

Life on the Front Line

THE STRUGGLE OF MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20

Charlie Brown was asked by Peppermint Patty if he knew any good rules for living & he gave her his own personal set:

- 1) Keep the ball low
- 2) Don't leave your crayons in the sun
- 3) Use dental floss every day
- 4) Don't spill the shoe polish
- 5) Don't let the ants get in the sugar
- 6) Always get your first serve in.

Not a bad list! But Moses offers a much more adequate list.

His five verbs of life are:

- 1) Loving the Lord
- 2) Walking in His Ways
- 3) Keeping His Commandments
- 4) Obeying His Voice
- 5) Cleaving or being faithful to God.

These verbs of life can be our way into the promised land.

They will greatly assist us in the process of making choices.

1) THERE ARE USUALLY MORE CHOICES THAN WE REALIZE.

Moses is saying that only by choosing the proper pathway, "life & good over death & evil" can we ever possibly find our way into the Promised Land. Now, the question before each & every one of us is 'what or where is your Promised Land? Where is it that we want to go?' There are many Promised Lands, but only one belongs to God. Therefore, there are many choices. Moses was telling folks how to get to the Promised Land. It's a matter of choice, & to guide us in our choices, he offers the five verbs of life. If we follow them we will feel good about the choices we have made.

2) ANY DECISION OF SIGNIFICANT MAGNITUDE WILL BE DIFFICULT TO MAKE.

We decide, We choose, & as we do, so our lives are formed. Choices of substance are seldom easy to make. We make wrong decisions, but even that is okay, for we can choose to admit a wrong decision & have the assurance of God's freedom & forgiveness that enables us to make a new start & another choice.

3) ONLY THOSE DECISIONS WHICH ENCOMPASS THE FIVE VERBS OF LIFE WILL GET US TO A PROMISED LAND THAT IS WORTHY OF REACHING.

In the midst of death, life persists; in the midst of untruth, truth persists; in the midst of darkness, light persists. We make the decisions that bring about life, truth & light.

I don't understand why things happen to us as they do, but no matter what happens, we at least have a choice as to how to respond & that response determines the nature of our existence in the Promised Land. Most of the choices we have to make are usually 'either-or' propositions as are practically all Biblical choices. There isn't much of a middle ground & it is simply not possible to come down on the side of both life & death or good & evil. Some try it but the results are devastating – even if it appears promising for a while.... Biblical choices are never easy. It's like Jesus saying "Go & sell what you have & give it to the poor" or "Love your enemies & pray for those who hurt you" Not many can do it; not many do, but the few who do, know the rewards of life & blessing. The reward? The reward, or the Promised Land, so to speak, is the assurance that our choice is one which will be pleasing to God.

When the five verbs of life are put into action, we stand an excellent chance of getting to the Promised Land.

- 1) Loving the Lord
- 2) Walking in His Ways
- 3) Keeping His Commandments
- 4) Obeying His Voice
- 5) Cleaving or being faithful to God.

From the ED's Desk

Sheldon Feener

Major : Executive Director



THE SALVATION ARMY

ARC

525 Johnson St
Victoria BC

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Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

CLIENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Programs & Personal Wins

On Jan 1st, K.A. went for his interview for the S.T.A.R.T.E project & was admitted into this program, with the intake coordinator calling him a great candidate. K.A. remains excited to start his skills training & employment readiness program & learn more about the filmmaking industry. #WIN

On Jan 4th CSW Troy Lutz talking to T.S, a past client with heavy street issues discussed his current advancement, on a hard road in those days, with serious addiction, mental health & recidivism. We are pleased to share that he has been sober for the last 14 months, residing at Colony Farm—Forensic Psychiatric Hospital in Coquitlam. Being healthier than he's ever been over the last 20 years, he spoke of being sober, understanding schizophrenia, as a mental illness & hoping to reside in our Transitional Housing Program (THP) this coming Spring. He requested Troy pass on, his extreme contrition, about his treatment of staff & the Salvation Army ARC generally over the last 4 years. In his words "He would like to send a sincere apology to anyone who he swore at, yelled at or made feel unsafe. He was high on drugs at the time & this wasn't his intention." It is our hope that he could perhaps be a healthy

Amen

part of our transitional housing program in the near future.

As of Jan 2th A.L. mentioned earlier today that he secured a job with the City of Victoria. He will be working as a cleaner & is eager to start. He also said that since staying here, things are going well for him & he is quite happy!

Jan 7th was a special day for G.H. He headed off to treatment at Tsow-Tun Le Lum, meaning "Helping House". We wish him the best of luck. It produces programs addressing issues of addictions & substance abuse, & supports survivors of trauma & residential schools. Its mission is to strengthen the ability of First Nations people to live healthy, happy lives & to have pride in their native identity. Tsow-Tun Le Lum, a registered non-profit society operates a fully accredited treatment center in Lantzville, Vancouver Island, & overlooks Nanoose Bay, on lease from the Nanoose First Nation.

WEB LINK: Tsow-Tun Le Lum

On Jan 10th, G.B. met friend from his past who wished to reconnect & rebuild an old acquaintanceship. We hope this change from isolation will help him on the path out of our door into a new world.

At 1am, Jan. 14th, a lady came to our Front Desk office with a hurt shoulder having missed the last bus to Esquimalt. After she went outside, J.W. came to us, expressing his concern for her, literally checking his credit limit in front of staff. He then asked us to call a cab for her, saying that he would pay for it. On arrival, J.W. accompanied her so he could know the amount of the taxi fare. In addition, he gave a man a pair of gloves & gave another hungry man his bagged lunch, when the ARC did not have food available. We can't help but like his personality & compassion for helping people.

As of Jan 30th R.M. completed his "Serving It Right" certificate and is now ready to look for work! #WIN



Eugene leads a Rent Smart Course

On Feb 2 As LB. was coming back to the ARC, he offered to salt all the sidewalks outside the ARC for us! Thankyou for being such a kind soul! #WIN #lessworkforme

Rooms

J.T. moved into room 230 as part of our Transitional Housing Program (THP) on Jan 4th as did J.C., who as of Jan 7th now resides in room 263. Also on Feb 4th. K.S. moved into his room becoming another of a long line of people joining the THP.

Housing

W. C-D. moved into long-term housing at Matson Sequoia on Jan 4th. He was helped to move by CSW Trevor & ex-client R.F. #WIN

As of Jan 15th T.F found housing! He'll be moving into Waterview apts. via our good buddies over at Pacifica Housing.

On Feb 15th F.Y let us know that he has found permanent housing & a new job. He moved out to the Ritz on the 19th!! Upward & onward.

On Feb 22nd J. L. moved out to Langford, making a bottom bunk available for G.H. who with difficulties getting up & down, needs a lower bunk.

Jobs

As of Jan 15th, S.M. found work doing scaffolding, just a few blocks away so he can walk to work. #WIN

Residence Manager Jeff, ran into B.C. who gave him a big hug in Timmies on the morning of Jan 11th. B.C. said he keeps wanting to stop & thank us all. B.C. works full time at the shipyard. He looks really good! He says his son is moving on. As of Jan 18th S.R. was working in Duncan overnight on Saturday while A.S. still works late & V.B. works overnight shifts.

IN MEMORIAM

David Milligan went to Royal Jubilee Hospital in late December — as the result of several difficult days — passing away on Jan 1st. Dave was a client of many years & we expected, to see him for many more, but tomorrow is promised to no one & it was not to be. Karla & Eugene were both available for any staff or residents needing support as they usually are.

Michel O'Brien had been ill in his last months requiring 911 calls. On Jan 28th, he passed & many of us were affected by this. A memorial was held for him, at the Salvation Army Victoria Citadel, 4030 Douglas St on Feb 9th at 2:00pm. He is survived by his wife Marie O'Brien & daughters Amanda & Emma, who all miss him dearly.

They were a recent pair of many human tragedies, who have aged off our rolls in hard fashion. Victims of the war on poverty, they weren't just cannon fodder in this struggle. They mattered to us & other people here in their last days. It can & does surprise me that our clients — frequently down on their luck — have people who want a better life for them & want to help them more, but it's most often true. The important seminal fact, requires that we note their passing here.

EVENTS

Christmas Decorations



The Hope Van waits to respond to hard times & events

Until January 6th, Epiphany, we still celebrate the 12 days of Christmas. So, on Jan. 7th in the afternoon we took down Christmas decorations in the afternoon, & put them in the basement.

Donations

By Jan 9th we had so many donations that it required many hands to clean up This means a Big 'thankyou' to Dani for getting the ball rolling, an extra special 'thank you' to Molly for taking it the extra mile, and one final 'thank you' to caseworkers, Gord, Rick, Lyle.... For bringing it home. It took 30 man hours to bring this back to a tidy example of shared work & the practical nature of caring. Overnight workers every effort to keep the donation room in shape.



Donation Room Before & After

Kitchen Kindness Resources

As of Jan 9th, Kitchen Manager Sean Rankin, has a dedicated basement fridge of just food handouts by Residential Department for street guests starving when we don't have snacks in the bubble. As these friends often forget to eat for days at a time, food can be a lifesaver. Also in the category of something extra for those who don't have much, Sean also ensured



UVIC Student Union Building—We attended the Housing First course here

Morning Coffee & Hungry man Lunches for Men @ Work. Overnight RSW attendants now open the community dining lounge at 05:00 for coffee only for clients going to work. A small compassionate humane decency, it's extra work around client wake up time, but we hope to make things work. The Coffee Room also known Community Dining Room (CDR) will be locked at 6.30-7 after working guys are gone. To compliment the coffee, Sean will make 'hungry man lunches' for our working men. A little bit of "breaky" for our early goers who would otherwise do without. From a most sincere place we all thank you Sean. #WIN #dayoffright #seanforpresident #lovepeople

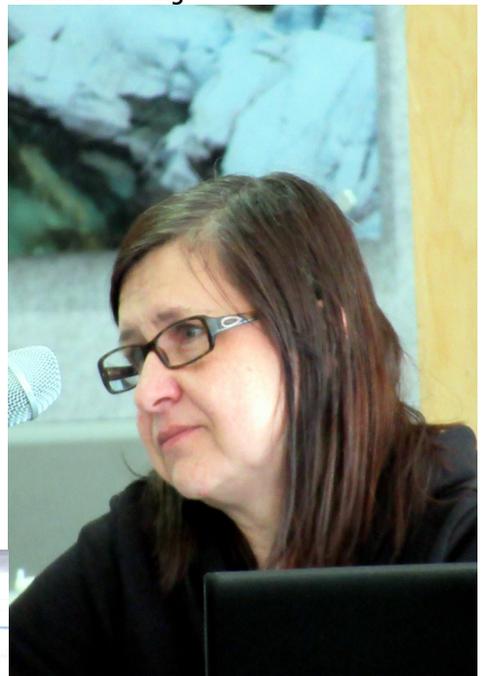
Housing First & Outreach

On Jan. 29th, Jolanta Krynski of Rain City Housing provided day-long training on Housing First & Outreach, frequently a person's first connection to the homelessness-serving system which can set an important tone for the person's success. Jolanta has experience in Peer Housing Support, non-clinical Intensive Case Management, and is a Housing First Trainer. Salvation Army staff were joined by staff from numerous of service providers, Our Place, Cool Aid & Pacifica Housing to mention only a few.

Despite equipment resources initially refusing to work, the seminar quickly got underway with her insights & knowledge valuable for anyone supporting people across the sector.

WEBLINKS

- Ending Homelessness**
- RainCity Housing**
- Cool Aid Society**
- Pacifica Housing**



Jolanta Krynski

Harassment Training

There was mandatory training and annual refresher session on: The Salvation Army's Harassment, Discrimination & Prevention Policy on Jan. 31 at 9:30 AM in the ARC Chapel. Upon completion of the training, all staff signed & submitted a signed form acknowledging their attendance through their respective supervisors.



CAEH sponsored Housing First Seminar.

Wellness Wednesday Jan 23rd

As Roberts email described the trip to the IMAX on Jan 23rd, as "an outstanding success. Our 12 clients were lavish with their favorable comments. The film ... "Backyard Wilderness" proved to be a very interesting informative ... 3D nature film". Statements from clients included " appreciation for the trip to the Royal BC Museum ..", "the IMAX trip was fantastic. Everyone enjoyed th nature show in 3D.", "One of the better nature films I've seen...", "thank you for taking me to the IMAX. It was fun to get out & take my mind off the stressful things in my life! ...Great to see everyone smile & laugh. I just wanted to say thank you & send my respect..." From Robert —Thanks for all the support for our family here at ARC. I feel we are so very privileged to have the opportunity to minister here... A special outing to "The Robert Bateman Centre" was arranged for the Feb 20th "Wellness Wednesday". Clients were encouraged for clients of the ARC .



all they do. Well attended by staff & management, we all had a pleasant time.

General Programs

Hiking, Anger Management, Acquired Brain Injury & a variety of other programs started up again in the new year as we begin again & dig out of the snow.

Ready to Rent

Ready to Rent's RentSmart program accepted new participants on Wed. Feb. 20th at 10 am. & everything started again.

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

On Feb 7th the ARC held a Volunteer Lunch at 11:30-12:30 in our Chapel, in appreciation of

Extreme Weather Protocols (EWP)

EWP was active again with the 1st snowfall of 2019 happening in a warmer than usual January, which lead to a colder than Normal February. To quote Residence Manager Jeff Baergen "...Operating over capacity (average 35-46 guests) most days for the better part of five weeks – with no end in sight. Our EWP staff managed 12 hour shifts with poise & professionalism, caring for some of Victoria's most drug affected population who typically sleep rough – a demographic not typically seen here... outstanding kitchen staff increased their provisions of hot soup, breads & oatmeal for breakfast...housekeeping staff



Ian, Hannah, Margaret, Gord & all volunteers received thanks for their efforts.

working double time ... to keep our facilities clean. We added a crib board, cards & some art supplies for the restless wanting to get artistic, while we all wait patiently for the weather to warm". Cold weather kept EWP open from early February & snowfalls starting on Feb. 11 broke records in Greater Victoria changing some



VEWP was activated & the chapel chairs were moved away. Mats tonight as the snow falls



Photo by Jeff Baergen



established routines in the ARC especially in the Chapel & Community Dining Room. A First Aid Course was rescheduled, more duties were laid on for many staff, some people called in as stuck in outlying areas & some arrived late. It all culminated in a special event when staff broke out shovels & scraped off snow in the back parking lot, on our heaviest snow day. Still, routines returned as sandwich boards were put out, declaring our EWP mats placed in the Chapel & Community Dining Room (CDR) by the extra staff brought in for care & control of EWP guests building a safe, secure place for all. Departing each morning, they received porridge & milk or coffee & left with bikes or grocery carts to make the most of the new day. On Feb 19th the weather warmed up & EWP was discontinued next day. Then the wind & weather turned cold again, ensuring that EWP would be activated as snow & rain gave way to cold wind, frost & black ice. As the conditions required for this activation change it's still cold, still wet & some people are still outside.

Upgrade on the Lobby Doors

Also on Feb 19th contractors began work on our Front Doors, redesigning the whole Lobby door infrastructure to deal the very busy traffic & the convenience needed to get people in and out. In the end, doors were reset, caution tape was taken down & busy traffic flow returned



Hope springs

On Feb 24th an ex-resident re-engaged with the Salvation Army, asking Jeff, Residence Mlanager, ARC for assistance getting individual support with Clinical Counsellor Eugene. We've long



Shoveling the Back Parking Lot—as much fun as it looks



housing & goals of sobriety, reconciliation, employment, training & on with an endless list of need. As small but really great news & hopefully a sign of greater things to come, we thank Eugene for taking the time. We are so thankful that you are a part if this team.

Snow

Bad weather, or the threat of it, provided the context to much of our actions. It pulled people into our Chapel. We either prepared for it, sheltered other people from it, trudged in it, or shovelled it, frequently while trying to get other stuff done as we went about our daily tasks.

WEBLINK

More Snow pictures

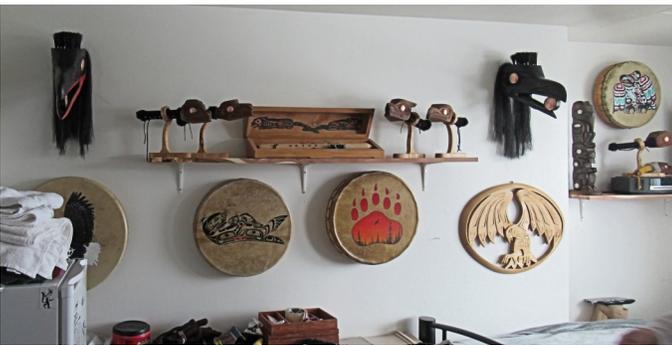


desired that the ARC & Salvation Army generally, have a broader, more inclusive reach, in our community, in support of any individual who is homeless or marginalized or both – especially after we've seen them housed from here. After-care & support is a critical piece of care, proving to increase the odds of past residents maintaining new found



ART WORKS

We often have poetry from participants on this page. This time we have the painting & sculpture of D.F., a CRF client who does so much good work. One way or another your soul comes out, has to come out. This is what happens when we dream great dreams. Please enjoy.



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