



Victory Foundation

7012 Ogden Road SE

Building a heart in the heart of Calgary



Pastor Don Delaney

COMMUNITY HELPING COMMUNITY

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Recently, we opened up the Victory Manor and hosted a meeting with the Triad Book Club. This club was established in 1951 and is one of Calgary's oldest and most philanthropic clubs in the city. The group meets weekly at the Calgary Golf and Country Club, and the ladies in this group have been part of many different Boards and charities throughout the city. Not only have they been a big influence on these Boards, but they are well connected to the history and the pioneering of Calgary.

After their meeting and a tour of the Victory Manor, the ladies sat down for tea in the Heritage Room (named because of the original one-hundred year old tin ceiling). The tea was being served by two of our resident women, Kim and Kelly. The women from the book club began extending warm introductions and, before I knew it, Kim and Kelly were chatting away like they were long time

members. The meeting took on a life of its own when one of the ladies from the book club suggested that everyone be seated so that they could hear Kim and Kelly's story as to how they came to the Victory Manor.

Both Kelly and Kim's stories vividly described just how vulnerable women can be when faced with homelessness. Kelly, while at the Drop-In center last winter, slipped on some ice and broke her femur bone. Before being released from the hospital, she pleaded with a social worker that she just felt too vulnerable being on crutches around the volatile environment of the homeless shelters. Fights often broke out and it was hard enough to side step the pushing and shoving when you were healthy. Impossible if you were on crutches.

Kim's story was a little different. She was sexually assaulted one night in the building where she used to live. Not only was she assaulted, but she was

evicted shortly afterward and her locks were changed. When she later went back to get some personal items, she was arrested for break and entry and subsequently sentenced to four months in jail. Upon her release, she was facing homelessness and an uncertain future. Both women were referred to our program by social workers from the local hospitals. After months at the Victory Manor, they shared how thankful they were to have a safe place to heal and begin rebuilding their lives. At the end of the event, the ladies from the book club showered Kim and Kelly with compassion and encouragement. This was a perfect example of a community helping the hurting.

The Victory Manor exists to help the vulnerable and the homeless in their place of need; but it cannot succeed without the care and compassion of individuals like these ladies in the book club.

Visit our Website at www.victoryfoundation.ca



Pastor Tom Maxwell

“The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go beyond them into the impossible.”

VISION

There is a picture in my office of a lighthouse positioned on the edge of a rocky outcropping. It is night time and the darkness is shattered as a beacon of light shines into the dark unknown. Underneath this picture is a caption that reads; **“Vision – The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go beyond them into the impossible.”** Whenever I read this caption I am reminded that there is hidden potential in each of us. Unlocking that potential will depend on us first having a vision about what can be, and then being willing to step out of our comfort zones and into the dark unknown. Not knowing what awaits us, we move forward with a sense of adventure and a beacon of light leading the way.

Four years ago we had a vision for the Victory Manor in Ogden. Our vision was to see a broken and rundown building restored and being used as a refuge and a safe haven for individuals wanting to turn their lives around. Four years ago, there were many who thought that this was an impossible goal for the Victory Foundation. How could a small inner-city ministry with no assets and a small building fund hope to purchase a 2.5 million dollar building and complete a 2.5 million dollar renovation in a time of economic slowdown?

Not knowing what lay ahead of us, we moved forward with a confidence in knowing that God was our beacon of light and that He was leading the way. We experienced a miracle and discovered what was actually possible as we trusted God and moved forward into the realm of what was considered impossible. Only then did the “impossible” become

possible. Today, we are seeing our “vision” of four years ago become a reality. The renovation of the rooms at the Victory Manor should be complete by the end of this summer. A new electrical heating and plumbing system will be completely installed, and, if all continues to go well, we will have the entire building renovated (inside and out) by the centennial anniversary of the building in 2012.

The bible says in Proverbs 29:18 that where there is no vision, the people perish. This means that without vision, goals, and a sense of destiny,



we wither and die inside. Life becomes bland and boring and we end up drifting aimlessly until our life crashes on the rocks. Vision helps us to discover our purpose, which in turn helps us to discover the potential and the destiny that God has put within us.

Now that we are coming to the end of the building renovation, we are setting our sights again on a new vision that will take us further. We have a vision for starting up a small business within the community of Ogden. In our last newsletter I wrote about a liquor store that was being approved for occupancy in a mini-mall across the street from the Victory Manor. After a phone conversation with the mall owner earlier this week, I discovered that the deal with the liquor store is not yet finalized, and that the owner is favorable to the idea of us

starting a second-hand clothing and furniture store in that location.

Something that seemed impossible three months ago is now looking very possible. We have identified that the community could really use a second-hand store in that area, and we already have two individuals interested in running the business on a full-time basis. We are now waiting to see what the mall owner proposes for a lease package before we decide to move forward. If we do move forward, we will be praying and looking for individuals who would be willing to support this venture by donating funds to cover the first year of operating expenses. Seem impossible? Well, we have learned that the only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go beyond them into the impossible. We have learned that nothing is impossible when God is the one who plants the vision in our heart.

This is what we teach the residents of the Victory Manor. They come to us with broken and hurting lives. They have lost their direction in life and their lives have ended up on the rocks. As we help them heal, we also help them to discover the potential that is already within them. Each person coming into our program is required to have some goals that they want to work on. With these goals and an accountability system in place, they begin to move forward with purpose and direction. What was once thought to be impossible for them, now becomes possible. As they begin to get a vision for their lives, they begin to discover a life of purpose. As they discover their purpose, they begin to discover their God-given destiny.

MICHELLE'S TESTIMONY

By Michelle Anscombe

I grew up in a small town in Ontario in a family of four consisting of my father, mother, younger brother and myself. It was the kind of community where you knew everyone and kids were able to walk to school on their own without fear. I was surrounded by aunts, uncles and grandparents. Family gatherings occurred weekly. Mom and dad both worked and my brother and I were babysat by my great-grandma who lived next door. I went to school where one of my aunt's was a school teacher. The sense of security was all around! I have fond memories of the Sunday School I used to attend and, even today, remember the happiness I felt there.

My family moved to Calgary in 1977 where we lived in the community of Ramsay. It didn't take long to make friends and create good memories. We played kick the can, baseball, went swimming at the Inglewood Pool or went to the zoo for the day. I just had fun being a kid and everything felt new and exciting in the city. However, at the beginning of grade six, I was abducted by a stranger and sexually assaulted. It was a very traumatic experience that changed everything. My sense of security was shaken and my world was shattered. At this time in my life I was once again touched by the spirituality I had experienced in Sunday School. Somehow that brought about hope in my heart. I found a hope and a healing that is hard to describe.

Just before entering Junior High School, our family moved to a new community and again my life changed. At this time, my parents developed the habit of going out to the pubs on a regular basis. It wasn't long before their drinking and the subsequent fallout began to create chaos and confusion in our family. As a result, my grades fell and I found myself fighting with my brother and with other children at school. When I was at home, I took on the role of "little mama" in the hopes of making my parents stay home and our lives could return to normal. After a full year of the chaos, I discovered that if I prayed for the things I needed, God

would answer my prayers. My father quit drinking and life did return to a semblance of normality. My grades picked up and I got involved in healthy activities once again.

In grade ten I discovered alcohol which became my new best friend. I took to it like a duck to water. As they say in A.A., one drink was never enough right from the beginning. Drinking made me feel safe and strong. When I drank, I became the life of the party and became sexually active. I would skip school to drink and I would go with friends to smoke pot at lunchtime. I lived for Friday nights when I could really let loose.

In grade twelve I met Victor (my husband to be). He impressed me because he was twenty-six, had a job, and drove a Camero. Victor drank little and was concerned about my alcohol consumption. I continued to drink but did quit using drugs. Although I really liked school, I continued to skip classes thinking that just showing up for exams was enough. Obviously I was wrong because I was expelled two days before graduation. I considered it to be a huge failure on my part even though I was still able to go to the graduation ceremonies and banquet. Victor and I married when I was eighteen and I had dreams of the white picket fence, kids, and a dog. Part of the dream came true—I had two sons, but no white picket fence or dog. My marriage ended in a divorce four years later. This was yet another failure due to my drinking.

I began my journey as a single parent. I continued my drinking for almost a year when I once again had a spiritual experience resulting in a total life change. I moved my sons to Smithers, BC where I began to live a totally different life. I experienced a six year period of abstinence while I embraced Christianity. I returned to Calgary to allow my sons to have the support of extended family, and tried to establish myself in the Christian community. I started to experience condemnation and isolation in the church that I attended and it wasn't long until I decided to turn my back on my faith because I found the "walk" too hard. I also returned my boys to Victor and

immediately returned to my life of weekend partying. I looked for anything to fill the void—alcohol, career, men, baseball. Instead of relief, shame over the consequences of my decisions became my constant companion. I wanted so desperately to get back where I had been before in my life in Smithers. I wanted to turn back time but did not know how.

I knew I wanted a better relationship with God and my sons and sobriety back, but felt I had gone too far to redeem myself. I could not get it right. I felt myself drifting further and further away from where I needed to be. On the surface things looked like I was doing alright. I had a career, a partner, and a house; but that was just a front. In reality things were spiralling out of control. My relationship was abusive, I was harvesting pot in the basement, I was using cocaine and I was dabbling in criminal activity. For eight years I lived on a downward slope.

On April 2, 2009 - looking around the living room after an all night binge I asked myself; "How did I get here?" I was horrified at myself, my choices and my life! The next words I whispered over and over again..."I need help", "I need help" - and I got it! My parents took me to Detox and I went to treatment. While in treatment things started making sense. I had an encounter with the living God that I had never known before. For the first time I had heart knowledge about who He is and His love for me. I was finally able to surrender.

Today, I have a peace that I have never known before and finally understand the depth of God's love. I have been living at Eastside Victory Women's House for almost a year and am rebuilding my life. I am working toward obtaining a balance in my life. I have watched God restore my family and my relationship with my sons. There is so much thankfulness in my heart for all the people that God has put in my path over the years; people who showed me a love that I had never known! Today I have hope for a future. I've had a second chance at life and it is worth it!!

Special Announcement

Victory Foundation Annual General Meeting
Will be held at the Victory Manor at 7012 Ogden Rd. S.E.
Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at 7:00 PM

All are welcome to attend this meeting

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