




# Victory Foundation

7012 Ogden Road SE

Building a heart in the heart of Calgary



Executive Director  
Don Delaney

**INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE:**

Gospel for the Poor	1
A Balanced Plan	2
Eastside Update	3
Special Thanks & Information	4

## GOSPEL FOR THE POOR

I was recently invited to speak at the Victory Churches Conference in England, and decided to do a little research on England's poverty challenges. The results were eye-opening. Stoke on Trent is a city of about two hundred and fifty thousand (250,000) people and is about a twenty minute drive from our main Victory Church in England. It is also the eighth poorest area in the country. Manchester is only one hour away with a population of about 2.6 million in which six hundred thousand (600,000) live below the poverty line. That is almost one quarter of the population struggling financially. Due to the ever widening gap between the rich and poor, the need for Urban Missions in developed nations are more crucial than ever. Helping the poor through street church and housing has been our mission for the last twenty-two years. Urban poverty has become a major challenge in many cities in Europe and North America, and the need for solutions and methods to tackle the problem has drawn some interest in our success.

The church is a big part of the solution when deciding to adopt a mandate for the poor. This is not just my opinion because, according to Statistics Canada, the church in general continues to be a major motivator of charitable giving. According to the report, the biggest givers to charity are those that adhere to religious beliefs. This demographic is responsible for an average of one thousand dollars per person per year in annual giving. The report also suggests that areas with active religious attendance tend to have the higher per capita giving and even give more to non-religious causes than those with no religious views. Alberta has the highest per capita giving in Canada at around five hundred and sixty-two dollars (\$562.00) annually.

One of the reasons that churchgoers give is because they are regularly challenged to make a difference actively and financially. An example of this is our own street church in Victoria Park. During meal nights for the homeless, we would give opportunity to our guests to support an orphan overseas and, without fail, they would reach into their pockets and give their change with glad hearts. Since the mid nineties that support has continued to increase to multiple orphans and needy children around the world. Our little street church that could hardly fund itself now has two locations and gives multiple thousands a year to missions. Why? Because the gospel frees people to help others.

Volunteering is another area that churchgoers have a high participation in. To paraphrase Statistics Canada again; "Religious Canadians tend to live by the golden rule of Do unto other as you would have them do unto you." This is something that Jesus himself said in Luke 6:13. I am living proof that active churches engage their people in changing society for the better. I grew up in a middle class home, but it wasn't until I got involved with a church that a young adult pastor took me down to the streets of Calgary to share the gospel. That was my first exposure to the poor of the city and had that never happened, I would probably still be living a middle class life style insulated from the needs of the poor in my own backyard.

Today, we feel it is our mandate to not only help the poor through housing and social programs, but to also share our experiences and success with other churches and agencies that are interested in helping the poor. With a successful model in place, we now have something to build on.





Pastor Tom Maxwell

*"I believe that an Area Redevelopment Plan that excludes affordable housing is not a balanced plan."*

## A BALANCE PLAN

Last November I began attending the community association meetings for Lynnwood and Ogden. My reason for doing this was so that I could begin to get connected with what was going on in the community. I figured that if I could get a pulse on the community issues, I would get a better understanding of what the needs of the community were. Then I would have a better understanding of where we might be able to help as an Outreach Centre.

The Community Association (MOCA) is right in the middle of discussing an Area Redevelopment Plan known as an ARP. This is an important time of planning because, whatever is decided over the next few months, will affect the community for many years to come. The idea of an ARP is to look at the current zoning laws along with the future growth and development plans of the community. The goal is to put a plan in place that will ensure that future growth and development will be healthy for the area. It is a difficult process because different people have different ideas as to what is and is not healthy for Lynnwood and Ogden.

The Community Board of Directors is wanting to "restrict or prohibit land uses that work against the health and vitality of the community." The things that MOCA has deemed unhealthy for the community are things like large and small sized drinking establishments, pawn shops, massage parlors, amusement arcades, billiard parlors, liquor stores, drug paraphernalia shops and exotic dancing facilities. I absolutely agree that these types of businesses are not healthy for any community.

The thing I disagree with is the inclusion into this list of things like addiction treatment (drug and alcohol treatment

centres), residential care (group homes), custodial care (half way houses) and all government sponsored affordable housing. In lumping these housing facilities into a list that includes exotic dancing and massage parlors is to say that affordable housing and residential/custodial care facilities are a bad influence on a community. This viewpoint is discriminatory when these types of facilities are lumped into one category identifying "land uses that work against the health and vitality of the community."

***I believe that an Area Redevelopment Plan that excludes affordable housing is not a balanced plan.*** Therefore, I wrote a letter to the MOCA Board and proposed that this "one-lump" category be broken out into three different groups. Each group could then be considered individually. "Category One" would include items such as large and small drinking establishments, pawn shops, massage parlors, amusement arcades, billiard parlors, liquor stores, drug paraphernalia shops and exotic dancing facilities. There are many studies that show these businesses as being unhealthy for any community as they have a tendency to bring in a criminal element.

"Category Two" would be things like residential care (group homes), custodial care (half way houses) facilities, and addiction treatment centres. It is my opinion that these housing facilities do not "work against the health and vitality of the community." Since these facilities are well staffed and very well supervised, residents are more likely to be on their best behaviors and therefore not a threat to the community. The Victory Manor would fall under this category since it is a transitional housing facility helping men get back on their feet and away from homelessness. Far from working against the vitality and health of

the community, many of our residents have helped make the community better. Several of the residents of our building have continually made themselves available to assist seniors with snow clearing in the winter and minor maintenance issues and yard work in the summer. The positive thing for the residents of the Victory Manor is that they have a healthy community to live in while they move more toward independent living. It becomes a "win-win" situation for everyone.

The third category I proposed would be exclusively for affordable housing. If this new ARP has no provision for the preservation of a certain amount of affordable housing, then what we have now will eventually be lost to higher end development. Preserving affordable housing is important for a couple of reasons. First, it helps keep a community diverse and does not exclude low income earners. Secondly, it preserves an important stepping stone in society for individuals living at the lower end of the economic scale. To wipe out this stepping stone is to create incredible hardship for individuals and families who are already struggling because of their low income.

I agree that some of the government affordable housing projects look like slums and can be an eyesore. However, this is not to the fault of the single mother living on a low income and struggling to raise her family. It is really an issue with the landlords who do not maintain their properties. Is it really fair to punish those at a lower level of income just because they don't make more money? Is it not discriminatory to say that those on low incomes are an unhealthy influence in communities? I am hoping and praying that wisdom and fairness will prevail, and the right plan will be set in place. Time will tell.

## EASTSIDE UPDATE

It's hard to believe another year has gone past and we are now well into 2014. The year 2013 was a busy year which brought major shifts and growth in many areas of the Eastside Victory Outreach Centre in Forest Lawn. This increase would not have been possible without the support of our numerous contributors who have given generously of their finances, goods and time. Of major importance this past year has been the development of a better structural system which was necessary in order to meet the growing demands of Eastside. We have set in place a number of leaders who are responsible for numerous areas of service. These areas include: housing, volunteers, food distribution, music ministry, children and youth, building maintenance, missions, hospitality, and men's and women's ministries. As a result of our reorganization we are experiencing smoother functioning and increased efficiency.

In February, 2013, Eastside was able to help support our first missions trip. Our team worked with orphans, the poor, and the addicted in Mexico. This was an enriching experience for them and the church. It represented a breakthrough for those who sacrificed to go, and for us as a church who took pride in helping to support them.

In March 2013, Eastside opened a new women's recovery home which is located just outside of Forest Lawn. The location of the home provides a safer environment for women leaving addictive lifestyles. In addition, two of our leaders have acquired a house which is currently being set up as a much needed residence for a single parent family. This house will be fully operational in March of this year. Our original three supportive houses continue to function in providing homes for those leaving difficult life styles.

During 2013 we ran several bible studies as well as groups designed to

address difficulty in dealing with emotions and past abuse issues. All groups were well attended and proved to be beneficial to participants. We also housed community AA, NA and Naranon (a group designed to support those who live in relationship with those trapped in addictions) meetings to address the problems relating to the high level of addiction in Forest Lawn.

One of our most effective methods of reaching out to the Forest Lawn community was through our Meal Program. This past year, we were able to provide a minimum of three thousand meals per month to the community. This was done through healthy hampers for ninety-six families, eight hundred meals served after Sunday service and food staples made available to community and congregation members. Meals and small hampers were also available to volunteers after each event. In addition, we hosted a number of community outreaches including a Stampede Breakfast, BBQ Lunch, and Thanksgiving dinner that allowed us to feed twelve hundred people in total. Our biggest event, a Christmas Banquet with turkey and all the trimmings, fed four hundred and fifty Forest Lawn residents.

We were also able to support families during the holiday season through brokering our Christmas hamper program. Forty families in need were blessed with generous gifts and food, giving them a Christmas that they themselves would not have been able to afford. This was made possible through the goodness of the members of two local churches (Springbank Community Church and Royal Oak Victory Church), two local businesses (Tetra Tech EBA, and Evans Hunt Group), and a group of individuals who banded together. These hampers represent a substantial commitment of finances and time from those who donated. This outreach has also made an enormous positive impact on many people in our community.

One of the greatest successes has been building a strong group of committed volunteers. This is the back bone of our organization. These committed individuals work in the food, clothing, and housing areas. They also support the operation of the Church by helping in every area of the ministry. These committed volunteers donate about sixteen hundred man hours per month. You might ask; "What do they get out of volunteering?" They will say that they have an opportunity to give back and to positively impact their community. We see an increase in self confidence and self worth in our volunteers as they contribute to this worthy cause.

The Food Program is our largest service area with six thousand six hundred and seventeen meals given each month. Every Tuesday food is rotated in the freezers, generous hampers are put together, shelves are stocked, dry goods are rotated, and the areas are cleaned to ensure food safety. Every Friday, food is picked up from our suppliers, trucks are loaded and unloaded, fourteen freezers are restocked, the dry goods area is refilled and rotated, excess food is periodically given away and the area cleaned up. On Monday Wednesday and Friday, the restaurant food from Red Lobster and Olive Garden is picked up and repacked in the freezers.

Our success depends on the goodness of God, the commitment, heart and caring of our volunteers, and the generosity of our suppliers. It would be impossible to do all that we do without these areas working together. I would personally like to give a 'Special Thanks' to our volunteer core, Associated Grocers, Jesus Loves You Society, The Calgary Foodbank, the Harvest Program, McGavins Bread, Springbank Community Church, Royal Oak Victory Church, EBA, Evens Hunt, and our financial supporters. Your continued support is vital to our success in the community.

# 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*

## **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.victoryfoundation.ca](http://www.victoryfoundation.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: Pat Dennis  
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