

Your help is needed today so that women with a chemical dependency have a chance to experience the joy of a Christ-centered life. Please send the most generous gift you can.

\$5 \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other _____

Monthly Quarterly One Time

Other (Service, Food, Women's Needs, Volunteer Time)

Make checks payable to: **Promise of Hope** - Donations are Tax Deductable

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Promise of Hope is a 501(c)(3) organization



Promise of Hope, Inc.



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God's Answer for Chemically Dependent Women



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God Gives Beauty for Ashes

Denise's Story

I was raised in Georgia, the youngest of three children. My father being a deacon, and my mother a Sunday school teacher, meant I was in the church each time the doors opened. I can remember having feelings of inadequacy even at an early age, never feeling as though I fit in anywhere. I accepted Christ as my Savior when I was twelve years old.

When I was fourteen, I began to drink, which allowed me to escape feelings of inadequacy. For the first time in my life, I felt like I "fit in". Even though I got very sick the first time I got drunk, I knew I wanted to do it again, because I felt "good" when I was drunk...Free from pain and insecurities. When I was fifteen, I began to experiment with street drugs, and found I enjoyed these much more, mainly because they didn't smell. I felt I was very good at hiding the fact that I was high from my parents and everyone else.

I graduated high school, only by the grace of God, and moved to Atlanta to attend dental assisting school. I became deeper involved in drug use while there. I remember when I was nineteen, realizing that I didn't know how to function without being high, or knowing that I would have a way to get high that day. It was all that kept me going. The saying, "I used to live and lived to use" was true of my life. After two years of bouncing checks, getting financial help from home to pay bills, a lifestyle that should have rendered me dead, I tried a geographical cure from my misery. I moved back home, but the lifestyle remained the same. About ten months later, I moved to Charleston S.C. to try again. I failed. It seemed that everywhere I moved (and I moved a lot!), I would not actively seek out the drug crowd, but always ended up with those types of people. Satan is very powerful. After two years in Charleston, I moved to Jacksonville, Fla., again seeking a better life. I stayed about two years, again with nothing changing. I moved back home, defeated. And couldn't figure out why.

I got a job at a nursing home and began to work a new career. I would get off work and go straight to pick up something to get high on. I had been away so long from home, by now all of my connections were dead, in jail, or moved. So I began to drink again when I could not find drugs. One afternoon, I went to pick up my drugs and met the man I married three months later. I was eventually fired for drinking on the job.

Our marriage began, obviously, on a very sick note. My husband had a very good job, so I stayed home getting high. I didn't like it at all when he came home one day and said I couldn't get high anymore when he was at work. For the first time in my life, someone had told me that I couldn't use when I wanted to...Our marriage struggled from this point until learning I was expecting our first child. I stopped using drugs, hoping to do my best with this baby. Our son was born a beautiful, healthy baby. That is one of God's blessings I thank Him for daily.

After my six weeks check up, my husband let me start back having mixed drinks with him occasionally. When he went to work, I would use the money he'd given me for groceries or diapers, to buy drugs. When our son was thirteen months old, I found out I was pregnant again. I did not want to be pregnant. When I went to the doctor for my first check up, I complained with my back and he gave me pain pills. He assured me this would not hurt my baby. He didn't realize when the prescription read "one every four hours", I was taking "four every one hour." I had no problems getting the pills, or having them refilled. I lost thirteen pounds while I was carrying this baby. When our daughter was born, she weighed 5lbs 4ozs., nothing but skin and bones. But God took care of her when I couldn't. Once she was out of my body, within three days she turned into the most beautiful baby I'd seen.

Having been raised in the church, I knew I needed to have my children in church. We were always in services--I may have been loaded, but I made sure we were there. When our daughter was eighteen months old, I woke up one morning realizing that "normal" people surely didn't live like this--getting out of bed, popping pills before I got breakfast for my children, or grabbing them out of bed, not changing diapers, to run to the drug store and pick up a new supply. To look at my life from the outside, things appeared fairly normal, whatever that is...but inside I was dying.

I couldn't do anything without knowing I had pills, or at least knowing I would be able to get some that day. I sought help from a doctor who sent me to Parkside for treatment. I stayed 36 days, aced the program, graduated with honors (?), went home and relapsed five weeks later. A year later, my Husband came home one evening from work and went in to kiss the children goodnight, but they were not in bed. I didn't remember where they were. I had taken them to my parent's home early that morning, and did not remember the trip.

The next Monday morning, I was on my way to Mississippi for a three-month extended treatment program. Again, I aced the program, graduated with honors, came home and relapsed five days later. My family just quit talking to me, never making contact, and my husband looked at me one morning and said, "You don't have to worry about me taking the kids away from you, you'll take care of that all by yourself. You're just a drug addict, you're going to die high."

After we moved to where we built our home, I began to attend Church. Here, I would sit and listen to this Sunday school teacher that talked about how loving and forgiving God is. I had always heard this, but never felt it. The God I grew up learning about was a God that would send me to hell for dancing, and by the time I was fifteen, I'd done a lot worse than dance. But as this lady talked, I knew she had a peace I wanted. All I could do was sit and listen as tears streamed down my face. She came up to



Denise Crawford-Dobbins
Promise of Hope Founder

me one Sunday and asked if I would like to talk sometime. We met; I shared with her that I was an addict. She began to disciple me, encourage me, and she requested honesty from me. Even when I used, she encouraged me to be honest with her. She loved me no matter what I did, or what I told her. I fell under conviction very strongly one morning and decided to quit using. This was three months after she began to disciple me. I gathered up all of my syringes and carried them to the dumpster. When I got home, my connection called with a "fresh batch". I hesitated, but told her I would be there in ten minutes. I went and picked up the pills, drove home and realized I had thrown away all of my syringes. I drove to the dumpster and climbed in to look for them. (My addiction had progressed to the point that I was dissolving the pills in water to draw them up in a syringe and shoot them into my veins.) It seemed the more this lady shared Jesus with me, the more Satan fought to keep me.

This teacher had spent time teaching me about the unconditional love of Jesus Christ. (Most importantly, through her example) While I was inside the dumpster, it seemed like the whole world stopped, even the wind. All of a sudden, I saw myself as God saw me. I felt so ashamed, and at the same time, I felt this tremendous love that I had never experienced before. I got out, went home, fell on my knees and prayed to God. My prayer went something like this, "God, if you will just give me one day without the craving of alcohol or drugs, you can have my husband, my children, my new home, my car, anything, anything you need to make me the person you created me to be. I felt a release. I got up off my knees, not trusting what I had felt, or even knowing what I had felt, but with a willingness to walk in it that I'd never had before.

This teacher walked me through the healing process of a Christian based twelve step program, and encouraged me to attend AA and NA meetings until I had a better grip on things. All the support that was available to me, she directed me to it. I thank God for her courage to reach out to me. I "surrendered" my life to Jesus Christ January 17, 1991. At that time, I didn't trust the God I was surrendering to...but I knew a Sunday school teacher who did! I believed in the trust she had, until my own developed. Eleven months later, my husband went to treatment and we began to really work on surrendering our lives together....

Four years after my surrender, I knew that God was calling me to a ministry for women who live in the same bondage as I had for twenty-two years. I began to pray and sought the prayers of people I knew who believed in prayer. We prayed for Him to provide a way for me to do this work He was calling me to do. Three and a half years later, we felt it was time to



Denise and Dennis Dobbins

form a board of directors, and look for a place to house this ministry. We opened our doors in May of 1999. We have seen evidence of just how powerfully transforming the love of Jesus truly is.

From Inspiration to Realization

Promise of Hope began from divine inspiration in March of 1995, and opened its doors for operation on May 3, 1999. In 10 years of service, our program has grown from a capacity for six to 20 women. We are nestled on approximately two acres of property in rural Georgia, surrounded by God's naturally beautiful fields, a pond, and peacefulness - just the right antidote for women who have been running a race with addiction, who need to be still and learn how to live in freedom from bondage.

We have served over 250 women and their families in the time we have been in operation. We provide residential care for women ages 18 and over. We are a Phase program, consisting of five phases lasting from six-months to one year. Additionally, we are a work program, which enables the women to become responsible for themselves, and accept financial responsibility for their time in the program. They have a safe environment to experience the realities of life, where they learn to process their daily struggles and prepare to return to society. Promise of Hope provides tools that help strengthen the resident's ability to build a personal relationship with Christ, handle cravings, and address personality conflicts in the personal relationships, the work place, and in society at large. These tools include promises from God's Word, prayer, 12-step program guidance, and living and communication skills.

Our Family Program is a very successful component of our program. We have seen many families restored as a result of this program. In one case a family was reunited when the couple remarried, bringing a mother, father and two children back together under God's umbrella of love. The mother now has over four years clean, is actively involved with Promise of Hope as a staff member and is active with her church family as well. Another success is a single mother of two, clean for five years, and successful in her own answering service business, active in church and bible study.

Our success rate is approximately 68% and many of those successes can be seen in our local area; however, we have no geographical limit! To God be the glory!!

From conception, our desire has been to have a program that would bring glory to God by being one of quality in education both through Bible Study and addiction counseling, financial accountability, community interaction, and protection to our residents. Our program is held in highest esteem among our community peers. Currently, we have a pool of over 45 volunteers, which includes more than 11 former residents.



Hope Building



Peaceful surroundings

We are very humbled at how God has blessed us with the honor of receiving the Samaritan Award in 2004, 2005, 2007 and 2008 from Acton University stating that Promise of Hope is one of the "Top Ten Most Effective Charities" in the nation! The August 2008 issue of World magazine featured Promise of Hope and the amazing work God is doing to transform lives.



Faith Building

The Faith Building was completed in the fall of 2008. It is our residential building that allows us to serve up to 20 women all under one roof.

The Vision Continues Joy House • Baxley, GA

April 2008 Promise of Hope will open a its first satellite campus in Baxley, GA. The Baxley property is located in rural Appling County. The Joy House is surrounded by God's nature, almost identical to the original Hope Building. The Joy House is yet another serene setting for the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of women overcoming the bondage of addiction. The Baxley satellite will house four to six residents.



Joy House
Baxley, GA

Our Need

We offer scholarship beds to women who cannot afford the admission cost, relying on our faith in God to provide for our needs. After a period of stabilizing, the women begin working and pay rent weekly to cover the cost of their time in the program, far less than the actual cost per week to provide service to these women.

Promise of Hope has many rising financial needs. These are met through private donations, resident's fees, fund raising events, and occasional grants.

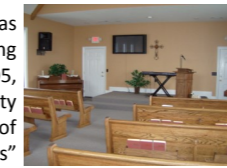
Mission Statement

To present to women an understanding of Christ's forgiveness and acceptance through the study of God's Holy Word and 12-step Recovery Programs.



Accredited thru
Georgia Association of Recovery Residences

Samaritan
Award
2004
2005
2007
2008



Inside Grace Chapel



Grace Chapel

STATEMENT OF FAITH

THE BIBLE

We believe the Bible is the divinely inspired authoritative Word of God. We believe it is the absolute true Word of God. We believe it is applicable for our lives today in determining and directing Christian faith and practice.

"All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." (II Timothy 3:16)

THE TRINITY

We believe there is one God, eternally present in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men." (John 1:1-4)

GOD

We believe God is our heavenly Father and the Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them. We believe God created man/woman for His glory.

"...the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise." (Isaiah 43:21)

JESUS

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.

"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form." (Colossians 2:9)

THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the Spirit-filled life. The Holy Spirit indwells, sanctifies, instructs, empowers Christians for service, and seals them unto the day of redemption.

"And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you." (Romans 8:11)

SALVATION

We believe the salvation of man/woman, who is sinful and lost, is by faith in God's grace on the basis of the redeeming work of Jesus Christ's shed blood and not on the basis of human merit or works.

"Salvation is found in no one else for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

THE CHURCH

We believe the Church is the Body of Christ, both universal and local, to which all true believers belong.

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." (I Corinthians 12:27)