

Voice *of* Salvation

redemption is still possible

hope | love | redemption



redemption is still possible!

by 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 Mission 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 different. 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 Clinton Camp in 1925. The camp has been instrumental over these many years in the salvation 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, 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.

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. The Gospel Center exists to offer hope, love and redemption to our community. We invite you to partner with us in this exciting story.

We believe redemption is still possible!



News & Notes

A few weeks ago we celebrated a major milestone in John's life. On August 1st, John celebrated being sober for one year. This was a huge accomplishment for John since he had been drinking since he was a child. If you ask him what the difference was, he quickly replies, Jesus. I met John before he became a Christian – there is a huge change in his life.



John will share some of his story with us at the Gospel Center on October 10.

angelfood
MINISTRIES

For a little over a year, the Gospel Center has been active in helping our community with food. We partnered with an organization called Angel Food Ministries. We are able to provide high quality, low-cost food. We have a great team of volunteers who make this ministry happen, including our fearless leader, Jim Sherman. In August we were informed that we made the top 10 distribution

sites list for July! That is cool! We have helped nearly 2,000 families in the Lebanon area since we have started this program. Please pray for this ministry.

if you are interested in learning more about Angel Food, visit our website, thegospelcenter.com

up7street archery
program



In August, Jack and Carol Sherman and their granddaughter Stephanie came to the Gospel Center and presented an archery program called Archery is Fun. Jack and Carol operate Community Youth Program where they teach basic archery skills along with character lessons. In addition to learning about character, our up7street crew learned how to shoot a bow correctly and accurately for short distances and they were able to make their own bow.

Twenty-four of our up7street members participated in this great event to cap a summer that was filled with youth camp, a ministry weekend trip and various fundraisers.

Gifts given to the Gospel Center in memory or honor

In memory of Chandler Spitler by Karl & Carol Kratz

in memory of Bradley Spitler by Karol & Carol Kratz

in memory of William Anthony by Hope Kocher

in honor of the Gospel Center teens by Kevin Millage

Jenny Raub

David & Melanie Wolf

Paul & LaVerne Gagnon

in memory of Erma Boeshore by Mary & Thomas Conrad

Leonard & Sharon Raub

The Gospel Center is grateful for these donations that were made in memory or honor.

If you are interested in giving a donation in honor or memory of an individual, please indicate that on your donation.

donations can be mailed to
Gospel Center
26 N. 7th St.
Lebanon, PA 17046

visit us on the web
thegospelcenter.com



Please keep our teens and our children in prayer. We want them to be fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ before they make the same mistakes that many of us have in our life. In addition to our teen class up7street meets every second and fourth Monday evenings where we have a time of worship, teaching and fun activities.

Tree Removal

After months of trying to convince the officials of Lebanon, the city finally gave us permission to remove the tree that blocked the front of the Gospel Center!

With the fresh coat of paint that was put on nicely by Steve Lum last fall, the Gospel Center is one of the most beautiful buildings on seventh street in downtown Lebanon!





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