

Something to Pray About

January 2013 – Cindy Sears, Reporter

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

—Matthew 5:7 NKJV

Mercy Given; Mercy Received



We thank God for the wonderful service we had on Sunday, December 30th at 7:00 p.m. The Pairs and Spares Sunday school class invited the men from Bethel Colony of Mercy in Lenoir to a meal of chicken and dumplings, green beans, slaw and peach cobbler for dessert. They wolfed it down over and over again, expressing their appreciation constantly. We were happy to feed them and give them a chance to share their faith with us.

Bethel Colony of Mercy is a rehabilitation facility for men of all ages who have addictions to alcohol or drugs. There are 50-60 men in residence at any given time. These men come from all walks of life and spend 65 days at Bethel learning about Jesus Christ and how to effectively fight their addictions. Some of the men come in as Christians, but many come to know Christ while at the Colony.

After the meal, the men filled up the CLC stage with the tallest in the back row and each row with men about one inch shorter. Five rows of men can really belt out a song, and they did an excellent job of singing praises to the Lord. Three men gave their personal testimonies after the singing.

The first man who spoke came from a Christian home and attended church into his teens, but he never had a personal relationship with Jesus. Only after he came to know Jesus personally was he able to fight his addictions successfully.

One man became addicted to prescription drugs, and soon found his life and his marriage falling apart. While at Bethel Colony, he received word from his wife that she was willing to try again to save their marriage, and so she would not be continuing with divorce proceedings. We pray for success for him as he leaves Bethel and returns to his wife and family.



Abdul spoke of a time when his mother would feed him and his brothers and sisters, but not eat herself. Then his father would come in wanting to eat, but no food was left for him either and he would then fight with Abdul's mother. The father soon left the family and Abdul's problems with the police began at the young age of 8. By the time he was 14, he was drinking alcohol. He thought he had it made as a football player, but soon got caught up in illicit drugs as well, beginning with marijuana and graduating to stronger drugs. When he first arrived at Bethel, all he would say is, "I want to go home." Now, he thanks God for all the men there who have helped him deal with his addictions; and gives thanks that he now has Jesus in his heart to help him with the ongoing battle.

We thank the Lord for the men and women who help run and support Bethel Colony of Mercy, which is solely supported by gifts from individuals, churches, and businesses. They receive no governmental help, because the government would interfere with their evangelism to these men. It was interesting to hear from several of the men in the group who had tried other secular rehab facilities. The cost to enter those facilities was in the thousands of dollars (\$15,000 to \$21,000) for one month. The application fee for Bethel Colony of Mercy is \$250 for the 65 day stay. The yearly budget is around \$619,000—all from donations. Please consider giving to this worthy cause. We thank everyone who gave to the love offering that we took up for them after the service.

“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy...For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.” Psalm 103:8, 11-12.

We all need God’s mercy and His forgiveness. Some people’s sins are there for the world to see; some are hidden behind closed doors or in our minds; but we all sin and we all need the blood of Jesus to wash us clean. Then and only then will we be able to stand before the holy and righteous God on judgment day. May the mercy you give to others rebound to you again—as it always does.