

THE ELIZABETH HOUSE

August 2009

A Christian Home
for Women in Transition

To empower women to
experience life-changing
transformation through the
love of God, the power of
Christ Jesus, and the healing
of the Holy Spirit.



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Introducing: The Elizabeth House Newsletter

By Katie Hartje (RA)

Welcome to the first edition of The Elizabeth House newsletter! In addition to introducing a new newsletter, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Katie and I became the resident assistant (RA) for The Elizabeth House in July. I have been greatly blessed to be a part of this ministry and have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know everyone involved in The Elizabeth House. Being the RA involves living within the House to offer support to the residents and oversee the general welfare of The Elizabeth House. While settling into this new role, I've been asked a few common questions about the ministry. So, (in case you are wondering what everyone else has been wondering) I will address them here. Also, a brochure is attached to this newsletter in case you wish to further familiarize yourself with the ministry of The Elizabeth House.

Q: How many women are able to stay in The Elizabeth House? How long can they stay?

A: Two residents are able to stay in The Elizabeth House at one time. There is not a time limit for how long a resident may stay within the house. The time frame is assessed on a regular basis by the resident, staff, and board. Generally, a resident can continue to stay within the House if the ministry: a) is still an appropriate match and b) can bless them by helping ensure their needs are being met.

Q: How is The Elizabeth House financially supported?

A: The Elizabeth House is supported in part by First Baptist Church of Sioux Falls, SD, individual donors, grants, and fundraising activities.

Q: Since The Elizabeth House is a ministry for at-risk women, what does being "at-risk" really mean?

A: Being at-risk may involve any combination of the following:

- ▶family issues
- ▶disease
- ▶substance abuse
- ▶depression
- ▶loss
- ▶loneliness
- ▶homelessness
- ▶spiritual strongholds and bondage
- ▶career and financial issues
- ▶self-image
- ▶abuse
- ▶relationship issues
- ▶natural disaster
- ▶sexual exploitation
- ▶slavery
- ▶other

In Transition: Waiting & Transformation

By **Katie Hartje (RA)**

To gain some insight into what the ministry of The Elizabeth House is all about, it may help to reflect on knowing we all, on some level, have been in the same shoes. We can all probably relate to living through seasons of waiting and seasons of change. Though the fruit of these seasons can be very beautiful and joyful at times, the seasons themselves are often wrought with some degree of pain. This is where the need for empowerment and community comes in. When we are surrounded by prayer and love, we are more able to face the pain we, as humans, are so tempted to run from. It is then that we can enter into a place of waiting on God, being vulnerable and honest with him, and trusting he will transform us as only he can do.

In her book When the Heart Waits, Sue Monk Kidd explains the process this way, “to be spiritual is to confront our pain, rather than make an enemy out of it. When Jesus told us to love our enemies, I suspect that he was talking about our inner enemies too. He knew that love was the only means by which to transform them.”

God works in mysterious ways. In embracing our pain, that sense of God’s absence, we take an essential step toward growing closer to him.

How could a caterpillar become a butterfly without a period of waiting in the cocoon? However, it is in this season that the creature appears to be absent of life. It seems wrapped up, set aside, and forgotten. When it’s all said and done, it is obvious that this stage of life was actually when the most work was accomplished and a vast transformation has taken place. It is when the butterfly emerges (and leaves what made it a caterpillar behind) that we finally see the evidence of God’s love in the beauty of what he has planned for his creation all along. May we all focus on how we can play a part in bringing God the glory he so rightfully deserves, despite any cost & in every season.

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. -Romans 8:18

*wait
continually
for your
God.*

Hosea 12:6



“Archbishop William Temple once said that one of the mistakes Christians are fond of making is trying to be more spiritual than God. When Jesus was in pain, he didn’t try to squirm out of it; rather, he embraced a sense of God’s absence. He cried out, ‘My God, where are you? Why have you forsaken me?’”

- Sue Monk Kidd, When the Heart Waits

The Elizabeth House Ministry Board

- **Dana Lang, Director**
- **Katie Hartje, Resident Assistant**
- **Darla Krueger, Treasurer**
- **Kat Crandall, Secretary**
- **Barb Cook, Volunteer Coordinator**
- **Nancy Barclay**
- **Cheryl Stephenson-Brown**
- **Tresa Knoff**
- **Sue Endsley**

Thank you for supporting The Elizabeth House!
Blessings, *The Elizabeth House Staff & Ministry Board.*

Praises & Prayer Requests:

- ▶ Praise God for the relationships being built within The Elizabeth House and ask for God’s will, unity, & protection over them.
- ▶ Ask God to reveal his great love for the residents of The Elizabeth House to them throughout their seasons of waiting. Pray that God is glorified through this ministry.
- ▶ Pray for all people who are at-risk and in need of refuge and/or transformation & pray for God’s people to be obedient to reach out and love their neighbors.
- ▶ Pray for the upcoming Elizabeth House garage sale. Praise God of the gracious supporters that donated items in which to sell. Proceeds will go toward the needs of the women currently living within The Elizabeth House. (Sale will be held August 26-29)
- ▶ Pray for the women’s morning retreat that will take place this fall. Ask God for guidance as the retreat is being planned. Please pray for the women who will be taking part in the retreat, that it will be a blessed time of drawing closer to God & reaching out to women in our community.