



## An Empty Bench

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**\* Volunteers Wanted \***

- Warehouse Laborers
- Kitchen Helpers
- Food preparation
- Drivers
- Food pick-up
- Intercessors to pray for the people, workers and ministry
- Musicians and worship leaders
- *Donations are always welcomed in lieu of Volunteer Time....Thank you*

*"Then Judas which had betrayed him, saw that he was condemned repented himself and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests.... And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in." (Matthew 27:3,7)*

It seems to many Bible scholars that the potter's field was the equivalent of today's landfill. Used and broken pottery, which were the vessels of many purposes in biblical times, are the plastic and metal containers and refuse of today. The chief priests, involved with Judas, saw fit to buy a garbage dump to bury Judas, the poor and strangers. Many people

don't realize it dates that far back. Up until the last decade or so, New York City was among the very few municipalities that even had such a facility for the unfortunate. The city has taken the responsibility to bury the indigent and friendless since the early 1800's. Potter's field having been relocated several times, seems to have found its final resting place

on Hart Island.

When any citizen becomes aware of a death, they are required to inform the police, who then in turn notifies the Chief Medical Examiner. If the body is not claimed after 24 hours, the Department of Hospitals authorizes the burial at Potter's Field. The deceased is sent to

the paper work is triplicated. One copy is put in the coffin, one on the coffin, chemically treated to last 25 years, and one is filed with the authorities in the event someone makes an inquiry. The body is then transported to Hart Island on a ferry by the NYC Dept. of Marine & Aviation. Each burial site

(a trench) is said to be 8 feet deep, 18 feet wide, and 40 feet long. The bodies are stacked 3 deep side by side in a snug fashion by inmates. There are approximately 125 burials weekly, and 8000 yearly. All maintenance of the grounds are the responsibility of the assigned inmates of the Department of Corrections.

By now, you must be thinking, "Why is this newsletter from Hope For The Future featuring an article on such a morbid subject?" Well, what you have just read will become the ultimate fate of our friend "Chino", if left unclaimed.

Chino was indigent (poverty) stricken, yes, but friendless? No. On June 1st, Pastor Diane truly lost

*(continued on page 3)*



*(Chino's Favorite Bench)*

*(Funeral Service in Tompkins Square Park)*



the morgue at Bellevue Hospital with a burial certificate. If possible, last rights are administered. The body is shrouded, and placed in a pine coffin which is lined in waterproof paper if necessary. If the deceased is an unknown, they are photographed, fingerprinted and buried with the results and all the earthly belongings found with the body and

## Come Light Your World

### **URGENT!!!! VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED ASAP!**

Some people believe that during the summer months many come to volunteer. But the fact is this: many go away on vacation during the summer and that leaves us extremely short-handed. If you have any free time and you would like to make a difference... please consider joining our team. Your time and help are greatly appreciated!

### **PLEASE CALL US AND VOLUNTEER TODAY!**

We need Professional Fund Raisers, Grant Writers, Graphic Artists, Warehouse workers, Office help and kitchen helpers.

**JOIN US TODAY.  
Thank you~**

Donna Peterson's prayers were answered one day when the phone rang! It was a "mayday" call from Hope For the Future. They were in desperate need for help. Ever since she first met Pastor Diane at her church's annual Minister's Banquet, Donna hoped to be able to help out one day at the ministry. Already a Home Missions missionary at her own church, she graciously made room in her schedule to accommodate the need at Hope For The Future. For the past year or so, Donna has given of herself tirelessly at our Farmingdale facility. She has been described by many as faithful, loyal and hard working. Her ability for organization is surpassed only by her willingness to take the initiative, a rare and treasured gift.

During our weekly prayer meetings the needs and prayer requests of our supporters and of the ministry are often lifted up. Knowing that finances were a major need, Donna took it to the Lord in prayer, and then put legs on her faith and decided to organize a fund raiser. After some further thought, she settled on a candle party. She searched the internet, chose a candle company and away she went. Along with her sister Daniel, Donna hosted a party in May. The guests consisted mostly of family and friends. Amidst a varied display of beautiful candles, were placed brochures, newsletters and photos of the ministry. This familiarized her guests with Hope For The Future's mission and showed them where their dollars would go. The party was a great success!

Donna chose to "light her world" instead of standing in the darkness of discouragement and apathy. This event was held in a home and could only accommodate a few people, but think of how much light a lot of little parties would make! If this sounds like something you might like to organize, please call us at the ministry today. It's also not too late to simply join in the party. Just log on to [www.aromalightcandles.com](http://www.aromalightcandles.com), shop and purchase your items using fundraiser #M2775. Hope For The Future will receive 20% of every dollar you spend. "Come, light your world!"



*Donna Peterson setting up and lighting the candles for Chino's Service.*



*Dona's Candle Display has helped bring light to those living in a world of darkness!*

*Don't forget to watch  
Glory to Glory TV  
Show on  
Cablevision (Channel  
115 every Tuesday 7:00  
am (Nassau &  
Western Suffolk  
County) & ) with  
Pastor Diane Dunne  
& Pastor Deborah  
Mitchell*

**Our ministry relies on contributions from people like you. Please give what you can. Thank you!**

→ Enclosed, please find my contribution in the amount of: (please check one)

- \$25.00                       \$50.00                       \$75.00
- \$100.00 or more \_\_\_\_\_ Bless you♥

**CLIP AND SEND WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTION**

## An Empty Bench (cont. from Page 1)

a friend. Chino was a middle aged man who struggled with an alcohol addiction. Initially, Chino was extremely disrespectful and profane to Pastor Diane. But after many altercations the Lord led her to go over and give him a big motherly hug and a kiss on his forehead. She showed Chino the true love of Christ. Chino seemed to melt even in the midst of his apparent anger and frustration. He soon appointed himself "bodyguard" over Pastor being radically changed from a scorned to a loyal friend. He would often say, "Everything's under control! I got your back Pastora." He was so changed that he gave of himself in like manner to other indigent & homeless friends. On the day of his death while pushing a helpless woman in a wheelchair, he suffered a fatal heart attack.

Unaware of any family or friends who could provide a service to remember Chino's life, Pastor Diane & HFTF stepped in. A memorial service was held this past Wednesday to celebrate Chino's life. The service took place in Tompkins Square Park where Chino was called home. Four candles were lit, three representing the trinity, and the fourth Chino. There was a beautiful but modest bouquet of red carnations, amidst the candles.

This display was placed respectfully on the ground next to Chino's favorite bench. A photograph of Chino was attached discreetly to his candle. The service opened with music and Pastor Diane then shared from her heart about Chino and his life. She urged the congregation to consider their own legacy and destiny. She spoke of Chino's new-found love and concern for those

around him, expounding on the impact one act of kind-

dren to him.

Another friend known as Santa (because of his long white beard) wept as he shared about his early morning meetings in the park with Chino. "You rise with the sun when you sleep outside. "Chino always watched out for everyone," he said. Santa left the microphone in tears, and was embraced by the

**Chino (far left) enjoying a day in the park with friends.**



friend. He would often say,

ness can have. She said, "God never misses an act of kind-

Pastor as the testimonials concluded.

**Pastor Diane pours out water as a memorial and a sign of respect to Chino and his friendship.**



Pastor Diane poured out a bottle of water to the ground in Chino's memory. He would often ask her for water and she would willingly give to him from her personal stash. "This one's for you, Chino," she said.

As the service concluded, the ministry continued in its tradition of food distribution. After a while, the sun began to set, and the

ness." Because Chino watched her back, a must on the streets, she was able to preach and tend to the things of God. Pastor Diane shared her conviction that God saw this and that His heart was blessed by it.

She spoke of a peace in her heart believing that Chino cried out to God before he passed from this life to the next. This brought great comfort to those listening.

Words of endearment were spoken by several people in the *Alphabet City Neighborhood* who considered Chino a friend. "Cliff" spoke tearfully about how good Chino was to his two dogs who are like chil-

ministry day came to close. As the vans pulled away from 7th & Ave. A candle could still be seen flickering in the cool, dark night. This light will fade but we know of one that won't! God's light. According to the state he is just a number on a pine box. But now, this once homeless man has a mansion and a reward. He watched out for us and others, and God watched out for him.

Through the memorial service and even the writing of this article we are hoping to give some dignity in death to one who struggled so desperately to hold onto it in life. Ω

# Curves

Hope For The Future would like to thank and recognize Curves as one of our sponsors.

6 Fourth Avenue  
Bay Shore, NY 11706

631-968-1828

8:00-12:00 Morning

4:00-8:00 Evening

Call Kim for info

### Quote Of The Month

***What you do speaks so loud I can't hear what you say!***

***"...so faith is dead if it not the kind that results in good deeds."***

*James 2:26*

### **Make Donations Via HFTF'S Website...**

*You can now make your donations via the website.*

*No Stamps ...*

*No Checks...*

*It's Fast...It's Easy...*

- *Click on link for financial support*
- *Click on 'make a donation' at bottom of page.*

*Please note... you don't have to be a member of pay pal to donate.*

[www.hopeforthefuture.com](http://www.hopeforthefuture.com)

June 2007

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*"For I know the plans that  
I have for you...plans to give  
you a hope and a future."  
Jeremiah 29:11*



Hope For The Future would like to recognize **Capitol Barter eXchange** as one of our sponsors.

Barter allows businesses to:

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- Find more time to enjoy their success
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### *A Word From The Pastor's Desk...*

Oswald Chambers wrote, "If you have received the Spirit and are obeying him, you find He brings your spirit into complete harmony with God, and the sound of your goings and the sound of God's goings are one and the same." As I was thinking about the events of these past few weeks I realized a few things about obedience to the Lord. If I hadn't gone over to Chino after he had vilely cursed me out; if I had not been obedient to God in that one thing He showed me to do that day, a soul would be lost today. Of course, God gave me the grace to do it, because it

wasn't easy. If we're not walking with the Lord we'll miss God in the little things and the big things! It was a very difficult day on the streets when I listened to the "still small voice" of the Lord. It was one of those days where it was easier to quit than to keep going. Have you ever had a day like that? But, instead of giving up I obeyed.

I began to think of Esau and how he had given up so much of his inheritance and the blessing of the first born, all for a pot of stew! It was a time of need and he was hungry. Esau wasn't willing to pay the price that came with the privilege of being the first-born. Many times God has greater for us but we give up. How many times have we turned to trust in man instead of the Lord? Have we ever thrown in the towel and given up because things weren't done in a certain time frame? It's so easy to take the easy road out. I can't count the times that even Christians told me to quit and not waste my time with folks who don't change, or don't appreciate what is being done for them. But those people forget God! But God! We need to rise above what people say and how they treat us so we can be vessels useful in His kingdom. The Lord wants us to be like Jacob who had the potential to become Israel; one who wrestled with God and prevailed; one who wouldn't let go until God blessed him. Don't give up! Pay the price! Obedience to the Lord is worth the struggle. I leave you with this quote of exhortation: *"It is not what we do that matters, but what a sovereign God chooses to do through us. God doesn't want our success; he wants us. He doesn't demand our achievements; he demands our obedience."*

*May the Lord richly bless you for your faithful support and prayers.*

*Sincerely In His Service,  
Pastor Diane Dunne*