



It has been quite a year at Exodos Ministries. Like the Autumn leaves on our sprawling trees, the change and beauty is multifaceted. Only God is capable of bringing “beauty from ashes” in every aspect of the metamorphic seasons of life. Only our unfathomable Creator can take us from the death of winter to the life of Spring, through the heat of summers and into the brilliance of His Autumn display. According to His word (2 Corinthians 5:17) and our experience, He delights to “make all things new”.


We love to watch the Master do this in lives every day at Exodos Ministries. He does it in our staff, in our guests at the Thrift Store and in our residents and graduates at Exodos Recovery Home. We wish we could share all the things that God is doing, but like John said, “If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have enough room for the books that would be written” (John 21:25). He is good! All the time!

I would like to approach this portion of our Newsletter from the point of view of **seasons** in the lives of the men who come to us.

 **Winter** will represent the time when a man finally hits “rock bottom” and reaches out to us with the admission that he is at the end of himself. He recognizes the need to die to his old life. Many of the men who come to us do not know Christ. They DO NOT have to be Christians to come to Exodos. They only need to recognize that they are incapable of being free by their own “will power” or strength and are willing to learn about the only One who can truly free them from bondage. Today, I am working with a young father of two who is desperate to “Be the dad they need.” He and his wife have nothing as a result of his struggles. We are working toward scholarshiping blood work for this daddy as he prepares to enter recovery. He has secured a place for his family to stay. We will work toward providing for many of their needs and getting them plugged into a local church. This is where our churches and supporters help so much. You make it possible for us to meet financial, emotional and spiritual needs through your prayer, giving and receptive church fellowship to our families.

 **Spring** comes when our residents can see that spring of hope like a sprig of green growth poking up through the still cold soil. T.R. will testify that he is at that place in recovery. He has overcome the dark and cold days of his initial withdrawal and is beginning to feel better physically. Now he can really begin to process what he is learning in Bible Study and enjoy the fellowship of the family of faith who is investing in his journey. He is starting to recognize the LORD’s “Mercies are new every morning”. Please pray for T.R. as he grows in Christ.




 **Summer** comes when the Son is brightest in a resident’s experience. This time is different for everyone, but is the most important season in all our lives! The light Exodos comes to truly know Jesus, who has shone in our hearts to give Christ.”(2 Corinthians 4:6)



Trevor testifies that he has been set free from the bondage of chemical addiction by Christ alone. Praise God! Trevor’s biological mother struggled with chemical addiction. Trevor was removed by the state and was in foster care from the time he was 7 years old. By God’s design, Trevor was adopted into a Christian home in south Florida and Trevor was exposed to the gospel. Trevor shares that he has struggled his whole life with anxiety. He was the oldest of his five siblings and as a young man worried constantly about what was coming next. He says he never truly surrendered these deeply engrained fears to the LORD and was wooed away from true healing in Christ when friends offered him drugs as a cure. Before long, Trevor was enslaved. He began to realize his life was headed toward the destructive path that had torn his siblings away. Trevor called Exodos for help. He fell in love with Jesus! Trevor is free!!! He is overcoming anxiety through that “Incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms.” (Ephesians 1:19-20) Please pray for Trevor as he graduates soon!



 **Autumn** is a time when we see lots of changes around us. It is a beautiful thing! On our trees Autumn expresses itself in various colors that never fail to leave us in awe! In our lives, we tend to be excited and fearful of change, but the LORD promises that He is always up to something in the changes of life and He uses them to transform us into His beautiful likeness. We remind our residents frequently that what they are learning on a daily basis on the breathtaking and peaceful Exodos residential property must be applied in their daily living in Christ even after they leave this protected setting. We are excited when a resident has invested a full year encountering, growing, working and living in a relationship with Christ while staying at Exodos. We are thrilled when a resident graduates and continues to grow in Christ and take hold of the manna sufficient to their daily needs after graduation. We admonish them to stay in God’s word and continue fellowship with their faith family in the local church and Exodos and to recognize that there will be more changes and even trials of all kinds. We tell them, “Consider it pure joy my brothers, whenever you face trials of various kinds, because you know the testing of your faith develops perseverance, Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” This truth from James 1:2-4 encourages that we will have “various” trials or poikilo in the Greek. This word means dappled, worked in various colors, changeful, variegatedLike leaves on a tree, we can be sure that some of our experiences will be vibrant, lively and green, some golden or red with joy and some brown and sorrowful. Our heavenly Father uses everything to mature us and make us complete in Him. Trace graduated from Exodos earlier this year. We still send scripture, devotions and love to him each week and he responds with an update. Trace spent his young life in over twenty foster homes. He was adopted once and then given back to the state.



Trace was delighted to find that when he surrendered to Christ, he was adopted FOREVER and is now part of our family of FAITH! Please join us in praying for Trace. He recently sent word that he got a new job and qualified to rent a house. He also sent me a picture from church Sunday morning. My leaves turned red with JOY!



More changes at Exodos...



We have experienced some GREAT changes this year in every area.



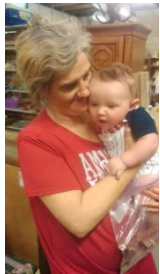
In our **Men's Recovery**, we have brought on Ben Crowson as our new Program Director. Ben grew up ministering at Exodos. He has prayed, befriended and walked with many men and their families through the years. Ben testifies that he realized in high school that God had called him to vocational ministry. He says he only dreamed that God would call him to work in this ministry. He obediently followed God's prodding to The Baptist College of Florida and graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Worship Leadership. Ben served churches throughout late high school and all four years of college. After graduation, he served as Worship and Youth pastor in central Florida until he answered the call to return to his hometown and lead at Exodos Ministries. We are so thankful for Ben's passion for the LORD and for serving at Exodos.



When we founded Exodos in 2008, we knew that God was clearly calling us to open a safe place to point men that are in bondage, to chemical substance and other destructive behaviors, to the freedom available through Jesus Christ. Our residential ministry offers men the opportunity to come to where loving people will walk beside them through the physical, emotional, and spiritual healing necessary for freedom.



What we did not know in 2008 was that God would call us to eventually open a **Thrift Store**. We actually thought that God's purpose was to provide financial support so that recovery at Exodos could remain FREE. As usual, His ways are above our ways (Isaiah 55:9) and "He is able to do exceedingly above all that we ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20). The Thrift Store is about more than provision for Exodos Recovery. The Thrift store exists as a beacon to weary, wilderness travelers who recognize their physical and emotional needs and are looking for someone to meet them. As we meet their "felt" needs, we are forging relationships of love and trust and leading the lost to the only deliverer and provider of their eternal need...the Savior Christ Jesus.



Just as the "LORD had given His people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them whatever they requested" (Exodus 12:36), God has certainly moved our community to donate to Exodos Thrift Store. Through God's great provision, we serve as one of the only intities in three counties that honor "vouchers" for folks in need. It's not our stuff. It belongs to the LORD. We



share as the LORD calls us to share. In sharing, we have opportunity to meet, nurture friendships and pray with the folks we encounter. We have so gained a reputation of prayer at 696 N. Ferdon that people come in with prayer requests! It is a privilege to serve in this way. We just added a **new leader** to our Thrift Store team. Her name is Kelsey. I knew God had chosen her for us the very first time I heard her interacting with a downtrodden woman who came in with a voucher. The woman was pitifully dressed with dirty hair and face and the odor that comes with not having running water. I was in the back office when I noticed Kelsey speaking kindly to her. With head hanging, she shyly wrote her name on the paper that Kelsey had placed before her. Kelsey exclaimed, "My you have the most beautiful handwriting!" The bewildered, little woman looked up in astonishment and grinned from ear to ear. She thanked Kelsey for her kindness and I thanked God for Kelsey.



We have also been BLESSED with **another foreign missions connection**. We have been able to send excess clothing to Africa through Christian Missions for the last few years and are thrilled to know that these fabrics are textiled to meet clothing and shelter needs. We also partner with a local missionary to Jamaica who loves to take crafts donated by Exodos and use them in VBS to share the gospel. Now, since the destruction of two Category 4 hurricanes – Eta and Iota – made landfall in Central America, there are so many needs in Honduras. We are delighted to send these precious folks clothing, shoes, blankets and even toys for the little ones in the name of Jesus.



We could not do this work without the accountability and guidance of our Board of Directors. We are so thankful for the Godly men and women who have taken time out of their schedule to serve in this way. Bob Champion of Woodlawn Baptist Church is an example of one such servant of the LORD. Bob led as our Chairman of the Board for the last two years. He used his God given wisdom and skills to guide us to draft a strategic plan and goals for the coming years. Under his leadership, the ministry has gained a solid financial standing and by his coaching have learned how to design and follow an annual budget. We will **miss Bob Champion** in the Board room, but we praise God that the children of Woodlawn Baptist's Awana program will have his leadership as Commander.



David Cox stepped up as our **new Chairmen of the Board of Directors**. David is an Optician and owner of Family Vision of Crestview. David serves as the Director of Spiritual Formations at Central Baptist Church and teaches Bible Study on Tuesday nights at Exodos Recovery House. We rejoice that God has sent him to us along with Joey Bonta of First Baptist of Crestview, Rob Cooney of Woodlawn Baptist and Marisela Molnar of Destiny Worship Center. Please pray for our Board of Directors, our team members and our residents and their families. For our staff at Exodos Thrift please... "Pray also...that whenever (we) speak, words would be given so that (we) can fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel" (Ephesians 6:19).

