



## CHAPEL PROJECT

Some of our readers are already aware that we have been raising funds for a new chapel. Our previous chapel, which was located in the front section of the dormitory building, was converted into additional dorm rooms. Since then, our chapel services have been held in the gymnasium. While this arrangement serves its purpose, it certainly is not ideal. Because of all other activities conducted in the gym, the clients have no dedicated space for quiet reflection, meditation and prayer. Our program places a high emphasis on spiritual renewal. A chapel will definitely advance this purpose.

Since we have begun the process of design, development, and obtaining approvals from local government agencies, the cost for materials and construction has risen approximately one million dollars from the original estimate. Please help us pray that we will be able to see this project completed for the glory of God and the spiritual enrichment of all clients. If the Lord lays it on your heart to contribute for this project, we would be deeply grateful. Please indicate the purpose of your gift when you donate online ([newdestiny.com](http://newdestiny.com)), or by mail using the donor form on page 7.



*Artist depiction of proposed chapel.*

**Merry Christmas**

## **A Word With Doc...**

*Dr. R.W. Bolois, Ph.D., CEO*

### **FINALLY, A VERBAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

Announcements are a primary means of promoting upcoming events. When children are promised a reward for something they have earned, they absolutely will not let the subject lay until the promise has been fulfilled. Working adults love to be told there will be a surprise in their paycheck, which they will truly appreciate. Parents of married adult children anxiously await the announcement that they will soon be grandparents. Students love to be told that school has closed for the day and they can stay home and enjoy the day apart from studies. A father cannot wait to announce that he has planned a wonderful vacation that the family will enjoy. All of these situations required an announcement so the recipients would anxiously anticipate the gift from the hand of someone who loved and cared for them.

This same thing is described in Luke 1:26-33; 2:8-11. The Scripture tells us that God used an angel by the name of Gabriel to make the announcements about the birth of the Christ child. At first there was overwhelming fear that changed to delightful joy. All of these visits from angels were spectacular, but I believe the most exciting announcement was when Gabriel visited the shepherds. Luke 2:13-14 reports, "Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others-the armies of heaven-praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.'"

Think about it. Since the messianic promise of Genesis 3:15, the children of Israel had been waiting for a ruler, king, messiah, and priest. They waited nearly 4,000 years, including a 400-year period when heaven was silent. They were waiting for the announcement of the One who was to deliver His people. We know the angels were excited, but what happened to the people? They had over 300 prophecies in the O.T. describing all the details concerning

the coming of the Christ, yet it was hard for the people to believe He was really the One they were expecting. We know there were reasons why Christ was rejected, but regardless of His adult ministry, the verbal announcement should have excited the entire nation of Israel. The angels were with Christ from Eternity, and yet they were amazed when they saw the Creator born as a creature – the Word arriving as a speechless baby. I think the best description of His coming is found in 1 Timothy 3:16, "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." What a story and announcement! Good news had finally broken through. For the first time in centuries, heaven made an announcement of the long awaited Christ coming to earth. God was returning to earth in the flesh; not as a spirit or in angelic form, but as a real man.

So, what was the good news? Was God sending a soldier that was strong enough to defeat the Romans? Was He sending a judge that would rule the world with an iron fist? Was He sending a philosopher to help people understand the issues of life and how to get along better with one another? No, none of those. God sent His only begotten Son to satisfy man's greatest need – a Savior. This was a wonderful message of peace to bring deliverance from sin, and place within the heart of man the tranquility that only Jesus, the Son of God, could produce. Nowhere else could man find this kind of peace. The Stoic philosopher Epictetus said, "While the emperor may give peace from war on land and sea, he is unable to give peace from passion, grief, and envy. He cannot give peace of heart for which man yearns more than even for outward peace."



What kind of an announcement are we waiting for today? Is there anything to be excited about when looking to the future? We can make a comparison between the Jewish people of yesterday and our circumstances today. Taxes are high, unemployment has been high, morals are low, and the government is corrupt. People are living in fear of what will happen next. Should we prepare for war with China, Russia, North Korea, Iran, the Arab states or terrorists here at home? Fear is everywhere, producing loneliness and anxiety.

**As the people of God we are waiting for an announcement to be made at any moment.**

Let's just face the facts of our current situation. THINGS ARE BAD AND GETTING WORSE! Is there anything to look forward to? The answer is yes! As the people of God we are waiting for an announcement to be made at any moment. The Jewish nation had fallen asleep and thought God had forgotten them. His messianic announcement was made and they were not prepared. Are we allowing the things of time to cause us to doubt God's Word and feel like there is nothing to live for? Let me encourage you this Christmas season. There is another announcement that will be made – Jesus is on His way to rapture His people. Let us respond from our hearts with wonder and worship to adore the Savior of the World.

Christ the Savior has been born. Stay ready for the announcement of His return – maybe this Christmas!

## NEW DESTINY PASSES STATE AUDIT

Many of our supporters and newsletter subscribers already know that New Destiny Treatment Center is certified by Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) to provide mental health and substance use disorder treatment in the state of Ohio. Surveyors from OMHAS came to New Destiny in April of this year to perform a site visit and program audit for the purpose of renewing our certification.

The team of three surveyors came for one day and thoroughly examined our program. They reviewed everything including policies and procedures, client records, buildings and facilities, and more. They provided a few recommendations, which we were required to implement. We are delighted to report

that we passed the audit and our certification was renewed for three more years until May 2026.

We are truly grateful for the hard-working and dedicated staff members who perform high quality services in order for our program to continue in operation. We give thanks to the Lord for helping us as we continue to offer treatment services that are highly respected throughout the state and beyond.



## NATIONAL ACCREDITATION MANDATED

Early this fall, we learned that legislation had been passed by the Ohio Assembly and signed into law by the Governor on July 4th, which would require all treatment programs to obtain national accreditation before seeking renewal of their certification once the law goes into effect on October 1, 2025. This means that New Destiny Treatment Center will need to be nationally accredited before our current certification expires in May of 2026.

There are three main national accrediting organizations that satisfy the requirements of the new law. They are: The Joint Commission (TJC), The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), and the Council on Accreditation (COA). In the very near future, New Destiny will be contacting one of

these organizations and beginning the process of obtaining national accreditation for the services we provide.

Two months ago two of our staff members, Ryan Kennedy and Lester Rowan, attended a two-day training conference that was sponsored by CARF. Information was presented in the conference about the entire process of accreditation including brief explanations of the standards that must be satisfied by each organization seeking accreditation.

The accreditation process will be very extensive and will require significant revisions to our policies and procedures for treatment services, as well as significant financial resources to cover application fees and other expenses. Please pray for New

Destiny leadership and key staff members as they strive to achieve this goal of accreditation in the timeframe necessary before our current certification expires.





## CLIENT FOCUS – Renardo Jones

inner-city kids, which Renardo participated in until about age 12. Even with this good influence, he got in trouble in third grade and was expelled from school. Renardo never felt like he fit in at school because he didn't have material things other kids had, but he was introduced to God during this time. He knew the difference between right and wrong and was later baptized when he was in the Juvenile Detention Center. He always felt he had a spiritual connection with God.

Crime, and the effects of crime, were always present in Renardo's life. His father had 12 imprisonments and was shot twice in the head, but thankfully survived. (His dad eventually embraced sobriety and went on to serve his community by volunteering, returning to school, graduating, and eventually becoming a minister.) His brother was killed due to a drug-related incident when Renardo was 11 years of age. After his brother died, Renardo started smoking marijuana daily and by the age of 12, was selling drugs. This lifestyle led him in and out of juvenile detention and treatment programs until he became an adult.

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**The outside environment crept into the home as everyone in Renardo's family, except for his grandfather, succumbed to drug and/or alcohol abuse.**

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In 2002, at the age of 22, Renardo went to prison for the first time on charges of drug trafficking. After that, he was in and out of prison six times before arriving at New Destiny. He progressed to using harder and harder drugs and selling them to others. Even when he wasn't in prison, he dealt with violence and betrayal because of his drug interactions with others. Between prison terms, Renardo attended the University of Akron majoring in Business Management and Real Estate. He received a check every semester as part of a subsidized school program, but he used the money for drugs. He attended college for two years, went to prison, and then returned to college for another semester.

Renardo was married in 2015, and he has a

son from a previous relationship. He says his wife and his son are the best things that have happened to him. He still struggled with drugs and incarceration, especially after his mother overdosed in 2016. During one prison stint he was able to work on self-esteem, but continued to suffer from significant emotional trauma. Earlier this year he was in the Summit County Jail facing another prison term. He was reflecting on his life and knew he was ready to change. While praying to God, he was sent to a jail overflow location, where he saw a card about New Destiny and our long-term program. This was what he had been looking for! He wrote a letter to the judge and included the card about New Destiny. His attorney encouraged him to go to a shorter program, but Renardo told the judge he wanted to come to New Destiny in lieu of the 9-month jail term he was facing. Thank God, the judge approved!

Being here has given Renardo time to work on himself, and get closer to God. He recognizes the closer he gets to God; the more joy he has. His relationship with his wife and her family has also improved. He has a better vision of what he wants to do with his life, and he has more confidence that he can achieve his goals with God by his side.

When he was in addiction, he thought he had things under control. Now he realizes how far he had spiraled down. He believes God is using all the negative things in his life to draw him back. Renardo feels that his purpose is to learn from his experience and use it to help others who suffer from substance use disorder. He plans to obtain the necessary education and credentials to do so, as well as become an apprentice in a carpentry program. He likes the feeling he gets when helping others, and it makes him feel closer to God.

We are so happy to have Renardo in our program. He is making remarkable progress and we're very proud of him. He'll be graduating in February and starting his new (sober) life. We wish him the best! People do recover from addiction and thrive.

We met Renardo on May 25, 2023 when he walked through the doors of New Destiny for the first time. Renardo has been working very hard on his recovery and his resolve to change a dysfunctional lifestyle that was learned and reinforced from childhood through adulthood.

Renardo grew up on the west side of Akron in public housing. His parents both abused drugs and consequently, were in and out of prison. When Renardo was two, his parents lost custody of their children, and Renardo was raised by his grandfather and his step-grandmother. The environment in his neighborhood included violence, criminal behavior, and drug activity. The outside environment crept into the home as everyone in Renardo's family, except for his grandfather, succumbed to drug and/or alcohol abuse. Even though his grandfather was sober, he was abusive, strict, and emotionally distant. There were many rules in the home that were intended to protect Renardo, but instead they isolated him from interaction with his peers. He believes this isolation stunted his social and emotional development. He never saw his grandparents show affection or emotion towards each other. There were no healthy relationships modeled by anyone he knew.

His step-grandmother volunteered at a Community Center where Christian groups offered Bible studies, field trips, a bowling league, and camping opportunities to

## STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



Lester and Kris Rowan

New Destiny Treatment Center would like to introduce our readers to the faithful and dedicated members of our staff. In this issue we have chosen to introduce Rev. Lester Rowan, who had previously worked at New Destiny and rejoined the staff in 2021. Lester serves as compliance officer for the treatment center, helping us to stay current with state regulations and updating our policies and procedures as necessary. He also reviews electronic healthcare records each week to ensure billing ledgers are correct before the contracted billing service submits them to Medicaid for payment. In addition to his employment, Lester serves as chairman of the New Destiny Treatment Center Board of Managers.

We have asked Lester to answer some questions, which will enable our readers to know a little more about him and to remember him as you pray for New Destiny.

**ND:** Can you provide some personal information about yourself and your family?

**Lester:** I currently live in the Columbus Ohio area with my wife, Kris, where we have lived for two years. We have been married for 43 years and have been involved in some kind of ministry all of those years. Kris taught high school Spanish many years at a Christian school in Canton, Ohio. She also was office secretary at our last pastorate in Mercer, PA. We have three children and

eight grandchildren. I am thankful that all of our children and their spouses are serving the Lord and are actively involved in their respective churches. Our daughter is a high school English teacher in Granville, Ohio. Our eldest son is a pastor in Hudson, Michigan, and our other son is a senior attorney with the Ohio Department of Health in Columbus, Ohio.

**ND:** Tell us a little bit about your educational background.

**Lester:** I graduated from Hobe Sound Bible College with a ministerial degree in biblical education. Several years later I graduated from Ashland Theological Seminary with a master's degree in theological studies. I have taken various courses at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Allegheny Wesleyan College, and Capella University. I also completed necessary courses to acquire a license as a chemical dependency counselor when I previously worked at New Destiny.

**ND:** What can you share regarding your work and ministry experience?

**Lester:** After Bible college, I served as an assistant pastor for 4 years at two different churches. I have pastored three separate churches in Pennsylvania and Ohio for a combined span of 27 years. Between my second and third pastorates I worked at New Destiny Treatment Center for 13 years. Now, I have been back at New Destiny for two years, working remotely from my home and at the treatment center campus as needed. Other ministry experiences include university campus ministry, law enforcement chaplaincy, and writing. I have written several articles for various holiness periodicals in the past. More recently, I published a book that was an expansion of a sermon series on the eleventh chapter of Hebrews, which is titled, "What Will Faith Do for Me?"

**ND:** Do you have any hobbies or activities you enjoy for leisure?

**Lester:** Besides spending time with our grandchildren, my most enjoyable leisure activity is hunting – more specifically, deer hunting. I love being in the woods whether it is hunting or just hiking/walking. Playing or singing music is

another favorite activity. I started singing with my twin brother and other family members as a small child and have been involved with music ministries all my life. I learned to play the trumpet in elementary school and have played throughout high school, college, and in church ministry settings. My wife and I currently participate in the worship choir at our church.

**ND:** You have already mentioned your employment at New Destiny Treatment Center. Is there anything else related to New Destiny that you would like to share?

**Lester:** Yes. My connection with New Destiny began in 1992, when I was invited to serve on the board. Later, an employment opportunity came open, so I joined the staff in January of 1996. I continued on staff until September 2009 when I resigned to accept a pastoral position in western Pennsylvania. I love the work at New Destiny Treatment Center. There is nothing in this world that compares to the thrill of seeing individuals transformed by the power of the gospel and the grace of God.

**ND:** Can you tell us something about yourself that most people wouldn't know?

**Lester:** Well, I'm a really poor golfer, but a lot of people already know that! However, most people do not know that I actually hit a hole-in-one several years ago. The owner of the golf course kindly presented me with a nice plaque to commemorate the miraculous event!

**ND:** Finally, do you have any concerns you would like for our readers to pray about?

**Lester:** I have two main requests. First, please pray that God will provide the financial resources needed to continue ministering to the clients He sends to us. Secondly, pray that God will give wisdom and guidance as New Destiny goes through the process of acquiring national accreditation. This is a new requirement by law in Ohio. It will entail a great deal of revision and improvement in our policies and procedures, as well as significant financial expense to achieve the required accreditation.

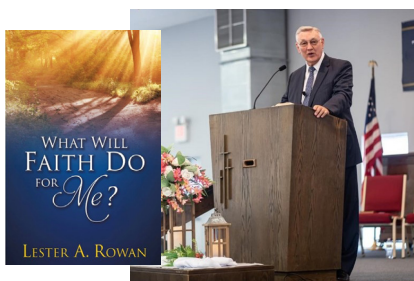
## RESOURCE OFFER...

New Destiny Treatment Center is offering two resources to our readers for personal spiritual enrichment.

The first offer includes video recordings of sermons preached by Dr. Bolois. These messages were given last summer at a camp meeting in Indiana. One sermon is titled, "A Divine Plan." The second is titled, "The Rapture." Each message is available for a donation of \$10 for operating expenses.

The second offer includes a book written by Rev. Lester Rowan titled, "What Will Faith Do for Me?" The book is an expansion of a sermon series based on Hebrews chapter eleven. This resource is available for a donation of \$15 for operating expenses.

You may obtain any or all of these resources by sending your donation using the donor form on page 7, and specifying which resource(s) you desire.



## ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY

By Ben Dunlap, Counselor



One of the extended benefits we offer to our clients at New Destiny is the chance to include animal-assisted therapy in their treatment. Our mental health department takes full advantage of this by providing therapy dogs to the clients in their individual sessions.

We established this program three years ago when we decided to incorporate a border collie, Ripley, and two golden retriever puppies, Sara and Tara, into the 9-month residential program. As the dogs have grown, they have completed their therapy training classes and we have implemented them into our clients' socialization process.

Ripley enjoys greeting all the clients and staff in the various buildings in the morning, while Tara enjoys her endless belly rubs during the individual sessions. Implementing therapy dogs into the program aims to impact clients' emotional, social, and physical well-being and enrich their overall rehabilitation experience.

The client shown here states, "Tara is the sweetest dog. She makes me feel at home."

## BOATING ENFORCEMENT LEADS TO MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Most of the nightly chapel services at New Destiny Treatment Center are conducted by volunteers. One such minister is Reverend Dan Fuller from Medina, who has been faithfully ministering to our clients for 30 years.

When he first started in ministry, he had a desire to spread the Good News and prayed he would find an audience. The day after that prayer, he was working for the Department of Natural Resources patrolling Portage Lakes. A pontoon boat went past him going too fast in a no wake zone, so he stopped the boat. As he was talking to the men on board, he noticed the large Bible that was on a table in the center of the boat. He questioned them further and found out that they were from New Destiny Treatment Center (formerly, Barberton Rescue Mission), and they were out on the lake studying the Bible. Dan took this as a sign from God. He gave them a warning about speeding, and then took a break from his job at that moment to visit with them and find out more about their ministry. He was offered the opportunity to



preach to our residents as a volunteer and he immediately signed up.

Dan considers himself an old-fashioned preacher, always offering an alter call at the end of each service.

**Many important activities at New Destiny are staffed by volunteers. If you would like to explore opportunities with us, please call 330-825-5202 ext. 5115 for additional information.**

He keeps a rough count of those that come forward. Since he started volunteering here, there have been approximately 1250 responses to those invitations! We're very blessed to have a dedicated volunteer who is making an impact in our men's lives and their eternal destiny.



## STRETCHING OUR RESOURCES

It has been an entire year since we mailed out a newsletter to our friends and supporters. As you read through the contents of this issue, your heart no doubt rejoices over the wonderful things God is doing at New Destiny Treatment Center. It is wonderful to see how God is transforming the lives of individuals who had been enslaved to destructive habits and behaviors. When such positive transformation is taking place, it motivates individuals to be more involved so even more people can receive life-saving treatment.

You have undoubtedly felt the crunch of inflation in your own household budgets over the past few years. The same is true for New Destiny. Our overall expenses have continued to rise, while our income has not. We do receive payments from Medicaid for many of the treatment services we perform. However, our expenses have continued to surpass the income from Medicaid.

We have taken numerous steps to resolve the problem, such as: adding new billable services and increasing the number of clients we house for treatment. Just recently we received approval from the health department to increase our residential census from 60 to 74 clients.

We have taken an additional step to increase our online presence. We have had a website and a social media (Facebook) page for a good while, but we have recently

added a new website that is easier and faster to navigate. You may reach our new website at the following address: [www.newdestiny.com](http://www.newdestiny.com). It concisely describes why we do what we do and helps readers to get involved with the ministry. One excellent feature on the new website allows readers to submit the name of their employer to find out if their employer matches donations made to non-profit organizations. This could be a very easy way for your donation for New Destiny Treatment Center to be doubled.

We are also taking steps to reduce expenses and improve our financial situation, including reducing the size of our staff as much as possible. We are striving to limit expenses wherever possible, so we ask for your prayers and your support. We deeply appreciate every donation regardless of the size of the gift.

Help us spread the word by directing family members and friends to visit our website, [www.newdestiny.com](http://www.newdestiny.com). If you use social media, we would appreciate it very much if you would share the website address on your page.



Dr. Bolois, I want to be involved in the ministry of New Destiny Treatment Center. I am enclosing a donation so that many more men and women can be rescued, renewed, and returned to their families and communities. I want to have a part in giving someone a brand new destiny for life and for eternity!

I am committing to give:  a one-time gift of:  a monthly gift of:

\$1,000  \$100  \$50  \$20  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please use for:  Operating Expenses  Chapel Project  Other \_\_\_\_\_

For my donation I am requesting:  Divine Plan Sermon  Rapture Sermon  Faith Book

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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Left to right: Mark Bolois, RN, BSN, Clinical Director; Andrew Bolois, student at Union Bible College, Human Resources Assistant; Dr. Robert Bolois, PhD, CEO. Three generations in the Lord's work at New Destiny. Sara, is one of our therapy dogs at New Destiny Treatment Center.

