

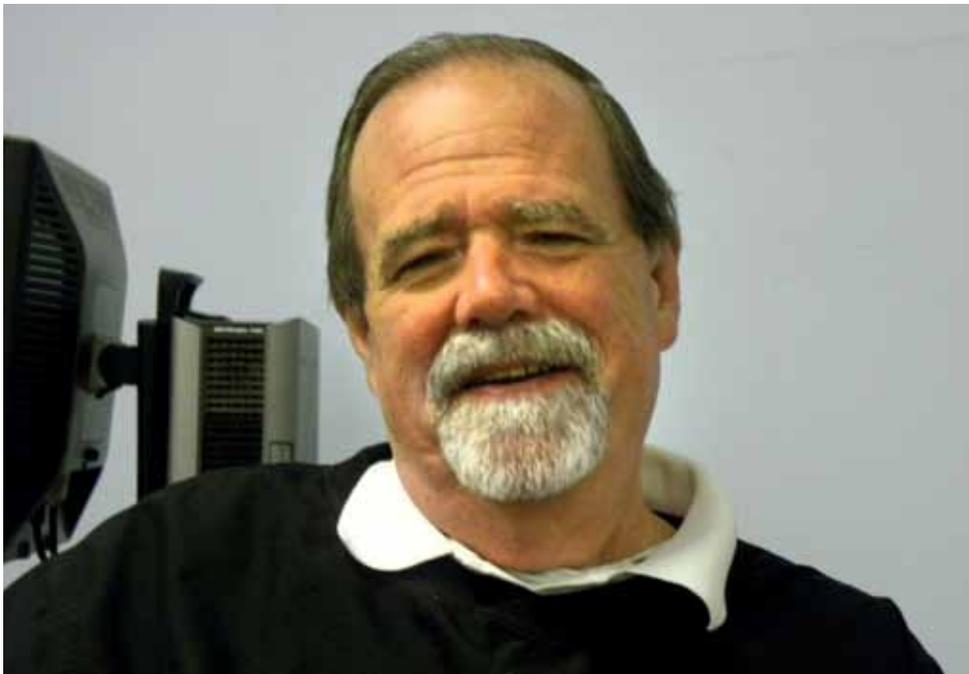


PROVIDENCE HOME

Helping Men Celebrate Victory in Christ

Remembering Our Friend, Bob Farra

As told by Steve Farra, brother of Bob"



Bob Farra's life was and is a redemption story – a story that had some really rough middle chapters, but had a wonderful last chapter.

As an adult, Bob became a vice president of a fairly large independent insurance agency in Pennsylvania. Even though Bob's father was a missionary, Bible college teacher, and a pastor, Bob became personally disobedient to the Lord's voice for many years. He even wanted God to stop bothering him, and in time he felt the Lord actually did back off. "I felt like He took His hand off me," Bob said. "It was terrible ... I never want to feel

that again." He finally bottomed out from his compulsive gambling, and even contemplated suicide.

Bob crash-landed onto the property of Providence Home. Before long, Scripture, multiple chapel services, and personal testimonies from the residents of Providence Home refreshed Bob's spirit on a daily basis. When Bob started to see from a renewed spirit he said: "I knew I didn't need to just speak new words, what I needed to do was to obey." Bob came across the following verse that helped change his life, a verse that was used to change other lives

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SPRING 2015

Providence Home

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Remembering Our Friend, Bob Farra

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at Providence Home: I Samuel 15:22 – The prophet Samuel said to King Saul: “Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.”

When Bob resolved to obey the voice of the Lord, he discovered a meaning and sweetness that had eluded him all of this life. He began ministering in very real ways to the men at Providence Home, to his beloved daughter and other family members, and to his church.

While at Providence Home, Bob was able to get relicensed as an insurance agent in South Carolina. Several of his family members, and others connected with Providence Home, now benefit from excellent insurance policies written by Bob.

In 2014, Bob effectively ministered God’s Word to many and felt that his life had been restored! However, by the will of God, Bob’s restoration story came to a rather quick end. Bob discovered in August of 2014 that he had a tumor in his abdomen that was softball sized. It had attached to many of his major organs. There was no real hope of a cure. Bob courageously made a quality of life and ministry decision – he told the surgeon he would rather just live out his natural life without pursuing cancer treatments. Two or three times, Bob told his brother Steve that he had prayed about it, and had decided to just “rest in the arms of the Lord.”

In December, the tumor took Bob’s earthly life, but not before he had blessed us all. His brother Steve said, “We grieve Bobby’s passing, but rejoice that his last year at Providence Home perhaps was his best year by the grace of God.



Since it directly applies to all of us who truly believe and minister in Christ’s name, we can confidently

say of my brother, Bobby Farra, ‘When the messenger is gone, the message continues.’”

The Bob Farra Service Award

Because Bob Farra found healing through the ministry of Providence Home, and then sacrificially poured himself into others, his family has established The Bob Farra Service Award, an annual \$500 gift to assist future residents of Providence Home.

Overnight Retreat

By Jimmy Braddock
Providence Home Operations Manager



We all need to take time to get away from the business of everyday life and spend time with God. As Christmas approached, I had the privilege of taking 15 of our men

to Tracy’s Camp in Pinewood, South Carolina near Sumter, for an overnight retreat. I get to witness the amazing work that God is doing in and through these men on a



daily basis, but our time in the woods was extra special. After a great meal, the guys experienced the feeling of being lost in complete darkness while navigating the camp's rope maze. After finding "the way out," we discussed the practical applications and lessons from the experience. The highlight of the evening was a great discussion around the bonfire. As we shared our struggles and joys, it was evident that, as one man said, "the Holy Spirit was definitely there working." Our time around the fire that night was a snapshot of what Providence Home is

all about: men supporting, encouraging, caring for, and sharing life with each other.

We finished our time at the camp with fellowship around more great meals. Rodney Howard, the lead pastor at Salt and Light Church in Sumter, led a heartfelt discussion on our identity in Christ, after

which we reflected on who the Lord is calling us to be.

We had an amazing time and are looking forward to the chance to do it again soon. If you are interested in helping to sponsor one of these retreats, please contact me at (803) 779-2927 or email provhome@bellsouth.net.



Providence Home Partners with Ben Hoover

Editor's Note: Ben Hoover is a former news anchor at WIS-TV in Columbia and current news anchor at FOX Charlotte in Charlotte, North Carolina. Hoover also operates a public relations company, "Content Marketing." Providence Home recently partnered with Hoover to raise awareness of Providence Home in the community. Here is a message from him to Providence Home supporters:

I am honored and blessed to help build awareness and fundraising efforts for Providence Home through both traditional and new marketing strategies. My goal is to use the storytelling skills I developed over more than 15 years of broadcast journalism

to keep longtime supporters engaged and inspire others in the Columbia area to support the efforts of Providence Home. I believe my track record shows I can tell stories that involve complex, delicate issues such as homelessness in a respectful yet effective way.



After visiting Providence Home for the first time, I quickly realized that there are many stories to tell that will motivate the Midlands to make Providence Home a favorite

cause to support. We will be focusing on the victories and stories of success, while still recognizing that it takes a lot of hard work and community support to make it all happen.

Special thanks to Board Chairman Bill Cogdill, Board

Member Beverly Chrisman, Executive Director Rob Settle, and Program Director Jimmy Braddock, for their leadership and allowing me to partner with you, the Providence Home supporters.



PROVIDENCE HOME

Helping Men Celebrate Victory in Christ

3421 N. Main Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29203

To our Supporters:

The Providence Home Board of Directors would like to thank you for your wonderful gifts of treasure, time and talents that provide our residents with a warm place to call home, three meals a day, and assistance with life and spiritual issues. You have made a significant difference in the lives of these men.



Bill Cogdill

It's difficult to express the wonderful feeling we have when we see others with adversities and witness how the loving hand of our fellow man unselfishly lifts up their spirit. What an emotional experience to share

their triumphs as their faith grows in our Lord.

Providence Home brings these men together to share their experiences with one another as part of a "family," something that so many of them have never experienced or even worse, have destroyed through their own actions,

wrong choices and bad decisions. How often I think that except for the grace of my loving God, I could be in their situation.

Your prayers and financial support for Providence Home are needed and cherished. We invite

you to visit our campus on North Main Street and hear the many testimonies of lives changed by the power of Jesus Christ.

From our residents, staff and board we share our heartfelt thanks.

In Christ's love always,

Bill Cogdill
Board Chairman

MISSION STATEMENT

PROVIDENCE HOME STABILIZES THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF DISLOCATED MEN AND ENCOURAGES THE REALIZATION OF THEIR FULL POTENTIAL THROUGH THE POWER OF

JESUS CHRIST.