



Victory Foundation

7012 Ogden Road SE

Building a heart in the heart of Calgary



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**Executive Director
Don Delaney**

GOLD STANDARD

In 2 Timothy 2:20 we read; "In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work."

Precious metal is used in this scripture because, unlike wood, fire makes it more pure and, unlike clay, it won't break. Precious metal is much more valuable. More importantly, the consistency of metal makes it stand strong against the test of trials while becoming more valuable over time. That's the plan God has for all of us. Whether it's a new job, new home or new car, everyone wants to present well in life. But having the same consistency on the inside as what's on the outside is where the challenge begins. Most people know that God loves and values everyone the same, but this scripture clearly points out there is something we can do to increase our value for God's purpose. This is the approach we take in our organization. From intake applications, to life skills programs, to living life independently, our message is; "We value you." It is now up to them to put that value into their daily life with God's help. I believe most people want to be good and do good. Over the years we have continually increased our housing and improved our programs so that individuals can have an opportunity to shoot for that gold standard in their lives. It's a part of our culture that is "caught" as much as it is "taught".

Not everyone moves forward at the same pace, but that's what I love about this scripture; it talks about the progressive nature of bringing our lives up to God's standards. There will be attempts and failures, but God is always there to forgive us and put us back on track.

The late Bill Dennis was an example of a life transformed into God's gold standard. Bill came from a chronic alcoholic background. It was so bad that he had a court ordered breathalyzer device installed in his vehicle to ensure he never drove to work drunk. It even got to the point where I had to tell him not to come to church drunk anymore. Now that may seem strange for most of you reading this, but in a street ministry this is where many people are at. Bill was loved by everyone including God, but nobody loved his drinking. It was hurting him and his loved ones, and it certainly wasn't a good representation of the God he believed in.

With God's help, Bill decided to cleanse himself of this destructive addiction that held him back for so many years. Freedom from addiction didn't happen for Bill overnight, but he tenaciously carried on. Not only did he eventually overcome his addiction, but he became a strength and support for his wife Pat as the two of them established the Eastside Victory Church in Forest Lawn. Bill took on more of a "behind the scenes" role. He had a kind heart and quiet strength that was felt by the church and the local community. One story in particular was a testimony of how much Bill had changed. A new church member who was exploring the Christian faith of which he knew little about was overheard praying; "God! Make me more like Bill." The person who overheard responded; "You should ask to be more like Jesus, not more like Bill." The new church member with his limited knowledge of the bible innocently responded; "Is Jesus like Bill?"

Bill's character began to illuminate the character of Christ so much that people began to see Christ in him before they even knew who Jesus was. I think the ultimate Gold Standard in our lives is not only about how God sees us, but how we see ourselves and how others see Christ through us.

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Visit our Website at www.victoryfoundation.ca



Matthew Bannerman

BANNERMAN CHRISTMAS DINNER

CHRISTMAS? How can we be talking about Christmas now when we are still in summer? Well, despite the fact that my wife Charmaine believes that the Christmas countdown starts in February, most of us believe that December is still quite far away. However, this is the perfect time to start planning for the upcoming "32nd Annual Bannerman Christmas Dinner" which will again be held at the Victory Outreach Centre in Ogden on Christmas day.



"There are many people who struggle at Christmas time because they are alone without friends, food or funds."

The Bannerman Christmas Dinner was born out of family tragedy and the inability to understand how to move through this season without loved ones. For the first twelve years, the dinner was held at First Baptist Church and was open to anyone who was going through the season alone. The dinner attracted close to eight hundred people every year. This included many homeless people and people in poverty at a time when these types of resources were not available in Calgary. An army of volunteers would come together to prepare and serve dinner, provide entertainment, and

collect, wrap, and distribute thousands of gifts. It was clear that the dinner had found a pulse and people had found a way to participate and contribute to each other's lives. The dinner was then held at the Mustard Seed for the next seventeen years and the size of the event grew even bigger. From there it was held at the Children's Cottage Society and last year at the Victory Outreach Centre in Ogden. Just over two hundred and seventy people

another amazing Christmas dinner. There will be many activities and gifts for all who attend. The biggest gift is the gift of relationship and the ability to enjoy each other's company on such an important day when Christians come



together to celebrate the greatest gift of all..... the gift of Jesus Christ. There are many people who struggle at Christmas time because they are alone without friends, food or funds. It can be especially difficult for children. Christmas is more about giving than it is about getting, and the Bannerman Christmas Dinner is a great opportunity to give back. It is our hope that this dinner will begin new relationships and strengthen relationships between the recipients, the donors, the volunteers and the Victory Outreach Centre in Ogden.

Many things will be required to make this event a success. We will need people to come for dinner, we will need dozens of volunteers, and we will need food and gifts. If you would like to get involved, please contact us at 403-462-1550 and be part of a life changing experience.



The goal for this year's dinner at the Outreach Centre in Ogden is to provide a venue for three hundred and fifty guests to come and join us for

JOHN'S STORY

By John Benk

My birth on March 10, 1964 was a very difficult time for my Mom and, likewise, intensely traumatic for me. The doctor had to extract me with forceps which resulted in me having a badly bruised and marred head. Although it only took a few weeks for the wound to heal, no one could really know the long-term damage it may have caused. My grandmother Yvonne had been visiting up from New Brunswick at that time and was staying in our home in Montreal while I was mending. She was a great aide to my recovery in those early days of my life. Sadly, my life never got easier. I have had challenges and struggles in one form or another for all of my life until now. I suffered severe abuse and lived in an abusive environment in my early years. I struggled in school with a learning disability, and, at age twelve, was diagnosed with "Type One Diabetes." As a young boy, I found myself full of fears and anxieties. This was my version of "normal."

I was married for a short period of time to a woman named Rose. This turned out to be another poor decision in a long line of poor decisions in my life to that date. It turned out that Rose was not at all who she pretended to be. Just a few weeks after being married, she announced to me that her decision to marry me was not based out of any romantic love, but was simply to provide a father for her five year old daughter Twyla. The news of this deceit tore at my soul with a pain I had never experienced before. Yet, I was determined God would fix even all that was broken in us. In the end Rose and I did separate after only four months of ongoing battles and were divorced roughly two years later. Rose and I also had a son together which made the pain of the divorce all the harder. After the

divorce I went through great depressions and acquired a real deep ominous sense of loss and despair, which led to my walking away from God once again. I drifted away from Him but knew He was always present to me. The ravages of sin were beginning to take its toll in my life. I would go off and binge on drugs to try and escape from the pain of remembering a life of desperation filled with emotional turmoil that always led to the failures in my attempts at some sort of normalcy in life. In May of 2011, I once again checked into the Simon House Treatment Centre. I went through the program successfully and was prepared for another chance at life free from substance abuse. It was a time of humbling my life before Almighty God, knowing that He was still interested in embracing me and restoring my life anew.

Shortly after treatment, I gained employment doing maintenance in a building for a company in Calgary. For me, this was a dream job. My position, however, was short lived due to the internal strife that was going on with the company. When key people ended up leaving the company, I suddenly found myself promoted to the place of giving oversight to the maintenance program. This included the janitor, who had only been hired before me. This greatly offended him and he continually made my life miserable. He refused to take direction from me and we clashed continually. The continued stress of this situation left me with no choice but to resign my position with the company. With no job, I now had to move from my apartment and back with my parents for a short period of time. I eventually found another low paying position in a maintenance job with a cheap hotel on Macleod Trail.

Around that time I was in contact with

a person I had known from the time I was in treatment at Simon House. He had mentioned that he was now living in Ogden at this Victory Manor and that I should see about getting a room there. I was hopeful, based on what my friend had told me. He thought I would easily qualify because I was in a place of homelessness living with my parents. I quickly got in touch with Pastor Tom and, shortly after I completed the intake interview, I was accepted into the program. I moved into the building in January, 2012 while the building was in the renovation process. Thirty rooms were occupied while the other thirty rooms were being renovated.

It was here that my life really began to get better. At the suggestion of Pastor Tom, I gave up the job at the hotel and found new employ with Hayley Industrial Electronics Ltd. This job only paid fifteen dollars per hour, but I was pleased to have it. I worked with Hayley for about three and a half years when I was laid off this past April due to a shortage of work. I enjoyed my time with Hayley, and was pleased to be able to put some of my mechanical fabrication training and skill to work while employed with them.

Living at the Victory Manor has brought a lot of stability into my life. I have thoroughly enjoyed the meetings, the residents, the church services, the meal program, and the chance to live in peace and safety. I know that God has without doubt led me to this place for such a season as this. I have a great relationship with all of the staff and residents of the building. I have been enriched in the years I have been here and I am flourishing with a new hope for my future. I am very grateful to God for providing such a place as this.

SPECIAL THANKS

***The Victory Foundation would like to thank
all who continue to support us with the work
we are doing in the inner city of Calgary.
Lives are being changed!***

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