

AN UPDATE OF MASTER'S TOUCH MINISTRY



A DIVISION OF
WAYSIDE CROSS
MINISTRIES

lifeCHANGE

JULY 2011

BOWLATHON SET FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 8th



The 6th Annual Master's Touch Bowlathon Fundraiser will take place from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Monday, August 8, 2011 at Funway Ultimate Entertainment Center, 1335 South River Street (Route 25), in Batavia.

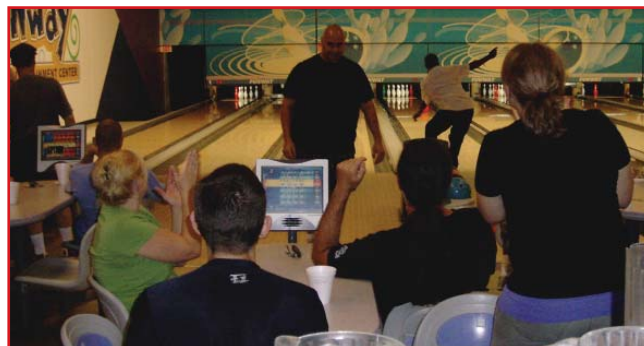
This event is limited to 100 bowlers, so be sure to reserve your spot as soon as possible.

We would love to have several teams (5 bowlers per team) from your church. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 (\$500 per team). This is a great event for youth groups, small groups, men's groups, and women's groups.

The funds raised will be used to continue the work that Our Lord began over 80 years ago in Aurora, namely: to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all who walk in our doors; to feed and house the men in our residential program; to provide necessary teaching resources, education and job skills that will allow men who have lost control of their lives as a result of drugs, alcohol, or some other destructive behavior pattern to experience the life transformation that will allow them to return to their families as God-honoring, productive members of society.

Over the years, this event has proven to be a fun-filled, family-oriented event. Here's the format:

- Each bowler pays \$15 (\$75 per team of 5), which provides: two hours of bowling, shoe rental, pizza, and soda pop.
- Each bowler asks friends and family members to sponsor him/her by a donation to the Master's Touch Ministry.
- Each bowler brings the donations to the Bowlathon.
- Prize awards ("red pin" strikes, most funds raised, etc.) and raffles will take place throughout the evening.



Please contact **Randy Tomassi** at (630) 723-3422, or at rtomassi@waysidecross.org, for further information, or visit www.waysidecross.org. We also need volunteers to help on the day of the event. If you would like to help, or if you would like to donate a prize, please contact Randy.

Director's Corner

Thanks for taking the time to read *Life Change*, a quarterly newsletter intended to keep you abreast of how Our Lord is at work in our Bible-based, Christ-centered residential program for men who are seeking a permanent solution to the crisis of a broken life.

As the cover story reports, we hope to raise \$10,000 at our upcoming Bowlathon (August 8th). The back page presents our Annual Banquet update, held May 17th at the Lincoln Inn, at which \$30,000 was raised. Please permit me to contextualize these dollar amounts by “connecting the dots” of the Master’s Touch financial picture.

lifeCHANGE



Randy Tomassi
Director,
Master's Touch
Ministry

Our annual operating expenses total \$340,000. This translates to less than \$300 per month, per resident. This is a remarkably low number. (For example, the average monthly cost per inmate in an Illinois prison is well over ten times that amount). There are three primary factors that explain our financial efficiency:

1. We truly are a volunteer-driven ministry. The vast majority of the teaching, preaching, and counseling within our program is provided by volunteers from the Body of Christ. Without volunteers, we would cease to operate.
2. Those of us who are compensated by WCM (a total of 6.25 full-time employees, including me) receive annual salaries that total a modest \$132,000.
3. As a result of donations and discounts from numerous vendors, we are able to feed our residents (an average of 90 men) three meals per day, plus snacks, for \$18,000 per year. This translates to approximately \$50 per day.

I trust that you'll agree that we take our stewardship responsibilities very seriously.

For the current fiscal year, which ends on August 31, 2011, we expect that WCM enterprise-level fundraising, donations to our General Fund, and the portion of revenues from WCM's Hope Chest Resale Store allocated to Master's Touch, will total \$280,000. The remaining \$60,000 (\$340,000 - \$280,000) must be met through donations designated specifically for the Master's Touch ministry. By God's grace, we have received slightly over \$50,000 of this amount to date; thus we are looking for the Bowlathon to put us “over the top.”

In light of what I've shared here, won't you please support our Bowlathon? There are several ways in which you can do so—raising funds by bowling, by financially supporting a bowler, or by donating a raffle prize. Thanks so much for your consideration.

If you have any questions concerning The Master's Touch Ministry, I welcome your phone calls and/or email. I can be reached at **(630)723-3422** or at **rtomassi@waysidecross.org**

May God richly bless you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Randy Tomassi, Director

Meet John Russell

John's childhood was a chaotic mix of domestic abuse, frequent moves between Illinois and Georgia, custody battles, and foster care; nonetheless, John completed high school and graduated from Carthage College in Kenosha WI. He was also a star athlete (Track & Field/ Cross-country). Spiritually, however, John was dead. His sinful lifestyle repeatedly resulted in loss of employment (from such prestigious employers as Baxter Laboratories, Abbot Laboratories, and Motorola), and incarcerations.

By God's grace, John used

**"My salvation
is 100% God,
0% me."**

his time behind bars to seriously study the Bible. It was during this time that Our Lord granted John the gifts of repentance, and faith in Jesus Christ. Upon being released from prison in February, 2010, John came to

the Master's Touch Ministry to further grow in his relationship with Christ. John graduated in August, 2010. He then served as a Resident Assistant until the end of March, 2011. He joined the staff as a Resident Coordinator on April 1, 2011.

"I'm so thankful to God for His love and mercy. All I deserve is eternal condemnation, yet God chose to save a wretch like me. He gets all of the glory. My salvation is 100% God, 0% me."

John attends Covenant of Grace, OPC in Batavia, where he recently completed membership classes. Please join us in praying for God's continued blessings on John in his role as Resident Coordinator.



To donate on our website go to
www.waysidecross.org
and click on the
red heart
select Master's Touch Ministry



FRIENDSHIP DINNER A MEMORABLE EVENING

On Tuesday, May 17th, 240 people attended The Master's Touch Friendship Dinner at The [venue] to a sumptuous buffet dinner, the evening's program included an update on the ministry from a video montage produced by alumnus and current volunteer teacher Tim Cross, a presentation from the ministry's counseling program, a testimony from alumnus Terry McCray, and musical praise led by [performer]. Radio Host Mark Elfstrand served as the evening's Master of Ceremonies.

The evening's special guest was Wayne L. Gordon, founding Pastor of Lawndale Community Christian Community Development Association (CCDA). Dr. Gordon shared a message based on *Learned From a Man Left for Dead*, in which he draws more than 40 characteristics of the man who was left for dead on the road to Jericho—the character Jesus created to show Christians how to live. The generosity of the attendees resulted in over \$30,000 in donations to the ministry, for which we

Plans for next year's Dinner are already underway, so be sure to check out the next issue of *Life Change* for the details.

