



## Reach Restoration

### **REACH Restoration**

The beginning.

Reach restoration was first known as 'Conquerors Rehab', a rehab started by a concerned parent whose son was caught up in the throngs of addiction.

In October 2014 the rehab opened its doors and a short while later, 8 service users (addicts) had committed to the program and were living on the premises.

Three months later, in January 2015, they contacted me, to give advice on the day to day running of the centre. I quickly realized that they were in over their heads and they did not quite understand the task they had undertaken. At the time, I was running a radio show aimed at helping people caught up in addiction on PEFM 87.6. It was through this radio program they contacted me. This in itself was a move from God.

Although they were running the rehab as a Christian centre they hadn't made the connection between addiction and the hope of the gospel. With a Muslim running the centre on their behalf, the reality was that, these were a bunch of concerned parents who were acting out of desperation – so willing to see their sons out of addiction.

I started by offering 2 support group classes a week. This was really just a foot in the door and the least I could do to try and help the guys understand addiction and themselves. The support groups went really well with the addicts and as my involvement grew, the founders slowly started withdrawing.

It became clear that the Lord was moving us, Emmanuel Church, into a position to take over from them. In October 2015, Conquerors rehab became **REACH Restoration Ministries**.

Reach Restoration is an extension of Emmanuel Church and an additional opportunity to spread the Gospel as we point young men, who had made the wrong choices in life, to the Cross of Christ. After all - addiction is a worship disorder, another form of idol worship and therefore sin.

Unlike popular belief and myths, we do not believe that addiction is a sickness and a disease from which there is no known cure. Rather we believe that addiction can be overcome because of the redemptive work of Christ on the cross. An addict has chosen to turn to their choice of addiction to solve the problems in their life. This only creates more problems and destruction. With **REACH Restoration**, addicts learn to turn to God by choosing Christ and the Kingdom of God as their destination.

We have deliberately moved away from the term 'rehab' as it is more than that. It is a place of restoration. Currently, February 2015, we have 12 students residing with us.

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God is also growing the leadership team and it is exciting to know that in April 2016, Pastor Paul Adriaanse, who resigned from his post as pastor of a church in Cape Town, will be joining us. This is exciting, as not only is this confirmation of the hand of God on the ministry but with it comes a different dynamic for the centre.

Although addiction is a choice made by an individual, and a self-cantered one at that, it effects the whole family and a host of loved ones connected to the individual. This considered, it is our belief that the family needs to recover together. There are questions loved ones will ask - for instance - "***What role did I play in the individual making the choices they have?***"

Pst. Paul will be able to make the link between the loved one and the addict, while encouraging biblical support for the loved ones. This will also give us the opportunity to spread the good news of Christ and his redemptive work on the cross for all. Paul also brings with him plenty wisdom and knowledge gained from personal experience with addiction. He has also run a similar type of centre in Cape Town.

Our focus is the addict, now known as the 'student', and his loved ones coming to the saving knowledge of Christ and in the process being restored to that which God has in store for them. Hence the name **Reach Restoration**.

We are fully committed and accountable to God and our local church Emmanuel under the curatorship of Bishop (and pastor dude) Glenn Lyons.

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