



## ON THE HOUSE

### Changes Ahead for Bethsaida House

Dear Bethsaida House Supporters,

We at Bethsaida House – just as in our homes and businesses – are feeling the pinch of this economy. Our Board has given much time and prayerful consideration as to how to be good stewards of what has been entrusted to us. While we have seen an increase in appointments in recent months, unfortunately we have not received the donations to offset the cost of a full-time director. We have come to the conclusion that we need to cut back the director position to the equivalent of two days a week. With volunteer help, our intercessory prayer groups and classes can continue. We will begin this new plan no later than June 1, 2009.

There is also the very real possibility that we may have to move. We really have more space than we need, and our building may be sold or our space rented in the near future. We could possibly operate out of a couple of rooms. We are hoping to find something rent free or for a very minimum fee. If you have any ideas, please let one of us know.

Brian Hite has been outstanding in his position of Executive Director. God has used his Spiritual gifts to lead many people on the road to healing and wholeness. While working on a job description that encompasses the changes mentioned above, we asked Brian to be in prayer about continuing on a part-time basis. And though it is not likely he will remain on staff, we are glad to know that he will, at least, join us as one of the many volunteers who carry out our vision. Please pray for discernment and vision for the board and for Brian and his family during the coming weeks and months.

The board is committed to being available to take over some of the “clerical” jobs at Bethsaida House and being more active in fundraising. It will be imperative that our board and trained volunteers work closely with the director in manning the prayer teams and leading classes. Included in this letter is a 2009 Pledge Form—your chance to commit to our forward progress. Our goal is to continue bringing the Healing Christ to the broken and hurting by training people in the healing ministry and raising awareness about this ministry in our community. Our mission has not changed, but the way we pursue it must.

Bethsaida House opened in 2004—five years ago. What a blessing it has been to see God touch so many lives. You have each been a part of that, and we thank God for you. We hope you will continue to support us with your time, talents, and resources, as you are able. If you would fill out the pledge sheet and return it to us, it would help us plan for the months ahead.

In Him Who is our Healer,

Ida Page, for the Bethsaida House Board

## Seasons Change

By Brian Hite

A few short weeks ago a few inches of snow covered the ground, and only a few days later a sun high in the air melted the last remaining clumps of snowmen thrown together in front yards. As I write to you, in confirmation of Ecclesiastes 3, seasons are changing for Bethsaida House, for the world, and for me and my family.

Ida's letter addresses the future of Bethsaida House, and I encourage you to read that first and ask God how you can play a part in His plan. My time of full-time ministry at Bethsaida House is coming to a close soon. As the day approaches, I find myself reflective of the last 3 ½ years here and wondering—in that strange mix of anxiety and expectation that comes with the unknown—what God has in store for me, Ruthie, and Abbey Lee in the months and years to come.

It is important that I write to you now to ensure that you know a few things. First, I'm in support of what the Board is doing. I have received incredible support from them (and you) during my time here, and we have all struggled in our own way with this unusual equation that includes weighing the cost of doing ministry, the number of people we're reaching, and the spiritual weight of what we're doing. Using the last of Bethsaida House's funds to pay a full-time Director just doesn't seem like the right thing to do for any of us. In light of this, the board is revisiting the vision, the operating hours, the increased need for volunteer staff, the location, and other elements to ensure Bethsaida House continues to have a presence in Columbus.

Second, I am optimistic that the change is a good thing. The Lord spoke to me in 2005 and said, "This isn't your job in ministry; this is your ministry." Since that time, I've understood that, regardless of position or pay, healing prayer is in my future. So I plan to be around as a volunteer as best I can and want you to consider stepping up and becoming more involved as well. If you're taking the time to read this, you know how desperately this world needs the healing touch of Jesus and the power of His Holy Spirit.

Third, I've loved my time here. Many of you have become like family to myself, my wife, and my daughter. It's been amazing to develop in this together and to witness God's power among us. I've learned a whole lot from you, and I thank the Lord for your generosity and for sending you to help me grow *deeper* rather than *wider*.

There has been much life at Bethsaida House these past few years, and it's come in the form of miracles, signs, wonders, words, prayers, and literally every gift of the Holy Spirit. God's allowed me to get a long glance at His heart for the broken and hurting and how He desires to bring wholeness regardless of the nature of the pain. Surely my time as Director here has been preparation for the journey ahead; God bless you on yours, pray for me and my family on ours, and I'll look forward to when our paths cross.

Yours in Christ, Brian.

## Many Thanks to our Yard Sale Donors and Workers

Once again Bethsaida House supporters came through with both donations and their hours as hundreds of items (maybe thousands, if you count individual pieces of clothing) were dropped off, priced, and displayed in our parking lot.

This spring's yard sale raised just over \$600 for Bethsaida House. Your participation, whether as a donor, worker, customer (or all three) is much appreciated. It was, as always, a fun blend of work and fellowship. We're certain that many fine people got great deals on items that will bless their households, so everybody wins. Thanks for being the body of Christ to Columbus and the surrounding areas!