pointe North Community Church get the opportunity to serve others by volunteering throughout the community to help those in need.