

*“ Sir, the man replied, leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. ” - Luke 13:8*

There is a remarkable parable in Luke 13 that reflects the grace of God as He deals with all of us, especially men and women who have thrown themselves into a sinful lifestyle. The parable, spoken by Jesus, uses a fig tree and it’s lack of fruit for some time. The owner of the vineyard expresses a desire to cut the tree down, but the gardener pleads with the owner to give it one more year as he will make every effort to dig around it and fertilize it. The hope is that the tree will bear fruit within the year. There is a whole lot to consider here, but I want to emphasize two parts. One, the Lord is gracious with us. His heart is to create opportunity for life for each of us to respond to His amazing grace so that we may know Him. Two, He brings people to places that have rich soil. The purpose is to give us ( the fig trees ) another opportunity ( and, in some cases, one last opportunity ) to respond and mature in Him. His Plan is for us to grow in the fullness of knowing Him and to develop fruit that is pleasing to the taste, glorifying His goodness, grace, and love.

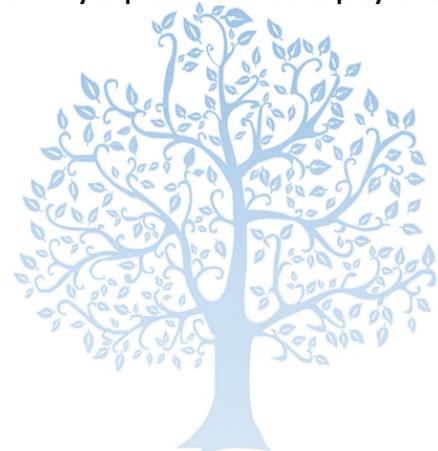
As we embark on another year, we want to begin by acknowledging the fact that the Lord sent 155 men to the rich soil of Dunklin in 2019. Men were planted here, the ground was cultivated, they were fertilized with truth, and they were introduced to the Giver of Life. God’s mercy was extended so that they may live. We are grateful for much, but want to emphasize, three things:

- 1) That God would choose Dunklin to be a place to send His sons - We are a city of refuge; He has called us to be that vineyard that offers healthy ground, abundant fertilizer, and daily water. If you were to walk around this place you would recognize the fruit in many ways. Men, marriages, and families are being reconciled due to His never-ending love. Thank the Lord for extending His grace “one more year.”
- 2) The men He sends to us - We advertise only by word of mouth; yet last year we averaged 3 men per week that entered our doors. There is never a shortage of men who need help that is for sure, but having all the details work out to get them here is simply amazing. Each man comes with a “story” of how he arrived and each one of those stories has to do with God moving to get these men to a place where He can gain their attention and response.
- 3) All of you - Thank each of you for taking the time, energy, and care to invest in these men and their families; you have a heart for the wayward. Dunklin continues moving forward in this impactful calling due to God’s grace and the people He uses to support us through prayer and giving. Please join us in being a mouthpiece to anyone you know that is struggling in addiction and needs a place for regeneration. ( I, personally, found out about Dunklin from someone who knew someone else that went through Dunklin. ) Thank God I was delivered to a place where I could be given another opportunity; I fully believe it was my last chance.

We want you to know that we will do our absolute best to please the Lord in our everyday affairs, deeply realizing that He is in control and we serve Him. We will continue to love Him, placing Him at the forefront of all that we do, loving the men and women that He sends here . We will dig around them and fertilize their roots with His word and His love, believing that much fruit will be evident. On the back page there are numerous photos that depict this beautiful fruit. Will you please continue to pray for us as we set out to apprehend that which Christ Jesus has apprehended us for?

May your year be blessed in Him!

Nick





"... I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last..." - John 15:16



*the* CURRENT  
NEEDS OF DUNKLIN

- Prayer
- Scholarship for men in the program and SLT
- Scholarship for families in Family Development and SLT
- Hotel Room Renovations
- Donations of cars for camp vehicles