




# Victory Foundation

7012 Ogden Road SE

Building a heart in the heart of Calgary



Executive Director  
Don Delaney

## ADVENTURE FACTOR

In Ezekiel 47:2-5, God gives the prophet a vision of being in a river (which represents the Holy Spirit). Ezekiel's adventure begins with him going into the river ankle deep, knee deep, waist deep, and eventually swimming depth. I believe it's the adventure factor that keeps our people and organization in a place where we are continually changing and expanding into greater depths. Like the prophet Ezekiel, God leads us in stages.

When our kids were younger, every summer we would take them to a picnic area that was beside a river. Our adventure every year was to conquer the river's current and frigid temperatures. We would begin by standing *ankle deep*. The shock of the cold water would immediately eliminate my daughter (who was five at the time) from the adventure. Even though she retreated to the safety of the shore with mom, there was something about the adventure that got into her heart. Eventually, after a few years of ankle testing, the call of the adventure became greater than her fear and she was all in along with her brother. I think our organization is very similar. People watch from the shoreline to see the adventure and step in *ankle deep* and step back out again. However, once the adventure bug gets into their heart, it draws them back again and again until they overcome their fears.

The *knee deep* level is where an excited conversation about the adventure ensues. At knee deep you're far enough away from the undecided voices on shore that might make you second guess what you are doing. You're able to focus on the adventure ahead with others who are in knee deep. In our organization the excitement I hear from the volunteers that are working in various areas creates a buzz about the adventure that is contagious. Whether it's the quilting club making quilts with matching baby shoes for new moms, or the food

volunteers that organize thousands of meals every month, the atmosphere is charged with adventure and a sense that God is in the midst.

*At the waist deep level*, you are still sure footed but ready to submerge into total commitment. Without a high level of commitment, our organization wouldn't be what it is today. I can say that our staff do what they do because they love God and to serve Him is not a job but an adventure. In Ezekiel's adventure, he had to sink or "...swim, a river that could not be crossed." This is where you leave the sure footedness of waist deep and go in over your head where the current takes over. This was the climax of our family adventure; to jump in where the current was stronger and the water was over our heads. As risky as that sounds, I made sure it was a calculated risk. I picked a part of the river that was on a bend. This was a ten meter stretch of river that was deeper and stronger but then widened to a slow and shallow part where footing could be found again. After attempting to swim in the frigid strong current, it became apparent that the river was in control and not us. After being tossed around like drift wood, my son and I would quickly emerged back on sure footing in the shallow part of the river with a sense of accomplishment that we had conquered the river. Ultimately the thirst for greater adventures was sown into our hearts.

This is how God expands people and organizations. They experience the adventure and want more. The risks need to be calculated as much as possible by using the wisdom of Boards along with the advice and counsel of others who have gone further. Ultimately the adventure (if it's of God) will require faith that will stretch the organization and the individuals involved beyond their limits to a place where the status quo no longer satisfies and greater adventures are pursued.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Adventure Factor	1
Changing of the Guard	2
Success in Succession	3
Special Thanks	4

Visit our Website at  
[www.victoryfoundation.ca](http://www.victoryfoundation.ca)



Pastor Tom Maxwell

## SUCCESS IN SUCCESSION

Success in succession is a bit of an odd phrase. I heard it on the radio the other day and it caught my attention. As I listened to the speaker on the radio explain the meaning of the phrase, it really began to make sense. He said that success without succession is failure. **Real success is never in what you accomplish; but in having a successful transition to a successor who can carry on and add to the legacy you have built.** The truth of that statement really resonated with me. I have come to a crossroads in my life and have felt that my time with the Victory Foundation is coming to an end. It has been my privilege to have been part of something that has been much bigger than myself. I have learned a lot and have grown much over the sixteen years in this inner-city ministry that serves the poor of Calgary. It has been my heart and my passion.

The biggest challenge of my life started in August, 2007 when the Victory Foundation purchased the Victory Manor in Ogden. Being responsible for moving this condemned building from a place of crime and chaos, to a place of order and structure has stretched me in ways I could never have imagined. I know that growth can only happen when we are stretched beyond the limits of our current capacity; and the transformation of the Victory Manor over the past eight years has certainly done that for me. Today, I look at where we are and am very proud of what we have been able to accomplish. It is time to pass the baton.

In the Olympic relay races you can run a great personal leg, but if you don't pass the baton successfully, your personal success means

nothing. The real success will be measured not in what we have accomplished or how well we have run our leg, but in how successful we are in passing the baton to a capable successor.

Victory Churches International has this same mindset. The Victory vision is multi-generational in that we are building today for the next generation to carry on and go farther than we ever could. Today, we are standing on the foundation that was built by Dr. George and Hazel Hill so many years ago. The foundation they have laid has enabled us to be where we are today in the work we are doing in the inner city of Calgary. What we are building today is done with the



purpose of passing on the baton to the generation coming up behind us. As we are standing on the shoulders of Dr. George and Hazel Hill, we want those coming up behind us to stand on our shoulders to see and go farther than we ever could. Our real success will be measured in how successfully we pass on the baton.

My successor for overseeing the staff and programs at the Victory Manor will be Matthew Bannerman. He has an incredible heart and a great passion for the work we are doing here in Ogden. Not only does he have the right heart and passion, he also comes with a resume that is full of personal hands-on experience. Matthew began working with group homes in the lower mainland of

Vancouver when he was nineteen years old. At age twenty-four he was giving oversight to (and running) several group homes where he received a "Best Practice" award for having the best managed group homes in British Columbia.

In 2006, Matthew moved to Calgary when he was offered the position of Housing Manager for the Mustard Seed Ministry. It didn't take him long to move up to the position of Director of Housing. He became very instrumental in helping the Mustard Seed set up their policy and procedure manuals for their housing programs. It also became his responsibility to give oversight to the health clinic and the many staff and volunteers who worked and helped out at the Mustard Seed.

We hired Matthew in May of 2013 and were thrilled to have found someone with such a full resume. He started in the position of Program Coordinator and quickly moved up to the position of Program Director. In the time he has been with us, he has done an amazing job of bringing our transitional housing program to a level we had only previously dreamed of. As I move on from the Victory Foundation in the next sixteen months, Matthew will take over my position as the Director of Housing and Programs. It will be his responsibility to give oversight and direction to the staff and housing programs in Ogden and Forest Lawn.

Matthew's heart and history ensure that the Victory Foundation will continue to grow and become better at managing and providing affordable housing effectively into future.

*"Real success is never in what you accomplish, but in having a successful transition to a successor who can carry on and add to the legacy you have built."*

# CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Rudy Varga

My name is Rudy Varga and I am the newest addition to the team at Eastside Victory Outreach. My wife and I along with our three boys, Calvin (age eight) Jason (age seven) and Jeremy (age one) started attending the Forest Lawn Outreach at the beginning of the year. We are no strangers to the dynamics of an inner-city ministry. Originally from Surrey, B.C., we ran a church with a mission to reach the “down and out” in our neighborhood. Through the process of time we now find ourselves in Calgary and committed to the Outreach in Forest Lawn.

My time is currently split between Eastside and my full-time job as Assistant Manager of Employment Services Staffing and Donations at the Calgary Drop-in Centre. The Calgary Drop-in Centre is an organization serving a population of people in Calgary who are homeless, marginalized or somehow at risk. They do amazing work and are leaders in the not-for-profit sector.

In writing this article, my hope is that I will accurately portray the exciting things going on through the Eastside Victory Outreach in Forest Lawn. Since Pastor Pat Dennis went to Kenya as a full-time missionary eight months ago, the ministry has been in a period of transition and change. Pastor Don and Colette Delaney have stepped in as interim leaders while they look for the next long-term pastor. We are working on building a team to

support the outreaches and programs that are already in place. I think the title of this article accurately depicts what is going on with us. So I named the article “Changing of the Guard.” Few countries today still practice the ceremony of the “Changing of the Guard”. In times past this event would take place with elaborate demonstrations of choreographed skill. All the fanfare and ceremony only ever represented one simple truth that fresh soldiers were coming onto the field.

I love change (sometimes I think maybe too much). Change brings clarity and facilitates growth. I remember years ago, while speaking to leaders in Surrey, I talked about the many great things change can bring. I am excited to be a part of this season of change at Eastside. We are moving forward with fresh vision, clarity and passion to continue effective service to our community and our friends. I believe that we have exciting times ahead as we become more effective, more passionate and more aware than ever before. We have learned so much from the years that have gone by, and we have much hope and expectancy for the future.

With an ever changing landscape of population demographic and needs, Calgary continues to be one of the most innovative cities in Canada. The same goes for its service providers. This year marks some notable changes with Eastside, starting with the addition of two commercial sized freezers. As of last month we had begun to

serve over fifty-five hundred meals monthly. It was vital that we installed these new freezers on site in order to keep up with the growing demands of the community. These freezers give us the ability to store the food necessary to provide all these meals. We also have two new stoves (one gas and one electric) for our busy kitchen. The other stoves were tired and well used and we have been able to secure two fresh soldiers for our efforts. The stoves are used every week to feed our community hot meals. These meals go primarily to single women and their children, and to those struggling to make ends meet. These two investments and your support will go a long way in bringing hope and help to our community of Forest Lawn.

It is our intention to continue pushing forward and meeting people in their place of need. Whether the need is physical, financial or spiritual, we will be there to help. We are also setting our sights on more affordable housing for the women of our community. We want to expand our youth program, our food and clothing supports, and our church based ministry. Support, compassion and education will go a long way to preventing homelessness, poverty, hunger and despair.

Thank you all for your continuing support your partnership means everything to us, we could not do this without you.

# SPECIAL THANKS

*The Victory Foundation would like to thank  
The Brinkerhoff Family Foundation  
Lumber King Building Materials  
James Jones  
for their continued support*

## **Victory Outreach Centre**

7012 Ogden Road S.E., Calgary, Alberta T2C 1B4  
Phone (403) 264-0598 • Fax (403) 263-0028  
Pastor: Tom Maxwell  
Web: [www.victoryoutreach.ca](http://www.victoryoutreach.ca)  
Email: [info@victoryfoundation.ca](mailto:info@victoryfoundation.ca)

## **Eastside Victory Outreach**

1840-38 St. S.E., Calgary, Alberta T2G 1L1  
Phone (403) 387-0587 • Fax (403) 387-0564  
Pastor: Don Delaney  
Web: [www.victoryfoundation.ca](http://www.victoryfoundation.ca)  
Email: [eastsidevictory@shaw.ca](mailto:eastsidevictory@shaw.ca)

**Editor: Tom Maxwell**

**Editorial Board:**

**Don Delaney, Vic Lappa, Louise Maxwell,  
Design & Layout: Louise Maxwell**



BUILDING A HEART IN  
THE HEART OF CALGARY

**A Publication of:**

**The Victory Foundation**

**7012 Ogden Rd. S.E. Calgary, Alberta T2C 1B4  
Phone (403) 264-0598 Fax (403) 263-0028  
Email: [info@victoryfoundation.ca](mailto:info@victoryfoundation.ca)**



**Victory Foundation**

7012 Ogden Rd S.E., Calgary, AB T2C 1B4