

TRANSFORMATION LIFE CENTER NEWSLETTER



TRANSFORMING LIVES TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD

NOV. 2015

WHO WE ARE

Transformation Life Center (TLC) is a Christian discipleship program for men 18+ who are seeking help to work through life-controlling issues through the healing power and grace of Jesus Christ.

TLC is a registered non-profit, faith-based organization. Our Christian discipleship program helps men learn how to recover and manage new lives of hope and freedom in mind, body, and soul, through understanding and rebuilding their true self-identity and purpose found only in Jesus Christ.

"Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away. Behold, new things have come."

- 2 Corinthians 5:17

WWW.TLCNY.ORG



BY PASTOR TOM MAHAIRAS

SINGING A NEW SONG

A NEW ERA BEGINS AT TRANSFORMATION LIFE CENTER, GOD'S FAITHFULNESS CONTINUES

"He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God: Many will see and fear and will trust in the LORD" — Ps. 40:3

God placed a new song of praise at TLC. A new attitude of joy, and new heart, and a new spirit in our staff and in the residents of TLC. God has given us a new hope for the future. And that is not all; God has given TLC a new Executive Director, Dr. George Kalaras. He graduated from TLC (CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

MEET MEMBERS OF OUR NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM



DR. GEORGE KALARAS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



ANGELA KALARAS
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



TONYA HILL
Student Development Coordinator



Some of our men at the TLC Faith Gala Banquet

15 years ago and went on to receive his undergraduate, master's, and doctorate degrees. He joined our Board of Directors four years ago and comes with his wife Angela to lead this awesome ministry that has helped save and transform thousands of lives for over 30 years.

George, Angela, and their staff are developing a fresh new curriculum that will help transform and disciple the men and women that we will be ministering to. There is a fresh new

faith that has marked everything we have seen in the last few months.

We decided to go local with our Faith Gala Banquets, and for the first time ever God provided a donor who underwrote all the expense for the food at the Manhattan Bible Church. Another new experience was that a special donor provided a lead gift of \$25,000 that was matched by Steve Young, chairman of TLC's board, his family, and the many friends that we have at First Baptist of Merritt Island,

Florida.

But the most amazing thing was that the friends and supporters at the Manhattan Bible Church and other friends of TLC pledged another \$25,000! Praise God! He provided and helped us meet our faith goal for the evening. The whole Gala was a huge success. The program, music, videos, and dinner — all of it was anointed by God. Everyone could sense the joy of a fresh new wind and spirit that is blowing at TLC. I offer a sincere thank you to everyone who made it happen. 🦋

The screenshot shows the TLC website homepage. The header includes the TLC logo and the tagline 'Transformation Life Center | Transforming lives to transform the world'. The main content area features a large image of a park with the text 'Welcome to TRANSFORMATION LIFE CENTER' and 'Transforming Lives to Transform the World'. Below this is a section titled 'Who we are.' with a small image of a group of people and a paragraph of text describing the ministry.

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED

We are excited about the launching of the new TLC website. The new site, www.tlcny.org reflects our heart as a ministry and provides users with valuable information about our program and our intake process. There are videos, staff bios, and a wealth of additional information about the ministry on the site.

In addition to that, we have launched our first-ever electronic newsletter, which will be delivered via email to everyone on our list. This is a more efficient way for us to deliver important, time-sensitive information to you, and will feature the latest news and breakthroughs of the ministry. If you would like to subscribe, please go to the website and enter your email address.



BY DR. GEORGE KALARAS

GOING TO ANY LENGTHS

“FOR THE LORD OUR GOD IS HE WHO BROUGHT US AND OUR FATHERS UP OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT, FROM THE HOUSE OF BONDAGE, AND WHO DID THESE GREAT SIGNS IN OUR SIGHT AND PRESERVED US THROUGH ALL THE WAY IN WHICH WE WENT AND AMONG ALL THE PEOPLES THROUGH WHOSE MIDST WE PASSED.” - JOSHUA 24:17

I think about all the effort that someone who is in bondage to drugs and alcohol might make to get their hands on the substance. I think about the words they use to manipulate others into helping them or to giving them money for drugs. The hours spent scheming for the next “fix.” The places they have traveled on foot, by bike, or by car to get that fix. Logistics were never ever an obstacle for any of them in getting their next fix. How wonderful would it be if they took all that energy and time that they fed into something negative and they turned it around and used it for a bigger and better tomorrow? Not only for themselves, but for all those who come after them who are also willing to allow God to free them from the bondage of drugs and alcohol. I know this is a possibility because it happened to me. When I say “they” I mean “us,” because I was once included in this population. I

was addicted to cocaine and alcohol for 19 years and my appetite for them was insatiable.

I believe wholeheartedly that if you allow Christ to empty you of all the hurts and pains of your past, you will have the potential to lead others to places you could never have imagined. Leadership begins with personal transformation, therefore, one must experience spiritual awareness that comes from a relationship with Jesus Christ. The basis for understanding leadership is the written Word of God. The most important factor in today’s leadership is the learning that takes place within the relationships between the leader and their followers. Jesus chose the twelve first to be “with Him.” In John 10:14 Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me.” It is only when leaders surrender to the Holy Spirit that they become teachable, because it is only He who penetrates the heart and makes people humble. He causes leaders to rely wholly on the mercy of God in Christ so that they do not feel threatened if their views are challenged. The man who knows himself through Christ understands his worth, and therefore has nothing to lose when his ego is bruised. The Holy Spirit enhances the exciting experience of growth when pride is put aside.

My wife Angela and I humbly accepted the Directors positions for Transformation Life Center (TLC) to oversee both the men's and women's discipleship programs in New York.

We truly believe God has been moving and pruning in His perfect timing so that TLC has the best impact for those struggling with addictions. So these men and women can have a place to go for healing and restoration and then a solid aftercare to help them transition back into life with complete freedom to fully recover from life controlling issues.

My experience has been that men and women who struggle with drugs and alcohol are gifted in many ways, but because of their addiction they do not have the ability to utilize those gifts, let alone believe in themselves enough to do so. Once leaders are empowered from a Christ-centered perspective, the sky is the limit to where they can take themselves and their followers.

We hope that you can join us in celebrating the abundant new opportunity Angela and I have with TLC. It is all for God's glory and we know without a doubt that TLC is His ministry that He will use to show others who He is and who they are in him.

Thank you so much for your continued faithfulness to TLC. There is so much in store for its future. 🦋

STAY IN TOUCH



Each volume of our newsletter will include a life story of one of our staff members, board members, or students in the program. If you prefer your newsletters delivered electronically, please call or email us. Also, if you have any questions, suggestions, concerns, or prayer requests or would like to make a donation, sponsor a student in our program, or participate in a matching fund, please contact us via the website at www.tlcnyc.com

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

THOMAS LOWREY



My name is Thomas Lowrey. I am 27 years-old from Bucks County, Pennsylvania. I grew up in a very loving, Christian family. I have two wonderful, loving parents and I am one of four children. God had always been the main focus of our family. We were very involved at my uncle's church where I accepted Christ into my heart at a young age. We would attend Sunday services, Sunday school, and youth group when the time came. It was always stressed by my extended family the importance of attending church events as a family and if we were not able to attend certain church functions, or family events, we would have to give a vivid explanation on why we could not attend. All of this continued through my late teenage years.

In Junior high school I played soccer and ran track and field. I was pretty popular and fit in well in both junior high school and high school. During my sophomore year of high school, I noticed a huge portion of my friends getting high on prescription drugs and marijuana. With curiosity and the pressures from my extended family, I decided to dabble in those drugs. It started as recreational usage and the quickly sped up to a daily routine. Not only was my drug usage a daily process, but I started using stronger pain killers. All this time, I knew what I was doing was wrong and against God's will for me, but it was my way of escaping normal life pressure and achieve what I thought was happiness. After high school graduation I attended a state university in

Pennsylvania and my drug-using friends followed closely behind. While adjusting to the college life, I became familiar with the fraternity life which led to my dangerous, partying lifestyle.

After a semester, I became highly addicted to very potent pain killers and started using cocaine to keep me awake long enough to ingest more drugs. I knew that my lifestyle was wrong and getting out of hand, and I wanted to change, but my way. I transferred to a Christian university in South Florida, thinking a change of scenery would fix all my problems. From there my life spiraled more out of control when I hooked up with the wrong crowd. I then took advantage of the clubbing lifestyle and was a heavy user of "molly" which is like the modern-day version of ecstasy. After a few years, I was kicked out of school due to my party first lifestyle. I moved back in with my parents but had no desire to change. After a year, my parents asked me to leave the house due to the choices I was making. As I left, my extended family was made aware of the situation, but not in detail. Gossip about me and my parents went around, even in the church we were attending at that time. Due to the hurtful gossip and things that were said about me, I dealt with it by indulging right into my harmful drug usage.

After quitting the great job I had for fear of getting fired, and countless times of blacking out due to strong dosages of drugs, I entered my first Christian rehabilitation center, which I loved. After graduation I was doing great but started

to compromise with the devil with some choices I was making, and then soon led to the return to my drug usage. I was in a deep despair. I was lost and numb, I had alienated all my positive friends, and I was about to lose my family and my own life. I was doing every drug on the market and started using heroin as well. When I thought I hit rock bottom before, I was wrong. My hitting rock bottom was only looking up, crying out to God for help.

My friend told me about TLC, and I made that call right away. I was relieved as my intake process began and knew that the only thing I could do was to completely surrender to God and move forward. As my time here at TLC went on, I gained back that true peace, joy and happiness in my life. My chained lifestyle to bondage was released by the grace of God and I am a new creation in Christ Jesus. Psalm 46:10 says "Be still and know that I am God, I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the Earth." I know that I can be still and focus my eyes on God's face and know that I can be still, and know that He will go before me.

God is so good, and I am so grateful what he has done in my life, and extremely thankful for TLC; what a blessing this place has been for me. Trials and tribulations will arise, but nothing will take away the joy, peace and happiness I have in God. He is my solid rock, my salvation, and it is no longer the temporary things of this world that live through me, but it is now God who lives in me. 🦋

"My hitting rock bottom was only looking up ... crying out to God for help."