



# RIVERSIDE

# Today!

Riverside House • 968 NW 2nd St., Miami, FL 33128

April/May, 2010

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends:

There is an old saying that goes, "April showers bring May flowers." As it turns out, the old adage can be adapted to our goals at Riverside House. Out of low points in life, we can

only look up to that sun breaking through the clouds at which point we really begin to achieve. Just like many of you have experienced trials and tribulations, the men and women of Riverside House are no different. Each day they work to turn their lives around. We are proud of all of the graduates and in this issue of Riverside Today we highlight one of our former residents who recently graduated from college with top honors and will be entering law school in the fall. What an inspiration to us all!

And with that I would like to wish each of you the patience and perseverance to not wonder why you have experienced troubles, but rather how you will grow from them.

Sincerely,  
Cleveland Bell III

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STAFF!



### HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!

David Quintana,  
Nitza Maldonado,  
and Carmen Bell.  
May you be blessed  
with many more!

## MARCH/APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:

Thank you for your continued support of Riverside House: Christopher Coppins (one year), Ivonne Cavanaugh (four years), Yvette Forbes (two years), Luz Mercedes (one year), Darrell Thompson (one year). We greatly appreciate your dedication to our organization.

## Seventh Annual Prayer Breakfast and Evening Concert features performance by Michael Card



April 29, our fundraising event featured an evening concert at Old Cutler Presbyterian Church. In addition to being the first of its kind concert, the performance was also noteworthy due to its special guest.

Riverside House proudly presented one of Christian music's greatest recording artists, Michael Card, for the breakfast and concert. Michael has recorded over 23 albums, authored 19 books, hosted a radio program, and has sold more than four million albums. He has earned 19 number one hits, including GMA Awards "Song of the Year", "Songwriter of the Year", and "Worship Album of the Year." During the evening concert, he dedicated his song, "Basin and the Towel" to Riverside House. You can review the lyrics to and listen to the audio of this song at <http://new.music.yahoo.com/michael-card/tracks/basin-and-the-towel--958963>.

"Michael's performances and presentations brought a new perspective to the word 'freedom.' Freedom begins with each person and this concept is exactly what Riverside House has been all about for the last 38 years," said Cleveland Bell, executive director of Riverside House.



During the breakfast, Riverside House graduate, Ms. Lisa Jackson, shared her personal testimonial of the program. Her moving words visibly touched the emotions of many guests as she gave a heartfelt thank you to Riverside House staff and its program. She also stated she was most thankful for having God in her life and acknowledged that without him, none of the progress and blessings in her life today would be possible.

## Graduations

*Congrats on your achievement!*



Christopher Coppins,  
AA Business Administration

Darrell Thompson,  
AA Criminal Justice



## RIVERSIDE HOUSE GRADUATE ACCEPTED TO LAW SCHOOL

From a homeless drug addict to a top-ranked college graduate on his way to law school, it is an understatement to say that 42 year-old Desmond Meade has turned his life around. After numerous stints in jail and multiple failed attempts at rehab, Desmond finally found his way. He graduated from Riverside House's former SAP Homeless Program and several years later, on May 1, 2010, he graduated from Miami-Dade Community College with a 3.8 grade point average and a degree in public safety management. In the Fall he will begin law school at Florida International University. We are extremely proud of Desmond and look forward to the exceptional life we know he will lead. Congratulations, Desmond.

## DONATIONS

As a nonprofit organization, Riverside House depends on the generous donations of supplies and financial contributions to keep our programs running and our residents on track. We are eternally grateful for your contributions.

**CLOTHING CLOSET:** In an ongoing effort to provide supplies for the men and women of Riverside House we collect item donations. We are currently in need of 2XL, 3XL and 4XL men's dress shirts as well as shorts, underwear and shower shoes. To make arrangements to drop off your donated items, please contact Yvette Forbes, chaplain or Carmen Bell, communications coordinator, at (305) 326-9799.

**FINANCIAL DONATIONS:** All donations are tax deductible. Credit cards (Visa and Mastercard only), checks, and cash donations are accepted. Mail your monetary donation to:  
Riverside House  
Attn: Cleveland Bell III, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 2325, Miami, FL 33101-2305

## Recent Riverside House Grant Awards

### • THATCHER GRANT

The Thatcher Grant is a private family, 501(c)(3) foundation that supports various Christian and community organizations that promote ministry, evangelism. We are very grateful for the Thatcher Foundation's on-going support of Riverside Christian Ministries, Inc.

### • DADE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Dade Community Foundation strives to meet the current and future emerging charitable needs of our community. The Foundation protects and manages the assets of philanthropic funds and provides grant making expertise to donors with various interests at all levels of giving. By bringing together Miami's philanthropic and nonprofit leaders, the Dade Community Foundation helps build a more cohesive and vibrant community by supporting efforts to engage and empower all of Miami-Dade's residents.

## RECENT EVENTS

- **April 17** Aftercare Prayer Breakfast South, Denny's Restaurant
- **Thursday, April 29, 7th Annual Riverside House Fundraiser: Breakfast** at 7:30 am. at First United Methodist Church of Coral Gables  
**Evening Concert:** at Old Cutler Presbyterian Church
- **Residents' Mother's Day, May 4** at Riverside House
- **Men's Forum, May 6** at Riverside House

For more information regarding recent and upcoming events, contact Carmen Bell, Riverside House communications coordinator, at (305) 326-9799 ext. 113

## JOB OPENINGS

Please note that our resident monitor position is currently filled and we are only able to accept applications and resumes at this time.

To apply for this and other job openings, visit [www.riversidehouse.org](http://www.riversidehouse.org), and click on the "Job Opportunities" link. Applicants can review a brief description of available jobs and download an application form. Applications may be submitted along with a resume to Riverside House via email to: [info@riverside-house.org](mailto:info@riverside-house.org).

For more information on Riverside House please call (305) 326-9799 or visit [www.riversidehouse.org](http://www.riversidehouse.org).

