

Simply Grace February 4 2007
By Adlen W. Robinson

For years Ken Pallone was not exactly sure what his calling in life was, but he knew when he figured it out, his call would likely involve two things: God, and helping others. As Executive Director of Simply Grace, Pallone feels he has found both his calling and his passion. Simply Grace offers one on one counseling for people of all ages and from all walks of life, in addition to training for people who have a desire to go into discipleship counseling.

“Here we all have a heart for hurting people,” said Pallone. “We are a safe place where people can come and get the help they need---and if they are willing to do the work, they will find freedom.” “We have people that come to us who are going through a divorce, or dealing with infidelity in a marriage,” explained Pallone.

Pallone knows first hand what it is like to feel lost and alone. “I can remember back in 1991 I felt like I hit rock bottom,” remembered Pallone. “On the outside I looked fine---everybody would have thought I had it all together, but on the inside I felt completely broken.” For Pallone, surrendering his life to God is what changed the course of his life. “I had been a Christian at that point for more than 10 years, but I had not completely surrendered my life to God---once I asked God to turn my life around, he did.” Pallone felt strongly that discipleship counseling was what helped him change. “I felt like that was what God wanted me to do---help others using this type of counseling, and also training others if they feel called to go into counseling.” Pallone, along with his staff, provide one-on-one counseling, mentoring, as well as intensive discipleship counseling training classes.

Elizabeth Winterstein said she found Simply Grace when she was at a pivotal crossroad in her life. “I was at such a dark time in my life, I wondered what the point of going on was,” remembered Winterstein, who was referred to Simply Grace by her pastor. “I called and spoke with Jason, and everything he said just resonated with me.” Jason Glaze, who is Director of Training for Simply Grace, also does counseling and mentoring for the center, and has been with the Cumming center since it opened. “He suggested that we meet three times and he felt very strongly that he could help me.”

Winterstein herself was not new to the counseling circuit. “I had been in and out of counseling of every type for 20 years---I really did not think their approach was going to work.” Desperate to get her life together, Winterstein threw herself into the counseling sessions. “I did everything Jason asked me to do---when he said start journaling, I did it.” Simply Grace, along with the hard work and determination, gave Winterstein a new outlook on her life—in fact, she experienced a complete transformation. “During those first few months, my life changed completely,” Winterstein said through tears of joy.

So much so, Winterstein decided that helping others with their problems and issues was what she most wanted to do with her own life. After taking Simply Grace’s 10-month

Advanced Discipleship Development course, Winterstein now attends counseling training classes. Like all the people at Simply Grace, Winterstein's quest is to help others with their personal challenges. "I used to worry and have anxiety about everything," said Winterstein. "Because of Simply Grace, I feel like I have a whole new life---now I want to share how others can experience the same kind of freedom that I received."

Simply Grace and its caring staff strive to empower their clients by first offering love and acceptance to people who often come to them with totally broken spirits. "What we have found is that so many people live in intense fear---fear even of God," said Pallone. "Sometimes people just have a distorted view of God, and we work to help them develop a genuine and intimate relationship with God---once they have that, healing can take place."

Humility and kindness embody Pallone and his staff. "I know that personally, I cannot change anyone or even myself," said Pallone. "I see myself as a facilitator that can see and participate with God as he changes someone's life."



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