

...the water I give takes away thirst altogether...

the Well

Winter
2005

Since God has so generously let us in on what he is doing, we're not about to throw up our hands and walk off the job just because we run into occasional hard times. Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace... There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.

- 2 Corinthians 4:1, 16, 18 (the Message)

More Than Meets the Eye

by Joel Pulis, Community Pastor

Many of you ask, "How can you do this work?" To be quite frank, sometimes I am not sure.



Dinner at "Saturday Night Life"

For instance, earlier this fall, I went through a season of hard times: Josh and I were wearing thin with the opening of the Community Center; we experienced a couple of consecutive Saturdays that were unusually "wild"; I asked one member to stop attending due to his persistent hostility towards others; and the Well received opposition from a few boarding home operators that did not appreciate our advocating on the behalf of "their" clients.

During these troubles, there were times when I was unsure and down. What are we doing around here? What difference are we making?

And then God began to remind me of the important things that were occurring, the "new life" that He was molding and making.

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Help Us Finish Out the Year Strong!

Thanks to your support, 2005 has been a good year financially for the Well!

With that said, we still need to end the year strong. As of November 29, we have received \$90,593 in support for the year (as compared to \$109,000 total in 2004).

Last year, we received \$36,257 during the month of December, an amount that helped us enter the year strong. Therefore, this Christmas season, would you prayerfully consider making a one-time contribution or becoming a monthly supporter? Your gift helps us provide a spiritual home for needy people and supports the greater community as we provide services to an underserved population.



Jesus said to her, "People soon become thirsty again after drinking water. But the water I give them takes away thirst altogether. It becomes a well of water within them, giving them life." – John 4:13-14



Leadership Team

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Staff:

Rev. Joel Pulis
Community Pastor &
Executive Director

Joshua Pulis, LMSW
Director of Programming

Board of Directors:

Scott Coleman, *President*

Rev. Tim Ahlen
James Pulis
Rev. Chris Simmons
Leslie Vasquez
Dr. Catherine Wood

Quotable

People who have shown significant or complete recovery from severe mental illness—by that I mean schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or schizoaffective disorder—have cited *hope* as an extraordinarily important component in their recovery.

Part of their recovery was being around people who saw their condition as **not permanent**, a condition from which they could take increasing control of their life and reestablish a place in society.

Dr. Daniel Fisher
Director, National
Empowerment Center

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Most of the time, these happenings are hard to quantify; for how do you measure heart growth. However, in the midst of the troubles, thank God that he has given me the eyes to see.

God is making new life, [and] not a day goes by without his unfolding grace..."

Here's a sampling of how God has made known to me his grace upon us:

- **repentance & faith:** On October 18, Robert and Lori were baptized into the family of God!
- **spiritual hunger:** Each week, as I teach & preach, I stand before a group that is hungry for the Word of God and the transformation that it provides.
- **answers to prayer:** Earlier in the fall, Bill suffered a severe stroke. Now he is walking and talking on his own, and attending each Saturday night.
- **love & unity:** Recently, a visitor to the Community Center commented, "I can see that you really care for each other around here."
- **promise & hope:** Daily we see God redeeming people from the confines of mental illness! The only way to fully convey the encouraging steps is to stop by and see for yourself! Consider this an open invite!



October 18, 2005
Robert and Lori's baptism!

You're Invited...and Please Bring a Gift!

the Well's Annual Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday, December 21, at Cliff Temple Baptist Church. The party will begin at 5:00 pm; but come when you can! Dinner will be served at 5:45, followed by a brief program and then a gift exchange.

We will be giving each **Community Member** a gift and a stocking with toiletries. Therefore, we need gifts and care kits for approximately **100 people**.

If you have gifts that you would like to donate, they can be dropped off weekdays at Cliff Temple or call us for pick-up.

Gifts:

- Portable radios
- Alarm clocks
- Watches
- Wallets
- Flannel shirts (L+)
- Cologne Sets
- Blankets/Pillows

Stocking Stuffers:

- Shaving cream
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Gloves
- Socks
- Warm Hats



In the Storm

Sometimes God doesn't calm the storm
He calms the child
His touch is gentle
Soothing, peaceful, and mild

God is my Father
All good things come from his hand
In good times we rejoice
In bad, He gives us strength to stand

Sometimes we suffer for choices
That we have made
His discipline corrects us
Helps us to make the grade

Sometimes we suffer
And we don't know why
Another choice and chance
On Him to totally rely

God always calms the child
His promises are true
Just trust in Him
Your courage and strength will renew

Contributed by Ramona Rusum
Community Member of the Well

Community Support Award

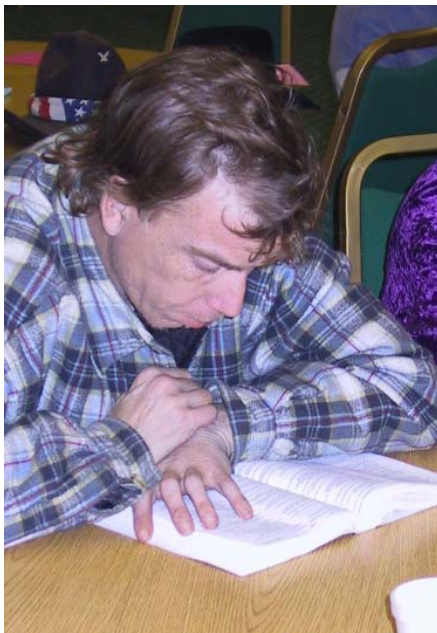
On December 1, 2005, the Well received the Community Support Award from the Dallas chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

Mental Illness Resolution

This fall, we presented a resolution on mental illness at the annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. On November 15, the resolution was resoundingly approved by the messengers.

CCDA

Joel and Josh recently traveled to Indianapolis to present a workshop on "Ministering Among the Mentally Ill" at the annual meeting of the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA).



Coming Soon...

Anticipate upcoming information on the following:

- **Prayer** - Early in 2006, we will begin hosting a monthly prayer gathering for our work.
- **Donor & Volunteer Appreciation Banquet** - Get ready, it's coming in February!
- **Dallas Morning News** - Kim Horner of the News has visited us three to four times this fall. Her article is due out very soon!
- **Email Newsletter** - We are working on a new format for our newsletter. The new design will be web-based and sent out primarily via email. This will cut down on cost and help our frequency.
- **Future Plans** - You'll just have to wait!

Furniture & Household Items

We are actively seeking to assist our healthiest members move into decent and affordable housing. Therefore, with the transition to independent living comes the need for furniture & household items:

- **furniture** (e.g., twin beds, couches, tables)
- **kitchen** (e.g., dishes, flatware, pots/pans)
- **bathroom** (e.g., shower curtain, towels)
- **bedroom** (e.g., beds, sheets, alarm clock)
- **household** (e.g., broom, cleaning supplies)

If you have extra items around your house, here is a place they can go to good use!



Our Christmas choir rehearsing for a December 4th concert!

theWell

Our Mission and Services

the Well Community is a vibrant Christian fellowship where men and women with mental illnesses and those who choose to share life with them connect and worship together.

We provide our **Community Members** with needed resources - material, emotional, and spiritual.

Relationship provides the context for all that we do. We offer a place to be known and the support that comes from life-giving friendships.

We offer the following services:

- **“Saturday Night Life”** - Every Saturday afternoon, the community gathers for worship and a fellowship meal at Cliff Temple Baptist Church.
- **Community Center** - Open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the center offers Bible studies, mental health & addiction support groups, vocational training, and recreation.

- **Leadership Development** - On Wednesdays, efforts focus on the core leadership, providing them with training & intensive care.
- **Case Management** - We connect Members with available outside resources: housing, food stamps, mental health services, emergency assistance, etc.
- **Awareness** - We seek to inform & resource the greater Dallas faith-community regarding this underserved population.



*Merry
Christmas
from the
Well!*

Engaging people with mental illness in a life-giving community!