



# DEDICATION

*"It's one thing to know about a ministry like Oliver Gospel ... it's another thing to connect with it."* **Meet the Jordans.**

*in Action*

Andy and Beth Jordan grew up in Columbia and, like many of us, learned as kids about helping those in need by seeing the dinner line outside Oliver Gospel. In college, Andy continued to see homelessness in his community and wanted to help. He reached out to Oliver Gospel and found that working **together** changes the whole community. Beth too was burdened for those without a home, especially the women we serve. As a former DSS case manager, she had walked with countless women struggling for **safety** and **support** while they worked to reunite with their children. She was encouraged to see Toby's Place meeting those needs. The Jordans found a place for their dedication by partnering with Oliver Gospel, who was there from the start.

Today, the Jordans are part of our Champions Society (our monthly donor club) and faithfully serve together. They love meeting our guests and listening to their stories because these connections break down stereotypes about those experiencing homelessness. *"It's human nature to be judgmental towards others when you don't know their story. Everyone makes bad choices, but by the grace of God, that's not the end of our stories."*

Andy and Beth's dedication to Oliver Gospel comes from their faithfulness to God. Their heart for our community is founded on John 14:18, *"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."* Whether it is listening to guest stories, attending an event, or volunteering, the Jordans' dedication inspires us all to **engage and transform lives together.**

**WHAT INSPIRES YOU TO BE DEDICATED?**

*In this issue:*

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- OLLIE'S CORNER

# Transportation Scholarship

When residents like Desmond and Talaya have reached a certain point in their healing through our programs, they are ready to seek out employment.



But without a car or even the money to afford a ride-share or taxi service, how do they get to their job? And if they don't have a job, how will they ever save enough to buy a car?

This is the difficult cycle experienced by most of our residents and often **prolongs the ultimate goal of moving into permanent housing.**



*But there is a way out of the cycle.* Oliver Gospel created the Transportation Scholarship, a program that provides Uber gift cards to applicants for 3 months' worth of transportation to and from jobs with real, sustainable potential. Since launching in January, we have awarded **six** scholarships to our residents, and in one case, a recipient was able to save enough to afford a car of his own!

**This is where you come in.** As our devoted supporters, we are dedicated to sharing how we use your donations and presenting real, tangible needs that you can meet. This is an obstacle that won't be resolved without your help. **Will you be a part of the solution?**

Oliver Gospel staff members, donors, and volunteers are some of the most passionate and **devoted** individuals that I have ever met! It's amazing to watch our staff care *so deeply* for those who are moving from desperation to transformation. They *literally* walk side-by-side with our guests, listening, praying, and teaching, so that every man, woman, and child begins to experience a "new normal" as they step closer to putting back together the broken pieces of life and as they find a fresh **hope** that is discovered through forgiveness, healing, restoration, and transformation by the power and love of Christ.

I am so thankful for donors and volunteers like Andy and Beth Jordan, who exemplify the meaning of **devotion**. They care passionately and show up to serve time and again, giving freely of their time and talents. They are truly an inspiration to me, our team, and our guests.

May our own service be fueled by what the Psalmist says: *"Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you."* - Psalm 33:22



*Travis McNeal*

TRAVIS MCNEAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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# DEFINED BY DEVOTION

A dictionary defines devotion as “love, loyalty, or enthusiasm for a person, work or activity.”

But what does devotion *look* like? **It looks like Richard Greenfield.** Richard’s retirement began last month after serving as the Men’s counselor for 20 years. He engaged *countless* men at their lowest point, walked them through their trials and pain, and watched them **grow** and be transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

How was he able to keep going all those years? **The answer is found in Matthew 11:28-30**, where Jesus invites His followers to bring their burdens to Him and promises *rest* in return. We do not have to carry them by ourselves anymore.

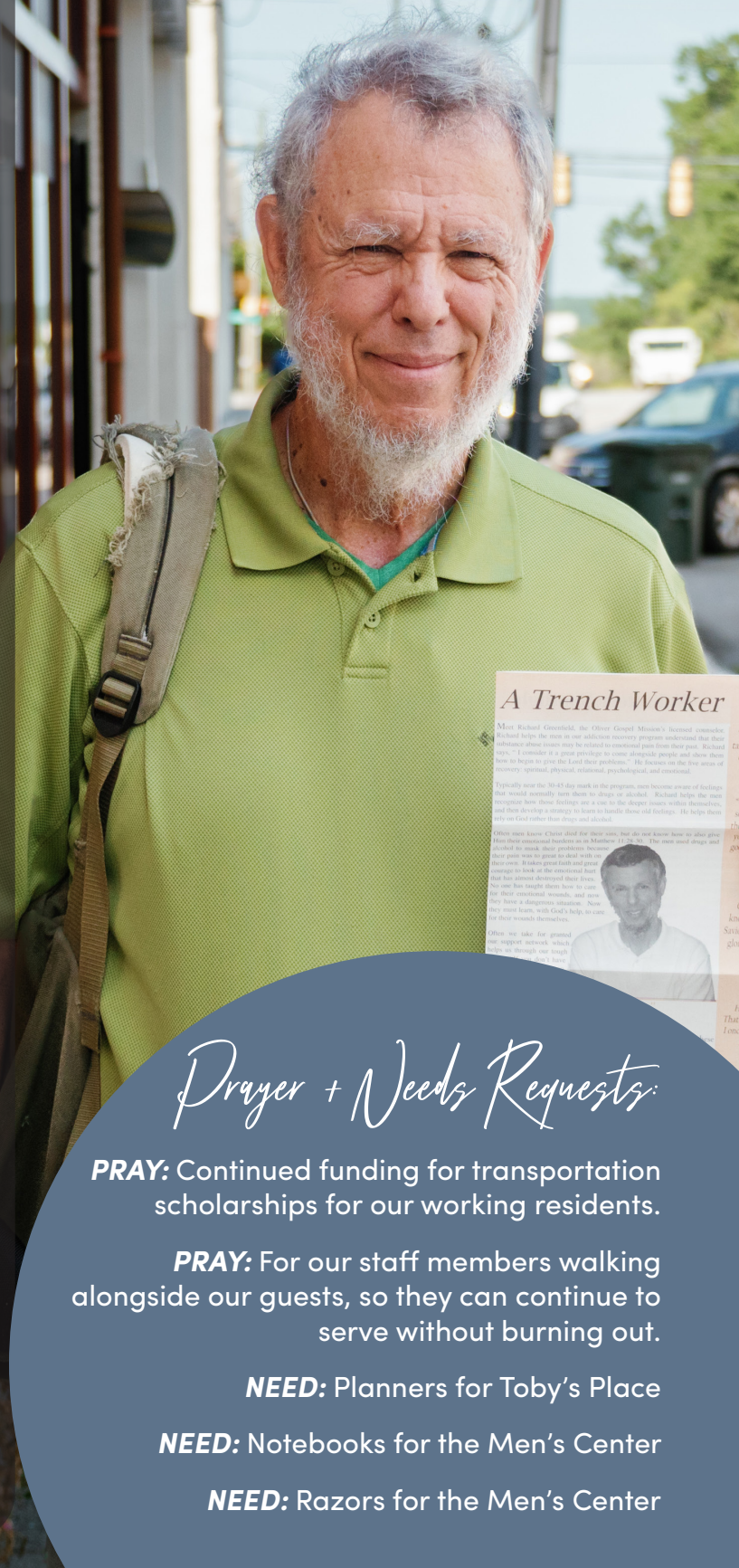
*“This is true for the gentlemen who come to Oliver Gospel, and for the staff as well. When I hear stories from our men of neglect, violence abuse, or racism...I turn them back over to the Lord, who is the only One who can carry this burden,”* Richard said.

By casting these burdens on Jesus, Richard was filled with the **rest** and **grace** which only Jesus can give; and was filled with the strength and sustenance to continue serving the men at Oliver Gospel.

**This is what devotion looks like.** It looks like being faithful in our walk with Jesus every day. It looks like relying on God’s grace to strengthen you. It looks like trusting in the transformational power of Christ’s love. Richard’s devotion to Oliver Gospel and to Jesus Christ is a beautiful example of this.

As you walk with Jesus each day, and you begin to look more like him, trust that He will supply the strength to be wholly devoted, no matter the hardships that come your way.

*Pictured: Richard Greenfield, holding a 2005 edition of our newsletter in which he is featured!*



## A Trench Worker

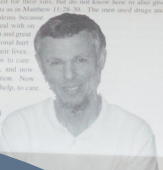
Most Richard Greenfield, the Oliver Gospel Men's Center counselor, Richard helps the men in our addiction recovery program understand that their...  
Richard says, "I consider it a great privilege to come alongside people and show them...  
to begin to give the Lord their problems." He focuses on the five areas of recovery: spiritual, physical, relational, psychological, and emotional.

Typically over the 30-45 day mark in the program, men become aware of feelings...  
that would normally turn them to drugs or alcohol. Richard helps the men...  
to realize that these feelings are a cue to the deeper issues within themselves...  
and then develops a strategy to learn to handle these and feelings. He helps them...  
take on God rather than drugs and alcohol.

Others may know Christ died for their sins, but do not know how to deal with...  
the guilt and emotional burden as in Matthew 11:28-30. The men need drugs and...  
alcohol to mask their problems because...  
their pain was so great to deal with on...  
their own. It takes great faith and great...  
courage to look at the emotional pain...  
that has almost destroyed their lives.

By one that might there has to be...  
for their emotional wounds, and now...  
the time is diagnosed situation. Now...  
they must learn, with God's help, to care...  
for their wounds themselves.

Which we take for granted...  
the support network, which...  
is to through our reach...  
out to them, that's it.



## Prayer + Needs Requests:

**PRAY:** Continued funding for transportation scholarships for our working residents.

**PRAY:** For our staff members walking alongside our guests, so they can continue to serve without burning out.

**NEED:** Planners for Toby's Place

**NEED:** Notebooks for the Men's Center

**NEED:** Razors for the Men's Center



# OLLIE'S CORNER

It's me, Ollie! I'm back again to talk about **DEVOTION!**

In stories like Richard's and the Jordans', we learn that Devotion means:

- To be faithful to what Jesus asks us to do, even if it is not always fun.
- To love other people, especially those who may not know Jesus.
- To serve your community as Jesus served His disciples.



## BONUS ACTIVITY!

Devotion often requires doing the same thing over and over again. This issue's challenge is to PRAY for those without homes every day this month. Prayer is a great first step in being devoted to loving and serving those less fortunate.

## LET'S CHAT!

- Read aloud John 13:1-17 with your family.
- Jesus shows us what devotion looks like in this passage by washing His disciples' stinky feet. Gross! Jesus must have loved them a LOT to do that. Jesus is the perfect example of a faithful, loving servant.
- What other stories in the Bible teach us about devotion?
- What is something you can do to show that you love someone?  
What are some ways that you could
- serve your community at school, church, or in your neighborhood?

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