

Show Me Your Glory

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRFIELD

March 2017

No Longer Slaves

This month we will be like flies on the wall listening in on two friends, David Vinson and Richard Scarbrough as they share their testimonies of deliverance from addiction. Both men are relatively new to the First Baptist family; Richard has been a member for four years and David joined in almost two years ago. After years of living lives of addiction, they came to faith through the love of Christ poured out through faithful Christians around them.

He rescued me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me. They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the Lord was my support. He brought me out into a broad place; he rescued me, because he delighted in me.

2 Samuel 22:18-20

David's life is a story of deliverance from drugs. As a high school student the lure of "sex, drugs, and rock n roll" was too enticing to resist. He says, "I idolized that life style." His twenties were spent in a haze of chasing girls, drinking and drug use that eventually landed him in jail. During this same time Richard was living a life comforted only by alcohol. Alcohol has a long history with the men in his family, and Richard felt it was just what you do. His first memory of drinking was with his dad by the time he was in fifth grade.

So how did these two men, both with long histories of addiction, never cross paths until the last couple of years? Richard was a functioning alcoholic, always choosing to



drink at home and not risk a DUI arrest, while David ran with a crowd of friends that escalated from casual drug use into dealing drugs and shooting up. Their roads finally intersected at the Cross of Jesus.

David has been clean since June of 2004, having hit rock bottom after having to see his daughters through the glass of the jail visiting room. He was released from jail into rehab that he completed at the Fellowship House in Anna, Illinois, and came home clean to his family. Richard quit drinking in January 2012 and just celebrated his 5th anniversary of being alcohol free.

Both men talk of seeing other men have joy in their hearts for Christ. David was visited in jail by Ivan Kunce who persisted in a bible study. "When they first came in, it was like oh, there they are again," but David says eventually he began to participate and found his way to Christ. Richard witnessed a group of men come into his house and install a handicapped shower for his daughter, Hillary, and these men did it for the love of Christ. Richard recalls, "I wanted what they had." He knew there was something missing and couldn't fathom it was Christ. He had never attended church and didn't really ever remember being invited to church.

Richard wasn't even sure God was real. When his wife, Pat, began attending church, he reluctantly agreed to go once a month "to get her off my back," he shared. His first time in church was rough; he was nervous feeling all eyes on him and covered in sweat. But Christ spoke into his heart, and he kept listening and attending, eventually being saved and baptized in June of 2012.

David and his wife, Kera, joined FBC in 2015, and soon after Richard and David began to see similarities in their personalities. Both are reserved and quiet in public and both recognize the grace of God has freed them from addiction. When they sat down together, it was not a reliving of glory days of their youth, it was to speak of the freedom in forgiveness in Christ.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in

order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

Romans 6:5-6

David says, "the devil has deep pockets," and "a long memory," adds Richard. Each day brings a challenge to stay away from the temptations of their past. David talks of familiar smells triggering memories while Richard has the same problem with being in familiar drinking spots that tempt him. Both know that it is a road they don't want to travel again. These two men are finding friendship based on God's work in their lives. They agree to pray for each other and encourage each other through the battles.

What a blessing to see the way God is working in the life of these men.

Audio transcript is available on fairfieldfbc.org

Children's Ministry



Children's Ministry Day—Mount Carmel



Building a patio for Safe Haven Women's Shelter.

Around the Church

Work Day



Food pantry building open for ministry



In 2016, over 1000 visits were made to the food pantry. To God be the Glory!





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Sermon Broadcast on WFIW 1390 at 10:45 each Sunday

No Longer Slaves

You unravel me with a melody
You surround me with a song
Of deliverance from my enemies
'Til all my fears are gone
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God

From my mother's womb
You have chosen me
Love has called my name
I've been born again
Into your family
Your blood flows through my veins
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God

I am surrounded
By the arms of the father
I am surrounded
By songs of deliverance

We've been liberated
From our bondage

We're the sons and the daughters
Let us sing our freedom

You split the sea
So I could walk right through it
My fears were drowned in perfect love
You rescued me
And I could stand and sing
I am a child of God...

Yes, I am
I am a child of God
I am a child of God

Psalm 18:2; 2 Samuel 22:18; Psalm 139:1-24;
Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 4:7; John 3:3-7;
Zephaniah 3:17

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