

## SHARING A TESTIMONY



Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. Psalms 127:3

My name is Timothy Scott Hill although I currently use the last name of Oliver. I don't use Oliver because I have any affection for the

man that my mother was with at the time, instead my Mother had my name changed on my school records and social security card when I was 14 and I did not know how to change it back or even that I could change it back before I joined the Army. My story is long and complicated partly because I have 53 years of experiences to draw upon; but also because there is the part of my life when I did not know God, and the part where I began to learn, know and trust God.

I was born the middle of five children. My Father was pursuing a career in the Army and developing his skills as a musician and entertainer. My story is filled with defining moments like my Mother's divorce, because one day my Dad was there and the next day he was not. What I remember from that event is that I believed for a long time that I had done something wrong. When I was five, my brother, sister and I had gone to church and when we came back our lives had changed. That morning we were living in Sioux Falls, SD and that afternoon, we were living with my Aunt in Newton, IA. My family never attended church again and the only time that we heard about God from the age of five to eighteen was associated with a curse.

Because my Mother drank every day, I never thought there was anything wrong with that. Alcohol was such a constant presence it seemed more normal than water. All I can/will say about my childhood is that it was abusive both physically and mentally. I did not learn until after I left the Army that it was not normal for an eleven year old to take a knife to bed. It was not for protection, but simply an item that I thought many times about using to stop the pain. One of the many effects my childhood has

had on me is that I have frequent flashbacks during both my waking and sleeping hours. What I call a "day-mare" can cause me to literally freeze with irrational fear.

How my childhood affected me, is that I was fearful most of the time and learned to isolate myself. I can't say that our family was close. It was every person for their self. However, it did prepare me in many ways for the type of person that I became. Even though my Mother drank every day, she did possess a singular wit and ability to make something out of nothing. Her term was "Improvisational Engineering." That skill allowed me to learn how to make do with what I had and repair instead of replace.

One of the challenges that I faced as a child was that I was born nine weeks early. As a result, my height and weight are below average. A great deal is talked about bullying at school these days but the truth is that it is nothing new. But that is where I first learned about making choices. Mother told me that I could moan and worry about being the shortest, skinniest person in school or I could choose to see the advantages. Mother's point was that I shouldn't use my size as an excuse for not trying to do something. Later in life, I adapted it to this; "God made me the perfect height because I don't have to duck very often and He gave me a brain to figure out when I needed to stand on something."

Growing up as a welfare child, options for my future after high school were limited. College was a only a dream because in 1978 the opportunities were limited for children coming from my background. As a result, I joined the Army like my Father had. I recall sitting in the airplane that was taking me to Fort Dix, New Jersey and telling myself that no matter what my childhood had been like, from this point forward, anything that happened to me became my responsibility. Again, it was all about choices and recognizing even at that immature stage that my past did not control who or what I became.

*And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. Isaiah 30:21*

*To be continued....*

## Director's Desk

### Faith In Motion



*Oh that You would bless me indeed and enlarge my border, and that Your hand might be with me, and that You would keep me from harm that it may not pain me!" And God granted him what he requested. (1 Chronicles 4:10)*

Faith put into action is what Christians are called to do. How is your faith today?

I stand here strong in my Faith and commitment in the Lord and to put that Faith into action. Recently I was blessed to reap the benefits of that Faith with the realization of the Second Hand Thrift Store.

Many know that part of my dream for the Beacon was to have a Thrift Store that would help us to foster our ministry, strengthen our ties with the community and provide an avenue for starting our Work Program. Having recently completed a massive renovation at the shelter the idea of the Thrift Store was not on the short list of priorities, but something that was always in the back of my mind. Walking through the neighborhood I happened upon a FOR SALE sign at the Woodman Electric office and knowing the gal that worked in the office I decided to take a look. I was amazed at just how perfect the space met the needs for the thrift store that I had envisioned while also providing the necessary space to have executive office space outside of the main building. I knew that in order to have this dream realized the space was going to have to be donated so that is when I set my faith in to motion. I prayed to the Lord for direction. A few hours later I called the owner of the building to discuss with him about the possibility of donating the building. He informed me that he and his partner were actually discussing my visit

to their office that day, and that there was someone potentially interested in the space and they would be back in touch by the following Monday. I continued to pray and have faith. I truly knew that this would work out, and that this building would be the new home of our thrift store and business office. I didn't have a doubt – my faith was in motion.

The following Monday I reached out to the owners and found out that the other deal was not going through and that once they were able to iron out all the legalities they would be donating the building to the Beacon.

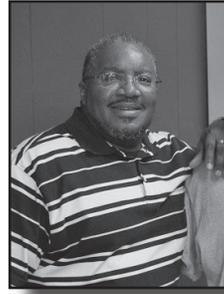
“And Jesus answered and said to them, “Truly I say to you, if you have faith, and do not doubt, you shall not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ it shall happen.” (Matthew 21:21)

My faith in motion became a realized dream of potential. February 18, 2014 we took possession of the building and since then we have been working together to ready the building for our Grand Opening March 31, 2014. The men have come together and worked diligently with members of our staff and Board of Directors – Faith in Motion. The Second Chance Thrift Store will be just that – a second chance for items to find a new beginning... just like the men at the Beacon.

If you would like to put your faith into motion and assist with the Second Chance Thrift Store please contact the Beacon of Hope at (515) 955-3366.



**From the Chaplain's Corner**  
**By Chaplain Eric Howard**



## **“The Battles Within”**

Today's external battles are caused by some of what we hear and some of what we see on TV or in our local newspapers, wars and even rumors of war. Cause us to react toward something. I don't know how you feel or think but it brings me to a crisis point; that draws my attention to the inner me. It makes one justified, sad or vengeful or causes one to be fearful.

When we hear or see the external battles, internal things begin to happen. James 4:1 says "what causes fights among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? Verse 4:2 continues "You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You don't have, because you do not ask God."

Our concern ought to be about the inner man's conflict; to experience true freedom from external disaster. So what should we do about the world, country, state, town and home around us? Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways then will I hear from Heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land." One heart at a time we must go straight to the answer, for Jesus is the answer for the world today. Above him there is none other, Jesus is the way. For every external or internal problem or question, let us go to the answer, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **December – February Stats**

**Average of 35 men per night**

**Evening Meals Served – 5,168**

**Volunteer Hours – 1,091**

**Hours worked by our clients – 1,297**

**Chapel attendance – 2,825**

### ***In Memory of Ray Brown***



***Born on September 18, 1955 and passed away December 26th, 2013. Ray was an employee of the Beacon of Hope almost since the beginning.***



## Mission Staff

**Steve Roe**

Director

**Eric Howard**

Chaplain, Operations  
Manager

**Timothy Oliver**

Business Manager

**Annette Howard**

Volunteer/Ministry  
Coordinator

**Sean Rongved**

Second Chance  
Store Manager

**Shift Supervisors**

Chad Ober

Doug Crimmins

Gary Graham

## Board of Directors

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**Gary Knox**

**Follow us on facebook: Beacon of Hope Shelter for up-to-date information of our current needs. Also watch as our website gets updated and transformed, <http://www.beaconofhopeshelter.com/> to better serve you.**

## **THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!!!**

**We wish to thank all of the individuals, churches, students and civic groups. You have all given so generously of your time; money and talents to support this mission. Without your help we could not begin to provide the basic needs of shelter, food and clothing for those less fortunate than ourselves. If you are interested in learning more about volunteering, please contact Annette Howard at (515) 302-4128 or via Email: [ahoward@beaconofhopeshelter.com](mailto:ahoward@beaconofhopeshelter.com)**

**“Give thanks to the Lord, for HE is good; His LOVE endures forever.”  
Psalms 107:1**