

# The Theotherapy Project

## NEWSLETTER

Making Reduction in Recidivism a Reality

April 2009

From the Director



Thank you for your continued prayers and support. Even though times are tough in this current economy, God is still in control and we thank Him for His wonderful provision in every way.

Most of us are having to take a hard look at the times in which we live and truly evaluate what it means to live within our means and yet still depend on God for our daily provision. Many of us are having to toughen up and get creative.

We have no guarantee that things will go back to where they were before all this craziness. We do have God's promise, however, that He will supply our needs. In the Lord's Prayer recorded in

### Theotherapy Project to Open "Rivera House" Transition Home for Women



God works in mysterious ways. In March of 2008, Dana and I purchased a home in East Nashville in hopes of building a family mediation business. We really felt led by God to purchase this property. After a year of frustration, virtually no mediation opportunities, a struggling economy and wondering if we had made a huge mistake, we

decided to move back into our daughter's basement and either sell the house or rent it out until times got better. Then...it hit us! Maybe God wanted something different!

For years we had dreamed of opening a halfway house for former offenders who needed a safe, theotherapy-based place for re-entry into society. We never knew how we could do it. It took every dime to just keep the ministry going. How on earth could we have a halfway house?

I've heard it said that when God closes a door, He opens a window. After much prayer and brainstorming, we decided to convert this beautiful home from our own personal dwelling to a home for women in transition. We have lived in this house for a year and everything that is needed for a family to live here comfortably is in place. All the dishes, pots and pans, linens, appliances, furniture, a dynamite security system, washer and dryer and various other sundries are already here! The location is amazing, it is right on the Metro bus line and has easy access to downtown. The only thing needed now to complete the conversion is to move out our few personal belongings and move in four sets of bunkbeds and four chests of drawers which we hope to purchase or have donated. The final step is to get approval from the Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole to house women who are being released from prison.

the Gospels, Jesus encourages us to pray : *"...and give us this day our daily bread..."* If you think about it, that is kind of a scary place to be. Like me, you may have had the tendency to live life as if that statement is more rhetorical than daily reality. I think I am having to learn to embrace it for what it is...truth for today.

In reality, life as we have known it in the United States is rapidly changing before our very eyes. It is easy to be overwhelmed and dismayed by what we see. As a nation founded on the Judeo-Christian principles and traditions laid out for us in the Holy Bible, we are now being faced with an increasingly humanistic and secularized view of what it means to be a citizen of this great country.

In spite of all of this uncertainty, we have the assurance that God is in control, that He sees us and that He always is true to His promises. Be encouraged! I know I am...and I know we are headed for some very different but also very exciting times.

Thanks for your support. Please pray for us and for the prison ministry. We still need donors. The inmate classes are doing great and lives are still being changed every day. Your prayers, encouragement and financial support make it

We have researched many of the local transition homes and this home is perfect for this venture. After a year of wondering why we felt led to buy this house, now we know! We plan on naming this beautiful historic home "The Rivera House" in honor of Theotherapy's founder, Dr. Mario Rivera Mendez of San Juan, Puerto Rico. As with all transition homes, the home will be funded by the very reasonable rent paid by the occupants as a requirement for acceptance into the home. As part of their Parole Board approved "home plan", it is a way for them to begin to take responsibility for getting jobs and paying their own way as they re-enter the community as productive members of society. They will also be able to continue their individual healing journeys with theotherapy-based programming. They will be taught job skills, how to interview for a job and how to dress for success. Access to recovery support groups will be readily available based on individual need.

We have many women currently going thru our programs at Tennessee Prison for Women who need transition housing when they get out of prison. This is a way for us to continue our work with them not only in prison, but thru the re-entry process.

God is good. Please consider helping us purchase or obtain 4 sets of bunkbeds and 4 chests of drawers. We still need regular donors for the prison ministry. Donations can be securely made online by visiting our website and by clicking on the "DONATE" tab. Your donations are tax deductible! Be sure to visit us on the web at:

[www.theotherapyproject.com](http://www.theotherapyproject.com)

### **Rivera House from the back parking area**



all possible. God bless  
you all.

# Mark