SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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Special Anniversary Edition 2008
Hope For The Future Ministries

Happy 20th Anniversary Hope For The Future!
How Ninety Sandwiches in A Push Cart Led To
Hope From The Heart!

Today’s Christian Woman published an article featuring the work Pastor Diane Dunne was doing with HFTF.

A teepee on an open lot. This was in Alphabet City on the Lower East Side of Manhattan.

Elderly people warming themselves by a fire. They slept on park benches to stay near the fire to keep warm.

An abandoned building or “Squat”. Buildings like this were lived in and used by drug addicts for a “shooting gallery”.

This is Alaska, the woman who threatened to beat up Pastor Diane at a street rally. She was living outside on the Bandshell in Tompkins Square Park.

Danny on Avenue A & 7th St. This is the corner he lives on.

What started as a bible study turned into full blown ministry. Church without walls. Pastor Diane preaching a service in Lower East side.

Middle: Homeless living on park benches. In 1988 Statistics say at least 500,000 homeless in NYC.

Homeless living in tents in the park in winter.
Twenty years ago a once, cosmetic executive whose heart belonged to Jesus saw a need on the streets of NYC and that need started a stirring in her heart. With nothing more than a shopping cart and 90 sandwiches Diane Dunne began Hope For The Future ministries.

As the work progressed Diane became ordained by a board of 17 men from several denominational organizations, and now Pastors the crowds she and the staff of volunteers feed up to five times weekly.

Alaska was the first to touch her heart. While in Tompkins Square Park for a Street rally, Alaska threatened to beat up Pastor Diane. As the preacher began to speak at the rally, Alaska screamed out, “What do you know what it’s like to be homeless!!” Compelled by the Spirit, Pastor Diane went over to the woman and ministered to her. She was able to eventually befriend her, earning her trust, winning her to the Lord.

Crowds grew, and so did the ministry. Teams of eager Christians, young and old, from around the world and from many of our United States have joined Pastor Diane in the kitchen, warehouse and the street ministry to help, but more so to learn the ropes by being in the trenches of NYC, Hempstead, Long Island, and the food pantry at the Farmingdale facility. What started as a simple Bible Study in Tompkins Square Park has developed into Church Without Walls, equipping people to walk the Christian life, and applying God’s Word to their lives.

Over the years special services have been developed to meet the needs of our congregants. One such service is Medical Care “on the go” where inoculations are offered at no cost during flu season. HFTF also provides emergency care and “on the spot” services and assistance as well.

Monday evening’s outreach brought teams right into the heart of ground zero, 9/11/01. For weeks, HFTF fed and ministered to the rescue workers, the community of disabled shut-ins, and the displaced, grieving homeless. Wednesday draws the biggest crowd as that is the weekly formal yet informal “Church Without Walls” service at Tompkins Square Park. Hundreds gather for praise and worship and wait eagerly for the message of the day from the pastor. Many have testified that they leave the park being challenged, encouraged and transformed, by the Word, with a sense that everything is going to be alright!

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After the service is completed, people line up for a hot nutritious meal and pantry bags. Medical supplies, clothing and household items are also distributed as the Lord provides.

The ministry has seen many through to sobriety, many get back on their feet to become productive members of society, some reunited with their families, but most important of all, many souls have been won to the kingdom of God. Isn’t that what really matters?

Following salvation, the ministry has, provided water baptisms consistently throughout the years. Years ago, baptisms took place in a kiddie pool, while today they are done in the Great South Bay. Despise not small beginnings! Annual celebrations with family, friends and our favorite holiday foods are not the norm for many that we serve. With this in mind, the ministry has provided many a barbecue for Easter, Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day. Every year a Christmas party is thrown and every attendee from babes to the elderly receives bundles of presents and are served a special hot holiday meal.
“For I know the plans that I have for you... plans to give you a hope and a future.”
Jeremiah 29:11

“Twenty years later the Lower East Side has many different ministries and missionaries coming to minister in the area. But, back when the severity of the homeless situation had come to be realized, no one was feeding the homeless in this area. Pastor Diane entered where angels feared to tread, and broke up the fallowed ground preaching the gospel of deliverance and salvation. Though the area still contends with many strongholds, many ministries now enjoy ministering with greater liberty and ease. It is the authors’ opinion that this is due to the years of tears, and faithful labor of all those who have stood with HFTF down through the years.

What started out with ninety sandwiches in a push cart, 20 years later has turned into the distribution of hope from the heart. ♥

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restaurant style! Leaving blessed and full has become a HFTF family tradition. (Cont. on pg. 4)