



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE MINISTRIES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>The Gatherers</i>	1
<i>Bringing In The Sheaves</i>	
<i>Sowing And Reaping</i>	2
<i>Sowing And Reaping (cont.)</i>	3
<i>Glory To Glory Broadcast/ Partner Pledge/Help Wanted</i>	3
<i>Website Info/Donate Online</i>	3
<i>A Word From the Pastor Capital Barter Info</i>	4

Photographer & Editor :

Rev. Diane Dunne

Assistant Editors:

Rev. Deborah Mitchell

Deanna DiMonda-Miceli

Article Interviews & Story:

Rev. Dona Carbone

Deanna DiMonda-Miceli



*** 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*

The Gatherers Bringing In The Sheaves!

We would like to introduce you to Gia, Angela, Katelynn, John, Dean, Jenna, Christina, Tina, and Alana and their friends who have become what Pastor Diane lovingly calls "The Gatherers". This group heard about Hope For The Future Ministries through Angela's Mom who came to help at HFTF with



helping people. One young girl said she had learned about life, that it wasn't easy, and that it can be a struggle at times. This was after speaking with a man who had been directly helped by

the Girl Scouts. The Gatherers decided to come back on their own to lend a hand and help the homeless.

They decided to set up a fund raiser at a local McDonald's restaurant. Flyers were printed up and handed out to possible patrons who in turn would come in at a certain time, on the day of the event and present the flyer. HFTF would then in turn receive 10 % of the value of the purchases made during that time frame. Each patron was also encouraged to bring non-perishable food or make a donation to help feed the homeless.

Because of bad weather not too many came into the McDonald's. But, bad weather could not douse the flame of passion these youth demonstrated. So they went down the road to the local supermarket, handing out flyers, unashamedly asking for folks to either buy a bag of food for the ministry, or

make a donation, and come go down to the restaurant and purchase some food using the flyer. Folks did just that! They made donations of food, funds, and some came in and purchased food as well. When the shopping carts became full they came back to McD's with all the food collected. Their zeal that evening could not be quenched. When they came into the warehouse to make sandwiches recently, we asked

HFTF while he was homeless and struggling with a life of addiction. What a great group of kids!

During these hard fiscal times kids can help raise funds so that Hope For The Future can continue. If your youth/scout group can sponsor a car wash, walkathon, McD's fund raisers or have any other ideas on how to help us please give us a call. If you're reading this and know a teen with leader abili-



ties why not introduce them to us today?

Ω

Quote of the

Sometimes a man imagines that he will lose himself if he gives himself, and keep himself if he hides himself. But the contrary takes place with terrible exactitude.

ERNEST HELLO (1828-1885)



URGENT!!!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED ASAP!

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~

Sowing And Reaping

The great commission is the standard bearer for any missionary work and it is certainly what drives Hope for the Future. We spread the seed of the Word and fertilize it with hot meals and grocery bags. Some seeds don't come to fruition, some come quickly, and others take twenty



years. Some seem to take root, then die back, and bloom anew years later. Meet sixty-four year old Earnest. Ernie was born and raised in Panama and at the tender age of thirteen he discovered alcohol and developed a long term relationship with it. At sixteen he discovered cocaine and the three journeyed through life for a long time. The trio did not stop Earnest from graduating from high school and even attending business school in Panama. He came to the US at twenty-three, married and had four children, and worked in Harlem as a porter. One day, as he was working, there was a bank heist across the street and a stray bullet struck Earnest in the shoulder, shattering his collar bone and finally lodging in his neck. He was unable to work for two years and his addictive behaviors resurfaced with the addiction of crack. His family began to crumble and even though he suffered guilt about the wake of destruction his addiction was leaving his family drowning in, alcohol and crack had their grip on him. The downward spiral led him to homelessness in Tompkins Square Park.

The winter of 1989 was particularly frigid and Earnest began to attend Wednesday services at HFTF when we were meeting in the garden at Avenues A and C. He came for the hot meals and only half listened to the Word being preached. He was faithful about attending every Wednesday and loved the food, but every week a little more of the Word seeped in through the drug and booze haze. He started to question himself, "Who is this God?" "What is righteousness?" "What is goodness?" The questions plagued him, but so did addiction.

He decided to get his life together, but he didn't ask God to help, at least not directly. He went into a shelter and met some more of God's people, a group of nuns, and they admitted him into a sober house. They helped him get a job at Sears in Bay Shore, and even drove him to work. He caught the bus back to the sober house. Things were looking up and he even saved enough money to buy a car, which proved to be his undoing. He started to drive back to NYC to score drugs and relapsed. The sisters had no choice but to evict him from the sober house and the full circle downward spiral began again. The "who is God?" and "What is righteousness?" questions sent him whirling on the same old merry-go-around, back to the park, back to the shelter, back to the sisters. This time the nuns arranged for Earnest to be enrolled in a 12 step outpatient facility, Reality House, which is a 'life experience, faith sharing'



program. He had a small apartment, worked at the facility helping others, used the 12 steps, and even had experienced a degree of reconciliation with his family. He still smoked 2 and a 1/2 packs of cigarettes a day.

Things were looking pretty good for Earnest, but there were still some repercussions from years of abuse. He had two minor strokes coupled with the gunshot wound that left him somewhat disabled and he had not yet come to terms with those questions about God swimming around in his brain. Then the unthinkable ... a major stroke... and as Ernie lay dying, he finally called out, "God I don't want to die!" As he was laying in the street he saw a bright white light and then became unconscious.

He came to in the hospital intensive care unit and his first thought was "Thank God I made it." The seeds sown by Pastor Diane and the ministry

(continued on page 3)

Sowing & Reaping

teams from 1989 and the many subsequent years that were watered and fed by those compassionate sisters were finally beginning to sprout. But now there were new demons to face for Earnest. Unemployed for six months, in terrible pain, and now extremely disabled as a result of a massive stroke, he obsessed on shame, guilt, his broken marriage and his sense of failure in regard to his four children, and he sank into a deep depression. He didn't work, bathe, became despondent, discouraged, hopeless, gave up on life, and described himself as "the walking dead".

But God was and is working in Earnest's life. He found HFTF for the third time and when she saw him, as it is her custom when greeting her sometimes straying flock, Pastor Diane held him close and encouraged and welcome him home. The sisters are keeping him close and their program teaches that God's goodness comes through the people He uses to extend a hand up. Although Earnest is now on Social Security Disability, he returns to Reality House to encourage the newcomers. He is also repaying his back

(continued from page 2)

child support out of his meager SSD check. That doesn't leave enough money for food and other necessities. Earnest now comes to the services and certainly appreciates the food, but now his true satisfaction is with the Bread of Life he receives from the worship, praise, prayer, and the preaching of the Gospel. He helps in whatever capacity his disability allows.

Some seeds can be cast lightly on the ground, need little nourishment, and will thrive with only rain. They sprout quickly, they bear their fruit for one season, and a new seed must be sown for a second harvest. But consider the peach. The pit is hard and must be brutalized to finally reveal the soft seed that then must be watered and fertilized. When it finally sprouts, the sapling must be trained on a form, pruned aggressively, fed and watered. Years later it produces fruit. Perhaps Earnest and his life with God represents that peach sapling. Ω

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 the bottom of page.

You don't have to be a member of PayPal to donate. www.hopeforthefuture.com



HELP WANTED! URGENT NEED! HELP WANTED!

Desperate times call for desperate measures!

If you any of these talents and have a desire to help the poor WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We are in need of the following help...

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Fund Raisers | Mechanic | Warehouse Laborers |
| Office Workers | Kitchen Help | Kitchen Preparation |
| PR Person | Food Pick Up | Musicians/Worship Leaders |
| Grant Writers | Volunteers | Van/car (donation) |

"When our faith, hope, and love ends, God's begins."

CHRIS ANDERSON

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 \$100.00 \$_____ Other Amount

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail to: HOPE FOR THE FUTURE MINISTRIES , 131 VERDI STREET, FARMINGDALE, NY 11735

Thank you and May the Lord bless you!

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

131 Verdi Street
Farmingdale, NY 11735

Phone: 631-752-5771
Fax: 631-752-3814
Email: hopeFTF@aol.com

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 44
FARMINGDALE, NY 11735

We're on the Web!
www.hopeforthefuture.com

*"For I know
the plans that
I have for
...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:

- Recapture lost value, find hidden profits
- Generate new sales, create higher volumes of business, and dominate the competition.
- Improve cash flow, conserve cash, and buy at deep discounts
- Tap an alternative form of financing
- Enjoy advantages of a managed business relationship
- Attract, keep and reward quality employees

Barter allows business owners to:

- Find more time to enjoy their success
- Enhance personal or family income
- Conserve cash



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Partners,

"These are certainly challenging times for all of us. Each month, more and more people are turning to congregations and charities... for assistance at precisely the time when parishes and other faith based organizations are struggling to keep the lights on. It is difficult for clergy and fundraisers to ask for money when they know that their usual donors have lost jobs, lost income, or lost half of their IRAs. And yet, I sense that in this recession, we Americans are far more aware than usual of the plight of our neighbors in need and we really do want to help them, even while we worry about our own finances..."

These words are the opening paragraph of an article I happened to read, entitled "How to Help When You're Hurting." It was printed in a LICC monthly periodical written by Long Island Council Of Churches executive director. I would like to

share some excerpts from this article because the advice is sound and brings not only comfort in uncertain times but also inspires confidence that comes from having a plan during those uncertain times. As the article states, I believe it is possible to be "generous, confident, and faithful in fearful times."

1.) **"Keep Giving What You Can.** Suze Ormand, the personal finance guru, made the first recommendation to write a check to your favorite charity before you pay any other bills each month. If you put off your giving until the end of the month or the end of the year, she notes that you will more likely feel guilty or broke until you make that contribution. Being generous up front reassures you that you really can survive on your income and help those who are less fortunate. It also helps us be more disciplined in our day to day spending... going without that daily latte, lottery ticket, etc., so that we can help people who may otherwise go without food or medical care. During the season of lent many fast from certain foods preparing for the celebration of Easter. Perhaps this year you could fast in some way so that others might be fed.

2.) **"Give Your Time and Talents.** Even if you are among those who can't give as much money this year to your church or favorite charity, you may be able to help by giving your skills and service. Some folks who've lost their jobs recently have the very experience and skills that are desperately needed in not-for-profit organizations and congregations but can't afford. ...Even if you have only a little time to give, it might be an enormous help to your neighbors in need." Every volunteer who occasionally picks up food donations for our warehouse helps our staff to better serve the hundreds of folks that are fed through HFTF each week. And my personal favorite... It will be better to be able to say that you have been busy volunteering your time and services when in your next job interview you are asked "What have you been doing since your were laid off?" It's a much better answer than "I was playing Wii!" ... And the final suggestion...

3.) **"Show Up.** Many of us tend to show up less often when we have less to give, but it is precisely during hard times that your presence may be needed most, regardless of how much you can contribute financially. If your pastor is worried about making the budget in a difficult year, your showing up for worship or Bible study or outreach may help him or her avoid despair.... Your presence, whether or not you can put much in the offering plate, reassures all the rest of us that we are going to get through this together." Our thanks to the LICC for these comforting pieces of advice! Bottom line ... I would like to close with a quote from Solomon in the book of Proverbs: "One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done." (Proverbs 11:24,25; 19:17) May God richly bless you for your faithfulness.

*Sincerely In His Service,
Pastor Diane Dunne*