

Prayer Requests

Tracey has lost 40 lbs & eight inches in her waist going from a size 19 to a size 7-9. Drew is down to 150 lbs & size 32's. His dad lost 30 lbs, in 3 months and his mom is climbing indoor rock walls at age 60. We've enrolled 24 people on the program. 14 have reported a total combined weight loss of 205 lbs so far. Some of them lost 5 to 15 lbs in just a few days. We are using Isagenix, a nutritional cleansing program, and Tracey is providing free coaching to others who sign up, helping them release the toxins & pollutants that are contaminating their bodies & sucking away their energy. **Praise God** that we are getting healthier and we're better able to do the work God has called us to do!! The commissions we earn by enrolling people, is helping to support our ongoing ministry. **Check out www.SheddingForTheWedding.us**

Prayers for Godly wisdom on how to allocate our time between ministry opportunities & income producing endeavors. Financial provision for these God sized dreams that He's placed in us. We're also praying for a Godly book-keeper to help us with quickbooks.

Praise God, we located a Ford Focus wagon that gets 27-30 MPG and was in our price range. We'd still love to get a green colored hybrid, but that's another God-Sized dream. We're also asking God for a blue 7-passenger, 4x4 Dodge Durango with an electric brake towing package to replace the 16 year old Jeep and haul the trailer for our Cope Home Services contracting work.

Prayers for wisdom as we try to take everyday activities like grocery shopping, meal preparation, family dinners, mowing the lawn, bedtime stories, car care, & family worship, and move them from ordinary activities and transform them into learning journeys that bring healing and wholeness to these wounded teenagers.

Prayers for favor, an *open Heaven* of blessings, discernment, resources, provision, fresh daily spiritual bread, protection, and that our house would be a **house of peace** for all who enter here

Prayers that God would return everything that the thief has stolen from us (and from our kids) and everything that the locust, canker-worm, caterpillar & palmer-worm have eaten...100-fold!

We are called to share God's incredible love with badly wounded teens: helping and spiritually nurturing those kids, who have nowhere else to go, who have no one to talk to, and lead them to the healing power that Christ has for all of us.



The LORD takes care of the godly. - Ps. 37:17

Won't he leave the 99 sheep to look for the 1 who was lost? - Mt 18:12

Drew and Tracey Cope
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Photo taken January 2012, on a ministry trip to Ocean City, MD

We now have a constant contact e-newsletter mailing list for this House Parent Ministry Newsletter. Visit the constant contact web link found inside this newsletter, call 484-748-0008, or email Wired@DrewandTracey.com to be added.

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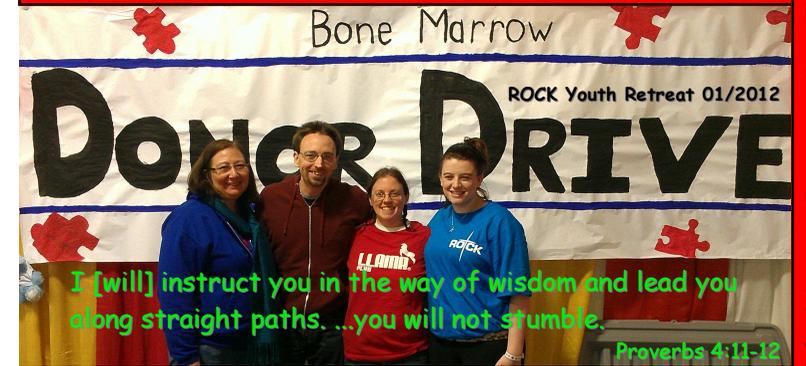
Constant Contact

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Sing to God, a Father to the Fatherless, a Defender of Widows.... God who places the Lonely in Families. - PS 68:4-6

Drew and Tracey Cope February 2012 Newsletter



Thank you for your interest in supporting God's plan in our lives.

Whenever anyone turns to the Lord, **the veil is taken** away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, **there is freedom**. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being **transformed** into his likeness with **ever-increasing glory**, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. —2 Corinthians 3

For the past ten years, Tracey and Drew have been pouring their lives into average, everyday, middle class teenagers who appear to have great lives on the outside, but who are falling apart, both emotionally and spiritually, on the inside. Most of these teens are bruised by messy divorces, angry/abusive alcoholic parents, and/or sexual abuse. They may also have self worth, abandonment, insecurity, and identity issues which often trace back to unhealthy relationships with their fathers.

God has placed His heart inside of us for these teens. Now we follow Him as He reveals where we are to minister day-to-day, and how He is going to provide financially for us as we love His children.

We loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our lives as well. - 1 Thess 2:8

“Do not take advantage of the widow, the orphan or the fatherless. If you do and they cry out to [the LORD and He] will certainly hear their cry. — Exodus 22:22

Where have we been?

I've always read the story of the Samaritan from Luke 10 as a set of instructions that we were to help those around us. Dad taught us early in our boating days, that the water can be very unforgiving, and if you see another boater in distress, it is your responsibility to help them out. The Samaritan didn't worry about the cost financially, personally, socially, or in any other way. He just did the right thing. How many times have I questioned the financial or social costs before helping someone? Sitting in church last week, God revealed something. More often than not, Jesus doesn't call me to be the Samaritan, but rather, the inn-keeper. In comes this beat up soul, and perhaps some resources to help them. Then Jesus very quietly whispers to Tracey or I, 'Look after 'em, and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

Since Christmas, we have had two foster kids stay with us for a short time each. We were blessed to be able to help with two youth conferences in Ocean City, MD which reached 10,000 teenagers, and God provided hotel rooms to stay in both weekends. The Lord used us to help produce a local youth leader, parent, and student leader training event for 165 people, and Tracey & I presented one of the parenting workshops. Priscilla has adopted us as her parents and we've adopted her as our daughter. She is holding a job, living on campus, taking 18 credits and we're very proud of her! God has given us a \$280,000 vision for an expansion on our home, which will include paying off our mortgage, solar hot water, PV electric on the roof, a water treatment system and geothermal climate control with the goal of being out of the rat race, debt free and providing full time foster care to up to 6 teenagers by August 2013. This is a GOD SIZED dream that seems to be the next step towards the girls camp. We can't do it on our own.

We believe that we've been called to be the inn-keeper... the parents at the end of the line to love teenagers who had a rough start. And Jesus is bringing us teens, and promising to provide the resources to cover the expenses.

I want to challenge you to dream big. Is what you are doing right now, going to matter in 10 years? Are you preparing for where God wants to take you? Are you following His lead or are you following the lemmings off the cliff? Maybe you can't take in foster kids, but you can sponsor a compassion child or give to the unsponsored children's fund, or donate towards the work that God is doing through Tracey and I, or go serve somewhere one weekend a month? Can you mentor a kid? Can you be a 'Courageous' parent to your own kid? Ask Jesus what He would have you do. And then, be obedient.

Doing so, will change your life!

The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. - Psalms 37:23

How is God moving?

Here's a brief snapshot of what God has been doing in our work and ministry opportunities recently....

- Priscilla came home from college, worked a lot, earned enough money to pay her current college bill and we had a great family Christmas together. We feel really blessed to be able to provide some of "our kids" with a loving, warm, family feel that is focused more on the relationships than it is on the gifts. She helped us setup the slot cars and train set, along with the tree and she really enjoyed the holidays and the family feel that's been missing as she's bounced around the past few years. We read "The Boy and His Horse" from the Narnia series over break, & really enjoyed it.
- We provided respite care for a teenage boy the week after Christmas. We had four awesome days hanging out, playing video games, working on some small projects around the house, etc. He joined in our daily book reading and listened to the Daily Audio Bible with us each day. It was fun having him around. We also provided a 24-hour respite for a teenage girl on MLK day when she was off school and her foster-mom had to work. She helped Tracey start the herb garden we got her for Christmas. We are scheduled for another week-long respite later this month.
- We were invited to spend the weekend with a local youth ministry at the Penn-Del United Methodist Youth Rally in Ocean City, MD. We were able to help with small groups, see some old friends, help with some behind the scenes stuff and pray with students during the altar time. Two weeks later, we were able to go back down for the ROCK retreat to help register 110 people in a bone marrow donor drive. Two awesome weekends of ministry!!
- Working with a group of local youth pastors, we helped organize a one-day training event for area youth pastors, parents, and student leaders with over 160 people in attendance. We also had the opportunity to lead one of the parenting work shops to help strengthen the team work between parents and the youth leader at their church. It was an awesome event & we heard great feedback.
- We've continued to be a blessing to area Youth Pastors using our many years of experience to assist them with newsletter and flier design, as well as some website and social media work, which is helping them be more efficient & more effective stewards. We've also been able to encourage a few on tough student challenges they are facing, serving as a sounding board for discernment.
- CopeHomeServices.com hasn't booked much work to start the year, but we are working hard contacting Brides-to-Be about our SheddingForTheWedding.us coaching and nutritional program that helped Tracey lose 40 lbs. We're asking God to allow us to find favor as we try to help people in our community get healthy.

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, to do the good works He prepared in advance for us to do - Eph 2:10

Where are we heading from here?

One of our greatest joys is living out 1 Thessalonians 2:8, *sharing not only the gospel of God, but our lives as well*, with the teenagers that God brings into our home. Sometimes, that means just living life: going grocery shopping, making healthy decisions, clipping coupons, preparing meals together, cleaning up as a family, and teaching these teens some basic skills like how to do laundry, that perhaps they missed out on growing up.

It's not about doing a big Christmas or a huge birthday party with an airbrushed photo cake and lots of presents. What really matters to these teens is that someone took the time to care about them as a person, that we did something together as a family, that we took their feelings and opinions into account.

We are really excited about the plans for the addition that God gave us in bed one morning. Building this new wing is going to open up a bedroom (and add 3 more) so that we can create more space for foster kids. It's going to give us a true office so that the dining room, living room and bedroom aren't pulling double duty. The garage space will also help a lot. There have been a number of times that we've wanted to help a teenager work on their car, change their oil, rotate their tires, replace their brakes, etc, & it's been very difficult to do it in the driveway due to weather and lighting. It's also going to be a huge benefit for CopeHomeServices.com. The second floor is going to include a two bedroom transitional apartment for our kids who age out of the foster care system, but don't have a place to go. It will also give us an opportunity to teach them about real life, job hunting, paying bills, etc; providing them with the sensation that they are on their own, but with security, knowing that we are downstairs.

Currently, we are (1) raising support, (2) doing contracting work, (3) coaching individuals in using Isagenix products to achieve their health, fitness & financial goals and (4) providing services to youth pastors including web design, social media integration, flyer design & creation and more. Several folks have been led to partner with us to help kids. Some have given one time gifts, checks, **gift cards** to Giant, Acme, Redners, Sunoco & Wawa, and others have become **automatic debit monthly supporters**. We are so thankful for your prayer support and financial gifts. All of this facilitates our ability to focus on teenagers rather than striving (Eccl 2:22) to pay the bills.

Mail your gifts or setup one-time & monthly e-donations:

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Prophetic revelation from the Lord is important & should be written down- Prov 29:18 & Hab 2:2