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“He who bestows goods upon the poor, shall have as much again, and ten times more.”

John Bunyan
(1628-1688)

A Son's Promise

Lou Burton

Life's journey seems to be harder for some than it is for others. Such is the case for Lou Burton. At an early age Lou was handed over to his Grandmother's care. His Mother tried her best, but found him too difficult to control. Lou suffered a deep sense of rejection that would plague his life for more than half a century. Adding insult to injury, Lou never knew his Father. When Lou's son turned eighteen they too became estranged from one another and history seemed to repeat itself.

Lou's addiction to drugs and alcohol began at the age of twenty-one. Up until then he never smoked or drank (*"thank-you Grandma!"*) "I saw all the temptations out there and lost my focus", he said. "My self esteem was very low."

By the time he realized that he had a problem, Lou was already very deep into addiction and all that accompanies it. Lou always loved his Mother and realized later in life that she was only doing what was best for him. He began to visit her on a weekly basis. After many years had gone by, his mother could see that his wild lifestyle was beginning to take its toll.

Gravely ill herself, she grabbed his hand, squeezing it tightly. Lou vividly recalls the last words he

would ever hear her speak. "Your gonna have to do better. Promise me!" Lou said, "I'm gonna quit." She asked when. He replied, "real soon." That is when she said, "I believe you this time. I believe you'll be alright!"

Lou's turning point was in fact his mother's death. For weeks he could hear his mother's words and his vow, repeating over and over again. With the help of



a good friend of the family he entered a program.

Lou says, "I've lost a lot, but in the process have gained insight into who I am. What I thought was important is not very important any more." Lou was raised in the church and admits that God was put on the back burner for many years. He believes that long lasting freedom from addiction needs a spiritual connection!

This is where Hope For The Future steps into the story. Part of our mission

statement here at Hope For The Future is that we endeavor to prepare people to return to society restored and productive. It has been our joy to be a part of Lou's recovery process. Because of his life addiction, Lou lacked the skills needed to succeed in today's work force. However, after six months on the job he has learned basic warehouse and food handling functions, improved his communication skills and has gained the confidence he needed to hold down a job. He feels good about being given the opportunity to give back to the very society that wasn't very patient with him in time past.

Please know that you, our supporters and friends continue to make dreams a reality as you are faithful to give of your prayers and financial resources. Because of your support, men like Lou can experience blessings and better days that far exceed those of their former days!

More good news! Recently, Lou was reunited with his son. Both are enjoying this miracle and are making up for lost time, fulfilling, on a personal level, the scripture that says "...He has turned back the heart of fathers to sons, and the heart of sons to fathers..."

Keep Lou in your prayers for continued restoration. Ω

URGENT!!!

**VOLUNTEERS ARE
NEEDED ASAP!**

Some people believe that during the fall months many come to volunteer. But the fact is this: many return to their school & work schedules leaving 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!



*** 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

***Hope For The Future Ministries
Invites you to a
Jesus Alive Benefit Turkey Dinner
& Concert***

October 4th

with

The Paul Paoli Band

&

Deborah Mitchell

In Concert @

Love & Mercy Fellowship

1420 Union Blvd.

Bay Shore, New York 11706

Saturday, October 4th, 2008

Dinner : 4:00 PM \$25.00 Dinner Ticket

Reservations required for dinner only.

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 631-277-4365

Concert Starts 6:00 PM FREE!

(no cover charge for concert)

FREE WILL OFFERING TO BE TAKEN FOR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE MINISTRIES.

For Info call 631-752-5771

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Plainview

One evening, in the late 1980's, the parishioners of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Plainview, NY butterflied a leg of lamb and invited Pastor Diane Dunne to be their guest speaker. As Pastor Diane shared her vision for the homeless, quite a few hearts were stirred to join her in the quest.

Since that night St. Margaret's has been represented every third Monday of each month. Bob and Marilyn Nitschke are the longest running members and Bob contacts

either Pastor Diane or Rosemary to coordinate the team and the needs of the Ministry. Jane Ames coordinates both the volunteer and financial support to HFTF. And, since Jane claims to be the loudest she keeps the ship on an even keel.

Marilyn is the senior pot scrubber and Bill Sherman is the self-designated junior pot scrubber and has been with the group for ten years. Ken Rice shyly defers to Bob and tells us just to ask Bob about his

duties and "time on the job". Lois Bisca has been with the troop for six years and helps prepare the "to go" portable meals for Hempstead and NYC.

When we interviewed Jane for this article, she spoke of those who were with the team in years gone by. Some, she said, have moved away, and some are dearly departed. She beamed as she exclaimed that the few hours a month spent at the Ministry gratifies them more than it gratifies us. Ω



We thank God for St. Margaret's faithful team and their hard work in the Kitchen all these years. They are part of God's unsung heroes!



Watch
"Glory to Glory"
on
Cablevision
Channel 20 & 115 Tuesdays
7:30 am
Eastern Suffolk
Tuesdays 8:30 am
Western Suffolk &
Nassau County
with
Pastor Diane Dunne
&
Pastor Deborah Mitchell



He who gives what he would as readily throw away, gives without generosity; for the essence of generosity is in self-sacrifice.

Sir Henry Taylor
(1800-1886)

OUR MINISTRY RELIES ON CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PEOPLE LIKE YOU.
PLEASE GIVE WHAT YOU CAN...IN JESUS NAME...THANK YOU!

Enclosed, please find my contribution in the amount of:
(please check one) \$25.00 \$50.00 \$75.00
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Name: _____
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September 2008

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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*

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A WORD FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

In my dealings with the homeless I have found that many deal with the effects of rejection. Looking up the word rejection it means "to refuse to accept, or to consider, or to submit to, to cast off ...not wanted." There is great pain that comes with suffering rejection.

Seeking approval from man goes hand in hand with the fear of rejection. The Bible tells us in Proverbs 9:25 that "fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe."

All of us will experience rejection, especially if we are Christians who share the good news of His Kingdom. Jesus warned us of this in Matthew 10:14 when He said, If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home town." Jesus knew what it was like to suffer rejection. Isaiah 53 prophesied concerning the reaction of men to the Son of God.... "He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not."

Look at all that accompanied the rejection of Jesus...sorrows, suffering, men despising Him, and even refusing to look at Him, or esteem Him worthy of value. Yet he came to minister to those who have suffered these very pains. And I believe we need to reach out to the rejected. I am not just speaking of the homeless now. This is a very relevant message for many in our churches as well. One particular translation (Young's Literal Translation) said that He was "a man of pains... as one hiding the face from us." When I read this it hit me. This is exactly what many do. Hide.

Rejection causes people to function in fear rather than in boldness. Fear of rejection can be more tormenting than rejection itself. That fear can cause loneliness, despair, the feeling of being unloved, unwanted or unaccepted. The fear of rejection leads people into superficial relationships or isolation. It effects the ability to give and to receive love. But it can only exist because we base our self worth on the opinions of others rather than on our relationship with God. Too fat, too ugly, not good enough, don't fit the image. I know I've just described the opinions of a few in your church youth group. But when it comes to the homeless, it becomes hard to go for jobs or even ask for things after being rejected so many times. It becomes a vicious cycle. A cycle that the love and Word of God can break. We are called to reach out to the rejected. They are all around us, some even in our own homes. Victory comes when we begin to see ourselves as God sees us. May He give you eyes to see yourself that way. And, may He give you the heart of love to reach out to others who need that victory as well.

Sincerely In His Service,

Pastor Diane Dunne