

## AN UPDATE OF MASTER'S TOUCH MINISTRY



A DIVISION OF  
WAYSIDE CROSS  
MINISTRIES

# lifeCHANGE

MARCH 2011

## FRIENDSHIP DINNER SET FOR MAY 17th

Wayne L. Gordon, founding Pastor of Lawndale Community Church and Chairman/President of the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA), will be the guest speaker at The 2011 Master's Touch Friendship Dinner on Tuesday, May 17th. Dr. Gordon is the author of *Who Is My Neighbor?: Lessons Learned From a Man Left for Dead*, a

book in which he draws more than 40 characteristics of the man who was beaten, robbed and left for dead on the road to Jericho—the character Jesus created to show Christians how to recognize their neighbors.

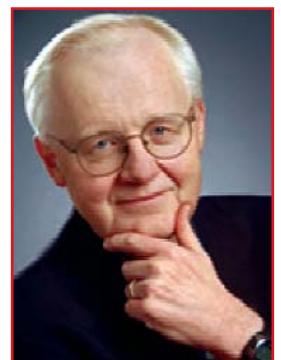
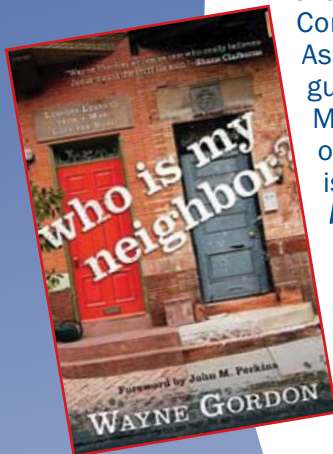
The event is being held at The Lincoln Inn, 1345 South Batavia Avenue, Batavia, IL 60510.

WMBI-FM Radio Host Mark Elfstrand will serve as the evening's Master of Ceremonies.

Doors open at 6:00 PM, and dinner will be served at 6:30. Please join us for what promises to be a memorable evening.

**There is no charge for the event; however, a "free will offering" will be taken.** Please attend; invite friends; you might even consider hosting a table of eight.

To make a reservation, please call Randy Tomassi at (630) 723-3422, or email him at [rtomassi@waysidecross.org](mailto:rtomassi@waysidecross.org).



## Director's Corner

Thanks for taking the time to read *Life Change*, a quarterly newsletter intended to keep you abreast of how Our Lord is at work in our Bible-based, Christ-centered residential program for men who are seeking a permanent solution to the crisis of a broken life.

# lifeCHANGE



**Randy Tomassi**  
**Director,**  
**Master's Touch**  
**Ministry**

One of the core values of the WCM enterprise is “collaboration.” Within the Master’s Touch ministry, we have been collaborating with like-minded churches and organizations since “Day One.” Recently, however, we have begun a concerted effort to increase the level of *internal* collaboration—i.e., collaboration with other WCM ministries.

For example, many residents enter our program directly from prison, as a result of collaboration between Master’s Touch and WCM’s New Life Corrections ministry. NLC’s Director, Tom Beatty, also teaches and preaches within our ministry.

The Elgin Wayside Center regularly refers clients to Master’s Touch; conversely, a number of Master’s Touch graduates have served as Resident Assistants at the Center; two of the Center’s employees, Birley Hooper and Pat Youngman, are Master’s Touch alums. The Center’s Director, Phil Wood, is now expanding WCM’s services to the needy in DuPage County. In fact, David Hiatt, the first man to enter the Master’s Touch Ministry via Phil’s DuPage initiative, not only graduated from our program, but also served as a Master’s Touch RA for several subsequent months. Now, it pleases me to share with you the news that on March 1st, David joined the staff of WCM as an assistant in our Aurora-based Development Department.

Now *that’s* “collaboration.” To God be the glory!

If you have any questions concerning The Master’s Touch Ministry, I welcome your phone calls and/or email. I can be reached at (630)723-3422 or at [rtomassi@waysidecross.org](mailto:rtomassi@waysidecross.org).

May God richly bless you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Randy Tomassi,**  
**Director**

*For a closer look at David Hiatt, please see the article on the back page.*

# Meet Don Hinze

Don Hinze joined the WCM staff on March 1, 2011 as the Greenawalt Learning Center Program Supervisor.

Don was born in Berwyn, IL. When Don was an infant, his family moved to Naperville, where he was raised. Growing up, Don was active in church. In fact, while in college, he served an internship as Director of Education at a local church; however, Don's abuse of alcohol, which started in high school, accelerated while in college.

Don and his wife were married in 1978, literally the day after he graduated from college. Over the course of their marriage, they were blessed with four children. In contrast to his wife, who maintained steady employment with the same company that hired her when she was first out of college, Don bounced around from job to job to job: as a retail manager, security guard, warehouse worker, and bookkeeper. Don's passion, however, was for teaching, which he did for ten years.

**"...but I also know that the Lord Jesus Christ will see me through."**

Don's abuse of alcohol took its toll. His marriage ended after 25 years. A second "DUI" and a two-week stint in jail brought Don to the realization that he needed God's

help if he were ever to experience life change.

Don entered the Master's Touch program on June 8, 2010. Don noted the following about his first couple of weeks in the program: "I realized that it was God who led me to Wayside, and He did so for a reason. There's no such thing as 'random chance.' I also experienced the truth of 2Corinthians 5:17—that in Christ, I had become a new creation."

In his new role as the Greenawalt Learning Center Program Supervisor, Don wants to "pay forward," in gratitude to the program through which God has given Don so much. To that end, he will be helping residents with their job search skills, computer literacy, and, among other things, GED coaching.

"I still face certain obligations stemming from my former life, as well as relationships that need to be mended as a result of my past actions," reflects Don, "but I also know that the Lord Jesus Christ will see me through."



## David's Story

David Hiatt was born in Fort Worth, Texas, but spent his formative years in Carpentersville, IL. His childhood was an unhappy one. The combination of his high IQ and eyeglasses earned him the title of class “nerd.” When he was 10, David also suffered the devastating loss of his father to cancer.

His mother soon remarried and the family moved to the Fox Valley. David's stepfather was physically and emotionally abusive. David became rebellious to the point of being sent to a psychiatric hospital. There, he was introduced to alcohol, illegal drugs, witchcraft, and other sinful behaviors.

David squeaked through his first three years of high school; then, in pursuit of a career as a professional guitarist, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. After easily passing an audition for the 157th Army Jazz Band, David was given a “general discharge” after completing only half of the Army's Elemental School of Music, but not before earning his G.E.D.

The next season in David's life comprised odd jobs, partying, and homelessness. His circumstances changed when he met a stable, Christian woman who, after an eight month courtship, married him. A year later, son Eric was born. Four years later, David's wife left him for another man, taking Eric with her. David sunk into a deep depression. The next several years were an endless blur of self-destructive behavior.

By the Fall of 2009, David found himself alienated from his family, unemployed and homeless. Without hope or sense of purpose, his depression nearly overcame him. Such was his state when he met Phil Wood, Director of WCM's Elgin Center, who had begun a collaborative effort with Lamplighter Bible Church of Roselle in ministering to those in crisis in DuPage County. At Phil's urging, David came to Aurora and enrolled in The Master's Touch program, not understanding how or why Wayside would help.



David successfully completed the Master's Touch program, and stayed on after graduation to serve as a Resident Assistant. On March 1, 2011, he joined the WCM staff and now works in Wayside's Development department.

“I now experience true, biblical, peace and hope, and a new-found faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His plans for my life,” David recently stated. “I've reconnected with my community; I serve at my home church on their Tech Team; I've experienced the restoration of relations with family. God has treated me so graciously.”

In addition to his responsibilities in the WCM Development Department, David also serves as a Master's Touch volunteer, as an instructor of Phase I classes. “I want to teach new residents that there's a better way to live than to continue to engage in the behaviors which result in a broken life,” says David.

That “better way,” is of course, found in the one and only Way—the Way, the Truth, and the Life—Jesus Christ.