




**Victory
Foundation**

7012 Ogden Road SE

Building a heart in the heart of Calgary



**Pastor
Don Delaney**

TRANSFERENCE OF HOPE

Christmas reminds us of a new hope born in a manger two thousand years ago! A hope that has been transferred from generation to generation; through every society, culture, and demographic. Even in the toughest of places (like the old Ogden Hotel), hope can be transferred.

Recently I was invited to speak to a local high school assembly. I was sharing Pieter's story of hope (illustrated in the insert in this issue). At the end of the presentation, a young girl approached me and asked me to wait while she ran to her desk. A few minutes later she came back with a Tim Horton's gift card and asked if I would give it to Pieter. His story of hope had really touched her heart. I took the card and passed it along to Tom, our Program Director, and he passed the card on to Pieter.

The following Sunday I saw Pieter in church and asked how he was. He immediately began to share how touched he was to receive the gift from the young girl, "Even though", he said quietly, "I don't really like Tim Horton's coffee." Then, with some emotion in his voice, he said, "You'll never guess what happened!" He shared that after he received the gift card, he decided to thank the young girl and buy a teddy bear for her. He went to a store where you purchase and stuff your own teddy bears. As he was searching for the right bear, the store

clerk came over and offered assistance. Pieter began to share his story with the clerk and together they found the perfect bear for the girl. Pieter waited in line and got his money ready to pay for the bear. When his turn came, the clerk motioned with her hand for Pieter to put his money away. She said that there would be no charge for his purchase. It was her way of being a part of this little story of hope that had touched her heart. Pieter couldn't believe how things had transpired and, as he finished telling me the story that Sunday morning, he said, "I passed the Tim Horton's gift card on to someone who appreciates the coffee a lot!". A final recipient in this little story of hope being transferred.

Two years ago you would never have thought Pieter could be the instrument of hope and inspiration that he is today. But he, like many others in the Ogden Hotel, are beginning to be transformed by the transference of hope; a little bit at a time. Over the past two years this transference of hope has resulted in many changes in the Ogden Hotel. As you walk through the building today you can sense a more peaceful, happier, and hopeful atmosphere coming from the residents. There are social activities ranging from day trips to the mountains, to barbeques, to Christmas dinner being cooked by some of the residents. There is even a sense of community with individuals looking out for one another in a way that was not seen before. Addiction groups are offered a few times a week to help

those who struggle with bad habits. There is also a resident addiction counselor available to give support at all times. Our church congregation meets on the main floor and offers a place for many residents beginning a journey of hope, and our bus ministry picks up individuals at the local shelters. But one of the most exciting changes has been something that was not instigated by myself or any of our staff; the residents have started a weekly prayer meeting to pray for the peace and the needs of the residents. Nothing transfers hope like prayer.

I would never say that everything is perfect with our fifty residents; but I will say that today there is an atmosphere of hope. This hope has slowly been transferred by individuals in the building along with supporters from outside the building. A place that was once hard, has now turned into an atmosphere of hope. This Christmas, I am asking you to make this hope tangible in a way that will directly impact the quality of life for the residents. Please help us complete Phase II of our renovation to help make this a safer, healthier place for our residents to live in. (Please see the last page of the newsletter for more information on giving to this very important project).

From all of us at the Victory Foundation, we wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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A SENSE OF FAMILY



Ken Malik

“For the first time in my life I feel a sense of family and belonging.”

They say that a change is as good as a rest. If that is true, then I should be the most rested guy in the world. Since the time I left home at sixteen, I have never spent more than four years in one place. My life has been filled with change. Moving from job to job and from city to city became a way of life for me.

I grew up on Cape Breton Island with my parents, and was the oldest of four brothers and one sister. My dad worked in the military and later as a miner. Like most children, I grew up in a dysfunctional family. My parents argued constantly and there always seemed to be an atmosphere of strife in our house. The only peaceful times were when my dad would be away working in the mines for weeks at a time. Whenever he came home, the fighting would continue where it had left off. My parents seemed to constantly blame each other for their unhappiness. In order to avoid this strife, I would stay away from home for days at a time and hang out at a friend's house.

What made things worse was that my relatives were more like the Hatfields and McCoys. My mom's family would side with her and my dad's family would side with him. It was a real live family feud (without the shooting). I think that my aunts and uncles always felt sorry for us kids being caught in the middle of things. Every Christmas they would come over with bags and bags of gifts and shower us with more toys than we knew what to do with. This was one of the few bright spots in my otherwise chaotic childhood.

In 1962, at the age of twelve, my dad sat me down and told me that he was going away to work in the mines again and that he would not be coming back. That was the last time I saw him until eleven years later when, in 1973, I caught up to him in Victoria. We had an opportunity then to renew our relationship. I loved both of my parents. I somehow could understand their frustration with each other

but never took one side over the other.

One day, when I was sixteen years old, I was walking home from school with my friend. On an impulse, we decided to hitchhike to Toronto. Just like my dad, I left home suddenly and never looked back. I called my mom when I got to Toronto and she didn't seem too surprised about the event. I did return home a year later in order to enter the military. Once again I found myself following in my dad's footsteps. I worked as a communications officer for seven years before leaving the military at age twenty-four. For the next thirty plus years I moved from town to town and job to job. I think that I have done just about everything there is to do for employment. Working on oil rigs, in resorts, truck stops and bars have been just a few of the things that I have done.

About a year ago I landed in Calgary where I decided that it was time to think about doing

Tom from the Victory Foundation and heard about the affordable housing they had in Ogden.

A few months later, I met with Tom and was accepted into their transitional housing program. From this point, everything began to move quickly. I went back to school last September and will have my GED completed by early next year. From there I have been asked by the Homeless Foundation to attend a new University program that will be offered in 2010. This program will study the different aspects and causes of homelessness. I am now moving toward a career of working with the homeless and the issues surrounding homelessness. I feel that I will be able to make a difference in this area.

The Victory Foundation has helped me move to a place of stability and success in my life. **For the first time in my life I feel a sense of family and**



Ken Malik with Ed Stelmach as the Homeless Foundation's new "poster boy"

something different (like settling in one place and getting some roots). I was just getting too old to continue roaming from place to place. I ended up renting a room at the Booth Centre while I tried to figure out what to do next. Then, last spring, I attended the Project Homeless Connect event that was held downtown at the Petro-Canada building. It was here that I met

belonging. I have recently renewed my relationship with God and I am now looking forward to my future. I am very thankful for the Victory Foundation and the Alyth Lodge for all that they have done to help me. It was through their help that I was able to begin to discover a sense of purpose and destiny for my life.





FINDING PURPOSE AND DIRECTION

Have you ever found yourself stopping long enough to take a good look at your life and wonder; "What am I doing?" or "Where am I going?" Have you ever wondered and then found yourself taking the next step by asking yourself; "Can I do **SOMETHING** to make a difference in the life of another human being?"

Some time ago I found myself at this intersection in my life and came to an abrupt stop. Though I never did turn the key off, I sat for a rather long time with my motor idling and not going anywhere. It wasn't a very productive time in my life but, it was a time of getting some clarity of thought and direction for the next leg of my journey. It was during this time that I was drawn to a scripture in the bible. The scripture was from the book of Luke and said; "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4: 18-19 NIV Bible).

To a Baptist girl these words became very real to me. Once again I found myself asking questions and needing to make some changes. Through this scripture, I realized that I had a calling to reach out and help people the way that Jesus did. To do this would require a big change in my life. I needed to get off the road I was on and get on a road of helping others. I found myself desiring to go and love others like Jesus loved me. This journey became a road of discovery and adventure as I found my heart becoming softer and more compassionate as I reached out to help others.

I found this heart of compassion and love alive and well at Eastside Victory Outreach Centre in Forest

Lawn. Individuals with a heart for God and for each other; softened by His love and ever pliable. Our outreach family faithfully goes out every second Monday night at 7:00PM to communicate this love in many different forms and designs. Forest Lawn is being turned right side up with the love of God and the love of others. Whether the wind blows, snow falls, rains come or the sun is scorching hot; you will find a compassionate, kind, hard working and faithful band of merry men, women, children and families coming to a park near you. The park is in Forest Lawn off of 43rd street and 10th avenue. Approximately ninety to one hundred and twenty come out on any given Monday. Why do so many come out? Because we are family. This is about showing the real heart of God to those in the community. Very simply put, it takes a family to nurture and raise a child and it takes a community to nurture and raise a family.

In this last year at Eastside our outreach team has grown to thirty five people. Each one brings a unique talent and gift, and everyone is always ready to lend a hand wherever it is needed. Everyone who is involved has responded to the call of getting on the road to helping others. Here are a few of our outreach team's personal insights and comments on what moves them to come out Monday nights.

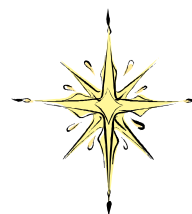
Carol says; "I love to see the look of appreciation on people's faces that I would come out and do this for them." Chris and Tasha said; "We like being there for the people. We enjoy talking to people and helping them anyway we can." Mandy spoke up too, saying; "I'm a living testimony of God's love having reached out to me. My love is to go out and share my gifts so that others will know the love of God. Monica likes to give back for some of the blessings she has received. She says; "Christ was an example on how to minister to others and we need to follow His lead." Barry also shared his heart with

us. "It's a compassion for people. To help them know He's a God of love. To let them know that they have a hope and a better way of life with Him."

Jean Guy appreciates the opportunity to share the love of God with others. He likes to encourage those who are down and need encouragement. Paul and Michelle say "It's a way of sowing God's love into peoples hearts. It's about putting words into action. There's such a need in our community for people to feel loved. Many are empty and hurting. We need to meet them (and love them) where they are at with the unconditional love of God." Marilyn also enjoys meeting new people and sharing her faith in a practical way.

There are many more who come out. Lending a hand with everything from cooking food; to setting up tents and sound equipment; to doing face painting and sports with children. There is singing, dancing, and flagging as well as people playing live music. We also have teachings, preaching, testimonies, and speaking. When the night is over, there is always lots of help in cleaning up. Some of the greatest times are when a warm hug and a big smile is given, or a shoulder is there to cry on. A prayer is followed by an encouraging word. As you keep looking around you will find those who are quietly handing out clothes, bibles, drinks and even colorful balloons. With all of this, there is still so much more room for everyone. Room enough for all.

So God calls us to pray, reach out, trust Him and leave the results to Him. Trusting that He **IS ABLE** to do exceedingly above all we could ever imagine. He will never let go and neither will we.



Written by Dawn Rankel

Special Thanks & Contact Information



Special Thanks !!

to the following companies who have contributed to the Aylth Lodge Renovations to date!

- Cabinet Solutions
- Cartwright Lighting
- Contour Countertops
- Gunther's Building Center
- Price-Rite Plumbing
- NGR Insulation
- Tri-Jay Carpet
- Daltile

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