

Another Rousing Reunion

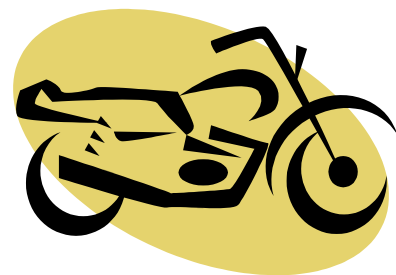
A few words from Chris on La Hacienda's 33rd Alumni Reunion...

Well..it was another great Reunion! May 6th, 7th, 8th saw about a thousand folks converge on La Hacienda. Every year I say it can't get any better. Always does! We had the largest turn out ever for our Friday night events. DJ and Rich organized our first ever "motorcycle run". It was a cool sight watching all those bikes leaving La Ha property for a 3 hour sober ride through the Hill Country. You can bet we will be doing it again next year. (Almost made me want to go buy one...almost). The weather held for an excellent bonfire meeting down at the river. Susan D. from Dallas did a great job speaking before lunch on Sat. That woman is tops! Leonard and his

staff did their usual stellar job getting us all fed. Chuck G. from Hollywood spoke in the afternoon and we were blessed to have him! (CD's available in the Store) Our "Mini Chopper" raffle was a huge success, raising a pocket full of cash for one of our sick friends. Lots of folks celebrated their sobriety birthdays with us at our two hour Birthday Meeting. A bunch of our young adults met at the YAP Unit for food and a lot of great sharing. Proof, once again, that good recovery isn't just for old Coots like me! Sure enjoyed seeing them! Sat. night it rained...HARD. Those folks camping at the river got a "bit" wet! Seems the last few years the weather has gone out of its way to make Reunion

"interesting"! Even wet, we had a blast! Sunday, the Bodega and Porch was packed with Alumni sharing the joy of sobriety. P.164, in the Big Book talks about God helping us create the Fellowship we crave. It was evident that many of us have done just that! Pretty amazing weekend. For those of you who missed it, make plans now for next year! May 5,6,7 2006 Rain or shine!

Chris Raymer, Director Alumni Services



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Websites of Interest

- <http://ppgaadallas.org>
- <http://bigbook.got.net>
- <http://www.thejaywalker.com>
- <http://www.sobercity.com>
- <http://Houston.lahacienda.com>
- <http://dallas.lahacienda.com>
- <http://midland.lahacienda.com>
- <http://sanantonio.lahacienda.com>
- <http://www.lahacienda.com>

Chris Says...

Buckaroos!

“Would you rather be happy, or useful?”

DJ, myself and a bunch of alumni went to Lake Brownwood this month for the 22nd Annual Man to Man Conference. (AA and Alanon men) Look forward to this trip every year. This was my 15th trip!

One of my favorite AA speakers was there. Bob D from Vegas did his usual great job. Towards the end of his talk he asked the question, “Would you rather be happy or useful?” Excellent question to ask a room full of folks in Recovery. Doesn’t matter how long they are sober, the one statement that is almost ALWAYS heard is “I just wish I could be happy!”

I understand. ME TOO! It took me most of my life to figure this out, and I sometimes STILL forget it! I seem to spend a lot of time still trying to convince myself that I’d be happy if stuff on my “outside” would just change a little. Never happens. Happiness caused by external stuff is always

fleeting. That’s why I watch so many of us making crazy decisions in our lives....trying to FIX something. Lets buy something else or get another girlfriend, quit a good job....it goes on forever. Something’s always “messing” with my happiness.

Women and close friends asked me often why I seemed so depressed. Never could give them a good reason.

But I was. Even in sobriety. Bob D. said “depression is what we feel when God’s not arranging things the way I think they should be.” Yep, that about sums it up. The hardest pill I’ve had to swallow is realizing that the ONLY way to TRUE happiness is to align my will with God’s. Yall hear me talk about this stuff often. Lots of folks “out there” getting sober and finding out that there STILL not happy. You stay in that spot long and you’re going to go

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look for a “solution”. The struggle today isn’t the obsession to drink; it’s finding a little peace and contentment in this TOUGH world! I’ve only found one way to do it. All other attempts have landed me in a mess.

The Big Book says we will receive Power, Peace, and a sense of direction soon after we follow a few simple requirements. That means finish the steps. All of em! The 12th step is where it all happens. The BB says it’s the Foundation Stone” (p97). That’s my experience. Through working with others, I received a feeling of usefulness and happiness I never new existed. May sound hokey....its not!

I’ll take usefulness anytime!

See yall out on the “Road”.

PS. We had a few “glitches” with our voice mail this past month. If I didn’t call you back....call me again! Cmr

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Jaime Says...

Brothers and sisters,

This is Jaime over at La Ha Solutions sending an Austin shout-out to all my fellows who keep trudging this fine road of recovery. We never seem to have a shortage of people seeking help here in Austin, as it is a prerequisite for everyone that moves here to do some type of mind altering substance. Just joking, but the cool thing about having so much alcohol and drug use in

your town is that you will have a large recovery community as well. Austin is

“...but all I know is that today I have been given a precious opportunity from a loving God that I didn’t even acknowledge for many years.”

jam-packed with 12 Step meetings of all kinds- if you got any kind of problem; we probably have a group you can attend!

I am getting ready to start classes at UT tomorrow for the Summer session, and I am so stoked!! I am still amazed that I got accepted to UT and was practically having an out-of-body experience when I was walking through the beautiful campus on my way to talk to an advisor in the Psychology Department. When I was smoking crack, I never imagined that I would one day be working on a degree from the University of Texas! God is so, so good. As I was sitting in my advisors office, she started putting my degree plan together and told me that I could have my Ba. in 2006. This literally blew my mind! My dope addict mentality started to kick

off, as I thought to myself, “I could have my Master’s Degree in 2008 and my PhD. by 2010!!! Dr. Loera. Yeah, that just sounds right.” Whether or not I achieve this goal remains to be seen, but all I know is that today I have been given a precious opportunity from a loving God that I didn’t even acknowledge for many years. I am getting to do things that are well beyond my wildest dreams. Work the steps, go to meetings, help others, and let me know what kind of results you get. I will continue to do these simple things and I will continue to report to you on what God is doing for me.

Love,

Jaime

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Alicia Says...

Dear Alumni...

Newsletter time again...the post Reunion article is always fun to write because of the amazing experience that took place. Thank you to each one of you who made it out here...thank you to those of you who couldn't make it, but kept us in your prayers!! I had been praying that God would fill this campus and He did!! The weather really tried to put a damper on things, but that couldn't stop this Power! The responses we have received about this years Reunion have been overwhelming...so many lives touched, the incredible speakers, absolutely wonderful volunteers...I could go on and on...

thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

I had the pleasure of speaking in Big Book this morning and I am so in awe of God. So many things going on in my life...so many ups and downs...and yet, the Power of God is always there to draw on. It never fails that if I will show up to do His work, He will show up and this morning He blew me away again. You guys have no idea how much we love working with you...watching your faces Light up with hope...seeing you transform into a different person right before our eyes...each one of you is a

"Are you keeping it to ourselves and reflecting on it some times with a deep sigh? Or are we stepping up to the battle line with the greatest weapon we have...our past!"

gift to us and we thank you for allowing us into your lives. Someone asked me the other day if I get bored teaching the same lecture over and over and the answer is NO!! Each week is a new experience and each of you works your way into our hearts. I don't know why I am writing all of this, but I just want you to know that we are here for YOU...just YOU...each one of you we consider our favorites...ok, maybe not some of you...just kidding...hahahaha! Thank you for stepping out in faith and courage by coming to La Hacienda to begin your new life.

This morning, I was reminded about my song/poem thingy "Scars" (no, nothing more has been done on it yet, and that's ok). The message it carries went straight to my own heart as I was reminded that everything we walk through can and will be used by God, if we allow it! It says...

"I asked God why all these things took place...things that changed me forever and caused such disgrace...His answer came clear - the tears began to lift...'My child, those scars are your greatest gift...with my Power behind you we will changed lives together...trust Me - keep seeking - and I'll leave you NEVER!' "

The Big Book says the same thing on pg.124 "the dark past is the greatest possession you have" and that with it "you can avert death and misery" for others. It made me ask myself what I

am doing with this great gift...am I using every bit of it...good and bad...to help others? On a good day, yes, I trust God through the trials and allow Him to use whatever happens to me to bear witness to His power. On other days, however, I am sick of being used...poor me...whah-whah! Thank God that I can't sit in that very long anymore and I know exactly what to do to get out of it.

I was listening to a 5th step the other day and when we were done I was blown away because this woman had been through some horrible situations and now saw so much truth about herself...God brought it all out. She seemed to finally understand that her tragic story was not in vain. The terrible positions that she had placed herself in all had a purpose and after freeing herself of all the darkness ~ she got it...it all made sense...this was going to be used to help other women and her eyes shined! I get so excited writing about this because it is the common denominator in all our recovery...what are we doing with this great past of ours? Are you keeping it to ourselves and reflecting on it some times with a deep sigh? Or are we stepping up to the battle line with the greatest weapon we have...our past! Let's all keep our hearts open to hear where God wants to use us next...ok? Ok! Keep seeking the Light and call us if you need anything.

Love - Alicia

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CHECK OUT THE CHANGES ON OUR WEBSITE

WWW.LAHACIENDA.COM

YOU HAVE MADE US "SIMPLY THE BEST"

D.J. Says...

Hey Alumni,

Time has really flown by and a lot has happened since the last newsletter. I hope everyone out there is getting ready for summer because it is getting hot out.

It was so cool to see so many old and new friends at the reunion this year. So very nice to see so many folks come back to visit. I had so much fun on the motorcycle run. It was pretty cool to see Art and Rich there with the alumni just having some good sober fun. The ride thru the Hill Country was a big success. I have to tell you this was my fifth reunion and the bonfire this year was the biggest I have ever seen. Hearing so many of you sharing about what God has done in your lives was such a blessing. Having the privilege to chair that meeting is one of my favorite parts of the deal. Then to be part of that HUGE circle when we said the Lords Prayer out under the open sky was nothing short of amazing!

The speakers this year were fantastic. I mean how cool to have one of our own sharing her story from the podium at reunion! Way to go Susan! Then getting to know Chuck a little after the meeting was a pretty cool deal as well. What a nice man. It really is an honor to be part of the team with Chris and Alicia. The efforts and dedication of these two people never ceases

to inspire me.

I think that over all the coolest part for me this year was watching the Hill Country Alumni Group step up to the plate and really get to participate. These people did an outstanding job helping out in all areas and I would like to thank each and every one of them whether they

were actually La Hacienda Alumni or not didn't seem to make any difference. This group really pulled together as a community and took a lot of pride in fulfilling the obligation that they undertook. I know that for me being in on the ground floor of helping a new alumni group get started has been very exciting. I find myself taking it a little too seriously at times perhaps. The truth is I have missed being part of the group in Austin ALOT! The roll that group played in the first two years of my recovery was much larger than I ever realized at the time. I have had an opportunity to look at that recently. Even though I work here at the hospital now, I am very, very grateful to get to participate at just being an Alumni, at whatever level I am allowed. I had forgotten how intense things can be

"If I have learned anything in Alcoholics Anonymous it's that it begins and comes down to commitment in the end. "

after a person leaves treatment and has to walk thru the fire and damage that they have created in their own life. Being part of an Alumni group and all having shared a similar experience at La Hacienda can really make the difference for some folks. The cool thing about this particular group is that Kerrville is a pretty small town and so as a result of that we have readily welcomed and encouraged all the community to come play with us and they have responded! I got to watch some people who had gone to other treatment centers or just came to AA/CA work just as hard as anyone else at making this event something special. I would like to give a special thank you to those people! Seeing that really brought home to me that we really can create the fellowship that we crave. If I have learned anything in Alcoholics Anonymous it's that it begins and comes down to commitment in the end. Thank you to every Alumni, Family member, guest, friends and staff that are committed to making reunion and everything that happens here and out there between reunions, the life giving experience that God intends for Recovery to be for us.

Honored to be a part of,

~DJ Shay

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Don't Ask Me...Ask God

Trust in God' s Timing

Rely on God' s Promise

Wait for God' s Answers

Believe in God' s Miracles

Rejoice in God' s Goodness

Relax in God' s Presence

Upcoming Events

June 3,4,5	Knights Step Study (Men) Chris Speaks Saturday Night Contact Dave — 602-992-1679	Prescott, AZ
June 10, 11, 12	Lufkin Group 57th Annual D.J. Speaks Saturday 5 P.M. Chris Speaks Saturday 8 P.M.	Lufkin, TX
June 18th	Brady Group D.J. and Alicia Do Step Study 10 A.M. (Contact #: 325-597-3725) Alicia Speaks 8 P.M.	Brady, TX
June 18th	Recovery House Annual Party Chris Speaks (Contact Randy D. — 979-451-0242)	Brenham, TX
June 24, 25, 26	All Addicts Anonymous Chris Speaks Friday Night - All day Saturday (Contact Chris R. — 800-749-6160 ext. 510)	Toronto, Canada
June 30	Bryan/College Station Alumni Group Outpatient Grand Opening. Chris Speaks	Bryan/College Station, TX
July 15, 16, 17	Houston Conference of Young People, A.A. Chris Speaks Friday Night (Pray for me....) Contact Shelly W. (832-858-6259)	Houston, TX
July 23	Primary Purpose Day II Chris Speaks Afternoon	Indianapolis, IN
July 29	Area Assemble(A.A.) Chris Speaks 8PM Contact Veronica (512-756-0714)	Burnet, TX
July 30	Recovery Celebration Chris Speaks Saturday Night Contact Chris S. (602-279-2585)	Chicago, IL
Aug. 5, 6, 7	Aggie Land Conference (A.A.) Chris Speaks Sunday Morning Contact Sherry S. (979-361-3838)	Bryan/College Station, TX
Aug. 12	Cross Roads Half-Way House Chris Speaks Contact # (602-279-2585)	Phoenix, AZ
Aug. 13	Solutions (Recovery House) Chris Speaks Contact Craig S. (602-279-1601)	Phoenix, AZ
Aug. 19, 20, 21	60th Texas State A.A. Conference Alumni will be there!!	Irving, TX
Aug. 26, 27, 28	Hill Country Round Up - Hospitality Suite Come eat hot dogs!!!!	Kerrville, TX
Sept. 17	Buford A.A. Group Chris Speaks Contact Dan F. (404-667-9882)	Buford, GA
Sept. 30	59th Top of Texas Round Up Chris Speaks sometime Contact Kenny L. (806-989-4607)	Amarillo, TX
Oct. 14, 15	Southwest Regional C.A. Conference Chris Speaks Saturday Night Contact Will L. (832-423-4196)	Houston, TX
Oct. 21, 22	Rocky Point Round Up Chris Speaks - Check out website!	Mexico
Dec. 9-11	A.A. Weekend Alicia and Chris Speak	London, England

LA HACIENDA

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Simply the Best



New Intensive Outpatient Program in College Station

Great News!!!!

We are pleased to announce that La Hacienda is now providing Intensive Outpatient Services to the College Station area.

Formerly run by Scott and White, this facility has been providing services to the College Station area community for 15 years. La Hacienda is pleased to have acquired the facility to better service the community alumni and those in need of I.O.P. services.

The Program Director for this new facility is Mary Reyes, LCDC. The Alumni Support Coordinator is Stephen Bethea, LCDC.

A full service program will be offered to include assessment services and an evening program meeting that assembles for

three hours each night, Monday thru Thursday.

There will also be weekly alumni meetings to be held every Thursday at 6:00 pm. Chris R. will be speaking at this meeting on June 30th.

Further, La Hacienda's presence in College Station will be a resource to the general community by providing a high level of expertise in the area of drug and alcohol abuse prevention, treatment and awareness.

Chris R. will be speaking at the Thursday night Alumni meeting in College Station on June 30th...mark your calendars.

The address to La Hacienda Solutions in College Station is 702 University Dr., East, Suite 100-D, College Station, TX 77840. The phone number is 979-846-9500.

So, if you live in the area, stop by and welcome the new staff and tour the new facility. We hope you'll find them to be simply the best.