

CHRISTMAS 2016

Rising Above Ministry, Grande Prairie

November 2016

THE BIGGER GIFT... HOPE PEACE JOY LOVE

I saw it again yesterday. At different times during the day, two former participants dropped by to say hi and keep in touch. I saw it in their faces, I heard in their voices. I saw hope. I saw Peace. I saw Joy. I thought back to the first time I met each of these individuals. Their individual stories are quite different, but what I saw from each of them looked the same. I saw despair, defeat, hopelessness.

The power of shame is destructive, anxiety and depression can stop us in our tracks, addiction can destroy so many good things in our lives. To be set free from addiction, anxiety, the trauma of past abuse, dependence on anger, and/or low self-esteem we need something big. We need something powerful that can break the chains of our cycles of defeat.

This is the "Season of Advent". Advent is the four weeks leading up to Christmas symbolizing the anticipation of the messiah coming to free us from the hopelessness that surrounds us.

For a child, Christmas holds a lot of anticipation and excitement. I remember as a child assessing each of the presents that got placed under the tree. The bigger ones drew the most attention from me. I wanted the bigger present.

Now as an adult I realize the bigger gift is exactly what "Advent" is all about. The four markers of Advent are Love, Joy, Peace and Hope. Each of these markers are the core of the Christmas message. Jesus arriving as a baby in the manger, reminds us that God came into our world to be with us and even more than that, to be our savior.

He brought **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.**

What I saw on the faces of those two past participants yesterday was the bigger more powerful gift in action. The hope that we celebrate at Christmas drives out despair. Peace comes when we realize we are not on our own that God is with us and God is for us.

At Rising Above, we are grateful for the opportunity to see hundreds of people break cycles of defeat and experience the power of this bigger gift. The gift of hope, peace, joy and love. It transforms lives. Thank you for your partnership in making this possible.

Mel Siggelkow

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Participant Highlight

Lance Brown

I've been in addiction most of my life. I was a functioning addict for many years before I found a substance that tore my life apart. 13 years ago, I found myself in depths that were unimaginable to me. My life was a disaster. I was in the Northern Addiction Centre when I found out about Rising Above Ministry. After speaking with staff I decided I needed a different approach to my sobriety. Through attending the program, Inner Healing and the reconnection with God and my faith, I have found Inner Peace that I never believed was possible.

Thanks to Rising Above I have found a new lease on my life and have a bright future.

Christmas Wish List 2016

We will be providing our participants with gift bags on December 22 2016, if you or your business are interested in donating anything for them, please contact Kristy or Lynne @780-533-3025.

Please find some ideas below that our participants would enjoy very much:

1 pound containers of Coffee or Hot chocolate

Chocolates (no alcohol filled flavours)

Tim's/Giant Tiger or Wendy's Restaurant etc. Gift Cards

Chapstick * Devotionals * Gum/Candy * Christmas Treats of any Kind

Grande Prairie Storm Tickets * Cineplex Movie Night out*

Everyday Needs that our Homes/Classroom could use :

Laundry Soap * Fabric Softener Sheets * Dish Soap

Coffee * Coffee Whitener * Sugar * Twin Sheets * Non-Perishable Food items

Colossians 3:17... And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.



Thank-you Volunteers

It is hard to even remember how Park Campus looked when we took over last spring. Now here we are counting the days to when we move our men into their new Home.

Home is the goal, a place where they can feel safe and wanted, a place to heal and be loved. For many these feelings can be new to them. We thank all the volunteers who have put hundreds of hours into this home for our men.

The Administration side will occupied in 2017. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we maneuver through the last stages of work.

Visit www.risingabovegp.com for dates of when you can volunteer.



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Contact us

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As we see all the amazing sights and sounds of the Christmas season fast approaching us, here at Second Chance Furniture we would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas, and urge you to remember and think about Jesus this Christmas season. After all, that's what Christmas is all about, the King who gave up everything to come to earth and sacrifice himself for our sins. When He did this, he opened the door for us to restore our relationship with God.



Store Information

Open Monday to Saturday
10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Regular Delivery & Pickup (FREE)
available on Tuesday & Thursdays

Call for Saturday Delivery

Manager: Bill Schmidt

Email: bill@risingabovegp.com

Phone: 780-533-3070

9613-98th St

We want to thank you for your support through out the year and give back to YOU, our valued customers. This year has been tough for many and we want to help you have a very Merry Christmas.

Our 12 days of Christmas Sale is between December 6th and 17th.

We will be having daily Sales and Promotions, as a bonus if you mention "KING", you will receive an additional 10% off the daily special.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have

