



A Ray of Hope News Letter

August September 2015

From The Desk Of Peggy

THE GROWTH OF A RAY OF HOPE

When the Christensen family founded A Ray of Hope, there were three essential principles that we wanted to integrate within the framework.

- *Instill the message of **A hand up not a hand out** to people who would benefit from the community's benevolence.
- *That guests would help in the daily operations of AROH and bless others by giving back as they are being trained.
- *That every walk of life who came to our doors would see an atmosphere of respect for all.

Throughout the growth of AROH we have understood that there are a few individuals who only hear what they want to hear and pay no attention to God's ways and His mandate to minister to broken people with God's truth, path and ways. The mean well, but they are more interested in being right, running on their own understanding and blind to the following: That giving a hand up instead of a hand out to the needs of others profits them in their daily actions to lead a homeless person to discover the purpose God has for their lives. This concept helps to set them free from bondage and to recognize the personal liberty of work.

Our guests and volunteers have kept the doors open. The dollars donated to A Ray of Hope go directly to helping the needs of families with children to stay in their home and not end up homeless. Bob and I were entrusted with the ministry and we have formed a trust to protect the ministry. It is to be handed over to other trustees who love and respect A Ray of Hope and have a heart to see it continue to grow and be a blessing to those who are in need.

From The Desk of Board Member Dave Mclean

God is the Father of fathers. The perfect father: a perfect mix of truth and love, of strength and compassion—The father we should all emulate. He has a special place in His heart for those in need: the widow, women and children, the orphan, the infirmed, the poor, the prisoner, the legally unrepresented, the foreigner, the elderly and the sick. No doubt I have omitted some from this list, but I hope you see my point. There are many people in our society who are at a disadvantage for one reason or another, and God has special interest in them.

It is too easy to take advantage of those who are weaker, younger or less able to stand up, care for, or defend themselves. Sadly, our society, with the omission of God from our public life, has turned from a praying to a preying society. This is an age old problem, as the Scriptures confirm, but it's still sad to see it rising in our nation. It is becoming more of a norm to use and abuse people than to care for them and is even becoming socially acceptable. We must remember the Lord is not blindsided by this; He knows the dark side of man.

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Dave Mclean

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He has ordained His children in Christ to be His care for this special group of people. The government has programs and entitlements to provide for them physically, but without the wisdom of God's word and ways, they cannot meet their foremost needs: The Lord's wisdom and salvation. Since the government waged war on poverty in the early 1960's, it has only grown. What is missing? Quite honestly, the transforming and reforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Give a man a fish and you'll feed him for a day, lead a man to Christ and you'll feed him for eternity. Very often a person just needs help to make ends meet, and I have found in practice and in the Scriptures that relieving their housing burden helps them recover from a major setback. What an awesome way to share of the love of Christ. In addition to providing this housing help, people need vision and discipline in living within God's provision. Without making changes in the way they live, you end up with the equivalent of a government entitlement program.

Even with our spending as it is, government programs aren't even meeting all of their physical needs. Here are some statistics: Homeless families comprise roughly 34% of the total U.S. homeless population. Approximately 1.6 million children will experience homelessness over the course of a year. On any given day, researchers estimate that more than 200,000 children have no place to live. Among all homeless women, 60% have children under age 18, but only 65% of them live with at least one of their children. The impact of homelessness on mothers is profound. Many experience anger, self blame, sadness, fear, and hopelessness. Mothers experiencing homelessness have significant histories of interpersonal violence. For them, the experience of becoming homeless is just another major stressor amidst already complicated traumatic experiences. Over 92% of homeless mothers have experienced severe physical and/or sexual abuse during their lifetime. By age 12, 83% of homeless children had been exposed to at least one serious violent event. Inadequate housing and

shelter options, evictions, discrimination, poverty, and other factors contribute to the crisis of homelessness caused by family violence. Furthermore, many women remain in an abusive relationship because of these barriers.

The Lord says that where iniquity abounds, the love of many will grow cold. We are seeing this happen before our very eyes. We know our love is cold when we prey upon the weak and needy rather than helping them. We have a great problem in this nation, but as believers, we have a great opportunity: to show the love of Christ to a needy nation and people, and to show them that God's ways work.

Isaiah 58:7-10 says; "Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry, And bring the homeless poor into the house; When you see the naked, to cover him; And not to hide yourself from your own flesh? **"Then your light will break out like the dawn, And your recovery will speedily spring forth; And your righteousness will go before you; The glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am.** If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity; And **if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry,** and satisfy the afflicted soul; then **shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday:**

Lord, give us a heart like your heart, give us a care like your care- not only for those in need, but also for your glory. Give us concern for those in need, let the light of our love shine through the darkness covering our land. Let those in need and those watching see His love shine in us and through us.

The development of the new A Ray of Hope Women's Shelter is an awesome opportunity to glorify God's love of His children. It will be serving many of those for whom God holds a special place in His heart. Those involved in helping the abused will tell you that those who have been abused are most likely to abuse others. I have also seen that those who have been shown kindness most likely show this kindness to others and give back what they have received. Both are perpetuated. Will you join us in perpetuating God's goodness of love?

LETTERS

Dear Peggy, Chris, Jolene, and Delta

My name is Ashlie Marie. I have 3 children. 2 boys – Abram who is 6 and Avery who is 5, and my newest addition Kailani who is 1 month old. My pregnancy with my daughter was difficult. I had her a month early which caused me to leave work a lot sooner than expected. She was in the NICU for a week due to being under weight and breathing problems. She's doing a lot better now.

Due to anonoial issues I was low on funds this month (April) and worried about how I was going to pay my rent. I was online one day (Facebook) and read about Ray of Hope. I decided to look into it. I have never gotten help from an outside party before with any of my bills, so I wasn't sure how it worked. But needless to say you all are amazing.

I went in on Friday the 3rd and filled out an application, and heard by Saturday the 4th, the very next day, that it got approved. I thought it would take about a week or so to hear anything. So I just wanted to say Thank You.

Thank you for being there to help so many families and individuals when they are down on their luck or money. You helped my little family and I, and for that I will be forever grateful.

Very much appreciated and God Bless,

Ashlie Marie Campbell and family!

Our family would like to thank the Ray of Hope for helping us in our time of need. We are a family of six, and struggle from time to time, and it's amazing to know that people like the ones at A Ray of Hope care for and help out families who need it.

Thank you to The Ray of Hope.

I would like to thank Delta and the staff of A Ray of Hope for lending me a hand when I was in need. You not only helped me but you helped my daughter as well! As a single mother, times can hit hard and just sometimes you're going to need help! This month has probably been the hardest! Losing my job, low on funds, low on food, no money, gas etc.

With being out of work over a month and having no luck with a job at the moment, I almost gave up thinking "wow we are about to lose everything I've worked hard for". I was slowly losing faith until I was referred to the "Ray of Hope". I knew I didn't have much of any option and they were my last Hope! They were actually there for me and how can I ever thank them enough? Probably never. I will always think of them as a huge blessing. THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK-YOU soooo much.

Katelyn & Alaraye

Yes, some people rub us the wrong way; but the Bible says, "Fools show their annoyance at once, but the prudent overlook an insult" (Proverbs 12:16, NIV). If you're upset with someone or if past injustices have left a bitter taste in your heart, think about how wonderfully God has forgiven you. Visualize His grace. Utilize His clear path to grace: Forgiveness. As Ruth Bell Graham once said, "Every cat knows some things need to be buried."