

Life on the Front Line

Phidias was very likely the greatest sculptor among the ancient Greeks. Legend tells us that he was extremely careful when applying the finishing touches to the beautiful statue of Athena which was to adorn the Acropolis in Athens. As he applied his chisel to the rear side of Athena's head, he shaped each strand of hair with great patience, giving his full attention to the tiniest detail. An observer reminded Phidias that the statue would stand one hundred feet high with its back to a huge marble wall. "Why waste your time on those finishing touches which will not even be seen?" he asked. "Who will ever know such beauty is there?" Phidias replied: "I will!"

Rough and uneven and unfinished and unpolished as we may be, we human beings are, nevertheless, God's masterworks. Yet all of us are subject to further shaping and fashioning by the Divine Artist. To become what God intends us to become when he gives us life we all need our share of "finishing touches." We are not complete human beings - none of us. We are all engaged in the process of becoming more than we are now, of moving toward the goal being made holy.

If I were to ask what the most famous Bible verse is I would probably get the answer of John 3:16 and while that verse may indeed be the most well known, the verse that follows it is of particular importance for us because regardless of our situation in life, God has a plan.

"God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him," Jesus tells us (John 3:17). Jesus' promise of salvation is our guarantee that the Divine Artist's finishing touches are being applied even now.

Guest Achievements

Housing

On June 30th, K.G found housing & moved out into the community on July 1st. In July 8th, B.H. stopped saying that he lives in Shawinigan Lake & is doing well. As July 8th, S.K. found a place & moved out, 2 weeks later. On July 14th, K.M. gained his own housing through Pacifica Housing.

On July 28th S.A. got a move in date & is now in his new home. He was housed through "Streets to Homes" getting an apartment in Pacifica House at 829 Fisgard. Pacifica provided the truck & bodies to help him move. The ARC provided access the dining room for the next few weeks as required.

July 28th also saw G.D. get a 1 bedroom in Fairway Woods overlooking the Langford Fairway Woods golf course, as #2 on the CASH list & diligent in advocating for housing.

P.N., A.L. and T.M. moved into rooms as part of the Transitional Housing Program during July. H.M. moved out July 25th into the community.

On Aug 1st, A.C. found housing, for \$800 a month, sharing a 2 bedroom apartment on Dallas Road. He moved out 2nd week in August

From the ED's Desk
Sheldon Feener
Captain : Executive Director



A red rectangular graphic containing the Salvation Army logo (a shield with 'THE SALVATION ARMY' text) and the acronym 'ARC' in large white letters. Below 'ARC' is the address '525 Johnson St Victoria BC'. At the bottom right, it says 'ISSUE 32 JULY-AUGUST'.

Quote of the Month

Ah, but a man's reach
should exceed his grasp, or
what's a heaven for?
Robert Browning

On August 9th, Jeffery B. - our previous manager, now at Our Place - phoned to let us know that G.H. had a room next to his wife there. He moved out Aug 10. Aug 10 T. P moved out Mid August.

MN.M. has housing at the York Hotel starting Aug. 1st. Its hard to believe he came here from the Traveler's fire a year last March. We hope, he will be content in his new setting. Sometimes it's the start that matters. As of Aug 20th A.L. was looking at apartments in Esquimalt.



This is the new Chapel after renovation, ready for use



called fighting the good fight.

As of July 18th N.S. has a BC services card waiting for him down at the MLA office.

S.H. was selling Megaphone magazines (<http://www.megaphonemagazine.com/>). On July 19th afternoon—as one of our previously more problematic client he looks like he's sober, & doing so much better than he did in the past.

As of July 20th, G.C. states that he is sober for 4 months in the Comerford program with VIHA. He's involved with post-secondary education exercising regularly & in a really good place in life. He wanted to thank the staff here at the ARC for supporting him in the past.

In Mid July, Joe Ralph ran into N.V. at Walmart a couple of weeks ago. He told Ralph that he has been sober for a month & is working actively towards going to treatment.

On Aug 1st R.T. dropped by in the morning to pick up his mail. We are pleased to know he is very happy & doing very well in sales. It is always a delight to hear our former residents are doing well.



Joe models safety gear Photo Trevor Impey

This was the Victoria red sky over many weeks in July

R.A. left Thursday Aug 24th, morning at 5:00 am, having decided to return to Vancouver.

On Aug 25th B.L., a long time resident at the ARC picked up his belongings having previously moved out. He also passed on, that he had set a date for his wedding, which is Dec 15th & we are all invited

Program notes

On July 7th, D.B. called from detox, stating that he was doing well & expected to be released in a few days.

Jobs

As a general note, staff from our local day labour places come by more frequently, looking for more workers.

On July 06th, J.C. found work in construction & being away at work during meal times, is now on our bag lunch program. As of July 18th D.M. is on the lunch program, 2 bags daily Mon– Fri with a 5 am wakeup call as he is now employed.

As of July 12nd, J. M. began working late on Wed– Fri, at Yates Street Taphouse, finding housing in the Community on July 15th & moving out of the ARC the next day. As of the 13th of July G. T. got a job in Duncan, finding housing in the Community soon after.

New client A.F arrived July 20th & already works nights, gaining him an ongoing rest pass, so he can sleep days. As of July 28th, D.E. also has a job.

As of Aug 10th D.S has an irregular work schedule putting him on the bagged lunch program

As of Aug 15th C.C. got back to work & has started rebuilding his life. We have another

C.C. newly arrived who has started at the day labour places to look for work. He hopes to be employed soon.

Health & Emotional Wealth

On July 12th as Marcien started start another day at the ARC, 2 youths, one underage, walked into the lobby & told him their story. They came from Salt Spring Island to Victoria, to pick up a cheque for one of the youths, from the Youth & Family Services Dept. Being robbed after cashing the cheque, Victoria Police (VIC-PD) were called & an incident report was filled out, after which the Vic-PD, police officer suggested they should get assistance from the ARC. Marcien first arranged to get them back to Salt Spring Island & found them transport home. During this process he found the minor's worker, whom he called, getting the youth's money replaced & both youths back on the ferry home. Not a typical day, but helping people is what we do. Its



Community Dining Lounge— the owners are inside for lunch



Construction has been part of out building inside & for many months

EVENTS

MEMORIALS

Brandon Clarkson

A celebration of Life was held for Brandon Clarkson in the Dining Hall at 844 Johnson Street on July 18th at 2 pm.

Ryan O'Neill

He was a resident occasionally over the past few years & recently passed away, losing his battle with addiction. A memorial service / celebration of life was held on Monday afternoon July 17th, Sands Funeral Home on Quadra St. at 1:00 pm.

Don Hutchinson

On July 19th we were informed of Don Hutchinson's passing, probably due to a stroke. As those of you who know him were aware, he had been in poor health lately. He was so happy when he found housing through GVHS & was living there comfortably at the end. His memorial was held in the ARC Chapel at 1:00 pm on Aug 31st. We

enjoyed his time here, watched him grow & watched him move on. More time would have been nice for him, but it was not to be.

ADDICTIONS FORUM

On Friday, July 21st, 9 am to 3:30 pm, some ARC staff members had the privilege of attending the forum "Addiction: It May Not Be What You Think," organized by Yin Yee of the CRF. This addiction forum was held at the Salvation Army Citadel on 4030 Douglas. Keynote speaker Marc Lewis, neuroscientist, recently retired professor of developmental psychology author & co-author of numerous publications on psychology, cognitive behaviour. Other speakers were Phillippe Lucas, Dr. Bernadette Pauly & Chris Gaudet. He spoke about his concept of approaching addiction from a developmental model rather than a medical model. This defines addiction as an extremely severe habit, but gives the person power over his/her addiction, rather than victimizing them disease. Through empowering addicted people, we can help people break the cycle of habit & start upon the

path of sobriety.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

August 14-15 saw a well attended Leadership Conference at the ARC with workshops in the Chapel

STAFF MILESTONES

Captain Sheldon Feener was installed as Executive Director (E.D.) of the Salvation Army Addictions Rehabilitation Center (SAARC) on July 10th, at 1 PM in the ARC Chapel. All staff & residents were invited to attend. There was a short program & refreshments were served. It was a meet & greet for our new E.D, officers from the DHQ, Community Council & Advisory Board.



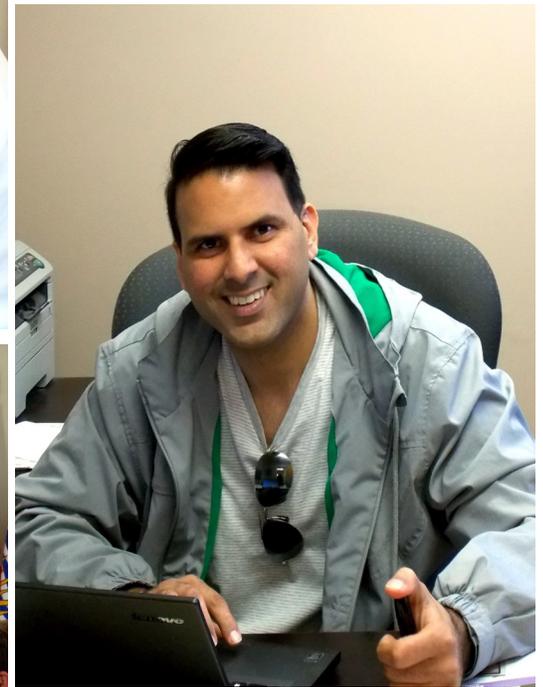
On July 4th we gained a new Residence Manager, Martin Castellani. He began settling into his new role & arranging his work space, the following weekend. Kathleen Shaw went to casual as she has a new full time job working with Alzheimer patients. William Doyle has moved on to greener pastures.



Captain Sheldon Feener's Installation Ceremony as Executive Director of the ARC.



view from the top, Love the nature - getting out of town. Superb! These trips are something to look forward too. We get out of the Sally-Ann & experience the real Victoria. On Aug. 23rd ARC clients participated in & enjoyed putting at the Beacon Hill Park putting green in the shadow of Robbie Burns proving to be a worthwhile venture.



On July 21st Manj Toor moved on to a new job as Executive Director of the John Howard Society, resulting in the CRF Manager position opening up. The successful candidate replacing him was Yin Yee Yip, previously a counselor here.



Captain Feener's Installation Ceremony

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS

On July 26th Marcien & Bob took eight people out to Fisgard Light House & Fort Rodd Hill From Bob "Loved the fellowship...tour of the lighthouse .. Very beautiful place, Fort Rodd Hill ... The harder to climb to the top, looking down knowing I overcame everything ... the better the view is looking down, so, looking forward to getting that



Sean Rankin joined as new Kitchen Manager



Leadership conference



Photo by Lyle Smith



ARC RENOVATION

As Renovation winds down the ARC looks almost finished. The search for remaining deficiencies proceeds apace. Last minute final, sometimes overlooked work is finished up. In the end though, we are mostly there.

July 19th saw the closing of the 2nd floor Wharf street side washroom Friday until the days end, allowing floor repairs in that area. Both the 3rd & 4th floor client washrooms remained open during this time having been completed in late July.

The client laundry room re-opened on July 27th. Hours of operation are from 7am to midnight. It closed at night because of a rise in drug use generally, in our client base & this closure also mitigates dorm clients waking everybody up when doing laundry after midnight.



Through July 28th –Aug 1st, the company Edger & Miner did some tiling touch-ups throughout the building & when finished up, left behind a couple keys at the Front Desk to be returned to Canpro.



In Early August the Fire Alarm panel went on line & fire rounds ceased for all but the most uncommon occurrence's such as the alarm panel & related equipment testing on Aug 10^{le} while the Lobby Front doors were painted.



On Aug 4th, Canpro staff still worked on the outside Lobby & were doing deficiency checks ending for them on Aug 8th.

On Aug. 9th Lyle did more deficiency checks. It's a thing as renovation winds down & the ARC returns to normal. The final check was done on Aug 30th with Lyle, John & Stu of Canpro & City Building Inspector who inspected through out the building.



Mostly what remains as a task is removal of Canpro equipment & cleanup.



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CHATEL CITY LIFE

Many call it Tent Village as a homage to Tent City which went away. They call themselves Chattel City. It is also a state of mind being all the places on the street where people live & exist outside now that Tent City is gone.

FIRE AND SMOKE

The weather got hotter in July and Aug 1st saw red skies over Victoria, arising from the fires in the BC interior. A media release ,on Aug 1st, a smoky skies bulletin issued for east Vancouver Island , southern Gulf Islands & Greater Victoria by the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy, in collaboration with Island Health stated "...The current weather pattern over the BC coast is causing outflow winds to carry smoke from wildfires burning in the BC Interior towards the coast. Smoke concentrations will vary widely as winds, fire behaviour & temperatures change. The bulletin which goes on at length to describe at risk population which includes many of our client & as of its release remained in effect for an indefinite time, advising people where possible to staying inside and not exert themselves outside. On August 10th the smoky skies started to blow away. As of Aug 31st, our skies are blue during the day.



Some of our clients—tired of the housing crunch being what it always is of late —made other choices . On July 2nd, N. E. got his van out of the impound & no longer requires our services. Home such as it is now, is all his. On July 5th M.B. moved out to Vancouver, to look for housing as he finds that difficult to do in Victoria. With so many people in this circumstance, outside is where they live & work. We still turn people away at the ARC because we're full as do most people.

On Aug 18th, brawls over at the "Whale Wall" sufficient to require a 911 call. As of Aug 31st, Reeson Park seems empty most nights & I don't see many homeless during the day, though I imagine they go somewhere.

However an ARC staffer on Aug 19th found 70 open needles this morning during outside rounds so the life seems to continue, & we're running low on naloxone.

Web links

- Chattel City/Tent Village
- Reeson Park
- Topaz Park
- Jacobs Well



STONES EXERCISE

This is not merely an exercise. It a journey through an understanding of entitlement as provided by JACOBS WELL a faith based community in Downtown East Side Vancouver.

Before this exercise, imagine being part of the neighbourhood described by this exercise usually a particular friend whose life story you know. Have access to a pile or bowl of stones.

Say to the group: "I'm going to read 21 statements. If a statement applies to you, I want you to pick up a stone and hold it in your hand (or, if stepping, take a step forward/backward)."

"Please listen really carefully, because some of them are negative statements & can be confusing."

Pick up a stone ...

1. If you have lived most of your life in North America or a developed country.
2. If you were NOT raised on a First Nations reservation.
3. If you or your parents were NEVER stolen from their communities and taken to residential school.
4. If you have never left your home or home country because you were in danger.
5. If you grew up in an English speaking home.
6. If you were raised by your biological parents.
7. If one or both parents had at least a bachelors degree.
8. If your parents owned the home you grew up in.
9. If, as a child & teenager, you were NEVER or VERY RARELY teased or bullied because of your physical appearance, your race, or your sexual orientation.
10. If your family was NEVER on social assistance or part of the welfare system.
11. If, during your childhood, you had enough to eat most of the time.
12. If, in the present, you can find enough to eat most of the time.
13. If you have successfully applied for a bank account.
14. If you are able to use a passport to travel freely to other countries.
15. If you can go shopping & not be followed or harassed by security.
16. If your life has NEVER been directly affected by a disability (whether it was yours or a family member's).
17. If your life has NEVER been directly affected by a criminal record (whether it was yours or a family member's).
18. If your life has NEVER been directly affected by an addiction (whether it was yours or a family member's).
19. If your life has NEVER been directly affected by physical, emotional or /sexual abuse (whether it happened to you or a family member
20. If you can have a child & not be immediately contacted by the Ministry of Family Services.
21. If you can find Band-Aids in the store that pretty closely match your skin color.

Count & keep your stones & consider what they mean .

(In a group ask people to put up their hands if they got all 21, if

they got 20, 19, 18, etc. - Many of our helped community live their lives on 5- 8 stones.)

Follow-up questions:

1. How many of these statements were within your control? Could you have made different choices that enabling you to pick up more stones today?
2. What name would you give to these stones. What they represent? some ideas: privilege, unearned advantage, power, inherent inequality)
3. What adjective would you use to describe someone with many of stones? Someone with few?

**Note: The word "blessed" or "blessing" might come up., along with the need to push back on the notion that privileged people are blessed & marginalized people are not, using the "blessed are the poor" passage in Luke & the upside-down nature of God's kingdom.

4. As an analogy: "If life was a big video game, privilege sets the game of life on "easy" mode from the start, while marginalization sets the game on the "hard" mode from the start. Some people are set more on "medium." Both the "easy" & "hard" players will face challenges & enemies in the game, just like both privileged and marginalized people might face cancer or the loss of a job. But for those born into the "hard" difficulty setting, life will be a lot more challenging & will often create further difficulties, making their chances of succeeding in the game a lot lower. Success is not **impossible** (some players have the timing, skill & luck to be able to "pull themselves up by their bootstraps"), but it is not like playing the game on easy."

5. What emotions did you experience as we did this exercise? - gratitude, shame? sadness?

6. What privilege is inherent in these stones can we do with these stones? How do we deal with it? Is it shareable. Is it enough to be aware of it? To name it? To be uncomfortable with it – to groan? to lament? until the kingdom comes? We can remember the stones we didn't pick up & sympathize somewhat in those limited areas where we're marginalized. We can choose how we will interact with those who have fewer stones. We can choose NOT to say "get over it" or "pull yourself up by your bootstraps", choose to listen to their story, choose humility, choose to not always be the ones in the lead, the ones with the microphone, choose gratitude when they're willing to love us despite our privilege.

Please keep these stones & carry them around in your pocket today as a sign of your new understanding of privilege.

References / Additional Reading:

- ▣ De La Torre, Miguel A. *Reading the Bible from the Margins*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2003.
- ▣ White, Aaron. "The Language of Reconciliation: Praying in the Inner City." In *Race and Reconciliation: Papers from the 2007 Urban Forum*, edited by Geoff Ryan, 22–30. Atlanta: The Salvation Army, 2007.