



FOOTPRINTS

NEWSLETTER

Cullman Re-Entry Addiction Assistance, Inc.
PO Box 843, Cullman, Alabama 35056-0843
256.841.1525 | creaa2018@gmail.com
CREAA.NET | Facebook: BCHCREAA

CREAA Installs New Sand Filter System



Cullman Lions Club Member, Richard White presents a check for \$10,000 to CREA Executive Director, Albert Pugh for new sand filter system.



CREAA Executive Director Albert Pugh speaking to the Cullman Lions Club.

CREAA wishes to say a big thank you to the many who so generously donated for the installation of a new onsite sewage disposal system. The Infiltrator ATL Sand Bed Filter System is designed for 2113 gallons per day and utilizes soil absorption field (SAF) technology. The Infiltrator ATL System is capable of treating domestic strength wastewater to Class I levels. This system will also be suitable for additional buildings on our property. CREA has plans to build a Treatment Center and a Residential Center on our ten acres of land in the very near future. We are in the beginning stages of coming up with an architectural design for the new buildings.

We also want to say thank you to everyone who continues to give so graciously to the life changing ministry of the Bryan Clay House. We could not do it without you! You are making a tremendous impact and lives are being changed because of your heart to give. Thank you for your continual support and prayers. May the Lord of the Harvest bless your seeds a hundredfold!



The Bryan Clay House

Our transitional home is not a handout, it is a hand up, and a way forward for those that truly want to re-start their lives. Our first Board of Directors meeting was held October of 2017. From that first board meeting we have not stopped, opening our first transitional home for men in Cullman, Alabama on April 1, 2018.



Infiltrator ATL Sand Bed Filter System being installed.

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CREAA FEB 2024 Swamp Johns event at St. Andrews



Executive Director Albert Pugh and his wife Traci



On February 10, several residents from the Bryan Clay House joined with several volunteers from St. Andrew's Global Methodist Church in Cullman to host a Swamp John's supper. The fundraiser was held in the fellowship hall at St. Andrews, and in spite of some severe weather predictions, over 200 plates were sold and raising nearly \$1000.00. That, in itself, would have constituted a very successful event, but more than the money, every man involved thought that the most valuable part of the night was the opportunity to work side by side with "those nice people from the church".



Baptism of Bryan Clay Residents

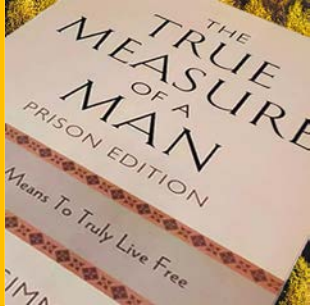


Left to right: Allen Griffin, Bryan Brown, Matthew McCain, Noah Sanford by Bryan Clay House Pastor Robert Olson.



CREAA Program Director, John Means attending Job Fair with J.F. Ingram State Technical College on October 26, 2023 at Fountain Correctional Facility in Atmore, Alabama.

NEW "The True Measure of A Man" Class



The True Measure of a Man
What It Means To Truly Live Free
by Richard E. Simmons, III

On February 19, 2024, the Bryan Clay House introduced a new Monday night class based on the book entitled *The True Measure of a Man* written by Richard E. Simmons. This ten-week course will help provide answers to men's deepest questions and help them understand what they are feeling as they go through the storms of life. Life is full of difficult challenges, often as a result of unrealistic and unhealthy expectations, we place upon ourselves and others. *The True Measure of a Man* shares a powerful message about the tensions and traps each of us must confront on a daily basis and teaches us what truly matters. Class participants upon completion will receive a certificate and a celebration in their honor on April 22, 2024.



True Measure of a Man with Jimbo Head from The Center in Birmingham



A SERVANT'S HEART

As we reflect during this time of year, and celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, it is important to remember that our world is completely contrary from that of the Kingdom of Heaven. In the Kingdom of Heaven, the weak are strong, and the strong are weak. In this Kingdom, if you have, you must let go. If you would receive, you must give. If you lower yourself, you will be lifted high. In this Kingdom to die is to gain. And if you want to be great, become a servant.

In the last weeks of Jesus' ministry on earth, He shares with His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things and be killed (Matt 16:21), and to be betrayed into the hands of men (Matt 17:22). Four verses later the Apostles are arguing about who will be the greatest.

It is important to remember that the disciples had now been with Jesus in his public ministry for several years. They had listened to amazing teachings, witnessed incredible events, helped feed thousands of people. Day after day, miracle after miracle, who would not feel privileged to be next to the Christ. Rank and status played an important role among Jewish groups of the time, and the disciples were no different. But status had no place in Jesus' Kingdom.

On the second occasion, Jesus has just arrived at Capernaum and along the way the disciples were once again arguing among themselves who would be the greatest. Jesus uses a child to make a point about greatness. Children in Jesus' day

were regarded with little importance or esteem, but unless we humble ourselves as a little child, Christ said, "you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven, (Matt 18:5) for he who is least among you all, he is the greatest" (Luke 9:48).

As Jesus resumes His journey to Jerusalem, He pulls the disciples aside on the road, and for a third time predicts his death and resurrection. It is at this time we read about the account of James' and John's mother asking for special privileges from Jesus that they "may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom" (Matt 20:21). Jesus reminds the disciples once again that the style of greatness and leadership for believers is different.

During His last evening with His disciples in the upper room, Jesus will now for a fourth time address a weakness that again resurfaces among the disciples. Jesus has just completed "The Lords Supper" and He then drops a bomb by letting everyone know that His betrayer is among them at the table. Then it starts all over again, the Apostles begin to argue as to which of them should be considered the greatest. To add insult to injury, they have once again disregarded Jesus' announcement of suffering to their own self-centered, egocentric bickering of position and which of them is the greatest.

And one last time, rather than scold them for their arrogance and behavior, Jesus turns this into a teaching moment on the difference between greatness and servanthood. I can



picture Him making his way to the washbowl during their arguing, completely unaware of Jesus taking off His outer garment, moving to His knees to demonstrate greatness in the Kingdom of Heaven and in humble service, begins to wash their feet (John 13:5).

In this act of humility, we have a complete summation of the life of Christ and a model for ours. Culturally, Jesus is seen as the host and those in attendance of the guests. Additionally, washing of feet during that time would have been delegated to a gentile slave. Some rabbis thought the washing of feet was so lowly and humiliating that it was unacceptable to have a Jew do it, even as a slave. And a host would most certainly not lower himself to fulfill a servant's job. You recall Jesus himself tells the Disciples that the first shall be last and in the washing of their feet, a King and a Jew demonstrates his devotion to take on the job of the last and the least.

- PASTOR ROBERT OLSON, THE BRYAN CLAY HOUSE

St. Andrews hosts 2nd Annual Christmas Party for Bryan Clay House Residents



A huge thank you to St. Andrews Global Methodist Church of Cullman for hosting the 2nd Annual Christmas Party for the residents of the Bryan Clay House on December 14, 2023. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful meal, the fellowship, the Christmas Carols, and participating in a hilarious round of "Dirty Santa". A great time was had by all! Thank you, St. Andrews, for all of the prayers, support, and fellowship, all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Be on the lookout for our next Boston Butt and Rib Sale...

CREAA ★★ 4th of July Weekend 2024 ★★

Annual Boston Butt & Rib Sale

Boston Butt: \$40

Slab of Ribs \$45

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

July 4, 2024

Congratulations

TO OUR
MARCH
2024



RESIDENT OF THE MONTH
Thomas Delancey



MOST IMPROVED
RESIDENT OF THE MONTH
Robert Noel



Allen Griffin
CREAA Property Manager



Stanley Parker
CREAA House Manager



Recent new CREA residents receiving their Welcome Packs.
Left to right: Robert Boich, Matthew McCain, and Eric Wilson

SAVE THE DATE

J.F. INGRAM STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

RESOURCE FAIR

ATTENDEES WILL INCLUDE:

- ✓ CURRENT INGRAM STUDENTS
- ✓ FORMER INGRAM STUDENTS WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR OF RELEASE OR PAROLE CONSIDERATION DATE

BIBB CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

565 Bibb Lane
Brent, AL 35034
Starting at 9:00 a.m.
Lunch provided

APRIL 25

*Contact Renee Foshee at
Renee.Foshee@istc.edu for
more information.*

Program Director John Means set to attend J.F. Ingram State Technical College Job Fair at Bibb County Correctional Facility April 25, 2024.

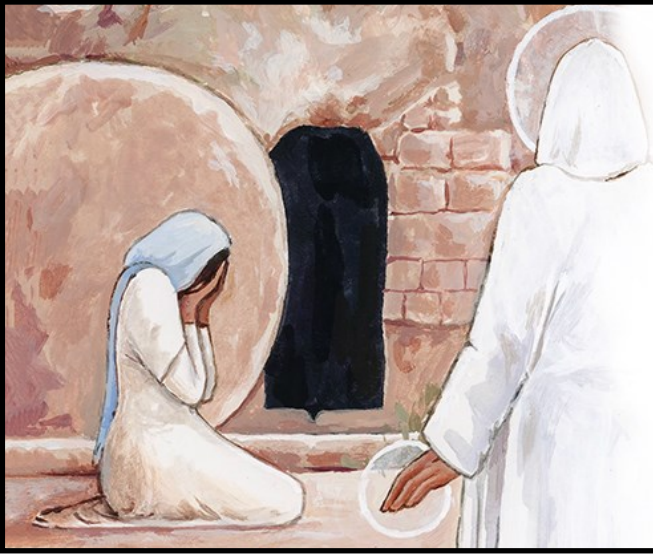
Program Director John Means will be attending a Job Fair hosted by J.F. Ingram State Technical College on April 25, 2024 at Bibb County Correctional Facility. The Job Fair will be for current students and former students within one year of release. This will be another great opportunity to personally meet and share with the students about what is available to them upon release by coming into our program at the Bryan Clay House; that we are here to help them as they make their transition from incarceration to successfully re-enter society.



Mama Cat and her seven new kittens

CREAA staff members attend ACRM training at Heritage Christian Center in Hueytown February 8, 2024





“Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away -- for it was very large.” (Mark 16:1-4 NJKV)

Who will roll away the stone?

Life is full of questions, especially when we are faced with a situation or an event in our lives that is absolutely devastating and overwhelming. As we read in the gospel accounts after Jesus was crucified, for the disciples, all of their hopes and dreams had been shattered beyond repair. And so it was, early in the morning on that first day of the week, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome set out to the tomb where Jesus lay, to anoint his body. According to the gospel accounts, we are told that after Jesus was crucified, Joseph of Arimathea went to Pontius Pilate to ask permission for the body of Jesus. He then took the body from Pilate, and according to John's gospel account, Nicodemus also came with him as well, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They then took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Nicodemus had purchased a very large quantity of dry spices, myrrh, and aloes, which served to dry the wounds, and dry up the blood. But to these good women, they did not think that this was enough, so they bought spices, some perfumed oils, and set out to anoint the body of their precious Lord Jesus.

Yet, it is only as they drew near to the tomb that they asked themselves the question, “Who will roll away this very large stone from the door of the tomb for us?” They realized that moving this very large stone was more than they could possibly move in their own strength. Logic or common sense says that maybe they should have thought of this before they set out. But here is the good news! Did you notice that it is almost as soon as the question was asked, that they arrived at the tomb to discover that God had already taken care of the problem; that the very large stone had already been rolled away. It was just as King David says in Psalm 139:4, **“Even before a word is on my tongue, you know it completely.”**

The good news for us is that even when there are **very large stones** in our way, God already has the solution worked out. Now, it may not happen right away, or in the way or when we expect, but we can certainly trust that He will honor His Word and deal with the **very large stones** that come into our lives each and every time. If He did it for the women on that first day of the week way

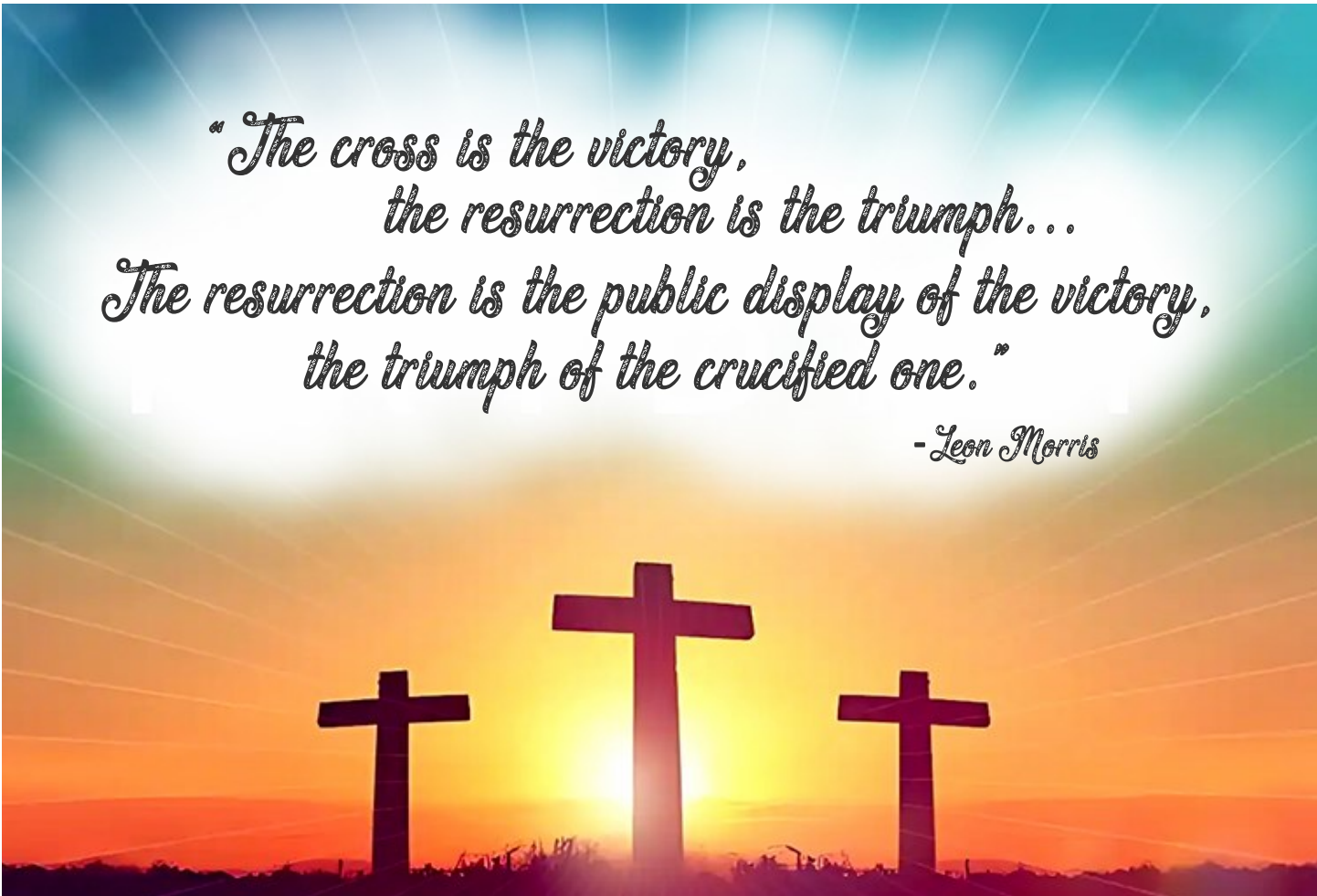
back then, He will most certainly do it for us now. God does not lie, nor does He change. As it says in Hebrews 13:8, **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”** So be encouraged my brothers and sisters. Who will roll the away the stone? God will.



JOHN MEANS
CREAA Program Director
& “Mama Cgt”

*"The cross is the victory,
the resurrection is the triumph...
The resurrection is the public display of the victory,
the triumph of the crucified one."*

- Leon Morris



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