



.... A Place of Refuge

News From The Hunters

Words ...

There are always snippets of conversations that I wish I had written down before they faded into the hundred or so conversations I might have at a drop-in meal. Here's a couple that I did jot down:

"People ask me why I come here ... Is it the food? No it isn't the food I'm hungry for, no it isn't the food. It's Jesus I come here for - and some times I get to actually see Him."

"Trusting is the hardest thing for me - I've been hurt too much. But I could come back here even after I fell off the wagon and used again. I can come here and be safe. I trust you' ".

A New Book!

The Twenty Piece Shuffle

Greg Paul has just released his second book. Purchase your copy from our web site.

A Crash Course on Life's Foundational Needs

On July 28 I had a crash, a traffic accident that left me with a broken heel and a fresh batch of bruised body parts. Maybe for the first time since I was a kid I felt my age. As I lay around waiting for my body to stop hurting and to heal, I began to realize what it must be like for people who live with constant pain. Immobilized by the pain, the days and weeks tallied up and it wasn't long until I had lost my imagination. I discovered that physical exercise – just the act of dressing, walking and physically and mentally moving through the routine of a day is foundational to maintaining a healthy mind. I was more interested in curling into a fetal position, hoping time would pass. *Poverty of imagination* we call it in our community. Another foundational factor I discovered in the healing process, maybe the biggest "us and them" divider, is my having healthy family and friends. Recovery of any kind is so much faster, so much more complete when we're surrounded with love. We call the lack of it *poverty of relationship*. It is the missing ingredient that has brought many of the Sanctuary folks to a place of poverty and homelessness.

About three weeks after the accident I was able to make it to the Thursday night Drop-In meal for a couple of hours. Looking and feeling like many of our community, I hobbled down the steps to the dining room on my crutches. What I wasn't prepared for was the response I received from my community. One after the other, often two or three at a time they pushed their way across the crowded room to offer me their care, concern and any form of helping hand I needed. One of the guys from the shop hugged me, held me at arm's length, hugged me again and laughing with tears in his eyes repeated the whole routine. I could hardly sit down for the line up of huggers and well wishers. In the 2 years that I've been here at Sanctuary, not a week has gone by where I haven't felt the pain in one way or another of this community. And yet, in this same community I've been as deeply and unconditionally loved and cared for as ever in my life. I have come to realize just how much I need these friends; how the rich need the poor and the poor need the rich. I'm just no longer sure which one I am but I know I'm richer for being loved.

A Break in the Cycle

My last newsletter talked about a couple who were struggling to make a break from life on the street. You may also remember the story of California whose tragic and violent death was a catalyst for this couple to get serious about change. They moved to Sudbury and had a healthy baby together. He began to work at construction making the big leap from idleness and despair to fruitfulness and meaning in his life. They have now moved to Oshawa and he's welding while she cares for their child and is pregnant again. As each day goes by, the life they're now living seems like such a beautiful, delicate thing. We watch, visit, support and pray.



She came by to visit us at the shop a couple of months ago to show off their son and to thank us for the cradle. I love my job!

Thank you for your support. Ministry is a team sport!

Building Community...
... one individual at a time
... in the heart of the city

Highlights

- We were privileged to present our ministry and our products at North Park Community Chapel in London, ON recently. It's always good to get exposure and feedback. Thanks North Park for your support!
- Two ladies have prepared some meals for the shop recently. What a gift it is for us to be able to pull a nutritious, home-cooked meal from the freezer and pop it in the oven on a busy day. Thank you!
- One participant who went from the shop to school last year now has a full-time job and is off financial assistance and totally supporting himself!
- We're in the process of building a "clean" room, a place where we can apply dust-free finishes to our products.

Challenges

- I have to learn how to walk again! Seven weeks in a cast will do that.
- We are seeking ways to more effectively engage our community in the gift of meaningful work.
- We're always looking for volunteers. We would love to have one or more individuals take on kitchen duties at the shop. There are always other projects in the shop if you're feeling like a 1 or 2-day commitment.

Family News

- Beth has been hired as a supply parenting worker for the Toronto District School Board in their Parenting & Family Literacy Centers. She will be working with parents and their children ages 0-6.
- Our son Shane married Shannon in May. They're living in Ottawa, Ontario.
- We're going to be grandparents! Katie and Jon are expecting their first child on December 25.
- Daryl is doing co-op education as a teacher's assistant and organizing golf tournaments for our church family when not "shredding" on his guitar.

Contact information

- In the previous newsletter I offered the option of receiving this by email. It's just one more way to go green and save funds. If you're so inclined please email me asking that you be put on my email list.



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