

Mourning Dove Discipleship Counseling and Placement Services Newsletter

601 Eastchester Dr., Suite A, High Point, NC 27262

877-535-3300

Anointed - He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives.

July 2020
Volume 1, Issue 1

Our year of
God's Bountiful
Blessings

Mourning Dove's
purpose is to:

Share the love and
truth of the gospel to
those who are
struggling with pain,
sorrow, drugs,
alcohol, and a
multitude of other
issues.

Jesus says, "Go,
therefore, and make
disciples of all the
nations [help the
people learn of Me,
and obey My words]
baptizing them in
the name of the
Father and of the
Son and of the Holy
Spirit, **teaching**
them to observe
everything that I
have commanded
you...I will be with
you always, even to
the end of the age
(Matt. 28:19-20).

We need people to
come alongside of
us and help
financially support
and pray for this
ministry.

**Our specific need
is to get 65 people
who will donate
\$100.00 a month,
however, we
greatly appreciate
any amount.**

**These financial
needs cover the
following >>>>>>**

Inside this issue:

Barbara Banfield	2
You Are Beautiful	2
Anthony & Jessi	3
Devotion	4
What is placement?	5
Nicole Testimony	6
Financial Support	7
Reformed Lives	8
Doris Baker	8
Do Not Be Afraid	8

**PLACEMENT SERVICES to help
the addicted enter into:**

Detox (3-5 days)

Safe House (2-6 weeks)

Residential Recovery Program (2-12
months)

Transition/Discipleship Housing (3-
12 months)

-- utilizing --

- HIPAA Online Quick Intake
- Aggressive Outreach
- Recovery Program Entrance
Fee Assistance
- Nationwide Placement
Offices & Safe Houses
- Corporate Benefit Services

POST-REHAB SERVICES:

- Weekly Discipleship Classes
- Biblical Counseling and Life
Coaching
- Bible College Scholarship
Assistance
- Strength-Based Life & Career
Coaching
- Community Support
(*nationwide*)
- Re-Entry Assistance

A special thank you to our donors and volunteers who
have helped get this ministry up and running. You are
sewing seeds. May the Lord bless you greatly!

From Barbara's desk – *Beholding His Glory*

It's Official!

Our doors are open, and we are officially a 501c3 tax-exempt organization. When Heath and I were to be married, I felt the pull to begin processing the necessary paperwork to form a nonprofit because I felt God had specific plans for us. The official name of the organization is ***Mourning Dove Discipleship Counseling***. The idea of ***Mourning Dove*** came to me because shortly after my mother went to be with Jesus, I was at her graveside and feeling desperate, alone, and hopeless. As I was sitting on the ground, a white dove came and stood beside me and just stood there looking at me for the longest time. There happened to be a lot of traffic that day, but all the cars and people did not disturb that dove one iota. It just kept looking at me. So, in a sense, this nonprofit has been formed with a hint of a memorial to my sweet mother.

But as I have grown in my knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I have come to see the name of this nonprofit as something even deeper. We mourn over our sins and the sins of this nation. We have been called to come alongside others who do not know the goodness of God and all that a life committed to Him entails. We are thankful for God's direction and pray to be continuously used by Him and continuously changed by Him. Celebrate with us as we commit this ministry to God. We look forward to seeing what He will do, and we will continue to give all the glory to our Father in Heaven.

When Covid-19 hit, and businesses were being shut down, the Lord told us to open a new biblical counseling/life coaching and placement office. We said, "God, are you sure? We aren't sure about finances. What's going to happen concerning our income? Will we be able to finance the ministry?"

Even so, an office space was shown to us and we sought out the potential to rent the space. We approached the tenant, and to our surprise and excitement, she was willing to work with us concerning the monthly rent. On that same day we were contacted by a local ministry who offered to provide office furniture, and a sponsor who gives tirelessly to the ministry brought over furniture to accommodate the lobby and sitting area in the counseling office. This all happened so fast. In the course of one week, we were up and running.

It is true that obedience is key because God has used this office to assist with 20 placements in the past 8 weeks. That's 20 times we assisted hopeless individuals who now have a chance to change their lives and become Anchored in Jesus. We have also counseled and coached numerous individuals and families and are currently holding weekly discipleship classes for those serious about their walk with the Lord.

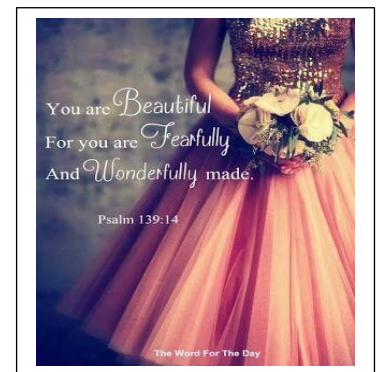
Love in Christ, Barbara Benfield

THIS IS WHAT JESUS -THE WORD- SAYS ABOUT YOU

- * You're beautiful!
- * You are God's masterpiece!
- * You're creative!
- * You are loved!
- * You are amazing!
- * You are smart!
- * You're accepted, approved, and anointed – in Him!

* You are not a mistake!

Get the picture? What people call you is not important; it is what God calls you. As a born-again believer, He says you are His children and His children are awesome!



Meet Anthony, Jessi, and Nehemiah . . .



Jessi says, "Oh how the Lord is breaking down our walls that we had in our marriage - the anger, bitterness, unforgiveness, and distrust - and rebuilding us! Like the walls in Jerusalem were rebuilt with the leadership of Nehemiah, the Lord is taking us apart and changing us and will rebuild our marriage into what it is meant to be."

Oh, and by the way, the little guy's name here.....Nehemiah! Praise God!

Our God is a God of restoration and reconciliation. This couple has been receiving counseling and guidance from Mourning Dove Discipleship Counseling and by Heath Benfield, the men's director of Pierced Ministries where Anthony is currently living and being discipled. Anthony and Jessi are believing in complete restoration and are clinging to Jesus for all that lies ahead. They are also believing the Lord is sending them to seminary so they can properly discern the Word and faithfully witness to others who are struggling with some of the same struggles from which they have received freedom.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort which we ourselves are comforted by God. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NKJV)

THREE DISTINCT MARKS OF A TRUE DISCIPLE

JESUS GIVES US THREE CLEAR MARKS OF A DISCIPLE IN JOHN

1) A TRUE DISCIPLE WILL CONTINUE IN HIS WORD

John 8:31-32 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Jesus also told us, “Man should not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” (Matt. 4:4) Just like we have a physical appetite for food, we should also have a spiritual appetite for God’s Word.

Am I continuing in His word?

2) A TRUE DISCIPLE WILL HAVE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Am I loving and praying for those who get under my skin?

(Read Luke 6:27-36)

3) A TRUE DISCIPLE WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT

John 15:7-8 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

We know that apart from Jesus we can do nothing (John 15:5).

Am I abiding in Jesus and His word today?

Devotion by Heath Benfield

July 31, 2020

What in the world is recovery placement and discipleship counseling/life coaching?

Glad you asked! When it comes to **placement** in the addiction ministry, most people have no idea regarding the need for such a ministry. While Heath was in college, I was fortunate enough to meet Craig Halford, the director of First Contact Ministries. When Craig and I met, he needed an administrator – someone who could set up processes – and someone who could give him some much-needed time of rest. Through First Contact I learned the desperate need of someone to come alongside those who are trapped in their addiction, and who are looking for a way out. Most people think to themselves, “it is a choice and they should just say no.” And they would be right. But who is going to help them through the painstaking process of recovering from the addiction? The government? The church? The community? Thankfully, we are blessed with ministries who have stepped up to minister to those who have been held down by the bondage of addiction, ministries like Bethel Colony, Pierced Ministries, and Solus Christus, to name a few. But these ministries are often full and the person seeking help needs someone to be there for them when they cry out, and not a moment later. That is the nature of the beast of addiction.

They need someone to walk them through the process of detox; enter a safe house while they take the necessary steps to apply and prepare for a long-term residential program; and following the residential program, they will need someone to come alongside them when they graduate. Then comes transitional living which is where discipleship comes in - the kind Jesus did - the kind that means we “do life” with them while they are stumbling around trying to stay upright in a world that has lost sight of God. They need someone to speak truth to them in love, who genuinely desires their relationship with the Lord to grow and for them to become who they were created to be. Along this line, we utilize Gallup’s Clifton Strength-Finder and work with them to develop their gifts and talents. Our discipleship group meeting last week had nine participants! These are women who have decided to continue to pursue the Lord and live according to His will after completing their program. Hallelujah!

The Lord has sent some amazing women onto our path, women who are genuine with their struggles, and genuine with their desire to grow in spiritual maturity. What a blessing to be in their lives! The Lord has also blessed Heath and I with discipling men who share a desire to be disciples, and to live the “new life in Christ Jesus.” God is still in the miracle-making business, and the transformed lives of these men and women are proof! Be sure to read one such testimony, from Nicole McCoppin, on the following page.

God has given us the vision of taking this ministry across the nation, and He has equipped us for the task, but we need your help. Please share information about this ministry with your church, your families and friends, your coworkers and neighbors, and anyone else who comes to mind. We have seen the “goodness of the Lord in the land of the living” and feel that God is going to take this ministry across the land! I once heard a pastor say, “Maybe God is going to take a bunch of recovering drug addicts and alcoholics to turn this country back to Him.” To that I say, “maybe so, and if so, let it begin with me, let it begin with us.”

Thanking you, in advance, for your prayers, *Barbara Benfield*

We are so appreciative for our amazing volunteers, discipleship leaders, and sponsors:

Heath Benfield (Executive Board Member), Lisa Bodenheimer (Biblical Life Coach), Greta McKinney (Office Assistant & IT), Nicole McCoppin (Intake Coordinator), Jennifer Lane (Facility Coordinator), Doris Baker (Administration), Hinnant Ministries (Teachers and Mentors), Jessica Pike (Outreach), Hyde Health (Placement Partner), sponsors (you know who you are), and others whom God is calling (we are praying for you). We could not do this without you!!

A special thank you to my husband for being the wind beneath my wings!

Meet Nicole

As a little girl I spent a lot of time going to church. My mom and dad got a divorce when I was two years old. Because my mom worked a lot, I spent most of my years growing up with my babysitter. This was a mighty woman of God who introduced me to the Lord. Every day was made special and I felt very loved, but something was missing and that was my dad being a part of my life. So, I would pray fervently for the Lord to bring my daddy home. At fourteen the Lord answered my prayer and my dad moved back in with us.

This is where the real battle began. I wanted my daddy to love me so bad and just be accepted by him that I started to party with him. At the age of fifteen I started taking Adderall to be able to focus on my schoolwork and to make time for the new boyfriend in my life. I ended up graduating from high school with my CNA license and thought I was ready to change the world. Little did I know that I would soon begin to take opiates to try to numb the pain I was feeling in result of the physical and mental abuse from my boyfriend. At twenty-one the Lord blessed me with a beautiful baby boy. This brought joy back into my life, but deep down I was severely wounded by the abuse that was being inflicted on me. The effects of Adderall, and pain pills were no longer working so I moved on to what I thought at the time would help me cope with the reality of life better... meth and shooting morphine. After keeping on with this behavior the first three years of my son's life, I decided it was time to stop for my son's sake and went to detox. I completed detox and went home to find out that my son was with his daddy, and I was not able to determine his whereabouts. This left me feeling totally devastated and scared. The only way I knew how to cope with the way I was feeling was to turn back to the drugs for a way out and that's what I did.

I ended up trying to kill myself by purposely overdosing on Fentanyl. The paramedics had to give me a shot of adrenaline straight to my heart. I know in this moment the Lord reached down and revived me. I ended up going to prison for the Fentanyl I overdosed on and found out I was pregnant while I was there. I got released from prison two months before I had my precious baby girl. This still was not enough for me to quit the drugs though. Eventually after keeping on with my selfish behaviors my daughter was slowly taken out of my life as well.

In my mind, I justified my actions because of how I was feeling deep down. As I got deeper and deeper into my addiction, I began selling the drugs with the man I believed at the time was the one for me. In my distorted way of thinking, at last, I had the drugs I needed to carry out everyday activities, the money to provide me with what I needed, and had found the love of my life - because he was providing for me. However, on the night of January 23, 2019 my whole world was flipped upside down. We got arrested and I was facing a minimum of eighteen years in prison. This is when I knew I needed help. I hated my life. I hated who I had become. I hated everything about myself. So, in that time of despair, I cried out to God. With the help of my mom and the placement ministry, I was placed into a nine-month residential recovery program, have graduated, transitioned, and am currently being disciplined at Mourning Dove.

Because God used these programs and discipleship ministry to reveal His love for me, I have found freedom in Christ. For the first time in my life I have not been codependent on someone else to help take care of me. The Lord has blessed me with the ability to work two jobs, both that meet the desires of my heart, because they line up with his will and the gifts in which He has given me. And the biggest miracle I could ever ask for is my children being back in my life. I talk to my daughter on a regular basis and as the truth is being revealed to my son, our bond is growing stronger every day. Today I choose to be the mother God has called me to be and live the abundant life he has chosen for me to live. Thankful for this ministry and for all God is doing, *Nicole*

Why Financially Support Mourning Dove Discipleship and Placement Services (A Christian-Based Program)

There are many government programs funded by taxpayer dollars that are not producing permanent results nor changed lives. Reason being, we all need our souls Anchored in Jesus - Who keeps us steadfast during the storms of life. It's heartbreaking to see those in addiction go back to their old lives, or back to prison due to the lack of not getting the help they needed to reform their lives. They need a system that moves along fast from a Safe home, to detox, a residential

recovery program, and then a transition house. All of which train them with compassion, love, trustworthiness, competence, Christ-Centeredness, Not being judgmental, listening intensely from a biblical standpoint.

We are determined to find a better way to help men and women than putting them in a government system, which oftentimes offers a drug for a drug. *Mourning Dove Discipleship and Placement*

Services was founded and birthed in our hearts by the Spirit of God. We begin with prayer and ask for mercy to give back life and to show these men and women that through mercy and grace they can live a clean and healthy life again. It is God's goodness that leads them to repentance to see truth. We acknowledge that the enemy is trying to destroy a person or household. We say, "no devil" you cannot have God's children in Jesus' Name!

Reformed Lives Come When Jesus is the Anchor of our Soul

When you think of an anchor, you usually picture the heavy object that is tied to a ship that keeps it secure to the bottom of the sea. Jesus is an anchor that provides a firm foundation and security. In Scripture, the term anchor is used metaphorically to represent God and faith - that which keeps us steadfast and unmovable and gives us

hope during the trials and storms of life. Hebrews 6:19 says, "We have this *hope* as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure..."



Team Member Spotlight – Meet Doris Baker

Doris' first day was July 14th. We are ecstatic to have such high caliber volunteers! Doris comes with high accolades from other organizations and her church. To be specific, she has been called, "caring, consistent, seasoned, dependable, resourceful, and responsible." She has a wealth of experience, such as Bible teacher, biblical counselor, mentor, administrator, and graphic designer, to name a few. But the characteristic that we most

recognized upon meeting and spending time with Doris is her compassion for those who are hurting and her desire to see them set free. She is an absolutely, amazing woman. We hope you will call or come by and welcome her to the team! In fact, she is responsible for creating the template for this newsletter. Hallelujah!! Doris is also a prayer warrior, and if you need prayer, please reach out to us via phone or email, and we will add

you to our prayer list. Prayer is the beginning of everything we'd like to see changed! Scripture says, "Pray without ceasing," and we take this seriously at Mourning Dove. Stay tuned as we continue to reveal the way in which Doris is making a difference in the lives of others through Mourning Dove Discipleship Counseling and Placement Services . . .

**Mourning Dove Discipleship
Counseling, Inc. 501c3 non-profit**

601 Eastchester Dr., Suite A
High Point, NC 27262

Phone & Fax: 877-535-3300

Website:

MourningDoveDiscipleship.org

E-Mail:

info@mourningdovediscipleship.org

Isaiah 43:1-3

But now, O Jacob, listen to the LORD who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says,

"Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you.

I have called you by name; you are mine.

² When you go through deep waters,

I will be with you.

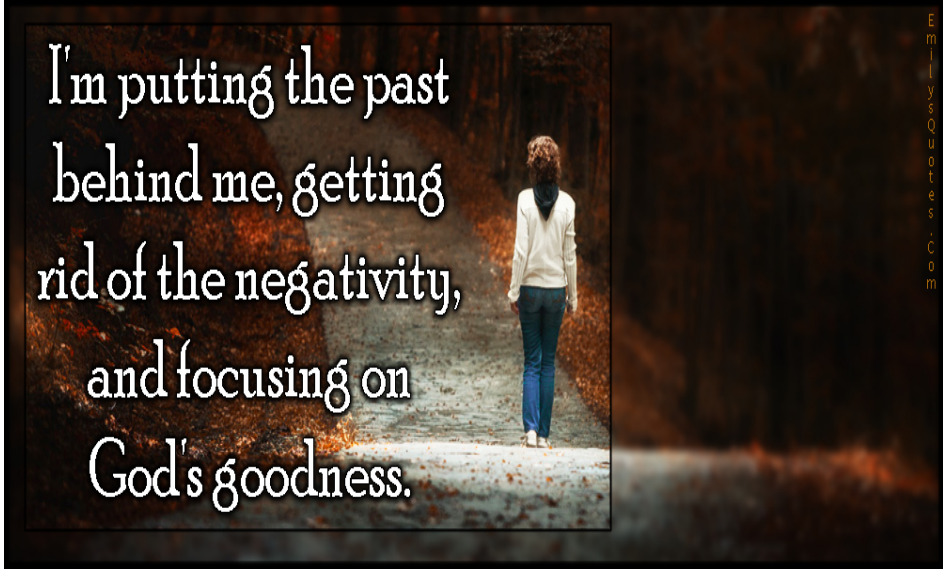
When you go through rivers of difficulty,
you will not drown.

When you walk through the fire of oppression,
you will not be burned up;
the flames will not consume you.

³ For I am the LORD, your God,.....

for I have created you for my glory, I have formed you; yea, I have made you.

Child, you are mine;
I have called you by name



I'm putting the past
behind me, getting
rid of the negativity,
and focusing on
God's goodness.

EmilysQuotes.Com

MAILING ADDRESS FOR DONATIONS:
Mourning Dove Discipleship Counseling
PO Box 5964 High Point, NC 27262

*Thank you for your
prayers and support!*
