




Victory Foundation

7012 Ogden Road SE
Building a heart in the heart of Calgary



Executive Director
Don Delaney

DIVINE ALIGNMENT

Pastor Pat has been obedient to the call of ministry and is now preparing to go to the Victory Orphanage in Kisumu, Kenya. This decision was not made rashly. It has been a desire of her heart which she had shared with me over a year ago. As a result, my wife (Colette) and I will be taking over the Eastside Victory Outreach Centre in Forest Lawn where we will act as the interim pastors. We will be praying that God will provide a young pastoral couple with a heart for the inner-city to take over down the road. We are not sure how long that will take, but in the meantime Colette and I are happy to be back in the excitement of pastoring a church again.

I will also continue in my role as the Executive Director of the Victory Foundation. Giving oversight to the Foundation and pastoring an inner-city church will be quite a bit more work, but Eastside has strong leaders ready to step up and help carry the load and assist the congregation through this transitional time. Strategically, I believe the timing of Pastor Pat's departure could be a divine alignment for our organization. As we continue to focus our attention to expanding housing for single women, being involved on a daily basis with the Forest Lawn ministry will be the key that will help Colette and I get a real feel for the needs and opportunities that are available there.

Since we planted the Eastside Church, Pastor Pat has built a wonderful work over the past eight years. The Outreach Centre has become an intricate part of the community and impacts thousands of lives. The congregation averages about one hundred and fifty people on Sunday and the Eastside Outreach has helped the Foundation expand it's housing to eighty-eight rooms for the homeless. Twenty-eight of those rooms are located in Forest Lawn. The Eastside ministry also provides about thirty five hundred meals monthly through a variety of outreach programs to those in need.

The saying 'one in a million' is true when it comes to Pastor Pat. She has truly served and loved the people in the community and has brought change to Forest Lawn. She moved to Victoria Park to be a part of our ministry in the early years and was always ready to help wherever there was a need. It was that servant-hearted attitude that made her the obvious choice as a pastor when it came time for us to plant the church in Forest Lawn. Pat once again jumped in with both feet by moving to the neighborhood and starting the church in her basement. The numbers quickly grew as God touched and changed the lives of those who were struggling. Many felt a sense of family by being around her. She will be dearly missed by all of us but we also release her with joy knowing God has great things in store for her in Kenya.

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Pastor Tom Maxwell

THE MEASURE OF SUCCESS

What is success really? How do you define success? There are many different measuring sticks in society that tell us what success is. Some say that success is attained when we are independent, can stand on our own two feet, and don't have to rely on anyone else. Others say that success is being able to retire with financial independence. Still, others say that real success is when we come to a place of being mostly happy by truly enjoying what we are doing in life. Ultimately, the definition of success will vary from person to person.

The definition of success is really an individual thing. The measure of success can look different for different people. For example, Blake is a resident of the Victory Manor in Ogden. He came to us with a brain injury and had a very difficult time doing much of anything for himself. He relied heavily on others to do most things for him. Things like making appointments, being reminded about getting to them on time, shopping for groceries and transportation to and from various activities. Blake was surviving day by day with the help of others.

One day we sat with him and asked him about his personal goals. He said that he wanted to go back to work, but felt it was not going to be possible due to his current brain injury and the seizures he was prone to. He started to set some small goals. Purchasing a day timer, he began to write down everything. This helped him to remember things he would normally forget. He made his own appointments and even figured out which bus could get him to and from the doctor's office. Little by little Blake came alive. By accomplishing these tasks over a period of time, he

became more confident and began to believe that he could do even more. Where he once thought that going back to work would be impossible; now he made it his goal. Today, Blake is working at a job he enjoys. He is much happier and content. He now has more of a balance in his life with being independent and, at the same time, relying on others. What would be easy for most of us, was a great challenge for Blake.

When most of us would not consider having a job to be much of a measure of success, for Blake it **was** the measure of success. This is why I think that the measure of success is an individual thing. Going back to work was considered success for Blake because it was a goal that challenged him to reach for something beyond where he was at. In order to find success, Blake had to assess his personal situation and set his sights on something that would take him further.



In order to succeed, he had to do the work. Vince Lombardi said; **"The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary."** Working without a goal means that we are just adrift in life with no destination point; and a goal without doing the work required is just a fantasy. There is no substitute for hard work. In order to be successful, we need to be

willing to do the work. There is no short cut and there is no other way. This is why we require every resident of the Victory Manor to have two or three personal goals that they want to work on. We let them determine what the measure of success will be for them individually. Then, we work with them and support them in anyway we can to help them reach their goal. Ultimately, they still need to do the work.

Life is like that for all of us. If we do not continue to set goals, we begin to stop living. The goals we set need to be something that stretches us beyond our comfort zones. Then, when we accomplish that goal, we need to set another that stretches us even further. I can remember when we first purchased the Victory Manor in 2007. We walked around the property and were overwhelmed by the size of the challenge that lay before us. We wondered how we were going to be able to transform the building and what we were going to do with all of the space. Now, seven years later, we feel that the building is not big enough. So what happened? We were stretched into a potential that was greater than we had previously realized.

As we look to the future, we are setting goals today that are bigger than ever. Not only are we looking for new housing in Forest Lawn, but we are also working with the Heritage Society and are making plans to restore the exterior of the Victory Manor over the next three years. It is a daunting project and we will have to come up with half of the one point five million dollars required to complete the project. Today we have new goals that will stretch us into bigger and better things.

"The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary."

Vince Lombardi

FOND MEMORIES

Pastor Pat Dennis

Nine years ago, God burned a vision within my husband Bill and myself to establish an outreach church in Forest Lawn. It was a community struggling with crime, drugs, underemployment, and poverty - a community in need of hope. I could not get Forest Lawn out of my mind or stop talking about it. I drove through it, walked through it, and prayed for it. Finally, a year later, Bill and I moved into a house in the community and, with the support of the Victory Foundation and a handful of faith-filled recruits, we started a church in our basement. Within a few short weeks the basement was overflowing and we were forced to move to a Community Hall. This was the beginning of the Eastside Victory Outreach. A church where everyone belongs - a church that focuses on preaching a simple gospel of love, hope, and forgiveness; a church that loves the lost in the community and is determined to meet the spiritual and physical needs wherever we could.

Eight years later, we have come a long way. We are now located in our own building within the community. In addition to regular Sunday services and Bible studies, we now operate five recovery houses, supply free clothing and approximately thirty five hundred meals per month to Forest Lawn residents. We also provide free counselling, advocacy, and recovery programs and have recently started a quilting and sewing program which provides friendship and support to many. Now, with the church's foundation strong (and its members growing in faith) it is time for me to pass the torch to a younger couple who can provide fresh vision and energy to take Eastside to the next level. As for me, I will follow the call of God to Kenya.

Pastoring Eastside has not been without its interesting stories or challenges, and it has never lacked in its rewards. I have loved working with the people in this community who I have found to be good hearted, loving,

supportive and loyal; people who stick together and share with one another when the chips are down. One of the primary ways of meeting people in Forest Lawn has been through the food programs. In fact, our motto is; "If you feed them, they will come." We found our first congregational members by offering donated pizza and preaching the gospel off the back of a truck parked in a field on 48th street. We continue to draw people through special event dinners, hot dog outreaches and hot lunches in the park.

One of the greatest highlights for me has been watching God work miracles and transform lives through Eastside. It's one thing to draw a crowd, but it's another to see their lives impacted. I have seen so many in this community drawn out of lives of despair: out of addiction, poverty, prostitution, and crime. I have witnessed marriages restored, children in the government's care returned to their families, and the unemployed and homeless find work and housing. It has been a great joy to see individuals find a sense of worth and value and begin to walk in the life that God intended them.

Eastside, through volunteers and donated resources, has been able to wrap around and support people in many areas. One individual, Anne, is a primary example of just that. We came to know Anne through our sandwich program. Over time, Mary (one of our volunteers) developed a relationship with her. Anne had a crack addiction and eventually lost her daughter to child welfare. Determined to have her daughter returned, Anne went to detox and then into treatment. Later, she came to live in one of our women's recovery homes. She went to church and found hope in Christ. She attended counselling and many other meetings. She utilized all supports we offered to her and her daughter was soon returned to her care. I had the good fortune to be in court with Anne the day her daughter was returned to her and heard the judge comment on her

hard work, adding that she had rarely seen someone do so well. That was a number of years ago and Anne is still clean and sober. She attends church regularly and helps others.

What God has done through Eastside could not have been accomplished without the help and support of many amazing volunteers and contributors. Their giving has not only made a difference in the lives of people in Forest Lawn, but has enhanced their own lives. We have seen volunteers grow in confidence and awareness of their own ability and have seen an increase of satisfaction and joy as they give to others. An example is Melvin, a senior from Three Hills, who organized others in his town to give, knit, and sew for the Outreach. At eighty-four he faithfully drives to Calgary weekly to bring his treasures and stories to us.

It is with a great deal of sadness that I say goodbye to many that I consider family and friends. I am grateful for all the wonderful people I have had the pleasure to meet and the rich experiences and stories I am able to tuck away in my heart and take with me wherever I go. Even in my absence, I am confident that Eastside will continue to grow and make a difference in Forest Lawn. I am very grateful that Pastors Don and Colette Delaney will act as interim pastors. I know that they carry the same heart as we have had and will take things to a higher level because of their dedication and vision. I know that they will continue on the tradition of love and care for the people in the community. It is a model they developed and passed on to us in the first place.

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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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