



POOR IN SPIRIT

Addiction is a slippery slope for many. Life's circumstances can often spin out of control or take an unexpected turn. It is in these moments that many of us are tested. Many of us would like to think that we can handle these moments ourselves. That's where we are wrong. We need the support and encouragement from those God has placed in our lives, ultimately pointing us back to a place of peace and healing. When we attempt to fight the battles on our own, it's not long before we begin to believe lies, falling down a slippery slope that leads to destruction. Pat Hurd is one of our recent graduates who is familiar with this process all too well. But God, in His grace and mercy, has given Pat a second chance. Pat shares his story below. May you be encouraged as I was.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." - Matthew 5:3

After 30 years of raising a large family, bi-vocational pastoring, organizing local conferences and speaking at various events, the end of that season of life and the beginning of the season of retirement came crashing down upon me with more force than I expected.

Instead of reaching out for support and guidance, I retreated inward – slowly but surely isolating myself from family and friends until my only relief from the emotional and physical pain was a steady and growing dose of alcohol. My wife commented a couple of times that I had a death wish. There was probably a measure of truth to her observation.

After a few years of this behavior, family and friends convinced me I needed to change something. I began looking into some places for residential recovery that were recommended to my wife and me. I chose The Lighthouse because of the biblical emphasis for recovery and the proximity of friends for support.

Moving from my North Texas home to Fort Wayne, Indiana, for a 6-month program of counseling and communal living was a trauma in and of itself. What I found was a group of men who were nothing like me. Sure, they all had their sundry issues and problems like me. The difference was that they were open, honest, transparent, and attacking their stuff with The Lighthouse staff, many of whom had walked the path of recovery too.

It took some time and it was a struggle to become just like them – ready to admit to being a sinner no different from them and submitting to the realization that I couldn't win the battle alone.

I'm sure it was shocking for those who know me the best to witness me fall into addiction so fast. At The Lighthouse, I received a steady dose of the gospel from many different angles. Our hearts were moved every time we guys got together for life skill training and Bible studies. **That was something I was accustomed to giving but not so accustomed to receiving.**

Being a part of The Lighthouse ministry—and witnessing firsthand the impact of the biblical model of recovery applied to so many men (including myself)—has exposed me to a segment of culture I had not previously known. I pray, by the grace and mercy of my Lord and King, Jesus Christ, that I have the tools to take back home and minister to the lost and forgotten souls of those who are poor in spirit.

- Pat Hurd





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Our annual online charity auction is back!

This June we will be hosting some great packages for you to bid on as you support a great cause.

Your support goes a long way in helping those we serve.

We cannot do this without you!



Welcome Pastor Michael & Naomi Ijah

In March, The Lighthouse Community Center opened its doors to host Fountain of Hope Church, a local church plant, led by Pastor Michael Ijah. God directed Pastor Michael and his family to Fort Wayne from Nigeria to plant a multiethnic church. Pastor Michael and his wife Naomi have a heart for the hurting and broken, with a special passion toward those struggling with addiction. It was this passion that led Pastor Michael to invest his time in getting to know more about The Lighthouse.

Upon meeting Pastor Michael, I was struck by his love for the lost and his vision for a church plant in our community. After several meetings, The Lighthouse agreed to host Fountain of Hope Church in our Community Center. In addition, we hired Pastor Michael as a full-time case manager for The Lighthouse. Pastor Michael leads groups for our 30-day residents and invests in the men in our program. He has been a wonderful addition to our team.

We are also excited to have Naomi join our team as a part-time biblical counselor. Naomi has received training through Faith Biblical Counseling Ministries and is working on completing her certification with the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors. Naomi has been sitting in on many of our groups and is getting to know our residents and community members. She will also meet with our residents for biblical counseling during her time with us. She too has been a great asset to our team.



I am constantly encouraged by what God continues to do in and through The Lighthouse. Much of what we do is made possible by your partnership with us. **Right now, individual giving is at an all time low.** Would you prayerfully consider making a financial donation to help us continue in the work that God has called us to? Thank you for your prayers and financial support; you are a vital part of our ministry.

—Pastor Brandon Bower