MORE HOUSE
MEMOIRS OF RECOVERY

Newsletter

JUNE 2024

UPDATE

MORE IN HIS HANDS, FOR MORE IMPACT

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We hope this newsletter finds you in good health and high spirits. We're delighted to share updates on our ongoing ministry efforts, including our residential programme and street outreach initiatives that support individuals struggling with drug dependence, as well as other exciting news from our ministry.

Introduction

Nigeria's economic downturn has triggered a sharp rise in poverty, unemployment, and drug misuse, leaving many on the precipice. Yet, in the face of these daunting challenges, our resolve to support those struggling with drug dependence has never been stronger. We remain steadfast in our commitment to providing a safe and nurturing environment, expert guidance, and vital resources to help individuals overcome their struggles and rebuild their lives. The escalating demand for our services only fortifies our determination to continue serving, supporting, and empowering those in need.

As unto the Lord

We commenced the year with a prayer and planning retreat, where we envisioned our goals and adopted the theme 'As unto the Lord' (Col 3:22-25). This theme continues to inspire and guide our work, serving as a guiding light for our mission and values. During the retreat, we took a moment to reflect on our achievements and challenges from the previous year, rejoicing in our successes and gaining valuable insights from our setbacks. With a renewed sense of purpose and dedication, we set new objectives for the current year, eager to tackle new challenges and make an even more profound impact in the lives of those we serve. We also devoted time to prayer, seeking God's guidance, strength, and wisdom as we continue to support those affected by drug dependency

Our Christ-centred residential programme remains a haven for individuals to overcome addiction, offering a comprehensive approach that integrates biblical principles with psychosocial and psycho-spiritual support. Our tailored psychoeducation and psychotherapy address the unique needs of each client, fostering a strong foundation for recovery. Meanwhile, our street outreach programme extends a helping hand to those still struggling on the streets, sharing the love of Christ and offering a path to transformation. Every week, we gather to share testimonies and teachings that inspire

hope and transformation, anchored in the truth of God's Word. Additionally, our soup programme continues to nourish both bodies and souls, serving over 700 meals this year and embodying the life-changing power of the Gospel. In all we do, we remain committed to sharing the love of Christ and empowering individuals to overcome addiction and live a life of purpose and fulfilment.



Open house and graduation



Open House and Graduation

We held a successful open house and graduation ceremony on 20th April 2024, where we graduated 15 clients and provided an exposition on MORE House. It was a joy to celebrate the progress and achievements of our clients while acknowledging the enormity of the task before us and the importance of enlisting all willing hands on board. We are grateful for your support in making this possible.

A tragic Loss

We are grieving the tragic loss of Noel, a cherished client who embodied dedication and perseverance in his recovery journey. Despite his unwavering commitment to overcoming addiction and regular attendance at support group meetings, he fell ill, and unfortunately, his body succumbed to the long-term effects of substance abuse, despite our support throughout his treatment. We find comfort in knowing that he had surrendered his life to Christ, and his soul is now at peace. We mourn the loss of a dear friend and celebrate his triumph over addiction, even in death. His legacy will continue to inspire and motivate us to support others on their path towards recovery.



MORE House team and support group leaders visit late Joel, upon receiving news of his ill health.



Praying for Noel



Full court press for the gospel



Bball court in need of renovation



Drug education for school children

Discipleship Development

We are currently undergoing spiritual formation training for the core leadership of recovering users from the streets. This training is crucial in equipping them with the necessary tools and support to maintain their recovery and help others do the same. In addition, we are studying the Regeneration Curriculum of Recovery, with the hope of using it as both a tool of spiritual formation and recovery. We believe this will enhance our programme and provide a more comprehensive approach to addressing drug dependency.

Full Court Press for the Gospel

We are thrilled to announce our plans to harness the power of basketball as a tool for evangelism and recovery. We believe that sports can be a potent way to build connections with individuals and promote healthy lifestyles. To bring this vision to life, we are seeking support to renovate a neglected neighbourhood court, which will serve as a safe and vibrant space for our programme. This revamped court will not only provide a platform for basketball but also a hub for community building, mentorship, and discipleship. Your support will help us transform lives and neighbourhoods through the power of sports and the Gospel.

The MORE House Podcast: Stories of Hope and Recovery

Thanks to the generosity of a dedicated supporter, who raised the funds to equip us with the necessary tools, we are launching the MORE House Podcast! Through this podcast, we aim to expand our reach, sharing inspiring stories, practical wisdom, and expert insights on drug misuse, dependency, recovery, mental health, and spiritual growth.



mock shoot for podcast

Stay tuned for our debut episode, as we honour God by sharing stories of lives transformed by His love, grace, and power.

Speaking Engagements and Training

We have been privileged to reach a significant number of people through our speaking engagements, with over 3000 individuals impacted so far this year. Our directors' passion for sharing God's word have made them sought-after speakers, and we are grateful for the opportunities to inspire and equip others.

We facilitated a drug education campaign for school children at Command Secondary School Jos, reaching about 100 students. As part of the Command Jos Old Students' Association's (COJOSA) Mentorship programme for the current graduating class, one of our directors (Iyke) was identified to facilitate this programme considering MORE House's extensive work in the drug preventative space. This initiative aligns with our mission to equip and empower the younger generation to make informed decisions and live a life pleasing to God and away from vices.

We also observed the International Day Against Substance Abuse by delivering a training programme for 20 community leaders from Rock Haven, where our office is situated, as well as neighbouring communities such as Utan, Alheri, Kabong, and others. This training aimed to increase knowledge and awareness of drug-related issues, as well as reduce the stigma associated with drug use and dependency within their communities. Through our investment in local communities, we strive to create a safer, healthier, and more supportive environment for everyone, cultivating a culture of care and compassion for those affected by drug dependency.

We firmly believe that these speaking engagements and training sessions are vital in empowering individuals to make informed choices and live a life that honours God. We remain committed to this work, trusting that God will continue to use us as instruments of transformation, bringing hope and redemption to lives and communities. With faith and dedication, we press on, knowing that our efforts are making a lasting impact for His glory.

From Swindler to Seeker: A Transformational Encounter

In a remarkable turn of events, a man who came to our office seeking to deceive us out of money was instead met with love, compassion, and the transformative power of the Gospel. Despite his initial intentions, our team skilfully uncovered inconsistencies in his story, revealing a deeper issue - a struggle with drug dependency. All thanks to God, instead of condemnation, he received a warm meal, a listening ear, and a message of hope. He was visibly shaken, expressing shock at the love and respect he received, even after his attempts to deceive us were exposed. With tears in his eyes, he confessed that no one had treated him with such



Easter Outreach Baberque

kindness and respect in a long time. Though he asked for time to consider our offer of support and recovery, he has yet to reach out and take the first step towards transformation. We pray that God will continue to work in his heart, convicting him of his need for salvation and guiding him towards repentance. May he soon embrace the gift of recovery and experience the life-changing power of His grace. Please join us in prayer for his transformation and salvation.

Easter Outreach: Sharing Hope in the Jungle

This Easter, our team bravely ventured into the jungle - a hotspot for drug activity - to share the transformative message of the Gospel with drug-dependent users. Over 50 individuals gathered to hear the Good News, and we were privileged to share a delicious meal of chicken BBQ with them after preaching. It was a powerful moment of connection and community, filled with the love and grace of Christ.

However, not everyone has been pleased with our outreach efforts. In an attempt to discredit us and foil our endeavours, some individuals have begun spreading a malicious rumour that we are informants for the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency. This false accusation has the potential to make us enemies of the street, putting our team at risk and creating a challenging environment for future outreach.

Despite this opposition, we remain committed to sharing the hope and love of Christ with those trapped in addiction. We pray that God will continue to guide and strengthen us and that the seeds sown will bear fruit in the lives of those we've reached. May God protect us and use us mightily to bring transformation and redemption to the jungle.

Bringing Hope to Bokkos: An Outreach of Encouragement

On February 14th, our team embarked on a mission to Konet, a community in Bokkos, Plateau State, to bring encouragement to one of the local churches within the region, specifically COCIN (Church of Christ in Nations) Konet, and partner with them to build a Christ-centred response to drug misuse and dependency in the community. Our visit coincided with a time of great turmoil, as the region of Bokkos was still reeling from a recent wave of violent attacks that left destruction and displacement in its wake. Our presence served as a timely reminder of Christ's love and hope amidst the darkness and despair. We kindly request that you continue to lift Bokkos in your prayers, as they face ongoing challenges and remain under siege from these violent attacks. Pray that God's peace and comfort be their portion and that His love shines brightly amid adversity.

Enhancing Care Through Training and Development: Red Cross Training

In line with our dedication to delivering exceptional care, we enlisted the expertise of the Red Cross of Nigeria to enhance our team's skills in First Aid, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) usage. This comprehensive training enables us to respond swiftly and effectively in emergencies, providing our clients with the highest standard of support and care.



Bokos outreach



Bokos outreach - Vehicles cue at a military check point



Red Cross Training



Award and Recognition (top 100 change makers on the Plateau)



Red Cross Training

DPTC Training for Rock Haven Community Leaders, to mark World Drug Day.

















A Camaraderie of Faith: Global Men's Fellowship

In a world where faith can sometimes feel like a lonely path, a vibrant community of faith is a precious gift and an indispensable source of strength, comfort, and spiritual nourishment. For those tirelessly serving on the frontlines of ministry, connection and support are lifelines that sustain their spirit, renew their strength, and sharpen their focus on their divine mission. It is in this spirit that the Directors of MORE House (Gabe and Iyke) are honoured to participate in a global men's fellowship every week, joining representatives from Europe (including England and Bulgaria), Asia (such as Kurdistan), North America (including the USA), South America (including Chile), Africa (including Nigeria), and numerous other countries. This international fellowship is an invaluable aspect of their spiritual journey, providing encouragement, support, and connections that fortify their faith and empower them to serve more effectively in their ministry at MORE House.

Awards and Recognition

We are delighted to announce that our directors have received prestigious awards, recognising their exceptional contributions to Plateau State. Their inclusion in the Toyin Wiggins Centre for Leadership and Mentoring Initiative's (TWCLMI) esteemed list of the 100 most influential change-makers for 2023 preceded this distinguished recognition. The award ceremony in May 2024 provided a fitting occasion to celebrate this achievement. We are deeply grateful for the profound impact of God's transformative power on the lives of many.

Partner with us

Your support is crucial to our mission to empower individuals to overcome addiction, reintegrate into society, and live healthy, fulfilling lives. Please consider partnering with us in one or more of the following ways, as we rely on your generosity and partnerships to continue our vital programmes:

- **Adopt a client and support their journey:** By adopting a client, you can help cover the cost of their residential programme (currently N500,000 Naira/$358 USD) and provide personalised support and encouragement throughout their recovery journey. Your adoption will help us provide:

I. A safe and supportive environment for their recovery

II. Access to counselling, therapy, and rehabilitation services

III. Meals, resource materials, health care spanning the residential programme, and other essential needs

IV. Guidance and support from our experienced staff

V. A chance to rebuild their life and reintegrate into society

- **Support our Court Refurbishment Initiative:** Your generosity can help us transform a neglected neighbourhood court into a safe and vibrant space for our programme and a hub for community building. The refurbishment project requires $1,786, (N2.5 million Naira). As initially stated, we intend to leverage basketball as a tool for outreach and recovery. Our observations suggest a significant correlation between substance abuse and sports, with many young individuals turning to drugs and alcohol as a coping mechanism for the pressures of competition or to self-medicate injuries. By

providing a secure and supportive environment for young people to engage in basketball and other sports, we can:

I. Equip them with healthy coping mechanisms and stress management skills

II. Offer a positive alternative to drug and alcohol use

III. Foster meaningful relationships and trust, enabling us to share the Gospel and disciple young individuals

IV. Empower young people to make informed choices and reach their full potential

Your support can have a profound and lasting impact on the lives of young people and the wider community, utilising the universal language of sports to share the love of Christ and promote recovery and wellbeing.

- **Donate to our soup programme:** Your contribution can help us sustain our weekly soup initiative, where we provide a nourishing bowl of soup to men and women from the jungles, weekly, every Wednesday. As we share a meal, we also share the Gospel, LOVE (Learn, Optimise, Visit, Encourage), and support them on their journey towards recovery. Your donation will help us continue to provide nutritious bowls of love, nourishing both bodies and souls and fostering a sense of community and connection.

- **Volunteer your skills and time:** Share your talents and expertise to help us deliver our programmes and services.

- **Donate to our food bank:** Your donation will help sustain our kitchen and enable us to reach out to recovering users in need, providing them with essential groceries and nourishment for their journey towards recovery.

- **Support our operational costs:** Your donation can help us cover essential expenses (facility rent, staff salaries, utility bills, etc), keeping our doors open and our services accessible.

- **Provide opportunities for reintegration:** Help us connect recovering drug users with job training, education, and employment opportunities, empowering them to rebuild their lives.

Together, let's empower individuals to overcome addiction, reintegrate into society, and live healthy, fulfilling lives!"

Our Vision

Our vision is to provide physical, emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing for every individual seeking recovery, so that they may, in turn, serve as a beacon of hope to yet others.

Our Mission

At MORE HOUSE, our mission is to foster a culture of Honesty, Openness, and Willingness, providing accessible and safe spaces where individuals can undergo holistic transformation. Through personalised care and evidence-based treatment, we strive to help our clients achieve lasting recovery and enhance their overall quality of life.

Our Philosophy

At MORE HOUSE, our faith is rooted in the transformative power of Christ, which empowers individuals to overcome drug dependence and rediscover purpose and fulfilment. We recognise that drug use is often a misguided attempt to fill a spiritual void that only God can satisfy, and we

guide individuals towards a path of recovery that addresses the root causes of dependence.

This conviction forms the foundation of our work, driving our passion to support and guide those on the path to recovery. We hold dear the philosophy: 'Reach out to one; create a path for many.' We believe God is authoring stories of hope and transformation in the lives of men, with each transformed individual representing a chapter in His ongoing memoirs of recovery. As they experience this transformative power, they inspire others, sparking a chain reaction of hope and transformation.

Through our programme, we aim to:

* Offer hope in Christ to those struggling with drug dependence and addiction
* Provide a path to transformation through faith in Him, addressing the root causes of dependence
* Empower individuals to share their stories of transformation and hope with others in their community, propelled by their faith
* Create a ripple effect of hope and transformation that glorifies Christ and impacts many lives, inspiring others to seek recovery and rediscover purpose and fulfilment
* Pursue excellence in all aspects of our work, striving for continuous improvement and quality care
* Operate within the scope of our competencies, recognising our strengths and limitations
* Embrace a holistic approach to recovery, addressing the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of individuals
* Foster collaboration and referrals, building strong relationships with healthcare providers, therapists, and community organisations
* Utilise evidence-based methods and best practices, integrating faith-based principles with proven therapeutic approaches

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more in His hands for more impact

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