

A Passion to Help Those Who Have an Addiction

This word passion is a verb. An action. Something that burns within you that you seem to not be able to let go of no matter what you do.



The word passionate would describe an outreach minister who has a radio program that focuses on addiction and recovery.

Pastor Richard Dover hosts *There Is Hope* is on KGNW 820 AM, a Christian radio station in Seattle, Washington. It airs on Saturday nights from 10:00pm –12:00am Pacific Standard Time.



The main focus of the broadcast is to give hope to the hopeless. Listeners are encouraged to call in and join Dover in the show. Callers take part in discussions and commentary, share their struggles with addiction, and share their testimonials.

He also calls himself, “The most vulnerable talk show host in all of Seattle.” The reason for this is that he freely admits to and talks about his own struggles. Yes, a minister who opens up about his mistakes and the errors in his life. Pastor Dover is not afraid to ask listeners what they think he can do better. And he’s willing to listen - even if he gets criticism.

Dover lets the listener know that he’s just as human and just as fallible as they are. That is not a common attitude in church leaders. Sounds wonderful and quite refreshing, doesn’t it?



Rich’s wife Carmi joins him in the broadcast booth on occasion and answers their 24/7 toll-free prayer line, 1-866-346-7186. They work together to help others get to and live healthy and fulfilling lives. And both have much experience doing so.

Richard has served people through ministry in the street and in prison. His scope of care also includes evangelism, lay counsel, and Bible instruction. He is also a Christian Addiction Intervention Specialist.

Carmi was a cell group pastor in the Philippines and has been involved with short-term mission trips. She also was a house manager for a women’s transitional home on the Sunset Strip in Hollywood, CA.

If you do not live in the Seattle area, you can listen to *There is Hope* via the Internet here: <http://www.thereishoperadio.org/>

FAIRHAVEN HOUSE DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM

*"Clean and sober living
on the road to recovery..."*



Pastor Rich also serves *Fairhaven House* in the Seattle area where he is the President and Program Director. Fairhaven House is a non-profit organization that provides low income

clean & sober living to help recovering addicts get back on their feet. *Fairhaven House* currently manages three houses for men.

"The vision of Fairhaven House is to provide a clean and sober living environment for individuals recovering from substance abuse or other addictive behavior. Fairhaven House believes in not only providing a safe and healthy environment for recovery, but to help individuals work through the root issues behind their addictions."

Members are encouraged to become employed and/or increase their education. Members learn the social skills necessary to learn to cope with daily life. That helps them to participate in society and teaches them to serve others.

They learn what works and what doesn't work in a life of sobriety. This includes creating a budget and learning to handle money. It also means learning to not give in to old habits that will ruin their quest for recovery.

Members learn how to handle disappointment, struggles, rejection, mental fatigue and emotional anguish. They gain new insights as how to be happy and successful as well. Many of these souls never learned to do what you and I do on a daily basis.

That's often one of the reasons for relapse. It isn't necessarily that one gives into craving; many times using is the only thing these people know. It's one of the only means they have to deal with their existence.

But with the help of Pastor Richard Dover and *Fairhaven House* there is hope. Members learn to use the tools that make it possible to live a useful and productive life.

When these people re-enter the world it becomes a much brighter and better place. And imagine the victory a member feels to live on their own terms once more. It's a win-win situation for everybody.

One of the ways of achieving this is to disciple members who want to know and follow Jesus Christ. And though the teaching is faith based, members need not have any type of religious affiliation. People of all faiths or lack of them are welcome.

That's not to say that a member *has* to become a Christian either. They don't. But as stated before the program is Christian. And it includes attending and an in-house

Bible study once a week. House members are taught biblical principles on how to live an overcoming life.



One of their houses, *Koinonia House*, is for Christians who want to grow in their relationship with Jesus.

The Dovers have witnessed lives changed for the better this way. They also get to see the fruits of their labors which are not always an easy task. And at the same time they are living out their own passion to assist those in dire straits.

Addictions of one kind or another are a common subject in the media. We hear so much about it that it's easy to tune it out. And unless you deal with it daily, addiction becomes part of the furniture in our lives.

Yet when these folks live clean and healthy lives, there is less crime, suicide, drug overdose and more. Addictions cost society money one way or another. But when free of them ex-members only add to their communities.



Pastor Rich is also the pastor of *Community of Hope*. *Community of Hope* is a church service dedicated to those who are struggling with an addiction or being set free from addiction. It is an outreach of *Seattle Open Door Church* in Burien, WA.

Pastor Rich has a desire to establish a faith-based addiction treatment center in a rural setting that would not only offer addiction treatment, but provide vocational training, recreational therapy (addicts have no idea how to enjoy life without their addiction), and help them to address the root causes of their addiction.

Like we said at the beginning, passionate would be a good description of Pastor Rich and his wife Carmi—a passion to help those who are struggling with addictions. Both of them are so committed to their ministry that they do not receive any compensation for the work they do other than a housing allowance.

The most interesting part of this story is that Richard has a B.S. Degree in Criminal Justice. He was going to be a police officer and 'lock up all the criminals and throw the key away'. God obviously had other plans for him, and Richard has been obedient to the call. More than obedient—passionate about the call.

To learn about *Fairhaven House*, *There is Hope Radio*, and *Community of Hope* go to www.fairhavenhouse.info, www.thereishoperadio.org, www.sodc.us/xs/hope.