

NEXT STEP

Lives Transformed for Good

Fall 2020



Richard and Torrie purchased their own home and are serving in a local church.

Course Correction

He landed on the wrong road at a young age, and this road quickly led to incarceration. Once he completed his sentence and was released, Richard took little time to find that same road again, doing the same kind of things with people traveling the same road to destruction. It wasn't long, and the road once again led to being locked up. This second time lead to a massive course correction. Once imprisoned, Richard cried out to the Lord, and his life would never be the same. God's grace immediately changed Richard's heart, and set him on a different road.

Richard spent the duration of his prison time studying God's Word, receiving Biblical truth and instruction from numerous volunteers, and actively participating in the prison Christian club where other inmates contributed to his spiritual transformation. When Richard was released from

prison seven years later, he was a changed man equipped and ready to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Upon his release, Richard moved into the Next Step Ministries residential facility and became an active participant in the discipleship efforts.

So, how can Next Step provide help and hope to someone like Richard? Ask him and Richard will tell you that Next Step provided him with a stable environment where he could cultivate what Christ had established, a place where he could be spiritually fed and he could learn to live out his faith outside the prison environment. Richard arrived at Next Step nearly three years ago and stayed for ten months. During that period, he landed a full time construction job that he still holds today. More importantly, he met a woman who is now his wife.

Together, Richard and Torrie have purchased their own home and are serving in a local church as well as other local ministries. Richard is thankful for the way God uses all His servants to change lives. God does amazing work, and we are thankful for the opportunity we have at Next Step to be a participant in helping move people into a God glorifying life.





In our Summer 2020 Newsletter, we announced the hiring of Todd Loudon as the new President of Next Step Ministries. We highlighted his outstanding qualifications to be in this position; many years of ministry experience, completion of a formal ministry education, and completion of Chaplaincy training, in addition to his love for the Lord, heart of a servant, and compassion for those in need of help. What else would you like to know about Todd? What attracted Todd to this challenging position at Next Step? Having worked in Christian restoration programs for years, Todd will tell you that he grieved as he watched men grow in the Lord while in the restrictive, structured environment of such a program, only to get out of the program then fall back into a broken lifestyle. Todd knows that the battle these men face is real as he struggled with addiction and prison for over 20 years. He knows that it is a spiritual battle that can only be overcome through the power and love of Jesus Christ. Praise God, Todd experienced that victory! Now he is blessed to go ahead of men who are facing similar battles; they have been through the restoration program and are now seeking that additional step to continue their transformation. As the leader of Next Step, Todd is providing a safe and healthy environment for God to work in the hearts of the men as they learn to walk out their faith. Todd is married to Michele, and they have one child. In addition to serving the Lord at Next Step, Todd serves with his wife in the children's ministry of a local congregation



Guidestar Gold Seal of Transparency



Next Step Ministries has received the Guidestar Gold Seal of Transparency! So, you ask, who is Guidestar and what is the significance of the Gold Seal? GuideStar is the largest source of nonprofit information and has collected results information from more than 13,000 nonprofits. Recognition by Guidestar shows Next Step's commitment to transparency. While much of the information provided to Guidestar is similar to that on our website, the Guidestar profile also provides additional financial detail. The intent of Guidestar is to allow the nonprofit to tell their real story while allowing potential donors to make educated giving decisions.

Pandemic Response

This year was like no other, as covid has impacted all of us. At Next Step we were not able to take our men to any events, outreach, or public outings. But we still made plenty of fellowship time weekly with our men. We had a small 4th of July celebration and were able to have a pizza party, thanks to one of our generous donors. We are just happy to be able to go to church again in person and be with the body of Christ. This has been a very different and difficult season, but as believers we are blessed. We have something that the world doesn't have, we have the perfect peace of Jesus Christ. "I am leaving you with a gift-peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." John 14:27 NLT. Continue to seek and follow Jesus through the storm, our hope and peace is IN HIM.

Giving Tuesday NextStep

Giving Tuesday refers to the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. It is a global movement that unleashes the power of people and organizations to transform their communities. Giving Tuesday has grown into a global movement that inspires people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity. During the existence of this ministry, God has been so faithful to provide all we have needed; for that we are thankful! Our needs continue to exist, and we will continue to rely on Him to provide. Would you be available as an instrument for His use? We will always cherish your prayers, especially for the participants and now, too, for our new president, Todd Loudon. For those who may be interested in volunteering with Next Step, please go to the "Volunteer" tab on our new website!



The local Body of Christ has been very faithful in providing the things we need to furnish and equip our residential facility, however, donations of bedding, specifically twin-size sheets, as well as towels and wash clothes, is always helpful.

Finally, we recognize that the past several weeks has had a financial impact on many people. If you are in a position to support Next Step financially, we ask that you prayerfully consider donating to the work God is doing through this ministry.