



in focus

FALL 2024

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Josiah
white's

open doors.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*—be strong
and courageous!
Do not be afraid
or discouraged.
For the Lord
your God is
with you
wherever
you go.*

JOSHUA 1:9



Matthew Purkey
PRESIDENT & CEO

Change is hard. Change is scary. It becomes more difficult the deeper the roots of what is being changed. So now, imagine making drastic changes to a 174-year-old organization in your first year as CEO; it is terrifying. As 1 Peter 5:8 tells us, the enemy is always on the prowl, looking for someone to devour. In my case, the enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy by inserting doubt – What if we are wrong? What if it doesn't work? Who are you to make these changes?

In times of doubt, may we be reminded by Joshua 1:9 to be strong and courageous, do not be frightened, do not be dismayed, for the Lord is with us wherever we go. So we continue to lead boldly, not allowing the fears of “what if” dictate our decision-making. Thus far in 2024 we have made the extremely difficult decision to close a legacy program, combine two separate programs for efficiency, streamline processes, and restructure where needed. This has caused heartbreaking conversations with those that have put blood, sweat, and tears into programs that have, over the years, provided great outcomes. Unfortunately, impact alone does not guarantee financial stability.

Through the fear, doubt, and difficulties of change, we will continue to step out in faith ensuring the best possible programming for the children and families of the state of Indiana while setting Josiah White's up for success for the next 174 years.

It has not been easy. I have made mistakes and learned difficult lessons along the way. But at mid-year 2024, we have positive cash flow, are ahead of budget, and are in the black financially. Finances are not, and will never be the goal but are absolutely necessary to fuel our mission. Thus far in 2024, we have served more clients with improved programming. We make every decision through our commitment of enriching the lives of children and families through emotional healing, personal development, and spiritual growth.

As our country, communities, and unfortunately sometimes churches become more divided, now is not the time to cower. Now is not the time to back down from difficult conversations, agonizing decisions, or give in to the doubt that the enemy strategically inserts. So we, Josiah White's, are asking you to join us in doubling down – doubling down on love, doubling down on grace, doubling down and digging our heels in truth knowing that God has provided and continues to guide us with His providential hand.

As always, we thank you for your continued support. Without you, all the amazing work that is happening at Josiah White's is not possible.



FINDING FREEDOM

LOGAN'S SECOND CHANCE

Just three months after graduating from Josiah White's residential program, Logan found himself back in Cottage 6. Logan had been struggling with substance abuse and had made a string of bad decisions. When he faced the court system a second time, they gave him the option of going back to Josiah White's or spending four years at the Department of Corrections.

"I had an opportunity to take 6 months away from bad influences and all the choices that I had a hard time not making and really figure out how my life needed to go so that I kept my freedom," said Logan.

About two weeks into his second stay at Josiah White's, Logan received a phone call informing him that his best friend had died in a car accident.

"Not being at that funeral was this big moment for me of realizing that if you care about people, one of the easiest and biggest things you can do is simply be there, and you can't be there without your freedom," said Logan.

It was then that Logan began taking the program more seriously, and he quickly completed his high school education, granting him the opportunity to spend most of his time working at 50 East Cafe as a barista. It was there that Logan gained the customer service and communication skills that have led him to where he is today.

"The day I was released was also the start of the lockdown for Covid-19 which made everything insanely

complicated. I didn't let that change my course though, and I got right to work at the first place I could cleaning a casino floor," said Logan.

From there, Logan got a job in landscaping, which allowed him to move into his own place. Eventually, through connections he made along the way, he was offered a job in sales. He is now back in landscaping and is self-employed.

"I don't have the same urges anymore because I have things I don't want to lose... Going through White's and working at the cafe showed me the other life I could have. A life without court dates and missed holidays, a life that makes me proud and allows me to help my loved ones," said Logan.

Miss Chicken's Open Door:

HILDA CLARK'S LEGACY AT JOSIAH WHITE'S

**Special thanks to Wendele Mealy for her assistance with this story*

Hilda Clarke, lovingly known as “Miss Chicken,” has lived on Josiah White’s campus for 56 years and has become a bit of a legend among the Josiah White’s community. However, her journey to Wabash began almost 2,000 miles away in Honduras.

When she was graduating from 8th grade, Hilda listened as the missionary sent to her small town preached on Revelation 3:8, which says, “See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.” That day, Hilda prayed, “Jesus, if you have an open door and it’s mine, I want you to let me know so I can walk right in there.”

Shortly after her 8th grade graduation, she began teaching at her school at the request of the principal. Inspired by missionaries who described the educational system in the U.S., Hilda decided to pursue an American education. While visiting a seamstress one day, she saw an advertisement in Seventeen magazine for a correspondence course in the United States. She wrote a letter to the school, and they sent her

materials. When Hilda had completed the tests, she would send them back by ship, and eventually, she completed her high school education.

In the meantime, Hilda’s pastor had passed her name along to Marion College (now Indiana Wesleyan University), and they sent her information. She didn’t have the means to travel to the states or pay for college, but her mother continually reminded her, “The Lord will provide.”

Eventually, Hilda wrote a letter to the manager of the banana company her dad worked for as a train engineer asking if she could ride along on their ship to the United States. Crediting her dad’s work ethic, the manager happily obliged and said Hilda could ride the ship back and forth for free anytime she needed.



During college, Hilda worked in the cafeteria to pay for her tuition. She also spent her time singing at different churches of all denominations throughout the state. It was Hilda’s talent for singing that initially brought her to “The Tutti Frutti” (her nickname for White’s Institute).

When Hilda got asked to sing at the IYM missionary convention, White’s choir was also singing at the event, so Reverend Darnell, White’s campus pastor, gave her a ride. After hearing her sing, Reverend Darnell asked Hilda if she would come



sing on campus, and she agreed. The day she came to sing at White's, she experienced God calling her to work there.

"As he called on me to sing, I heard with my own ears, a voice as clear and as loud as I'm talking to you, in my heart I'm sure I heard it, and this is what the voice said, 'I want YOU to serve ME here,'" said Hilda.

Later, Hilda's professor brought her back to White's to sing again.

"When I came back, the voice said to me, 'I want YOU to serve ME here.' When I got back to

my seat, I said, 'Jesus, like when you talked to Samuel, I'm saying right now, I hear you and I know who you are. Yes, I'll serve you here,'" said Hilda.

As soon as Hilda got back to her dorm room, she wrote a letter to the superintendent of White's. However, she didn't hear anything back for two years.

The day Hilda finished her student teaching in 1968, she got a call from White's telling her they needed a teacher and asking what she had been studying. Coincidentally, she had been studying to be an English teacher – the exact position they needed to fill. Jesus had been preparing her for the opportunity all along.

When Hilda accepted the job at White's, she didn't know where she was going to live, and she didn't have her driver's license. She lived on the faith of her mother's favorite saying: "The Lord will provide." The principal at White's later called her and told her she could live on campus.

Shortly after Hilda signed her contract to start teaching at White's, World Gospel Mission offered her the opportunity to sing around the world and spend a week with her family when they were in Honduras. Wavering in her decision, she went to talk to Reverend Darnell to get his advice, He reminded her that God had called her to White's, and she

declined World Gospel Mission's offer.

Hilda still had ample opportunities to sing while at White's and began singing the national anthem for the basketball and football teams at their home games. She also continued singing for churches throughout the state and beyond and never turned down an opportunity as long as she had transportation. One church even came from Canada to pick her up to come sing for their congregation.

In addition to teaching and singing, Hilda would rewrite Bible stories into skits for the students to perform in chapel. She asked Rich Davis, White's CEO at the time, if the students could provide devotions at one of the board meetings, and he enthusiastically agreed. After they performed their skit, Hilda had each of the students share one reason why they appreciated White's, and the room fell silent in reverence. After Hilda and the students had left, Mr. Davis and the board agreed to allow Hilda to continue living on White's campus after she retired.

When Hilda retired, she continued subbing in the classroom and was there practically every day. Reflecting back on all that God has done in her life, she said "Little did I know how God was going to open these doors! And up til the day where I sit here, that's what I go back to: an open door. God is good!"

A Mom ON A Mission

When Josiah White's Family Preservation team first met Natalie*, a single mom of 3, she was working, going to school, and providing well for her family. However, she was unable to access autism services for her son Lucas* due to having private insurance.

Josiah White's Family Preservation team was able to partner with Natalie to locate services in her community, get Medicaid for Lucas, and provide overall support for her.

Lucas is now enrolled in an Applied Behavior Analysis program and has learned new communication skills. He has also started to build trust with his new teachers, allowing him to have less separation anxiety.

We are so grateful to have witnessed this transformation take place in Lucas and Natalie's lives!



Tara and Andrew Cour were witnesses to God's sovereign plan in uniting them with their foster son.

Shortly after the Cours became licensed in 2023, they received a call about a boy named Tigo* in need of care. He seemed like the perfect fit for their family as they had wanted a boy, and the foster child was around the age of the Cour's youngest daughter, giving them both someone to relate to and spend time with. Tara felt especially connected to his story as Tigo's mom had passed away from cancer, and Tara is a cancer survivor herself.

They accepted the placement, and enthusiastically prepared a bedroom for him, including a personalized sign with his name. In her excitement, Tara took a picture of the bedroom and sent it to Mandy George, Josiah White's South Bend Regional Manager. However, plans for Tigo quickly changed, and he didn't end up coming to live with the Cours.

About a year later, Tara had told Mandy that they would still like the opportunity to foster Tigo if his referral ever came through again. Soon after, Mandy happened to be covering the referral line when Tigo's name came in.

"After seeing the referral, I immediately called Tara, knowing that their answer would be an automatic 'yes' to this young man," said Mandy "Andrew and Tara were planning to spend the summer as a respite-only home, however, God had other plans which Tara and Andrew didn't hesitate a second on."

Since the very first call about a year ago, Tigo had been in and out of both foster homes and behavioral facilities. When he entered the Cours' home, they were able to show him the photo of his bedroom dated over a year ago, helping to increase his belief in the Cours' unconditional desire for him to be a part of their family.

At only one month into placement, Tigo has been learning more about God, trying new things, and continuing to learn to trust. When Tigo was asked what he would like to share about his story, he said, "Bad roads lead to good roads."

We are so grateful God "blessed the broken road" that led Tigo straight into Tara and Andrew's loving arms.



A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

We can give more than just financially to causes where we believe in their mission.

— Brandt Downing

When Bob Philips began serving on Josiah White's board in 1993, he might not have believed you if you told him his grandson would be the board president over 30 years later.

Bob first heard about Josiah White's while attending Jonesboro Friends Church and ended up serving on the board for 15 years. Years later in 2002, his son-in-law, Stan Downing, was invited to join him on the board.

Stan faithfully served on the board for a total of 13 years, including five years as board president. He even took a trip to Washington D.C. with former CEO Dee Gibson to advocate for Josiah White's mission.

In 2010, Stan's son Brandt continued the Downing family generational legacy by joining Josiah White's board himself, and has now served as board president for the past two years.

Brandt recalls first hearing about Josiah White's through his home church, Sycamore Friends Church, who sponsored a residential cottage each Christmas.

"The cottage would come to our church, and we gave them gifts and played games with them,"

said Brandt. "I remember them saying they had a difficult life or had gotten in trouble."

Through the examples of his father and grandfather, Brandt came to understand that he could serve God through whatever gifts God gave him.

"It demonstrated for me that donating your time and talent was also a form of giving. We can give more than just financially to causes where we believe in their mission," said Brandt. "My hope for my kids and others reading this is that they can see the value in the gifts that they have and ways to multiply those through partnering with and serving with organizations."

With a mindset similar to our founder, Josiah White, Brandt recognizes that his family's legacy will last beyond their lifetimes.

"Our time on earth is short and I hope that our service and donations to Josiah Whites ensures they can keep fulfilling their mission long after I am gone," said Brandt. "If I can play a small part in that mission continuing after my life on earth, that is an incredible legacy to leave behind!"

Josiah white's

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WITH US!**



Josiah white's

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