



Mission Newsletter

Issue #10, April 2013

Our Purpose Statement:

“Alive Again Life Recovery Mission operates for the purpose of creating a safe Christian environment for individuals of all ages to fellowship, learn, and heal from addictions and addiction-related issues”

AALRM Garage Sale Scheduled for May 11th

Plans are underway for the 2013 AALRM Mega Garage Sale! It will be held from 7:30-1:00 on Saturday, May 11th at EFree Church. We need your quality merchandise, and we can pick it up! (sorry... no tv's, computers, or clothes). Just call Steve DeBoer at (406) 581-7934. All donations are tax deductible and you will be given a receipt.

Last year's event was a great experience, as we had a tremendous amount of merchandise (and fun!) and we had the opportunity to share AALRM's mission with many shoppers. We can always use more help on the day of the sale and also the day before, arranging all the material. Come join us... we have a blast! Call Steve and let him know when you can come!



Workshop on Boundaries Now Underway

AALRM continues to offer Friday evening workshops in addition to the women's and men's separate 12-step programs. Sid Sinnema wrapped up his seminar series on personal financial management in February, and Paul Larson started a new workshop entitled *Boundaries*, based on a book with the same title

by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend. In this Christian-based program, people study and discuss how to set healthy boundaries with parents, spouses, children, friends, co-workers, and themselves.

AALRM Adds New Board Member... John Graves to Step Down as Chairman of Board

Alive Again's board meets monthly to review the organization's direction and activities, budget, and services. It is also involved in fund-raising and working with other individuals and groups in the Gallatin Valley. Stephanie Cole was recently added to AALRM's board. We welcome her and appreciate the immediate help she has provided in promoting the garage sale. John Graves, who has served as Chairman of the board for three years, will be stepping down from that position in June. We enormously appreciate the many contributions John has made... we will miss him sorely. There are currently openings for two other new board members. If you are interested in serving on the board or know someone you feel would be a good member, contact Steve.

Calling All Mentors!

We are also seeking more mentors to work with people in the program. We have good training materials... all you need is a love of God and of the people in the program and the desire to work with them. This a rewarding experience for everyone involved... help us make a difference!

Financial Needs

We thank everyone for your financial support of AALRM. The ministry continues to grow. There are tremendous needs in our community, and your donation supports us in ministering to those in need, in the name of Jesus Christ. A donation form is enclosed.

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

Matthew 25:40

AALRM is a registered 501(c) non-profit organization

Hi everyone... Steve asked if I would relate my observations and perspectives of AALRM since I began participating over three years ago. So... here we go!

I first met Steve DeBoer through a church home group approximately four years ago. I was so humbled by Steve's very obvious love of Jesus and how he expressed it so enthusiastically. He was a great inspiration to me as to how I could love the Lord. Not long thereafter, my wife Suzy and myself learned that Steve was involved in an addiction recovery program, and he invited us to attend a Friday evening meeting. Suzy had dealt with her husband's addiction issues in her previous marriage, and I believe she had a strong leading to serve and help others facing similar challenges. I came that first night to honor and support Suzy, and because I had such respect for Steve.

It's been four years now, and Suzy and I never stopped coming back Friday evenings. Suzy quickly became involved in the women's ministry and leading discussions in their meetings. I cleaned up after the dinners and got very handy with a vacuum cleaner and stacking chairs. I was very content with this involvement, getting to know more people who attended and having the chance after dinner to just help cleaning up.

As I met more attendees and got to know them, my perspective really changed regarding people facing addiction and addiction-related effects. My kids wondered what was leading me to spend nearly every Friday evening with people facing addiction issues, a fair number of them having spent considerable time in jail and prison. My answer was, and is, quite simple... I like the people who attend. In many cases, there is a humbleness and openness that is very refreshing. In Luke 18:13, Jesus tells the parable about the supposedly righteous Pharisee and a despised tax collector, each praying to God in his own manner. The Pharisee announced to God all of his good works, "but the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner'." The tax collector was right with God, the Pharisee was not. Many people involved in AALRM openly share their shortcomings and need for the Lord.

People who come are facing major struggles in life, whether it is addiction itself or dealing with the relational issues that fall out of addiction. We have seen great victories, and we have witnessed tragic incidents. Some people have managed to break addiction strongholds and gained freedom and a new life, while others have fallen back. We have had suicides, and people have returned to prison. But we also have people walking with the Lord who were lost before, and they now are not only growing in their new lives, but they are also helping others facing the same problems that they previously faced.

Returning to my journey with AALRM, I am reminded that "our plans are not God's plans". I was asked to serve on the organization's board, and about three years ago began playing music with the worship team (along with Suzy), which evolved into leading the worship team not long thereafter. Speaking for Suzy and myself, who play worship music in a lot of settings... we absolutely love it. On Friday nights, we are not playing worship music *for* others, we are worshipping *with* them. Most of the songs we sing are requests from the group, and we can share in people's pain, rejoicing, and love of God through the music. God gave us all the wonderful gift of music that allows us to draw close to him.

Through my experience with AALRM, I am humbled by the servant hearts that so many people bring, from Steve's overall leadership, to discussion leaders' preparation, to the cooks, dishwashers, nursery workers, board members' commitment, and the prayer and financial support of so many people. Overall, I see God working in this program and I am very thankful to be a part of it.

In Christ,

Paul Larson

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