



Miracle Hill[®]
MINISTRIES

Miracles In The Making

A publication of Miracle Hill Ministries

Winter 2010

A New Beginning

Steve Vicari's story is a surprising one. His testimony encompasses man's struggle with wandering away from God, and God's ability to cover him with grace again and again.

All his life, Steve was given the freedom to live the way he saw fit. In high school, he chose to follow a path of drug and alcohol abuse, and the debilitating habits left Steve facing many hardships as a young man. In 1984, Steve entered into a marriage and brought his old ways with him.

Steve's reckless lifestyle made things difficult for him, but God was at work. In 1987, Steve found himself at a revival service in Georgetown, SC. Christ revealed Himself to Steve that night in a moment Steve recalls as one of the most vivid memories of his life.

Just a year later, Steve answered God's call to preach and did so for the next thirteen years. He took the time to earn a B.A. in Biblical Studies in 1999; however, Steve did not allow God to fully heal his heart from a painful past. He dealt with many trials during his time serving in the pastoral ministry. Even though God used Steve to do wonderful things for the Kingdom, he still carried a burden that wasn't his to bear. In 2001, Steve's troubles got the best of him, and he resigned from his position as a pastor. A painful divorce followed.

For the next three years, Steve ran from God and returned to the secular working world. Old habits resurfaced as Satan began to hold Steve in bondage. At his lowest, Steve used crack cocaine and heroine on a daily basis.

In 2003, he moved to Indiana and swore never to return to South Carolina again. God had other plans for His son. Steve's aunt in Indiana heard about Overcomers, Miracle Hill's addiction recovery program and asked him to consider getting help. All along, Steve knew he was out of fellowship with the Lord and realized he needed to find his way home.

Steve returned to South Carolina in November 2004, and entered the six month program at Miracle Hill. He was broken when he arrived at the rescue mission and saw the words on the roadside sign: "If you can't find a friend in the world, you can find one here." By God's grace, Steve graduated from the program a changed man the following May.

Sometime later, Steve, while working at another local ministry, received a call from Curtis Pitts, the director of Recovery Ministries at Miracle Hill. Curtis asked Steve to come back to the Rescue Mission to work as a counselor. Steve answered the call without hesitation. Now, God uses this man to offer hope for a new beginning to many men who've walked in his shoes.



Steve Vicari, Overcomers Counselor

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A Fresh Start & A New Life

Recently Linda Pepper, Director of Miracle Hill Boys Shelter, was reviewing Carl's* case file. (The shelter provides temporary care for teen-age boys awaiting long-term placement.) The court's requirements were satisfied, but Carl had not returned to family.

Linda asked his caseworker what was preventing the child from moving into his aunt's home. "The aunt still doesn't have a bed for Carl to sleep in," came the reply, "and she doesn't seem to have money to buy one." "If we deliver a bed, can Carl return home?" Linda asked. Using their own pick up truck, Linda and her husband took a bed from one of our thrift stores to the aunt's home and set it up. Carl went to live with his aunt soon after.

It was sobering to realize Carl may have remained in care several more weeks had Linda not inquired and then stepped in to meet the need.

Because Miracle Hill operates shelters for children and adults, thrift stores and maintains a food pantry, the arms of our ministry can coordinate addiction recovery for the parent of a child in care, provide groceries for a low-income family to enable their children's return and occasionally provide furniture to help an adult graduate move into independence.

Our state struggles to fund basic services, including care of disadvantaged children. Payments to care for

children in out-of-home care have been reduced by up to 30% as a result of funding cuts to the SC Department of Social Services. Some children's homes may have to merge with larger organizations to survive. Although our finances will take a hit, the churches and individual contributors comprising Miracle Hill's financial base will help us continue providing many services for which government funding is unavailable or inadequate.



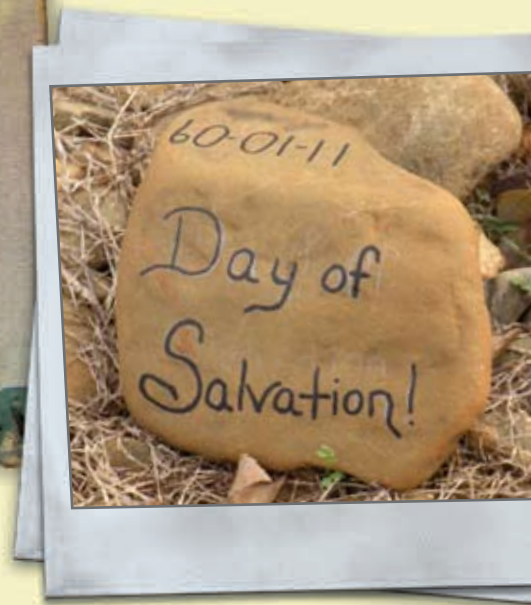
Reid Lehman, President/CEO

In an effort to continue Miracle Hill Children's Ministries' involvement in relationships while fostering hope and stability the ministry will begin exploring family intervention processes. Under one promising program, one of our trained counselors could facilitate a discussion process for the extended family and help locate the resources for children to remain with their families; or, if removed, to return sooner than previously possible. And, Miracle Hill's Foster Care hopes to expand from its current fifty families to as many as 100.

The Ephesians were at one time considered to be unwelcome aliens, strangers to God's promises, having no hope and without God. That was before their transformation into acceptance by God and into new life. That language in Ephesians 2:12 describes so many we serve. Your gifts, prayers and volunteerism will enable hope, a fresh start and new life for thousands this year.

Shelter, Food & Hope.

Change their world. Change your world.



Garden of Stones

Sharon was a member of Drug Court before coming to Renewal. For those of you who are not familiar with either of the terms: Drug Court is an alternative program for individuals who are not in jail because of drug abuse. Renewal is Miracle Hill's addiction recovery program for women.

About a year ago, Sharon came to Renewal seeking an opportunity for community service, which she was required to complete. Sharon loved the outdoors and was thrilled to find an abandoned garden spot on the property at Renewal. Her one request was to restore the garden.

For over a month, Sharon came to Renewal at least three days a week to look after the garden. Other women at the Center got involved by helping plant different vegetables. During that time, Sharon also sat in on some classes at Renewal, and it was then God began working in her heart. The following spring, the garden yielded a beautiful harvest.

Sharon moved on shortly after.

She continued participating in Drug Court, but Sharon's addictive lifestyle made it impossible for her to comply with the court's guidelines. As time passed, her circumstances worsened, and Sharon eventually sought help at Renewal. With the court's permission, she was accepted into the program.

The staff at Renewal were aware Sharon had never accepted salvation through Jesus Christ. Two weeks after her arrival, she was added to the prayer list circulating to the entire Miracle Hill staff. As people prayed, God moved, and Sharon accepted Christ that same day.

Venus Dixon, the director of Renewal, shared that since Sharon met the Lord, she lights up whenever she hears God's Word spoken and is filled with a new found joy.

Not long after Sharon accepted

Christ, she and the other women at Renewal came together and agreed to find a way to leave a legacy at the Center. The group, after some thought, decided to leave their stories at what is now called "The Garden of Stones." The stones are found under a bridge located between the two buildings at Renewal.

On the day of dedication for the new monument, each woman found a stone and on it wrote down scriptures that brought comfort in difficult times, in order to help anyone who may cross the same path in the future. Sharon took up the biggest stone she could find and marked it with these words: "Day of Salvation - 11-10-09."

When asked why she chose such a large stone, Sharon answered, "I picked the biggest stone I could find, because this is the biggest thing that's ever happened to me in my life."

"Day of Salvation
11-10-09"

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Same Kind Of Different As Me

Miracle Hill Ministries'
Annual Fund Raising Banquet
April 22, 2010
Carolina First Center, Greenville, SC



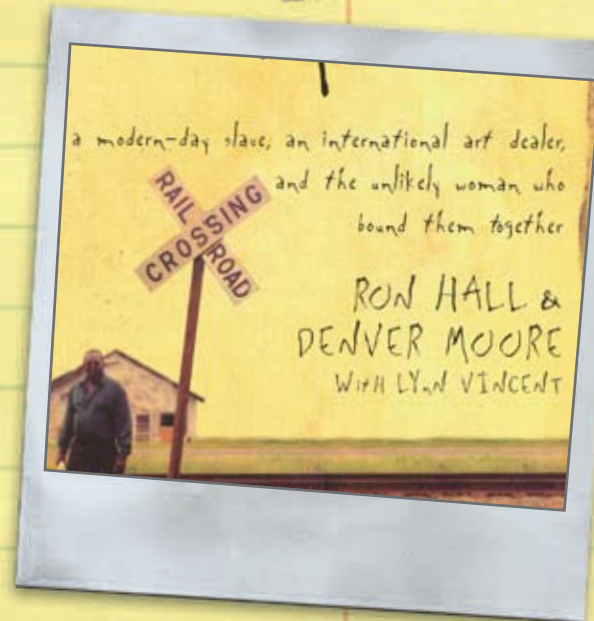
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Join us at the Carolina First Center on Thursday, April 22, for a night of camaraderie, compassion and charitable giving as guest speaker Ron Hall shares his incredible story of pain and brutality turned to an unexpected love.

Same Kind of Different As Me is the tale of a dangerous, homeless drifter, an upscale art dealer and the unlikely meeting that became life-changing. Also centering around a gutsy woman who made it all possible, the story of these men, one who was accustomed to picking cotton in virtual slavery and the other to the world of Armani and Chanel, is a powerful tribute to dreams and making a lasting difference.

For more information about this book and its authors, visit samekindofdifferentasme.com. The book is available for purchase at Miracle Hill's Administrative Office. The cost is \$10.00 plus shipping.

Sponsorship and Table Host opportunities are also available. For more information or to reserve your seat, visit www.miraclehill.org/banquet or call (864) 268-4357.



Is Your Will Up To Date?

Eighty percent of people in today's society die without wills, and those who do have them are often far from being up to date. You may ask why Miracle Hill is addressing the issue of wills in this newsletter. The answer is to encourage you to make the most of what you leave behind. As you ponder your giving priorities, consider leaving a portion of your assets to the Lord's work.

After providing for loved ones, many use wills, trusts and other planning tools to make a "gift of a lifetime" to one or more charitable interests. Imagine what could happen for the Kingdom if God's people choose to invest a gift through a will that keeps giving to future generations. At Miracle Hill, God has blessed us with gifts in the form of bequests in wills, and we are incredibly grateful for the continued support.

To learn more, contact Frankie Powell, VP of Development, at 864-268-4357 or fpowell@miraclehill.org.

Miracle Hill does not discriminate with regard to race, color, sex, national origin, marital, veteran, handicap or any other legally protected status.

*Names and photos of clients may have been changed to ensure their safety.

Miracle Hill Ministries, Inc. is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

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