The RM Update

March 2020

A Story of Restoration

While Reconciliation Ministries (RM) largely focuses on offering students who are suffering from addiction an opportunity to experience lifechanging freedom and reconciliation to God, themselves, and others, it also offers a restoration track. This track is designed for individuals who have already been through a long-term program, but may have recently relapsed and are in need of additional support. RM would like to introduce to you Brian and Karla Poirier and share how God is using RM to help restore them back toward a healthy marriage and ministry.

Brian and Karla met in 2015 at Karla's local church in California. After a year-long, long-distance relationship, Brian and Karla decided to get married and ultimately follow God's leading to go into full-time ministry. Within their first year of marriage, they moved to Puerto Rico, lived through two hurricanes, and survived a devastating jet ski accident, which required pain medications for Brian.

At the time of the accident, Brian had a high-level leadership position within the ministry they were involved in. As Brian relied more heavily on his medications, he also sees now that he had "too much power and no accountability," and his medication usage soon turned to stronger drugs. Brian's addiction pushed him into a black tunnel, and he eventually found himself seeking help in a restoration program in New York.

As Karla worked alongside Brian and started noticing changes in Brain and their marriage, she had no idea about the seriousness of what was going on. Once she did, she wondered how their lives spiraled into these circumstances. They had gotten to a point of no longer believing in God and wanted nothing to do with Him or ministry.

However, God had not given up on them. Karla admits she "didn't know anything about reconciliation," but she is grateful that during this crucial time in their lives, God placed people in her life who encouraged her to not give up on Brian or her marriage. Brian and Karla began praying that God would restore them and bring them to a place of community and accountability—something so different from where they first started in their marriage.

That prayer led them to reach out to RM in 2019. Brian entered RM's Restoration Track and God began to restore and reconcile his relationship with God and his wife. Brian feels strongly that RM gave them a second chance and reminded him that God is still working and that He <u>is</u> the God of restoration. "If it can happen for Karla and me, God can do it for anyone."



Upcoming Events

Awareness Event

Come join us on Thursday,
April 23rd from 12-1 pm to
learn more about the
program, tour RM facilities,
and hear stories of
transformation from
students in the program.
Lunch will be provided.

4th Annual (Re)New Hope Banquet

Mark your calendar for Thursday, September 24, 2020, from 6:30 – 8:30 pm! Stayed tuned for more details.

March 7— Store Front, Walmart in Ballentine (10a-5p)

March 22- RM Choir, Hilltop Community Church

March 29- RM Choir, North Point Community Church

Work Trip Prayer Support



As the new year has started so has the "work trip season" for RM students. While these work opportunities are often local, they sometimes require the program to travel out of state to work in various events and capacities. Recently, the RM students and staff traveled to Tampa, FL, to work at the Florida State Fair.

Although the main responsibility for the students is to maintain the cleanliness of public restrooms, these work trips are actually character-building opportunities. RM students are called to step out of a sheltered, structured environment and apply Biblical principles they have learned in the program. This can be challenging as students are faced with real-world influences.

Would you partner with us to cover the RM staff and students in prayer as they travel in this capacity? Through prayer, we know God will provide. "For we know that the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen and guard us from the evil one."
(2 Thessalonians 3:3)

The Story Continues – Opportunities of Hope Through Coffee

If you've read recent newsletters, you've noticed something new around Reconciliation Ministries – coffee! When God brought Brian and Karla Poirier to the RM program in the fall of 2019, they brought with them the relationships they had developed with local Puerto Rican coffee farmers. These relationships have provided a unique ministry opportunity for them and Reconciliation Ministries.

Brian and Karla are excited to see what God is going to do through coffee. "It's more than just coffee," says Brian. "It's about saving lives." The vision of this coffee ministry is to provide discipleship and vocational training opportunities, while providing a portion of sustainable income for the ministry. "We're excited to see how this is going to affect people down the road and how God is going to use it as a tool to share the Gospel and our stories of restoration."

Through networking, RM coffee is now available in churches, area businesses, and even with local mission organizations. See below for ways to invest in the lives of RM students and offer hope through your support.

- Individual coffee purchases
- Recurring subscriptions for 6 months or 1-year supply
- Your business, church, or organization can purchase coffee in bulk from RM

Purchases can be made online at www.reconciliation-min.org or through the contact information below.

Contact Information:

- Email info@reconciliation-min.org for pricing and options
- Direct Coffee Line: 803.429.9722
- Brian Poirier: 510.820.0732

