



From The Desk of Dave McLean

Years ago I was building a house for a friend, who asked that their son help in order for him to learn and save them money. I was glad to work with him, and in the process had many opportunities to help him learn how to build. Several times a day he would come to me and say, "Mr. McLean, I have a problem I need you to solve." I would somewhat hesitantly drop my work and go help him solve his problem. This made for good training on his part and poor production on mine.

One day my helper asked "I have a problem I need you to solve" question in the presence of the plumber, and the amused plumber responded, "You're coming at this from the wrong perspective. You don't have a problem to solve, you have an opportunity for resolution." From that statement forward, my helper would come to me and say, "Mr. McLean, I have an opportunity for resolution for you." I must say this changed my perspective as well for the remainder of the job. He no longer was a distraction to my work, as training him became my greater work.

This is an easier principle to teach than it is to live, but from God's perspective, I want to share that what may look like problems to us are truly opportunities for the glory of God. When a person is experiencing financial difficulties, I have found there is always a reason behind it that the Lord wants us to search out. This opportunity for resolution is God's greater work. Yes, they probably made some poor decisions, and more than likely the financial difficulties are their fault. And without question it can be an inconvenience to you to deal with it, but it's an opportunity for you to point a person to the Savior of his soul and the wisdom for his problem.

We have to ask ourselves, "What is my goal today; what will be my greater accomplishment?" Am I inconvenienced by helping another or am I blessed? At the end of my life, am I better off if I kept my schedule and made more money, or to have

sacrificed it to the Lord and loved my neighbor?

Isa 58:10 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:

Isa 58:11 And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

What a promise: if I care for others, God will guide me and cause *me* to flourish! My darkness will be as the noonday! Giving is a responsibility, but it's a blessing beyond what I give. As a ministry, we have an awesome opportunity before us now.

Seeing the need to not only grow, but to also separate the women and children from the men, we are preparing to build a Women and Children's Shelter across the street from the present A Ray Of Hope shelter. This home is approximately 4,000 sq. ft. and has 9 bedrooms. It is a simple but spacious home to fill with those in need. Being the safety net for a woman with child is not a problem, but a God given gift and God-ordained opportunity. As with this young man that I was teaching to build, what a blessing and opportunity it is to point those in need to Jesus and the hope of change.

Will you join us? I have been praying for the Lord to be glorified through this "opportunity". Why shouldn't He be, He has created it. He is not surprised by our need. On the contrary, He wants to know if we see a "problem" or an "opportunity".

When Moses was building the Tabernacle, he shared of the need with the people of Israel. God laid it on their hearts to give and they gave of their possessions, their time and their money as the Lord led. Their sacrifice and giving inspires me. The children of God came together as community to the glory of God. They gave to the point that Moses had to command them to stop giving. We are fulfilling our responsibility to share of the

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need and asking you to go to the Lord to discern if He wants you to give to this opportunity. Unlike giving money to a person in need and the money is soon spent and gone, providing shelter is an investment that continues to give from one person in need to the next—for years to come. It's God's amazing design to help those who are in greater need. It provides greater accountability and it provides a closeness of relationship to invest in their soul, which is God's true desire and our desire also.

This is a large project, but we serve an even greater God. I believe we will see the body of Christ come together this year for His glory. God can turn old jewelry into building materials. Providing one door or window can make a difference. 300 people making a \$500 sacrifice would give us the funds to complete the job. 1,500 believers in the valley giving \$100 each would complete the task. Giving of your skills or time provides not only labor that saves costs, but it builds unity and community among the saints. I am so excited about the prospect of meeting and working alongside hundreds of fellow saints in the valley. I have met many so far. The Christian community in this valley is expansive and vibrant. I take great joy in seeing the power of our gracious God expressed through a common goal among His saints.

Pray about this, would you? All He needs is a willing heart. If the Lord leads you to participate in any fashion, please call the A Ray Of Hope office at 755-4673 or myself at 756-0072. Or you can contact us by e-mail at: arohdirector@gmail.com or mcleanfammail@gmail.com. If you would like me or someone from A Ray Of Hope to come to your fellowship or small group to share the vision, give us a call.

We hope to start building this spring. We have nearly \$50,000.00 saved which we believe will cover approximately 25% of the costs. Our greatest need at this time is cash contributions to cover the costs that will not be provided by gifts.

See you on the jobsite!

Blessings,

Dave McLean

From Randy Marr

In November of last year after much thought and prayer, it became apparent to me that I needed to find a place to be of service to our community. I considered several non-profit organizations each which may have been a good fit. Finally I decided "A Ray of Hope" would be the perfect place to give of my time and talent. I have a heart for serving people one on one and AROH offered that in spades. I have known the Director, Peggy Christianson for many years and in the past have helped out from time to time. The Ministry God has given her so fits my desire to fulfill what is found in Matt. 25:31-40,

³¹ *When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:*

³² *And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: ³³ And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then shall the King say unto them on his right*

hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ For I was an hungred,

and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: ³⁶ Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. ³⁷ Then

shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?³⁸ When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

³⁹ *Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?*

⁴⁰ *And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

My first day volunteering at "A Ray of Hope" I met Assistant Director, Melenie Haidys who graciously introduced me to Hope Thrift Store Manager, Lyn Hermanson. From that first day of familiarizing myself with the store and beginning to learn the daily routine tasks required to operate the store I have been happy about my decision to volunteer. Over the next couple of months Lyn and I worked side by side continuing the organiza-

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tion and improvement she had started earlier in the year. All this to make Hope Thrift a pleasant and enjoyable place for our customers to shop. Keeping in mind all proceeds of sales go wholly for the support of the shelter, we remind ourselves daily in prayer, prior to opening, that our efforts first and foremost are for the furtherance of God's Kingdom. Lyn and I have become dear friends in the process of working to improve Hope Thrift. In January of this year we were joined by a house guest "Ian" who has proved to be an invaluable asset to store operations. He appeared at exactly the right time and is so talented that Peggy recently assigned him as a staff member and Assistant Manager of Hope Thrift.

I can only say that volunteering for AROH has been an extremely good experience for me. I am convinced that each hour of service I give comes back ten fold in blessings to me.

I am very excited that Peggy has asked me to assist in organizing the construction of a new Women's & Children's shelter to be located across the street adjacent to the existing shelter. I look forward with great anticipation to working with Board Member, David McClean who will head the construction.

Volunteering for "A Ray of Hope" has been a very rewarding and enriching experience for me. I look forward to continuing to do so for the foreseeable future. I encourage anyone who may be interested in giving some of their time to a worthy community organization to come by for a visit to meet the staff.

Thank You Garry

WE would like to express a sincere thank you to Garry Phelps for getting the A Ray Of Hope Women's Shelter project through the city planning and development process and the design phase with the architect. I'm pretty confident any builder will tell you they find more joy in building than working through the lengthy design, development and permitting process. I recognize time as our most valuable resource and Garry has graciously spent much of his helping us get ready for construction. Your efforts have not gone un-noticed by us or by the Lord. Thank you Gary and blessings to you brother. Dave

Letter

Dear Peggy Christensen,

I was a guest at A Ray of Hope shelter in Kalispell, MT between the dates of November 10, 2015 to November 17, 2015. During my stay, I was expected to complete chores within the home and to spend time helping in the thrift store. It was such a blessing to feel like a contributing member of the home community and to stay busy and constructive throughout the day.

I found the staff to be firm, but fair. I never experienced anger or criticism. Melenie was incredibly busy and seemed overwhelmed with not only running the shelter with approx. 20 people, but was directing the children's winter coat drive, and fundraising for the new women's shelter. I remember one evening, after dealing with a particularly difficult guest; Mel had the wisdom to leave for a period of time so she could return with a level head and a calm demeanor. I was impressed with her ability to interact with the guests without losing her "cool" and taking a breather when she could see she just might.

Bill was a great second-in-command and an invaluable asset to the ministry. He was very professional and thorough when checking me in and was accommodating in addressing my concerns. He was friendly and compassionate, but not a buddy. I remember an afternoon when he came into the dining area while a group of us were sitting around the table gossiping. He very kindly reminded us that that was not appropriate or a Christian thing to do. He did it so gently, I actually felt grateful for the reminder and have striven to maintain a lack of judgment toward others.

In closing, I wish to thank the whole ministry for taking this "stray" in and giving me the opportunity to become a productive member of society. My experiences at the Kalispell shelter and the Helmville retreat have renewed my faith in Heavenly Father and my commitment to making Jesus Christ my personal Savior. I am learning to accept the gift of the Atonement so I may attain Eternal Salvation.

God Bless You!

Amy Manzanares

A Ray of Hope
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A Hand Up Not A Hand Out



Helmville

2340 Hope RD 406 260 8084

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with Work

Call 755-4673

MISSION STATE- MENT

A Ray of Hope shall provide a safe harbor for those in the community with nowhere else to turn. It will provide those who seek help not only with food, clothing and shelter, but also with knowledge and a avenue to develop competency in meeting life's financial, emotional, family, and legal rehabilitation challenges.



Shelter

46 5th Av West Kalispell MT 59901 PH 406 755 4673



Thrift Store

105 6th Av West Kalispell MT 59901 PH 406 260 4184

Please send donations to PO Box 5407, Kalispell MT 59903