

Celebrate Recovery to Launch Veteran's Initiative

Celebrate Recovery (CR) is turning the power of its healing programs at Ridgecrest Baptist Church towards the challenges facing our veterans. Many of our veterans have faced horrors that few can talk about, but many carry with them. These hurts that they have either absorbed or witnessed can have long-term impact upon their jobs, families, and general health. By working with the local VFW chapters and the different branches of the military, we hope to bring comfort and healing to our military heroes. These support groups will be facilitated by veterans schooled in the CR techniques.

We will begin by honoring the spouses of our military personnel who are currently serving at our November 8, 2009, worship services. Celebrate Recovery is also planning a luncheon for spouses that will be announced at a later date.

Currently, Celebrate Recovery at Ridgecrest Baptist Church has close to 100 volunteers working in a variety of positions—musicians who lead worship, facilitators, bus drivers, cooks, Aftercare volunteers, Volunteers in Corrections (VICs), and a barbecue team. We serve 200 people per week 50 weeks of the year.

Celebrate Recovery is a 12-step recovery/healing program based on Scriptural principles. CR holds large meetings on Thursday nights at Ridgecrest. The large group of about 60 participants meets for worship time and a lesson. Then people split into discussion groups by gender/issue. Currently there are 3 women's groups and 2 men's groups on divorce, men's and women's chemical dependency, women's abuse, women's co-dependency and men's relationships. After the small groups meet dessert is provided at the Solid Rock Café. Meals are also served before the large group meeting to those who make it early and often have come straight from work.

We have just launched our Life Hurts, God Heals (LHGH) program for teenagers on Wednesday nights which continues to grow with the help from three facilitators. CR also supports Celebrate Recovery Inside (CRI) at Ozarks Correctional Center on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings serving between 100-120 members not including about 60 in the Aftercare program at RBC. For more information about this program, visit www.CelebrateRecoveryInside.org.

If you are someone whose heart is hurting or you would like to volunteer to serve, you may contact Julie Ellis at (417) 887-2317. Families of veterans or military personnel may also contact us. We welcome the opportunity to support your Christian walk.