



Peace Fellowship News

The Newsletter of Peace Fellowship Church
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Faces of Peace: Meet Sean Mills !

Sean Mills' life had nearly come to an end—again. He had been raised in the church but ended up putting his upbringing aside to live the life that he wanted to live. What Sean didn't expect is that God would literally save him from himself, many times.

In November of 1994, at the age of 17, Sean nearly had a heart attack from smoking some bad marijuana given to him by a friend. Then, in November of 1996, Sean was drunk, blacked out, and fell asleep behind the wheel of his car. He was hospitalized for a week, and knew that it was God who had spared his life. In July of 1998, Sean was drinking again. After dropping his girlfriend off, he headed home and decided to try a stunt in his car—one that just not possible.

In the process he hit another car, full of people. Sean thought for sure that he'd killed someone, so ran up to the car he'd hit. They rolled up their windows and waved him away. Sean spent a few hours that day, in jail. He says, "And I was there in jail, I was thinking, 'Alright, Lord, I'm tired. For whatever the reason you haven't taken my life and I've been trying to throw it away. I don't want to do this anymore.' God delivered me. I went back to my church. I became serious about my Walk. A great friend and mentor of mine - whose testimony is far more astronomical than mine - he had a substance and abuse deliverance ministry. A lot of the things he talked about I knew I had done. I go to him and ask, 'Can you help me?' So he walked me through this ministry, Healing Hearts. Through Healing Hearts I put down alcohol, I put down smoking cigarettes, and a lot of the anger issues I had with people, with authority, with 'The System,' as it were. A lot of those vices have fallen - God has taken that from me."

Since this time, Sean has studied God's Word faithfully and intensely. With the encouragement of family members Sean became a student at Nyack College, D.C. Campus, to study the Bible and Christian Ministry. Sean tells us, "And there, that's where I met our pastor, Dr. Edwards. Throughout my time there, Dr. Edwards has become a mentor and a friend to me. Through our talks that we would have before class, after class, and even away from school, he would tell me about Peace Fellowship. Which brings me to why I'm here. He would explain to me the mission of this church and what this church is all about. He was asking me about where I'm at now - at my previous home - was I having opportunities to use my gifts. Through various dialog sessions that we had, I'd been praying on it, and I thought it was time for me to make a change. Not that I had a falling out with my church home, there was no breaking away from the church for doctrinal issues or anything of that nature. I had been raised in that church for 27 years and wanted to get a different look, a different feel and also resonated with the vision and the mission of this church. Which brings me here. I'm thankful to God for the people He's placed in my life from my childhood friends to my mentors and different people I've met over the years. I just believe that God has truly kept His hand on me. When it would be that I would throw my life away, He said, 'No.' And when it would be that others would take my life, He said, 'No!' To God be the Glory!"

Sean Mills and his son Jaleel attend Peace Fellowship Church. Sean is one of our new members!



Sean Mills, Left, Visits With Alvin Mason After The Service

Pray for Peace!

- Pray for *creativity* as we strategize for outreach into our community. Pray specifically for opportunities for Easter.
- Pray as we seek to begin new Bible studies to meet the needs of seekers, new Believers and those young in their faith.
- Pray as we plan *summer* outreach opportunities. Pray especially for B.U.M.P. week where 30 teens from Missouri and Delaware will help Peace Fellowship Church staff a VBS in our community. Pray for housing for these teens and pray as we make decisions on where to minister through VBS this year.
- Pray for the Edwards family as both Jonathan and Susan are in their *last semester* before graduation, this May! Pray as they complete their final work for graduation. Pray also for Dennis and his teaching responsibilities at Nyack's D.C. campus.

An Edwards Family Update

This spring will witness a continuation of busyness in the Edwards family as Susan and Jonathan finish up their education (for the time being). Jon and Susan will graduate in May within days of each other, Jon with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Morehouse College, and Susan with Master's Degree in Social Work. We are proud of them both. Please don't ask me, however, what Jon will be doing after graduation – or Susan for that matter!

Jason is having a great year at the University of Pennsylvania. He has connected with a Christian ministry there and looks for ways to use his musical gifts. We miss having our sons with us, but we are grateful for the Lord's work in their lives.

Joanna and Jessica, our lovely daughters, are diligent high school students. Joanna, an 11th grader, is preparing for the SATs and thinking about college! (Are we parents ready for this? We're not sure!) Joanna dances at school and Jessica has just started on the track team. She is a leader in the Black Student Association, even though she is just a first-year upper school student. We are thrilled that our daughters are growing into strong women whose faith is real.

Dennis is looking to present a paper on the Epistle of James at the Society of Biblical Literature's annual conference in November. He's never done that before and is nervous about his academic work getting scrutinized by brilliant international minds. But, he figures, "Why not give it a shot?" He also continues to broaden his ministry through teaching as a professor at Nyack College's DC campus, Eastern Mennonite Seminary, and more recently, Bethel Seminary of the East's new campus in the Washington, DC area.

All in all, we trust the Lord for our family's growth and development as we labor at Peace Fellowship Church and at other challenges as well. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement!



Above:
Peace Fellowship Church in Worship: The Reading of the Word, Fellowship After the Service, Praising God in Song, Seeking God in Prayer.

At Left:
Our Congregation at Peace Fellowship Church, Fall, 2004.