



Victory Foundation

7012 Ogden Road SE

Building a heart in the heart of Calgary



Executive Director
Don Delaney

FOUR BENEFITS OF A CONFERENCE

Conferences in the past have played a major role in forming the ministry we now have today. For that reason, we feel it's time to host our own inner-city conference. Our goal is to connect with those in our own growing organization and anyone else who is either already working (or wanting to work) on the front lines to help those struggling with poverty. In the Old Testament, in a place called Gilgal, there is a precedent that was a forerunner of the modern day conferences we see today. The four principles layered out from this biblical conference centre are as applicable today as they were back then.

Principle #1 - Remember Some Milestones

Gilgal is the place where the children of Israel gathered after they had crossed over the Jordan river and entered the Promised Land. The name Gilgal means 'circle of stones'. In that day, stones were used to mark an historic event. The stones that were placed in Gilgal were meant to remind future generations of God fulfilling his promise to Abraham that his seed would inherit this land where the nation of Israel now stood. This also signified a new beginning for the Israelites after being enslaved by the Egyptians for over four hundred years. An Inner city conference is a place where we can acknowledge our past accomplishments and look forward to new things ahead.

Principle #2 - Make Specific Plans

Someone once said; "God answers general prayers generally and specific prayers specifically." Gilgal was a place where leaders came to get specific and accurate direction from God. Putting on a conference for inner-city ministries is already pretty specific but it's in that environment God can get even more specific for those who attend. I remember years ago attending a missions conference with Melody Green at the Max Bell arena. She challenged all who attended to not just pray about *if* you should go on a mission, but pray

about *where* you should go. After that challenge, the center of the arena was filled with people holding signs with the names of different countries. As I looked around at the different countries I heard God speak to my heart; "You're staying here." The context of that affirmation made it abundantly clear that my mission was to do something for the poor in Calgary.

Principle #3 - Implement the Plan

Getting away from daily business and the familiarity of your work place for a period of time enables you to hear and receive more clearly. The actual location of Gilgal is debated by theologians today. It seems to be recorded in different locations by different biblical leaders who visited it. I think God did this on purpose for the simple reason that like a conference, Gilgal was a place to visit with God, dialogue with others and find answers. It was never meant to be a place to set up camp permanently. After a period of time, those who visited Gilgal would return home and implement the things they received so that others could benefit. After understanding what to do, it now came time to carry out the plan.

Principle #4 - Learn From Others

Those that do things the best become the leaders. If we want to help the homeless, we have to continually be improving our skills and that means learning from God and learning from others. Gilgal also had significance with many other prophets, kings, and leaders in the following centuries. It was a place that they would come and seek God and consult with others to be the best at what they were put on this earth to do.

Whether you are a supporter, volunteer, or full time working with the poor, we would love to have you join us in our first ever inner-city conference. You will find the details of this conference on an insert in this newsletter.

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Visit our Website at www.victoryfoundation.ca



Matthew Bannerman

BANNERMAN CHRISTMAS DINNER

For many, Christmas is a time to reflect on priorities as we link this time to the gift of Jesus Christ that was given to the world. We often find ourselves drawn to family and friends and honor each other lovingly through various traditions that include meals and gifts. For others, however, Christmas can be a time of great need and despair due to financial or personal hardship.

This year the 31st annual Bannerman Christmas Dinner was held on Christmas Day at the Victory Outreach Centre in Ogden. The goal the Bannerman family and the Victory Outreach was to provide an opportunity for people in the community to celebrate Christmas Day with food, entertainment and gifts for the children. We wanted people to not just give or receive a meal, but to celebrate the importance of family, friends and community. We wanted to provide an atmosphere where people could stay and enjoy each others company after the meal was served. We offered different activities and a personal gift for each child that attended. It was a time where relationships could be formed between people in the community. We planned on three hundred and fifty guests, and offered to shuttle anyone with mobility or transportation concerns.

Preparations for the event started almost two months beforehand. Close to one hundred volunteers worked hundreds of hours to prepare forty turkeys, two hundred pounds of potatoes, salads, stuffing, vegetables, as well as decorate the venue. Volunteers wrapped three hundred gifts that were individually picked and addressed to each child by name. Consider the joy of not just

getting gifts, but gifts that were picked for and addressed to you. Crafts, dinnerware and decorations were accumulated and put together. It would have been impossible to do this amount of work without each and every volunteer. There were even twenty volunteers working late into the night on Christmas Eve to make sure that everything was ready.

Donations of food, gifts and finances covered every need for the event. Any financial donations that remained were forwarded the meal program offered by the Victory Foundation for the men's transitional housing program that is on site. This program houses sixty men who are working at moving away from homelessness and toward sustainable lives. Residents are always encouraged to look for ways to give back. This was evidenced in the thousands dollars and countless volunteer hours that many of the men contributed to help make the event a huge success.

The Christmas Day dinner served about two hundred and seventy-five people including about one hundred children. The day itself was a whirlwind of activity and started in the early hours of the morning. A lot needed to be done before our guests began to arrive at noon. Volunteers converged on the site for their scheduled shifts and soon the place was abuzz with activity. Guests started to arrive and were served by volunteers. Guests and volunteers began to talk and get to know one another. After dinner, adults and children moved to the Church Sanctuary where craft tables, activities and games were available, and every child received two or three gifts. Each adult received either a backpack full of small personal items or stuffed socks as they left the event. People that dropped in and had

not registered their name were also able to participate and receive a gift. We spoke with many people who admitted that they would have been alone because they didn't have a place to celebrate Christmas. It turned into an amazing day as many people from the community came together. One of the highlights of the day was when a young boy received a large tool set (see photo). This was the gift he wanted more than anything but his father was not able to afford to buy it for him. This was a special moment for both father and son. The boy's desire was unknown to us, but not to God.

We can look at these types of events as strictly a blessing for those we see are in need. What many fail to realize is that those who give also walk away felling blessed themselves. In Acts 20:35, the apostle Paul tells us that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." It is only when we give of ourself to others in need do we experience what it real means to be blessed. The donors, the volunteers, the organizers and the men of Victory's transitional housing program all benefited from this experience because they participated in a universal law of sowing and reaping. "He which sows sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which sows bountifully shall reap bountifully" (2 Corinthians 9:6).

We are planning to host this Christmas Dinner again next year at the Victory Outreach Centre in Ogden and would like to invite others to come and join us. Whether you are in a place to give back or in a place of need, all are welcome to join us. I have no doubt that anyone who participates in this event with us will receive and will indeed be

CHRISTMAS DINNER PHOTOS



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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