

when GUILT finds GRACE

who's the new kid?

There's a new kid in town! His name is Nathanael. We are praising God for this baby boy, this crying, squirming picture of new beginnings and second chances. Someday he's going to learn about his family history, a tale he'll hear from his father, Tommie. It's a story of God's redeeming love, and we thought you'd like to hear it. It goes something like this:

dad's rocky path

Twenty-five years. For murder. A case of guilt by association.

Tommie's mom died when he was only two. His great-grandparents took him in, but they also died. So at age 12, he was pretty much on his own, a little boy on the streets of St. Louis. He dropped out of school in 7th grade, and for years he and his sister wandered from shelter to shelter and got passed around from one relative's house to another. At age 17, he fathered a child.

Trying to get relief from the bondage and addiction to drugs and alcohol, he attempted suicide - four times. Finally, determined to make a new start, he moved to Houston. Before long, he started selling the very drugs from which he had tried to get free, and he soon became his own best customer.

One winter afternoon, he was in the wrong state of mind and hanging around the wrong people. Although he didn't pull the trigger, he was there at the scene - involved in a homicide.

miracle in cell 5D5

The first stop after his arrest was the county jail, where he was immediately thrown into a cell by himself, segregated because he was a threat to himself and to others. What happened next was miraculous.

I saw a tract sitting on the table, all by itself. In it was the gospel of Jesus Christ. I read that tract, and God opened my eyes and I realized I was a sinner. I was lost. I was without God and bound for hell. God allowed me to recognize His love in Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for my sins. I accepted Christ right there in that cell on May 11, 1996.

A peace came upon me that I cannot explain. Even standing before the judge, being sentenced to 25 years, I was not moved, because I knew that I was safe in Jesus. I was released from the prison of sin and all the demonic forces that had had me bound - of drug addiction, lying, and stealing.

More than 17 years later, Tommie Anderson was finally granted parole. In 2013, he moved into a C.H.A.R.M. transitional home. Two years ago, we hired him! He is now an ordained minister and serves as our transitional living ministry coordinator.

generations of grace

Tommie and his wife, Shorna, recently celebrated their first anniversary. Last month, little Nathanael was born. Tommie gets a second chance at fatherhood. The story of his redemption and God's amazing grace will be recalled by Tommie's family for many generations to come.

And about Tommie's older son, Darius - he and his dad were reconciled back in 2012. Darius now affirms Tommie as "the best dad ever!"



What a joy it is to share with you these wonderful stories of redemption and reconciliation! Only in God...!

Your donation helps us provide family-style housing for recently released men and women. There they learn how to "do life" as they continue to grow in the Lord. We give them a stable place from which to launch back into society, now free to be the people God created them to be.

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Christ's Hope and Reconciliation Ministry (C.H.A.R.M.) ministers to incarcerated men and women and their families. Our mission is to share the hope found only in Jesus Christ and to see souls reconciled to God. As the lives of individuals are transformed, so are their relationships with their families, local church, and communities.

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