

*“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good”*

As I was in the process of reflecting upon what to write for this month’s Campfire, a letter arrived in the mail from a young man’s parents communicating their gratitude in an impactful way. They emphasize their appreciation for Dunklin, but more importantly, the Lord’s power, goodness, and miracle working ways. Their son has been at Dunklin since October 13, 2020. He has gone through the program, Servant Leadership Training, and is now in Staff Training. This is being shared with their permission.

Thank you all for prayerful support. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

**A letter of gratitude to Dunklin Memorial Church,**

How does one even begin to thank someone for saving the life of their child? If you would have asked me about Dillon’s future on October 12<sup>th</sup> two years ago, I would have to tell you that we were anticipating one of two phone calls. One call would have been from someone to tell us that he was dead. The other phone call would have been to let us know he was incarcerated. Those seemed to be the only two directions that our child was headed. After 12 plus years of lies, deceit, manipulation, criminal activities, heavy drug use, poor decisions, and a plethora of bad actions, I can tell you today that our son is a changed man. He is a child of God. He is a student and a teacher. He is sober. He is our son. He is a mentor and a mentee. He is alive. He has purpose.

We spent years avoiding his phone calls because answering only led to heartache and disappointment. He needed money or he was in trouble or he was being manipulative. Today, if we think it might be Dillon on the other end of an incoming call, we race each other to be the first to hear his voice on the other end of the line. We get excited about spending time with him. When people ask about him, we no longer answer by saying that today was a good day or things are not going well. We are thrilled when someone asks how Dillon is doing. Heck, there are many occasions that we initiate the conversation!

Dillon had been through over twelve rehab programs, jail, court, not knowing if he had a bed to sleep in at night, or not knowing where his next meal would come from; he was just looking for that next fix that would keep him out of pain. We, as his parents, worried, argued, had health problems, marital issues, lost sleep, educated ourselves, researched his next stop, enabled, withdrew ourselves from him...the list goes on and on. This story is not so different from every family that loves an addict.

Dillon found Dunklin in the darkest depths of despair, loneliness, isolation, addiction, darkness, and hopelessness. Praise God! Dunklin has been a life-changer not just for Dillon but for his entire family and loved ones. My heart overflows with gratitude for God, Dunklin Memorial Church, and all associated with this refuge.

Dillon is truly a changed man. We feel as if we have had a front row seat to a modern-day miracle. Not only has Dillon changed into a man of God but many of his loved ones have been changed for the better by our family’s testimony. He has no idea how many friends and family have been touched by his story of redemption.

The words thank you do not even come close to expressing our gratitude but they are all we have. Thank you for showing our son a way to His Father and a life that now has purpose. Thank you for starting the rebuilding of our family. Thank you for the restful nights and worry-free days. Thank you for paving the way that renewed our faith and the faith of others close to our family. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do in Dillon’s life and the lives of countless men and their loved ones.

Sincerely,

David and Ann  
(Proud to say we are Dillon’s parents)



# Harvest of Righteousness

