



The Road To Ruin—A Tale of Two Men

ROBERT BOOTH



My great-grandfather was an alcoholic. To be honest, when I first heard that information I was horrified. My great-grandfather was Louis King. His father came from Germany in the 1800's and settled in the area of Pittsburgh. When he grew up, he married a lady by the name of Dorothy Marie. I don't know when or how, but my great-grandfather became addicted to alcohol and was on the road to ruin.

One day, a few people from Everybody's Mission¹ in Pittsburgh knocked on the door of great-grandparents home and invited them to come to church. Louis didn't go, but Dorothy did and she was converted. Dorothy and the Mission began to earnestly pray for her alcoholic husband who was on the road to ruin. They prayed for several years without seeing any results. I wish I knew more details about the event, but I do know that Louis William King got gloriously saved. My grandmother tells the story that their home was instantly transformed. The alcohol was gone, the dysfunctional systems were gone, life was dramatically differ-

ent. Everybody's Mission began to work with this family, and even trained Louis to preach, using him at the Mission. The Mission also had a preaching point about 25 miles away in Clinton, PA where they sent my great-grandfather in 1921. Lives were changed and the message of Holiness was spread throughout that little community. While he was there, Louis felt led to start the Tri-State Holiness Association Camp Meeting, otherwise known as Clinton Camp in 1925. The camp has been instrumental over these many years in the salvation and sanctification of many. I am grateful that my great-grandfather found God and he got off the road to ruin. Otherwise, one can only wonder how the story would have ended for my family.

For two years, John lived next door to me at the Gospel Center. He was a nice guy with serious problems. John was an amateur boxer who enjoyed many wins in the ring and was on the road to a promising career. John was introduced to alcohol and drugs, and before he knew it, his life was in shambles. I invited John to the Gospel Center many times,

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and his reply was always “ah preacher, I will be there one of these days.” A few times he even made sure that the Gospel Center was protected while we were gone over Christmas. He was a tough man; no one messed with him. Several of us made it a point to pray for the salvation of John. A few years ago, I stepped out of my door one day and saw all kinds of emergency vehicles gathered around the train tracks a few blocks away. I saw a body covered with a sheet by the side of the tracks and found out that it was my friend John. He apparently was so drunk that he didn’t realize that a train was coming. The train couldn’t stop in time, killing him instantly.


Two men, two lives that were headed in the same disastrous direction, two very different endings.

The road to ruin is full of individuals who have wrecked their lives. Working at the Gospel Center for these past seven years, I have seen hundreds of people who have made a mess of their lives. I often wish that I could grab them by their shoulders and pull them off of that disastrous road to ruin. And it isn’t getting any easier. The enemy is working overtime trying to get people to ruin their lives forever.

Several key ingredients helped my great-grandparents find Jesus. First of all was the fervent praying of the Christians from Everybody’s Mission. They didn’t give up even when Louis made no move toward God for several years.

They kept on praying. We can’t give up even when we don’t see any positive steps being taken in the lives of the people that we are praying for. We must fight harder and pray longer for our communities in which we live and minister. Time is of the essence—keep praying!

Secondly I find it interesting that the folks developed a personal friendship with my great-grandparents. They didn’t just invite them once, they kept on coming back and getting personally involved in the lives of my family. I am grateful they didn’t give up. The Mission’s staff taught my great-grandparents what it was to be a Christian and that made all of difference in their lives. This has been a hallmark of the Conservative Holiness Movement for years. We can’t let it slide. How involved are we in the lives of those to whom we are ministering? They need to know that we really do care for them and are willing to do whatever it takes to bring them to Jesus.

So its 2009, people are on the road to ruin, but its not too late. Lets get out there, roll up our sleeves and get to work. Let’s redouble our efforts in fervent praying and developing friendships. There are still stories like Louis and Dorothy King, just waiting to happen. 

¹ If you have any information about Everybody’s Mission, please email me at rwbooth@gmail.com

New Arrivals

Congratulations to Robbie & Rachel England of Lebanon on the birth of Simeon Lincoln England. Simeon was born on April 25, 2009.



Congratulations to Daniel & Vicki Bubb of Lebanon on the birth of Danielle Louise Bubb. Danielle was born on May 1, 2009.

Congratulations to Rev. & Mrs. Solomon Shaffer of Alexandria on the birth of Reagan Isaiah. Reagan was born on May 5, 2009.



Congratulations to Wilmer & Pam Lantz on the birth of Tyler Anthony Lantz. Tyler was born on May 8, 2009.

Congratulations to Rev. Jeff & Mrs. Shari Stratton on the birth of Sabrina Grace Stratton. Sabrina was born on May 21, 2009.



Wedding



Congratulations to Matthew & Meagan Espenshade. They were married on May 23, 2009.

100th Birthday Celebration



Rev. Hazel Reiff turned 100 on May 20, 2009. A special celebration in honor of her birthday took place on May 30th

Cards may be sent to her at:

Rev. Hazel Reiff
1022 31st Ave.
Greeley, CO 80634