




Victory Foundation

7012 Ogden Road SE

Building a heart in the heart of Calgary



Pastor Don Delaney

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A FIRST PLACE FINISH

Ken Goertzen had driven by our building several times wondering what was going on inside. Then one day he saw Vic (our administrator of eighteen years) sweeping the parking lot. Ken pulled up, introduced himself, and an instant friendship began. Ken was fifty-seven. He loved his kids and grandkids and had various careers throughout his life in which trucking was the most successful. At one point he had his own company with six drivers. Because of stress, health complications, and a divorce, his dreams were cut short and life had left him with more questions than answers. So here was Ken standing idle in the latter part of his life wondering what to do next.

Matthew 20:1-16 talks about a land owner who sets out to hire laborers to work in his field. He hired them on the third hour, the sixth hour and the ninth hour. Finally on the eleventh hour, he went out and found men standing in the marketplace. He asked them why they stood idle all day. Their response was that no one had yet hired them. There was a willingness to work, but no work available. I don't think this passage has as much to do with our vocational work as it does with finding the purpose God has put us on this earth for. Ken was looking for that purpose!

Vic began to explain all that

went on around the fifty room Victory Manor in Ogden. The more he shared, the more Ken was intrigued. Vic and Ken began to meet and pray on a more regular basis. First for Ken's needs, but eventually the focus turned to the needs of the clients in our programs. Ken began attending services at the Victory Manor, and it wasn't long after that he began driving the mini bus to pick up the homeless from the local shelter. Ken had a quiet caring disposition that endeared him to all who met him. Before long the bus was full and, on some days, he would even have to make two trips. If that wasn't enough, Ken decided to move into the Victory Manor so he could be more available to the individuals he wanted to see restored. It was like he had finally discovered the call and purpose of his life and he was jumping in with both feet.

Ken's sensitive and caring heart quickly began to impact the residents. His apartment door was always open so individuals would feel welcome to come and share their struggles and pains. Ken was always ready with a kind word and an encouraging prayer. After two years, Ken's caring heart influenced as much positive change in individuals as any other program we offered.

Sadly, almost two years to the day of coming to the Victory Manor, Ken Goertzen died of a sudden heart attack. He passed

away on Sunday, May 9th 2010 at the age of fifty-nine. That morning was filled with his normal routine of picking up guys and bringing them to the service. I shook his hand that morning and asked how he was. He responded with a familiar smile and said; "I'm just doing tickedy-boo." Even on his last morning, Ken took time to counsel a young man who was in tears and entertaining thoughts of suicide. Ken, in his gentle caring way, replaced despair with hope as he had done with so many others.

I saw firsthand the impact Ken had on the men and women of the Victory Manor in the two short years he was there. It really became all the more apparent after his death how incredibly blessed we were to have had the gift of Ken for the time we did. There is a great sadness in the building but also a great appreciation to have known this wonderful man for the last two years of his life.

Two years out of fifty-nine was a small portion of his life. But, like the laborer in the scripture who was hired at the eleventh hour, Ken's last labor of life was in total service to the work field of God who will reward to the full. Ken will always be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Visit our Website at www.victoryfoundation.ca



Pastor Tom Maxwell

“Victory happens when a person moves from a place of despair to a place of stability and success.”

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

We all know that a name is important and can have a very specific meaning. For instance, when a baby is born, great care is given by the parents to give the child the right name. Books are bought, names are scoured, and origins and meanings are researched until the perfect one is found. Once the right name is picked, it will stay with the child for the rest of their lives.

A name can really define a person by revealing their history and speaking to their destiny. In the book of Genesis, we read about the life story of Abraham and see the importance of the meaning of a name. His original name of Abram (which meant “exalted father”), was changed to Abraham (which meant “father of nations”). Abram’s faithfulness to God brought him a promotion and this was revealed in the meaning of his name. He was promoted from being an exalted father, to one who would father many nations. His new name would be a constant reminder to him, and to future generations, of this promise made to him by God in Genesis 17:1-8.

We see another example of importance of the meaning of a name in the account of Abraham’s grandson, Jacob. The name “Jacob” means “one who grasps by the heel, or one who supplants.” Jacob got this name when he grabbed his twin brother Esau’s heel in the womb. As a scarlet thread was tied around the wrist of Esau, Jacob grabbed his heel and pulled him back into the womb. Then, instead of Esau coming out first, Jacob did. Through his

life, Jacob lived up to the meaning of his name by becoming a person who would do whatever it took to get ahead. He got the blessing of the firstborn from his father Isaac by pretending to be Esau (Genesis 25), and he prospered with livestock by making sure that his uncle got the weaker goats and sheep while he got the stronger ones (Genesis 30). Jacob kept this name until he wrestled with God (Genesis 32). After wrestling with God all night, Jacob declared that he wouldn’t let go until he got a blessing. God blesses him there by changing his name from Jacob to Israel which means “struggles with God”.

Since there is so much meaning in a name, we have decided to change the name of our building in Ogden from “Alyth Lodge” to “Victory Manor”. This name change officially happened on March first of this year and, although we will be preserving the history of the building and

the community, we also want to acknowledge that something new is happening at the old Hotel Ogden.

The name “Victory” reminds us of who we are and where we came from. It speaks of our affiliation to Victory Churches International which began with one church in Lethbridge thirty-one years ago by Dr George and Dr. Hazel Hill. Today, there are over three thousand churches in over thirty different countries. The name “Victory” also reminds us of our purpose and destiny. It reminds us that we are a group who is destined to make a positive difference in the hardest of circumstances. This is evident with our success in transforming the Hotel Ogden from a place that was known for its crime and violence, to a place where lives are being transformed and restored.

Finally, our name of “Victory” speaks of the hope we offer to those who come and live in our building. We are continually throwing out a lifeline to those in the city who are broken, lost, and hurting. Individuals may come into the building feeling defeated and lost but, over time, many begin to realize that they too can have victory and success in their own lives.

Victory happens when a person moves from a place of despair to a place of stability and success. When a person begins to discover that they have a purpose and a destiny in life; the victory is complete.



Front Entrance of the “Victory Manor”

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR BILL DENNIS

By Tom Maxwell

On Saturday, April 17, Pastor Bill Dennis passed away after a long battle with a failing liver. He was a beloved Pastor, dear friend, and a family man who will be sorely missed. Bill and his wife Pat were the ministering team that headed up the Eastside Victory Outreach Centre in Forest Lawn. He was a pillar and a rock for the Forest Lawn outreach, and his passing away will leave a huge hole that will be difficult to fill.

As I think about Bill's life, I am reminded of a few biblical truths. The first is that life is short and death is a reality we all have to face. James 4:14 says; **"Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appears for a little time and then vanishes away."** None of us know when our days on this earth will be done. Even if we live to be one hundred years old; it is only a wisp in light of time and eternity. Somehow, though, we get so caught up in the rat race called life (and keep ourselves so busy) that we don't give eternity much of a thought. Before we know it, we are in the twilight years wondering where the time went. Bill was fifty-three years old when he passed away. Truly life is short.

The second truth is that we can have a peace and assurance of knowing that we are going to heaven when we die. Preparing for our eternity is the most important thing we can do. We have the assurance of the promise that God has reconciled a sinful man to Himself by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. (Colossians 1:20). This **gift** of salvation can never be obtained by good works. It can only be obtained by faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. You can never earn a gift, you just have to humble yourself and receive it. If we confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus Christ, and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, **we will be saved** (Romans 10:9). This is the first part of salvation. It is received by faith.

The second part of salvation is the harder part of submission and obedience. It is about surrendering our will to the will of God on a daily basis. We cannot just say that we believe in Jesus and go our own way and do our own thing. It is only as we submit our desires to the desires of God that we begin to produce the good works that

are pleasing to Him. There are many examples in the bible that warn us to be careful to guard this precious gift of salvation. One of the most striking is found in Matthew 7:21. It is here where Jesus declares it is only those who believe in Him **and** do His will that are going to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Bill had accepted this gift of salvation and it filled his heart with peace (Romans 5:1). No more fear and no more doubt; just peace and assurance that he was in right standing with God and was now worthy of heaven.

The third biblical truth is that we will know where a person's heart is by the "fruit" or actions of their life (Matthew 7:20). The



William "Bill" Henry Dennis

"fruit" of Bill's life showed that he was indeed submitted to the will of God. He continued to give of himself and set the needs of others above his own; even when his personal need was greater. Because of his relationship with God, and the love he had for others, he served the needs of those around him with a selfless heart. By doing this, Bill showed us what the heart of God was really all about.

The final truth is that it is not how you start the race called "life", but how you finish that is important. Jesus relates this fact to us in the parable of the two sons (Matthew 21:28-31). The first son who originally refused the call of his father to work in the vineyard later changed his

mind and went. The second son who said that he would go to work in the vineyard ended up not going at all. This parable teaches us that even if we had a poor start, we can have a good finish.

Bill's earlier years were marked with chaos and strife. His lifestyle ended up getting him in all sorts of trouble and he even spent some time in jail. Finally, in a place of brokenness, he cried out to God and surrendered his life to Him. From that point on everything changed for Bill. As he began to pray and read the bible, he began to understand more about the nature of God and the plan that God had for his life. He began to discover that there really was a purpose and a destiny for him to fulfill. This journey ultimately led him minister in one of the roughest communities in Calgary

Bill was able to offer hope to many. He could really relate to those who struggled with their addictions because he had been there himself. He was able to help many individuals out of the place of bondage by introducing them to the Jesus and the power of God for their own life. Bill's life was a living testimony that there is light at the end of a dark tunnel and, that we all have a hope for our future no matter who we are. Bill fought a good fight, he finished his course and he kept the faith. (2Timothy 4:6-8). He has now received his reward of treasure in heaven that will never fade away.

Today, the Eastside Victory Outreach continues on with Bill's wife Pat. As she struggles to fill the hole left in this ministry with Bill's passing, she is encouraged to see others beginning to step up to the plate and help carry the load. There is still a work to be done in the community and Pat is committed to soldiering on. She would like to thank everyone for their tremendous support and kindness through a very difficult time

All of us who knew Bill, were blessed to be touched by his life. He was an inspiration and a strength for many. Bill will be sorely missed, but he will always be near; in our hearts and in our thoughts.



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Victory Outreach Centre
7012 Ogden Road S.E., Calgary, Alberta T2C 1B4
Phone (403) 264-0598 • Fax (403) 263-0028
Pastors: Don Delaney • Vic Lappa • Tom Maxwell
Web: www.victoryfoundation.ca
Email: dond@victoryfoundation.ca

Eastside Victory Outreach
1840-38 St. S.E., Calgary, Alberta T2G 1L1
Phone (403) 273-1050 • Fax (403) 387-0564
Pastor: Pat Dennis
Web: www.victoryfoundation.ca
Email: patd@victoryfoundation.ca

Editor: Tom Maxwell
Editorial Board:
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Phone (403) 264-0598 Fax (403) 263-0028
Email: reachu@telus.net



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7012 Ogden Rd S.E., Calgary, AB T2C 1B4