

# Life on the Front Line

## THE LOVING TOUCH OF GOD Mark 1: 40-45

<sup>40</sup> A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." <sup>41</sup> Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" <sup>42</sup> Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed. <sup>43</sup> Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: <sup>44</sup> "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." <sup>45</sup> Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere. It is difficult to get the full impact of Jesus' encounter with the leper without understanding what leprosy meant in Jesus' day. It brought great suffering as the body actually fell apart. Even worse than that was the separation, as a contagious disease, Lepers were always kept at arms length. They were required to stay six feet away from uninfected people. They were believed to contaminate homes. They had to constantly say '**Unclean, unclean!**' You had to keep your distance. Lepers were rejected from society and from other people. No one ever touched a leper. Keep that in mind in order to fully understand the significance of the Gospel. In **verse 40** – He didn't walk up to Jesus, he had experienced rejection every time he had drawn close to others. He had seen them pull back in horror and revulsion. "Away! Away! Don't come near!" So it was with hesitation and caution and on his knees he came to Jesus and said '*If you will, you can make me clean!*'

**'If You Will'** – He believed – heard about the miracles – lame walked, blind saw, but he was not sure those would do it. He spoke for many and maybe you when he said '*if you are willing*'. Many are convinced of the power of God but are not sure of the will of God. Most people think of God as one whose power is *Awesome*, but because of our experience in life – the world in which we live – we often doubt God's will to do anything that significantly affects us. We acknowledge His power but doubt His love. So it was for the leper. The world in which he lived had hardened his heart. He had no illusions about life, knowing its harshness and cruelty. He believed in God and had been told that Jesus was the Son of God & the promised Messiah, but had reservations about God's love, about God's capacity to care, to enter actively in a healing way into his life. This is true, I believe, for many of us. As we see our world, problems seem awesome. Suffering is everywhere and we question, '*Where is God in all of this? Why doesn't He do something? Why does He let the innocent suffer?*' Thoughts like these must have been on the mind of this leper when he came to Jesus. Even though he knew of the power of God, he was not sure of God's will, so he said, '*If you are willing ...*'

If nothing else you read resonates, know this – as we see in this story **Jesus cares!** Jesus, gripped with compassion, reached out his hand and physically touched this man. He touched him! We can't minimize the significance of this. In a sense, the whole gospel could be boiled down to this. Jesus touched one who was untouchable. No one else would touch him Jesus didn't need to touch him to heal him. A word could have done that! He touched him to renew and restore his soul, his heart and his spirit. This man was covered with ulcerous sores but he was sicker inside at the rejection he had experienced. When Jesus touched him, something wonderful happened. His heart was strengthened. "*Someone cares enough to reach across that great chasm that separates us and touch ME.*" God does care, so much that he sent his son to die for each and every one of us. No matter how much the world may turn against us, no matter how much rejection we may experience, there is one who will never reject us! He will always accept us and will always reach across that chasm and touch us with his loving hand.

**THE TOUCH OF ACCEPTANCE** The message of the gospel is that we are acceptable to God ... He accepts us through Jesus Christ. Nothing can separate us from the love of God – not even leprosy. **Verse 41** '*I am willing, be clean!*' Jesus is saying, in effect, '*My love is equal to my power*' and when that man received the '**touch of God**', he was cured - healed of his leprosy.

The love of God has power and the power of God has love! God doesn't want us just to be accepted. He wants us to be changed. In His love He wants to embrace us and say, '*I care about you. I am concerned about you.*' But also in love He says, '*I long to do something about the conditions of your life. I want to bring change.*' And so Jesus said to this man, not just '*I am willing*', but "*be clean*". Men and women touched by the love of God experience God's acceptance. They experience the power of God's acceptance and love at work, bringing to them a knowledge of the forgiveness of their sins and new life, as beloved Children of God. God's love is the love of the father for the Prodigal. When God reaches out and embraces us, when He touches us through Jesus Christ, we experience the forgiveness of the Father and we are restored as Children, He cleanses us. When we are touched by the love of Jesus Christ, we are accepted, embraced, healed, and made clean in the sight of God.

Do you need that touch?

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



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## An inspirational Quote

"Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear & the blind can see."

Mark Twain.

## CLIENT ACHIEVEMENTS

### Programs & Personal Wins

On Sept 9<sup>th</sup>, W.S. came to the front desk & announced that he had found the 2 long lost children that he had been looking for. He was very emotional, with tears of joy.

D.C. became a resident here in Sept, after 6 weeks of being an outreach client. He says he feels safe here. K.S. was accepted into a treatment program in Sept.

On Sept 10<sup>th</sup>, P.K. stated he would be taking a program at UBC in the following week.

On Sept 26<sup>th</sup> D.F. was accepted into Harbour Light treatment in Vancouver. Leaving for the mainland, next day. On the same day D.L. was been accepted into the "Streets to Homes" program. On a more personal note D.B. is 1 month sober as of Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, states his health has never been better.

A.A. left at the Sept 30<sup>th</sup> to see his mother in Toronto. He has not seen her in 20 years. It is our hope that it will go well.

On Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> new resident T.F. came to us straight from detox, planning his next steps going forward. On Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> E.H. signed up for a computer course starting the following Mon. morning.



One of our clients watching the world go by on a foggy day as Autumn returns to Victoria

**Rooms**

Our Transitional Housing Program (THP) gained 5 more people in September. On Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, W.C.D. moved into 259 & T.L. moved into Room 260. On Sept 11<sup>th</sup> B.L. moved into room 317 & is working on building his life. On Sept 12<sup>th</sup> R.L moved into Room 250. On Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, M.S. moved out the Dorms into 231.

K.S. moved into Room 255 as part of the Transitional Housing Program (THP) in Mid Oct. M.O'B. moved into 233 on Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>. In Oct 20<sup>th</sup> B.M. arrived with a congenital heart condition & having just gone through detox - causing stress to his heart. He is in Room 230 while he waits for a treatment program & as well as a scheduled follow-up with outpatient psychiatry at RJH.

**Housing**

In Sept., 4 clients moved into the community in permanent housing, starting with C.E. moving from 259 on Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. J.G. moved on the evening of Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. He thanked us for his stay & did not disclose his reasons for leaving. On Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> P.H. moved into an apartment, picking up his belongings in early Oct. Plans & efforts that had been in process during Sept., resulted in S.S. finding housing in Victoria, moving out at the end Sept. He accepted the apartment, overcoming his fear of moving, life changes, new things & living on his own for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in years, with the support of the ARC team. He even got a crockpot for small meals in his new place. S.S. says he is excited & very grateful & will visit us often.

S.R. Packed up, moving into the community on Oct 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Jobs**

As of Early Sept. C.N. gained part time at Value Village, adding a job at MacDonald's, as well that started early Oct. He keep's himself busy building his life. As of Sept 10<sup>th</sup> R. F. has a job & picks up regular lunches. As of Sept 11<sup>th</sup> J.M. works late nights in a kitchen downtown. A.D. & C.V. & D.B. are working, steady, long

hours well past midnights as of Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>. As of Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> N.S. has started a job working



Charles "Chuck" Humble moved up island

late into the in a kitchen getting off work after midnight.

**Memoriam**

On Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> J.G. moved out this evening. He thanked us for his stay. He had a personal loss which he chose not to disclose, but he has moved in with friends, which is why he left.

**Marc Heibey**

On Sept 28<sup>th</sup>, we were informed that our residential client, Mr. Marc Heibey having been taken to the Royal Jubilee Hospital, had passed away the night before. His family stopped by & told us later same day.

**EVENTS**

The Autumn fog & rain battled & overtook the sunshine as the background for life at the ARC. It was a busy time for events, including Men's Camp, Practicum Student Events, Wellness Wednesday, Thanksgiving meals, the Great BC Shakeout Drill & Halloween, & became added to the busy mosaic of work with clients & dealing with the circumstances of our day to day world.



We got an outdoor stove for CRF Dept. programs



Every couple of days they bring new things in or move them out.



## MENS CAMP/Sept 21-23, 2018

The ARC contingent for Men's Camp, left at 06:30, hooking up at the Stan Hagan Centre & Langford contingents. We had coffee & chatted, while, waiting for the group from Langford & we all left at 07:30 for the ferry at Swartz Bay. Arriving at Tsawwassen via Active Pass around 10:30 we connected at Horseshoe Bay, grabbing the ferry for the Sunshine Coast, arriving at Camp Sunrise in Langdale around 15:00. We registered at Gooding Hall, getting beds in Maple Cabin. We attended a welcome "BBQ" held under a canopy by the Dining Hall, but heavy rains that evening resulted in dinner in the Dining Hall. Prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> in the Chapel, we were welcomed by the Worship team "the Knuckleheads" after which we were introduced to, Jamie Braund Lt. Colonel & Divisional Commander of the British Columbia Division. We were introduced to our guest speaker Oscar Roan, a retired Cleveland Browns football player raised in South Dallas, now involved in & co-labouring with several Christian ministries in America including the Salvation Army. This is his 1<sup>st</sup> time ministering in Canada. Late night snacks, coffee — served 24/7 throughout Men's Camp— fellowship continued 09:30 & was followed later by a "Friends of Bill

W." meeting coordinated by David Sprague, at the Campfire pit by the beach. Prayer Locations overseen by David Grice, THQ Pastoral Services Office, were held indoor at the ARC Lounge or outside in the Forest by the court as weather allowed. The next day, Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> was a busy day which started with 06:30 Early Risers Coffee in Gooding Hall with Breakfast in the Dining Hall at 08:00, followed by Session 2 by Oscar Roan, at 09:00, refreshment by 10:15 outside the Dining Hall, & at 10:45, a presentation of "Living Sacrifice" — the nature of nurturing & sharing — Jason Dockery, Lunch at 12:00, followed by several activities including Swimming, Hiking, Zip line, a trip to Downtown Gibson's & opening of the Tuck Shop in camp. The Luau Dinner in the Dining Hall—a theme clearly planned to put us all in gaudy, funny looking shirts — began at 18:00 & was enjoyed by all. Session 3 in the Chapel, with worship & discourse by Oscar, began at 19:00, followed by snacks & a talent

program at 21:00 called "Men's Camp Got talent", hosted by B.J. Loder. A "Friends of Bill" Campfire meeting finished the day. Sun., Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>, started with Early Risers Coffee in Gooding Hall, with Continental Breakfast up next in the Dining Hall at 7:30 am. This was followed by Session IV at 8:30 am. An offering was held for Deborah's Gate, a place of Hope & Restoration for survivors of exploitation & human trafficking, followed by the Sunrise Brunch at the Dining Hall at 10:15 am. At 13:10 pm. We departed the way we came through roads & ferry terminals, back





...This was my 2<sup>nd</sup> time attending camp. Last year was the 1<sup>st</sup> time. The quality is very high and the anointing is alive ... God bless all involved; our leaders, drivers, servers, speakers & preachers. Oscar was on fire & was a privilege to listen to.... Good food — peaceful setting — good sessions with (Oscar) Roan & others". These were statements from our clients, but I think we all had a general feeling of renewal.



This was followed by a "Tailgate Party" at the Citadel, on the following Monday, with Oscar Roan & ARC clients & staff in attendance.



to ARC around 18:00 that evening. Men's Camp was over for another year. Bob McMeechan took in comments from our clients who went & he received kudos from them. In his own words "Dear Friends, The men from our centre thoroughly enjoyed & appreciated the recent Men's Camp. Many comments were made: "Three A's & three B's ("Awesome — Blessed"(X3) "... "The camp was amazing, excellent food, great speaker & good Company."... "Enjoyed the event. Enjoyed getting away for the week — end.

**WEBLINK**  
**Trip to Camp Sunrise 2018**  
**Camp Sunrise**  
**Oscar Roan**





Sometimes its just quiet reflection



Its Art Day in the Chapel & everything is set up & ready to go.



Art Day was held on Oct 3, 12:30-14:30 in the Chapel Tim Hortons Coffee Tea & snacks were served. From Acting Residence Manager Troy Lutz "...thanks to the nursing students for hosting "Art day" here at the ARC. Feedback from the residents was really positive... thanks to Natalie & Karina for putting in a lot of effort to make our guys feel welcome on a cold day! Application Housing Assistance held on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> 8 am-10 pm & very was successful.

**WELLNESS WEDNESDAY**

On Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> We had a crew of 4 go to Beacon Hill Park for Mini Golf, lead by RSW Bob McMeechan. It was enjoyed by all. On Oct 24<sup>th</sup> Bob took another crew to the IMAX theatre.

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY**

The Chapel was closed for a variety of reasons & activities. over the summer, primarily related to our renovation of several Dorm rooms, which resulted in the shut down of Celebrate Recovery for several months. It is now back in operation, having started Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> at 06:15.

**PRACTICUM STUDENTS**

Nursing students Chris, Anna, Natalie & Karina started on their practicum in September, joining us for a couple of months shadowing the RSW'S. They also conducted projects for our clients starting in October including:



Halloween Event was held on Oct 29<sup>th</sup>—Piñata & movie 12:30-3:30 in the Chapel—Snacks & coffee served

**THANKSGIVING MEALS**

It was a time for Thanksgiving & several meals were held. One on Oct 8<sup>th</sup> was held for our ARC in house clients at 15:00 pm & a separate meal



was held on Oct 10<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am-12:45 pm .  
**New Counsellor**

We welcome Eugene Ford was welcomed as full—time counsellor to the Residential dept. He started on Oct.9<sup>th</sup> & working Mon.—Fri, 08:30 am.—04:30 pm. from his office on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Enthusiastic in helping our participants, he supports our people for Trauma, Drug & Alcohol counselling, Psycho-social rehabilitation, Suicidal ideation support, Process addictions i.e. Hoarding, Gambling etc., Possible Men's groups i.e. addiction, Trauma, Anger Management, life skills etc.



Getting ready for Thanksgiving Dinner in the Community Dining Room

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The fog returns on the "little cat feet" in the words of Sandburg.



**GREAT BC SHAKE OUT**

The Victoria ARC participated in the Great British Columbia Shakeout drill on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:18am. A Shake Out drill was announced over the PA system at the Front Desk in the Main Lobby, explaining & demonstrating at length, the nature of Drop, Cover, Hold On routines as the safest way to respond to an earthquake, shown as follows:

- **DROP** to the ground (before the earthquake drops you).
- Take **COVER** under a sturdy desk/table.
- **HOLD ON** until the shaking stops.
- **STAY THERE** for 60 secs., while unstable objects time to settle.

**WEB LINKS**

- Great BC Shakeout
- Great Shakeout Poster



**Anger Management Program**

A new Anger Management program was approved, & started Mon. 10:00-12:00 am. As the program functions on a drop-in basis, participants are welcome to go as they please, but have to officially 'complete' the entire program of 5 weeks in a row seeing either Karla or Eugene for 2 appointments a week – 24 hours of combined support. Successful program completion will result in a certificate & character reference for potential employment.

**HALLOWEEN**

**CRF Pumpkin Carving Contest**

CAMS volunteers held their regular volunteer event on Thur. Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> C.A.M.S. BBQ – CRF Pumpkin Carving Contest.

**Halloween Event**

Practicum nurses from UVIC followed up with



their Halloween even on Oct 29<sup>th</sup> Halloween Event— Piñata & movie 12:30pm.-3:30pm. in the Chapel—Snacks & Coffee were served.



**New Caseworker**

As Oct 19<sup>th</sup> Kathlene Scheurle on became our newest caseworker (CSW). She is enthusiastic in helping others as evidenced by her work.



Winners in the CRF Pumpkin Carving Contest

## POETRY

### Jacek

#### *Emerald Souls*

We have met in the darkness of the ancient jungle,  
Two emerald souls thirsting for the joy of the unknown,

Her jewel eyes forged from sweetness  
From the lilacs enjoyment of blooming.

Her smile, precious, tender potent with religious mystical pleasure.  
Her lips playfully reflecting some enchanting prayer.

Leaves of her hair spread a canopy over  
The delirious desire of the charioteers heart.

Her scent bidding nature's senses to feverish explosion  
and gravity, to bring amazement to a standstill

How easy mortals can measure God's gifts  
cursed to eternal boredom which cannot be challenged

Until the quest of nothingness is complete  
and here we met - two emerald souls.

Spinning time to find the moment which will  
never be understood and never again resumed

#### *Thought*

Thought is an idea, but could be delivered as "Deux Ex Machina",  
strings from somebody's brain,  
Sometimes embracing heaven and sometimes  
grasping for freshness of sewage games

Thought is only yours when the fire of truth  
purges the complexity of desires  
and grinds darkness of moods  
Thought creates its own, then creates my brain  
flooding life in prodigious vanity.  
When never used, it may retaliate  
to groove an Alzheimer's frightening grave.

Thought is an idea which in a mystical way,  
remembers that is not "Deux Ex Machina",

#### *Sound*

Sound is seeping from walls, naves, crystal windows  
caressing candles and their yellow light,  
chasing echoes beyond and behind pillars  
as enormous as time

Sound crawls on the coldness of marble floors  
polishing stone patterns of its own accord,  
commanding silence to freeze  
in the far invisible corner

Sound makes a cathedral a living being,  
a Gregorian choir charting its Latin mysteries.  
Masses of solace seeking the mix  
of hopes and the burdens of sins.

Invisible angles taking a bath in sublime sound  
that is waxing feathers of their wings  
on which God is descending, wrapped  
in a rainbow of myth  
That sound has healing power but

sometimes can deafen ears  
because that sound is our own  
born from our own breath

Inside sound mysteries  
we hear ourselves,  
and that diabolical disbelief  
Makes sanity a fragile gift

#### *Mirrors*

Mirrors are scars on the surface of time.  
Mirrors awakening immortality in mortals petty minds,  
They reflect on souls long after faces are gone.

Mirrors make a blur of light shining as the burning sun.  
Mirrors trap us inside spirals of our shadowy past.  
Illuminated by shadow of twisted dreams, repeated stories,  
which may have happened but the end never came,

Mirrors sometimes awaken a servant from hell'  
who would love to trade everything for a price  
of birth honour and death.

Mirrors bring out fear from beauty  
which has a symmetrical hold  
despite the effort of time to escape  
From their families.

And when the room of life will give up  
its supremacy to the dark,  
Mirrors will go dim beyond something  
as trivial as the mischief of a child.

#### **Anonymous**

##### *Untitled*

I found myself without morals Where it all began  
booking on the place we all want to live  
I drop to see forever, not wanting to see wrong  
I stopped, I continued:  
Not rightly to clear my head.  
I travelled for 3 weeks.  
On the 3<sup>rd</sup> week i looked to my heart to see love  
but found the heart of the beast.  
To know my enemy  
I have done wrong through the land of the heartless  
I can do wrong no more  
I fought the pain in my left hand with my right extended out.  
I see the devil & he binds me  
but aren't devils merely angels carrying away your guilt?  
I stopped on the last day of the last month of the last year:  
& again looked to my heart to find love.  
My life must be righteous in a place unknown  
So I can read my soul where it all began



Ghosts waiting in line for the Community Dining Room to open,  
marking time until their lives change