

**“If for only one”  
Luke 5:4-7**

**How You Can Help:**

- Pray for us
- Donate supplies
- Volunteer at the Gifts of Grace Resale Store
- Teach classes
- Become a Grace Partner

**Grace Partners:**

Please prayerfully consider becoming a Grace Partner. As a Grace Partner, you join with us to build, strengthen and support the House of Disciples through prayer and by committing to support the ministry with a monthly donation of any amount. As a monthly supporter, you impact the lives of each man here at the House of Disciples.

**Board Members:**

- Dan Biggs
- Charli Caraway
- Johnny Collier
- Wes Haefs
- Bruce Hinton
- Nathan Pennington
- Mark Rasberry
- Lenard Thompson
- Roy Wiseman

**Mission Statement:**

To make disciples who know Christ, share Christ, and multiply Christ in the lives of others.



this issue

- “My Story” by Mark Rasberry P.1
- In Memory of Jimmy Howard P.2
- Isaiah 58 Institute P.2
- Donate Your Scrap P.2
- Softball Schedule P.2
- Congratulations Layton P.2
- Upcoming Events P.2

**“My Story” by Mark Rasberry, Board Member & Guitarist for White Chocolate**



When I was asked to write a testimony, the first thing I thought of was how God works in our lives even when we don't see him. I would like to start by giving you some background on my upbringing. My mother was a Christian and regularly attended the Methodist Church wherever we lived. My father was a believer but an alcoholic and his walk with the Lord was not always on the straight and narrow. My mother took our family to church most of our childhood and adolescent years. We moved around quite often because my father would get drunk, stay off work for days at a time and would get fired from his job. My mother was a stay-at-home mom except for the later part of her life when she worked. I attended the Methodist Church where I sang in the choir, was involved in MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship) and for the most part was a well adjusted youth. I did not drink alcohol or do any drugs until I was about 18 years old. I attended Kilgore College for a few years and this independence led me to start drinking beer and later start trying marijuana and other drugs. I was active in playing in garage bands most of my teenage years but when I turned 21, I started playing in local night clubs aka dive joints, sleaze bars and the like. This part of my life I am not proud of because I pretty much did what I wanted to do for the next seven years. Alcohol, drugs and chasing women was my passion. Of course playing in a band was an open door for these vices. I did not realize that God was in control of my life during this period; but, as I look back, I can see where he was directing my life for what was to come. When I turned 28 years old, I “hit the wall” so to speak. God showed me

what I had been doing and how self destructive it had become. I knew my only escape was a 180 degree turn and that is exactly what I did. I stopped drinking and doing drugs and started working. Things really started changing in my life and I credit God for what he did. I was so blessed that God protected me from a lot of mistakes that I had made. I should have been in jail or possibly worse because of some of the shenanigans that I pulled. After I met my wife, Debbie, we had a beautiful daughter and I started going back to church. Years passed and I had lost my passion to play music or even pick up my guitar. One day the Lord spoke to me and said, “buy an amplifier”. I was dumbfounded and could not fathom what I would do with an amp since I had not played for 25 years. I bought an amp and a Fender Strat guitar within the next few months. I practiced a little, but had no idea what I was going to do with them. Then, on a Sunday, I was in church when a guest praise and worship leader was leading worship. He was really good, so at the end of the service the guitar player left the platform and I went up and played a few songs with this man. Needless to say I was scared since I had not played for years; but, we bonded and formed a friendship. To make a long story short, this was the beginning of my return to a walk with the Lord through music. I guess what I am really trying to say is we are sometimes our own worst enemy. We become self centered which pushes God out of our lives; however, God is so big, he is still in control. Most of us don't even realize it. Everything that I went through I now use in my testimony to others who are on the same path I traveled. Sometimes all we have to do is listen, obey and make a 180 degree turn. God has performed 1 Corinthians 1:27-31 in my life.

## In Memory of Jimmy Howard

Our beloved brother in the Lord, Jimmy Howard, lost his battle with addiction Wednesday, April 20, 2011 in Ft. Worth. We know that he loved the Lord and look forward to seeing him again in Heaven. Over the years that we knew him, he dedicated himself to God, loved to study the Bible and wanted to help others. I watched him preach his first

sermon to our men at the House of Disciples and was so proud of how far he had come. He will be missed. Addiction is very powerful and many times it is a life-long battle. If we do not stay in daily fellowship with our Lord, it is easy get off track. House of Disciples is establish-



ing a memorial prayer garden in honor of Jimmy and will hold a dedication service tentatively in June. If you would like to donate towards this project, please mark "Jimmy" on your donation. You may also donate materials, plants, or volunteer time. We will let you know when a date is set.

## HOD SOFTBALL:

We only have two games left in this season. Please come out and show your support for the HOD Team. Games are at Hinsley Park, field 2. The Tuesday night schedule is:

5-03 9:45 pm  
5-10 6:45 pm

## Isaiah 58 Institute

We are successfully and ardently progressing through our studies at the Bible Institute. We have three students enrolled in the 1st trimester and four in the 2nd trimester. There are two classifications: Intern and Leadership Training. An Intern will complete all five trimesters and may receive an ASA degree



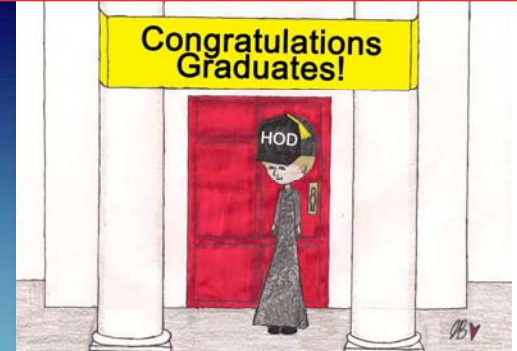
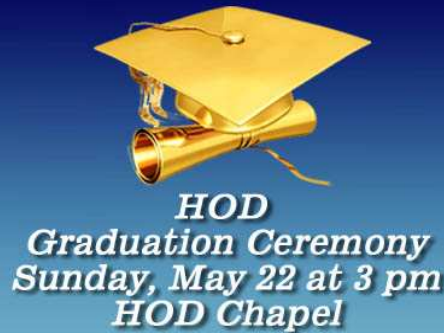
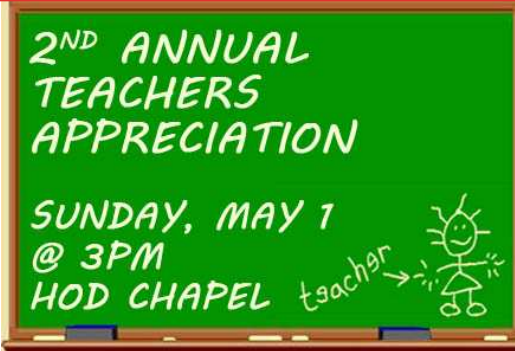
in Ministry. A man in Leadership Training has graduated the House of Disciples Life Recovery Program and wants to join the ministry as support staff. A man in Leadership Training is required to complete one of the trimesters and will receive a certificate of completion.

## Donate Your Scrap

Your junk... our treasure. If you have old appliances (stoves, washing machines, etc) or old automobiles, you can donate them to the House of Disciples. Our men then tear them down and sell the metal to the scrap yard. The funds go to support the daily operations of the facility. You can call the office to arrange for a drop off or pick up.



**Congratulations, Layton!** For months, he studied very hard on his GED prep classes taught onsite by Debbie Rasberry. We are so excited that he passed his GED exams. He is also graduating our HOD program on May 22 and is looking forward to college.



## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, May 1 / 3:00 pm**

2nd Annual Teacher Appreciation, HOD Chapel

**Saturday, May 14 / 2:00 - 6:00 pm**

White Chocolate & HOD - Celebrate Recovery  
Kilgore City Park Amphitheatre, Kilgore, TX

**Sunday, May 15 / 8:00 am**

White Chocolate & HOD - Prison Ministry,  
Polunsky Unit, Livingston, TX

**Sunday, May 22 / 10:00 am**

White Chocolate - Cornerstone Church, Mt. Vernon

**Sunday, May 22 / 3:00 pm**

House of Disciples - Graduation Ceremony

**Wednesday, May 25 / 6:00 pm**

White Chocolate & HOD - Prison Ministry,  
East Texas Treatment Facility, Henderson, TX

**Thursday, May 26 / 6:00 pm**

White Chocolate & HOD - Prison Ministry,  
Polunsky Unit, Livingston, TX

**Saturday, May 28 / 10:00 - 8:00 pm**

White Chocolate & HOD - Unity Fest,  
Henderson County Fair Park, Athens, TX

**Sunday, May 29 / 9:00 am**

White Chocolate & HOD - Party in the Pines,  
Gregg County Fair Grounds, Longview, TX

**Monday, May 30 / all day**

White Chocolate & HOD - Memorial Day Outreach,  
Marie Luna Park, Dallas, TX

**Wednesday, Aug. 10 / 6:00 pm**

"Release the Dream" with Matthew Barnett,  
Belcher Center at LETU, Longview, TX

## Contact us:

[www.houseofdisciples.com](http://www.houseofdisciples.com)  
[info@houseofdisciples.com](mailto:info@houseofdisciples.com)  
Phone: 903-553-0952

**Mailing:**  
House of Disciples  
P.O. Box 1207  
Longview, TX 75606

**Location:**  
House of Disciples  
210 S. Green St.  
Longview, TX 75601

**Partner Location:**  
House of Hope  
901 W. Trinity  
Madisonville, TX 77864

**White Chocolate:**  
[www.wcministry.com](http://www.wcministry.com)  
Bookings: 903-851-9249