Life on the Front Line

THE HEALING MINISTRY OF GOD

Have you ever observed that often men fail at their strongest point? This principle is woven with great care throughout the Word of God as strong men experienced a most significant failure at the very point of character where they were supposed to be most remarkable.

Abraham was the father of the faithful, but under pressure his faith failed.

Moses was the meekest of men, but it was this man who “spoke unadvisedly with his lips” - Psalm 106: 33.

John, the Apostle of love, displayed his intolerance when he desired to call down fire from heaven upon his adversaries.

Peter was the man of courage, but when the chips were down demonstrated his cowardice.

Not one of us will forget that John the Baptist with his prophetic finger pointed & with his majestic voice cried, “Behold the lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.” Yet, this same John sent men from his dark prison to Jesus to ask, “Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?”

There are hours in all of our lives when clouds hang low & storms of despondency sweep our seas. It is in these hours that God proves His greatness and His goodness.

Elijah was a broken man. His victory left him exhausted. He experienced what we learn, that great days are often followed by little days. Brilliant days are often succeeded by dark days. His despondency came as a result of physical weakness.

REMEMBER THIS: “it is not an unusual thing to find some faithful child of God, stricken with disease, falling into despondency; some even become skeptical & question their loyalty to God & His love for them.” This was Elijah's condition, weakened in body & depressed in mind, at this moment God begins to bind up the broken heart, & dispel the fogs that darken his sky. He cares for Elijah's physical needs with a cake fresh from the ovens of heaven & unpolluted water from celestial springs.

Having cared for him physically, we look in now to find the healing ministry of God displayed.

1) GOD LISTENED TO HIM - 1 Kings 19: 8-10. Phil. 4:6,7 says “Be careful for nothing: but in everything by prayer & supplication with Thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.& the Peace of God, which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts & minds through Jesus Christ.” It is in the presenting of our requests & telling Him everything that God's peace embraces & guards our hearts. I would like to invite you to unload.

2. GOD GOT HIS ATTENTION - 1 King 19: 11-14
   a) It is the work of God to take us aside, get us alone, then deal with our hearts. Think of this as you reflect on the Word of God:
      1. Moses was alone.
      2. Job was alone.
      3. Isaiah was alone.
      4. The Woman at the well was alone
   b) God talked with him. He shut out the things of earth, fire and earthquake, & just heard God.

3. GOD GAVE HIM A TASK - 1 Kings 19: 15-21
   a) The healing ministry of God is accomplished when we forget ourselves, our sorrows, our condition, & develop a concern for others.
   b) We find ourselves when we lose ourselves in another. Elijah's greatest work was not the work on Mount Carmel, but finding a young man by the name of Elisha, who would go forth to double what Elijah had done.

CONCLUSION: God is calling, Are you ready to unload?
EVENTS

Our month began with a trip to & tour of the Downtown Eastside (DTES) hosted by Residential Program Manager, Jeff Baergen. Along with case workers & counsellors attending, accompanied by city councillor, Sarah Potts, she wanted to see what true abstinence-based recovery looks like. We spent hours touring Union Gospel Mission (UGM), Harbour Light, & several social enterprises including H.A.V.E. Café, East Van Roasters, Pigeon Park Savings as well as some time with the street community there. It was very educational and eye-opening for all involved.

Jobs

In April J.S. found work at a greenhouse & really enjoys the therapeutic aspects of it, stating his health has greatly improved since arriving at the Salvation Army ARC, while N.D. started a new job, which he is enjoying.

As of Apr. 22nd M.F. has a paid job at Lucky Bar, hours until 2 am for good money.

As of Apr. 3rd B.T. found housing, moving into Mount Douglas Seniors Society’s brand new building in July & is super excited about his new place. He will be paying $510 a month for rent, utilities, cable & internet all in. As of Apr. 2nd H.F. found a place in Colwood.

On Apr. 19th K.G. moved out into the community, making a free bed available. As of Apr. 26th, S.H. arranged housing through Pacifica, & it’s up by Mayfair.

On Apr. 24th G.M.T. moved into the Travellers Inn on Douglas St., a huge win having spent the last year sleeping rough outside.

On Apr. 29th L.M. got brand new, absolutely beautiful housing in Sooke, BC. N.S, a long time resident found supportive housing as of Apr. 30th while R.S. moved out into the community on Apr. 31.

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Web link - Nexgen
PROGRAMS
Ministry Reports
April overview
In keeping with the statistics of caring, in April we at the ARC provided 2839 nights rest for men in our care serving 139 unique residents. We helped 2 residents leave the ARC to go to Drug / Alcohol treatment! We moved 4 men moved from shelter beds to join our Transitional Housing Program while moving 3 men to our permanent housing from our Transitional Housing Program. We helped 9 residents secure future housing, & move out over the next few months. 2 ex-residents contacted us to let us know they found stable, secure housing. We love it when our guys keep in touch, & share their successes!

March Overview
In March we provided 3008 nights rest for men in our care, and served 131 unique residents. We moved 8 men have moved on to permanent housing from our Transitional Housing Program while 3 men moved from shelter beds to join our Transitional Housing Program. Our emergency weather mat program (EWP) wound down in March having opened for 10 nights of extreme weather in that Month, allowing us to provide an additional 331 sleeps to street entrenched, homeless men and women sleeping rough.

Comedy at the Met
Trevor Impey took 6 of our residents out to a comedy show at the Met last night! & they all loved it! The highlight, as we understand, was the actors engaging with our guys after the show. We love facilitating ‘normal’ for our guys. #dignity

Wellness Wednesday
Rob McMeachan took 7 ARC residents to the Victoria Bug Zoo in what proved to be a beneficial outing for our men. They provided a superb guide who delivered an excellent presentation answering the questions raised by our men, most of whom were willing to handle the different bugs. For some this was a courageous act. Comments by our men included: "I felt a little bit nervous." "... very different...definitely learned something new

Staff Training "Essence of Effective Leadership" by Peter Mccoppin
This training scheduled on Mar 26th & 27th, 2019 & dealt with the nurturing proactive leadership style, encouraging active engagement of staff & clients. It becomes a matter of building fellowship for what you need, more than making people do what you want.

Web Link—Peter Mccoppin

Sunday Movie & Monday Games Nights
The games & movies were run since fall, by Nursing students Alisha & Victoria on their practicum, which is now over. We have to look to staff to fill in in May.

Spring has final arrived as March came in like a lion & went out like a lamb.
Early April fire drill & every body had to leave the building & come back. Much fun as it looks.

Waiting for the First Aid Course to start

Trainer & Facilitator, has developed & delivered several programs regularly providing services to ShelterNetBC, the Salvation Army, Portland Hotel Society, Canadian Mental Health Association & many others, while also maintaining an active Senior Trainer role at the Justice Institute of BC. The majority attending had nothing but positive words to say about the training & we hope to do it again soon!

Web Link—Homelessness Services Association of BC

First Aid OFA-1
The Occupational First Aid (OFA)–Level 1 training for the batch previously cancelled on Feb. 12th was rescheduled to Apr. 2nd, Tue. from 08:30 am–4 pm in the ARC Chapel. We pulled out the dolls & equipment practiced our exercises & got everybody trained. They are our most common course & it can be matter of real concentration to not take them lightly despite their importance.

Web Link—Resusci Anne
Web Link—WCB
Web Link—Alert

Managing Hostile interactions
On Apr. 29 from 8 pm–4 pm, Mario Govorchin led the training course “Managing Hostile Interactions” the ARC Chapel. Mario a dynamic, energetic, entertaining speaker & trainer, has much experience in leadership, team development, change management, workplace harassment prevention, conflict resolution & communication. Well regarded as an interventionist for organizations with high internal conflict, with particular strengths in individual performance, behavioural coaching & mediating complex multi-party disputes, he has significant experience working with individuals & teams in a coaching context; helping them to see & understand a variety of processes in new ways. Well-known & recognized for his skills he is acknowledged as an expert in the area of workplace violence prevention. Being very committed to Social Services agencies throughout BC as both a

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Extreme Weather Protocol (EWP)
March was the culmination of a program that was renewed last year &—with the way things continue to go—will most likely be renewed next year. Extreme weather & people in distress don't go away. At the very least, this begs a synopsis of the winter months. From November to now, saw cold wind, rain & snow bringing starting last year & bringing us to EWP’s close in March & finishing with a final shout out to our EWP team who routinely did everything well, all the time. For perspective, last year, the number of men & women receiving a good night’s sleep in EWP, totaled 32 nights ending our last EWP day on Mar. 6th. This year we provided, as of Mar. 5th, 1157 men & women a good night’s sleep in EWP over 47 nights, with no end in sight. February resulted in 787 sleeps provided, exceeding last year’s total. But March was different. As of Mar 5th snow was long gone while temperatures warmed giving us the occasional rain. By Mar. 7th a small tent town sprang up across the street—because we were here... resulting in a party that got out of hand. We kept tighter watch & moved on to our last EWP day was on Mar 11th. After that, the temperature warmed up & we saw 14–20 degree days. People are back outside & its not as cold anymore having warmed up considerably by March. Apr. 1st saw the official end of EWP, but there are still tents in town & the problems don’t go away. Drugs, isolation, are all still there like an old unfortunate friend.

Web link — Victoria Extreme Weather Protocol (EWP).

It sits on our computer screen for no other reason than it's a cute pleasant sentiment. Some day it will be a properly sourced quote to "Mr. Anon"

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