



Victory Foundation

7012 Ogden Road SE

Building a heart in the heart of Calgary



Executive Director
Don Delaney

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UNDERCOVER BOSS

For those of you that watch reality TV, you might be familiar with the show Undercover Boss where CEO's go undercover in disguise to check out the health of their organization. After working entry level jobs in different locations, the CEO reports back to his executive staff on what's working and what needs to change. As Executive Director of the Victory Foundation (and now Senior Pastor of the Eastside Victory Outreach Centre), it feels a little bit like being an undercover boss. Albeit a much smaller version with no disguise and most people knowing who I am. I was reminded how our 'Street Churches' bring a sense of identity to others. Having a place where someone knows your name goes a long way in giving a person a sense of value as they journey from survival to stability. On several occasions I have been approached by individuals at Eastside who ask me if I remember them from Victoria Park days. Some just show up for lunch while others are now full time members of the church. The fact that they feel safe, accepted, and not judged is a sign we are still doing things right.

One particular individual who had attended the church for the past several years asked if I remembered raffling off an apartment at a block party in Victoria Park years ago. I remembered that the guy who won it had no shoes and looked very rough. As I was wondering why he brought it up he said that he was that guy. We both had a good laugh when he told me that he just basically partied for the whole month in that free apartment. What seemed to be a waste of a good apartment actually turned out to be a connection that identified him with our organization that day. I asked him how it was that, after so many years, he decided to become a member of the Eastside Outreach. He said it was because of the love he felt from the people there.

Christmas is a time where we remember mankind's ultimate undercover boss. The birth of Jesus was literally God coming down to His creation, disguised as a baby, growing up human, and walking alongside us. He came to personally assess our condition and then provide the best

solution. We have made it the purpose of our Street Churches to carry on that mission. Hearing that congregation member's story assures me that is happening.

The real hook of Undercover Boss is the personal stories the CEO hears when he works along side his employees. They share their pain, their struggles, their hopes and disappointments. It's at this point, without fail, when the CEO goes back to his hotel after a hard days work, that he realizes that the company's success is not just about the 'bottom line,' it's about the people. The finale of the show is when the CEO makes his recommendations to the Board. What the viewers are really waiting for is when the employees are invited back to head office where they discover that they were actually working with the boss of the company. Their minds start frantically reviewing how they conducted themselves, or more importantly, how they treated the boss. Sometimes praise is given, sometimes correction. Very rarely is an employee fired. Finally, when the CEO announces that he is also going to do something tangible for their personal life the employees get a stunned look on their face. Whether sponsoring more training, a vacation, or paying medical bills, the show always ends with lots of hugs and tears. What the employees almost unanimously express is how they felt valued because the boss would actually take the time to work alongside them and hear their story. A story they had probably shared a hundred times with whoever cared to listen. The only difference is now they were sharing with someone who had the power to make a difference.

Many of us have the power to make a difference this Christmas. The Victory Foundation will soon be adding another house in Forest Lawn which will increase our housing capacity to over ninety rooms for those looking for value and identity. Like the undercover boss who not only had compassion for the person but supplied resources for their need, we hope that you will continue to walk alongside us and give generously as we walk alongside those who struggle in this Christmas season.



Visit our Website at
www.victoryfoundation.ca



Pastor Tom Maxwell

"We will have to ask ourselves; Will I do what is easy, or will I do what is right?"

THE STRENGTH OF INTEGRITY

A big part of who I am today is a direct result of what I saw in my dad when I was growing up as a young boy in Calgary. My dad was a man of integrity. He always stood up for what was right and defended the rights of the underdog. Maybe that's why I care so much about those struggling with homelessness; the same DNA that is in my dad is in me. He taught me about what was really important in life. One of the biggest things he taught me was to always be a person of integrity. Having integrity would mean that I could live my life with a clear conscience by knowing that I had done the right thing no matter what the outcome.

Integrity is defined as; *"the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles."* It is a quality that is sorely lacking in society today. We look to our politicians and the leaders of our nation and wonder where all the men and women of integrity are. It is very difficult to vote with any confidence when we are continually hearing one thing in campaign speeches and seeing a completely different thing play out when the party finally comes to power. We continually hear reports of dishonest dealings in the business and corporate world. The days of the "handshake" deal where a man's "word was his bond" are long gone. Not only that, but if integrity is defined as "having strong moral principles," I wonder if we aren't somehow losing our direction as a nation because we seem to be losing our moral compass.

Confucius once said; "The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home." What I believe he is saying is that the strength of our nation is really going to depend on the strength of each of us individually. We

can't expect our leaders to be people of integrity if we are not a person of integrity ourselves.

Many decisions we make on a daily basis will challenge us in the place of personal integrity. **We will have to ask ourselves; "Will I do what is easy, or will I do what is right?"** I remember having to make a tough decision years ago when I was working as a manager in a grocery store in British Columbia. I was going about my daily business when I noticed a cashier cutting out unused coupons that were left over from our weekly store flyer. When I asked her what she was doing, she told me that the store owner required her to collect all of the coupons from the unused flyers so that they could be turned over to the sales rep. This became a moral dilemma for me as I realized we were being reimbursed for product that never left the store. I could have turned a blind eye and done nothing. After all, the decision to redeem the coupons came from the store owner and not me. My conscience, however, did not buy



the justification. If I said nothing, then I would be silently agreeing with something that was obviously not right. I ended up speaking to the sales rep about what was happening and it cost me my job.

About a year later I started a maintenance/handyman business and was surprised to get a call from the grocery store owner who had fired me. He now wanted to hire me and have me take on the contract for his

store maintenance. I asked him why he would hire me now when he had fired me a year ago. He told me that he had to find someone that he could trust at night with the keys of the store when no one else around. He was looking for a person of integrity.

As a non-profit Foundation, it is important to us that we have honesty and integrity in everything that we do. We are always striving to improve and do things better than the industry norms. For example, it is important to us that we operate the Victory Manor from a place of autonomy. We are determined to never ask for private or government funding when it comes to paying for all of the staff and programs at our facility in Ogden. In the seven years that we have owned the building, we have been able to accomplish this goal. Although we did have help with the purchase and subsequent renovation of the Victory Manor, we have never needed any outside funding when it comes to operating the facility on a day-to-day basis. This now makes it easier for the Victory Foundation to pursue other affordable housing projects.

Another place where we have excelled is in the place of fundraising expenses. It is not unusual for non-profits to divert between twenty and sixty percent of all donations to cover their costs for fundraising. This means that between twenty and sixty cents of every dollar donated is diverted to cover the fundraising expenses. When we purchased and renovated the building in Ogden, every penny that was donated to that endeavor went to that endeavor. Doing things with honesty and integrity should never be the exception, it should be the norm.





BANNERMAN CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Bannerman Christmas Dinner was born out of a tragedy that struck the family of Doug and Del Bannerman. On February 26, 1982, their two sons Johnnie and Pat were on their way back to Calgary after skiing all day on the slopes of Mount Whitehorn near Lake Louise. On the trip back to the city, they were involved in a horrific head-on collision with another vehicle. Both Johnnie and Pat died in the accident. Johnnie was twenty-one and Pat was nineteen. The death of the two boys was devastating to the family and left wounds that would never completely heal.

At a Thanksgiving dinner that year, Doug and Del gathered with Everett and Gertie Clark. Gertie was Doug's sister and a chef at Entheos. The Clarks were no strangers to family tragedy themselves. In 1974, their ten year old son Darren died when he had a freak asthma attack on his way home from school. He had just managed to make it to the front door of his home when he collapsed and died. That Thanksgiving dinner was filled with sorrow and

despair. No one was feeling particularly happy or thankful and everyone wondered how they could possibly make it through the upcoming Christmas season. Many wonderful Christmas's had been spent together, but after the Lake Louise tragedy, no one had a heart to celebrate.

That was when an idea began to form. Why not host a big Christmas dinner for anyone who wanted to come. Christmas can be a very cold and lonely time for many and everyone would be welcome whether they were family, friends or strangers. Everyone agreed that instead of buying presents for each other, they would put their money toward the Christmas dinner. Little did they know what they were in for. It would be the beginning of a family tradition that would impact thousands over the years.

The first dinner was held at the Fellowship Hall of the First Baptist Church. Gertie's experience with cooking for large groups made her the obvious choice for preparing the dinner. Del was in charge of organizing the event

and easily found a job for everyone to do. Posters were made and the word was sent out. Over three hundred and fifty people attended the first dinner. It was a warm, welcoming and rewarding experience for everyone.

This was the beginning of a glorious series of annual Bannerman/Clark Christmas dinners. The first "experiment" proved to be a great blessing for both families struggling to recover from the losses of loved ones. Doing something positive by reaching out to help others was instrumental in the healing process. "We have been repaid a thousand times." says Del, "It strengthened us. Now I don't think there is one person of our family who is not involved in some sort of helping occupation or profession."

This year, the thirty first annual Bannerman Christmas dinner will be held at the Victory Manor in Ogden. The tradition continues and all are welcome to attend. Please contact us today if you would like to register or volunteer for this event.



ONCE AGAIN

A TIME TO CELEBRATE



The 31st Annual Bannerman Christmas Dinner

is partnering with the **Victory Outreach Centre** in Ogden on Christmas Day from noon until 5:00 PM to provide a wonderful meal, a time for relationship, fun, entertainment and celebration for the residents of Lynnwood and Ogden.

We have space for 350 people (including children)

Please RSVP before December 15, 2014

- Toys will be provided for children
- Transportation provided for individuals with disabilities and seniors with mobility concerns.

If you would like to register, donate or volunteer for this event, please contact us at

403-305-2213

Please identify your donation for "Bannerman Christmas Dinner"

Tax receipts will be provided for all financial donations (#88976 0740 RR0001)



SPECIAL THANKS

*The Victory Foundation would like to thank
all of those who continue to support the work we are doing
in the inner-city of Calgary.
Your support is touching the lives of many in a positive way*

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Design & Layout: Louise Maxwell**



BUILDING A HEART IN
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A Publication of:

The Victory Foundation

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