



**Pastor Don &
Colette Delaney**
Executive Director



Luke 18:8

"...But when the Son of Man returns, will He find faith on the earth?"

THE LOSS OF A FRIEND AND CO-LABOURER

The passing of Pastor Pat Dennis was a great loss for the Eastside Church community, Victory Churches International and the Victory Foundation. No one worked harder or was more instrumental in co-labouring with my wife and I in expanding the ministry than Pat.

From our humble beginnings in Victoria Park, Pat worked with kids, outreaches, preaching, counselling and closest to her heart, the women's housing.

By 2005 we decided to reproduce the ministry of Victoria Park into Forest Lawn. The obvious choice was Pastor Pat and her late husband Bill to lead that new work. She had served under myself and Colette for over ten years learning all the ins and outs of street ministry, faithfully developing God's heart for the poor and now was ready to step out in the next phase of the call of God on her life which also proved to be the most fruitful work of her life too.

Starting in the basement of their newly purchased house in Forest Lawn, the church quickly grew to 55 people. After about a month, they had to rent space in the Forest Lawn Community Hall and eventually to their present location where the services are at full capacity every Sunday with an additional meal program after service that feeds some of Forest Lawn's most vulnerable. The church building is a buzz all week with addiction groups, prayer and teaching nights, food distribution as well as housing for both men and women.

Pat and Bill had successfully reproduced the ministry of Victoria Park in Forest Lawn and we now had two locations with a church where those financially struggling in our city would feel welcome and at home.

One dream that still remains to be accomplished for Pat is to see women's housing established in a greater capacity. Even on her last day, Pat was talking about the new Women's Housing initiative we were attempting to buy and how she looked forward to moving in and ministering to vulnerable women. Pat had faith for the future even on her last day on Earth.

Luke 18:8 "when the Son of Man returns, will He find faith on the earth?" Pat certainly left this Earth in faith and although we were unable to raise the funds in time to purchase that specific Women's Housing project we were all hoping for, we have set up a fund that will continue to build so that we can expand capacity for Women's Housing that will be named after Pat in memory of what she was most passionate about.

UPDATE:

It's funny sometimes how things work out, and you can see the hand of God working around our perceptions and opinions. While we did not purchase the multi-person project that we intended to, we have acquired a brand new house that will give us room for six women and children. We paid for the house fully and we carry no mortgage on this house. The result is that whatever revenue comes from this house will be put right back into the lives of our housing residents.

This house has never been lived in, is spectacular in terms of quality and gives us a fully legal two bedroom suite, as well as a three bedrooms upstairs. We held off on sending the newsletter until this was finalized so that we could share with all of you the success of this acquisition. This acquisition is the result of your wonderful desire to pour your resources and love into the lives of others.

The house will be named ... "Pat's House" as promised, and happens to be right across from Eastside Church in the heart of Forest Lawn, where our dear friend desired it to be so that it could serve the women and children of that neighbourhood. God is faithful.

Please turn the page to see pictures ...





- Debbie Forcier



Pastor Pat Dennis



Pat's House

My name is Debbie Forcier. Over the years Pastor Pat has asked me to share my testimony; and I do so again to thank her for her investment in my life. Pastor Pat rescued me from a 20 year long addiction to drugs. I was pregnant and had no where to turn and she would feed me while I was on the streets, and encourage me to clean up. After going into labor in a detox centre, she picked me up from the hospital and brought me to one of the Victory Houses to work on my recovery. Pastor Pat advocated for me with Child services and after 10 months I managed to get custody of my beautiful baby. I came to Jesus through the love that Pastor Pat showed me. I have been clean now for over 8 years, and I still live in a Victory home with my son Chance. I have my son, my life, my family, and a great and successful career. I am thankful to Pastor Pat (my friend) and to her legacy in housing.



What an extraordinary house for women and children right in the heart of Forest Lawn; where Pat desired it to be.

In addition to this brand new house for women and children, we are opening our second house for men, and have increased our mens housing from 64 to 67 with seven of those being in community housing. What a time to celebrate.

We don't just house people, we create community and walk with them in love.

If you would like to have a tour of our housing, please contact me and we would love to make that happen.

Matthew Bannerman
 Director of Housing and Operations
 587.227.6875



Did you know that you can commit to a monthly giving plan to support Victory Foundation ongoing? Please check out

www.victoryfoundation.ca

under donations, and check the "make this donation monthly" tab. What a great way to partner with us and help us meet our monthly needs.





DONOR SPOTLIGHT



VICTORY
HOUSING

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

- Elizabeth Dore -



For over one year Country Lane Farms, owned by Jerry and Nancy Kamphius, have been donating high quality chicken meals to the 60 men at our Ogden location three times a month. This family has shown a great deal of warmth and kindness to our men, who otherwise would not get meals like this.

The chicken that is donated is naturally raised without antibiotics or animal byproducts and is of the absolute highest quality. It is always strange to see for the first time chicken literally twice the size of store bought chicken when the men sit down, and the taste is just as incredible.

Without this family, we would never be able to serve the meal program we do to our 60 men who are coming out of homelessness or are at risk of homelessness when they come to us.

We are so grateful for their commitment and generosity.

Many years ago Elizabeth was looking for a place to continue to donate her hand made quilts to people that could use them as a way of giving back to the larger community. Elizabeth's daughter saw a news story on the television about Victory Manor in Ogden, and told her mother about it. The mother and daughter contacted us and were given a tour of the Manor's housing, and since then many residents of housing have benefited from homemade quilts when they arrive in housing for the first time.

Elizabeth counts herself as very blessed, especially in considering those we hear about who have so much less, are struggling with finances, unsafe housing, or those with compromised health. Elizabeth commented that what she does is only a "little thing" but added that if everyone does a "little thing" to give back to the community around them then this would be a much better world.

This year Elizabeth and her family decided to expand their relationship with Victory Foundation and at the annual Bannerman Christmas dinner in Ogden where they collectively donated many, many gifts for children and trays of hand baked desserts for the 300 people that attended. Elizabeth and her family have impacted the lives of many men, women and children they haven't even met. We are blessed to have them in our lives as well.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Sometimes it can be an intimidating idea to get involved in ministry, particularly inner city ministry. But God encourages us to get out of our comfort zones " A religion that is pure and stainless according to God the Father is this: to take care of orphans and widows who are suffering, and to keep oneself unstained by the world" James 1:27.

At Victory Foundation one of the most popular ways of getting involved is in our Ogden Men's house where individuals or groups can fund a high quality meal for the 60 men that live there. Sometimes people like to cook and even serve these meals as well. Royal Oak Victory Church funds, cooks and serves a monthly meal for example.

Simply put, we cannot afford to provide these meals without donors in any fashion, and we need your help in doing so. We have several different options and can provide a variety of options. Please contact me for details on how you can get involved, how you can make a real difference and participate in ministry. We all have something that we can offer to others, oftentimes just our kindness and willingness to walk with others is the most valuable.

Matthew Bannerman
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**VICTORY
FOUNDATION**

For 25 Years Victory Foundation has taken a community approach to addressing homelessness

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YOU'RE INVITED



**THE
NEIGHBOURHOOD
Victory Church**

EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:30AM

WWW.THENEIGHBOURHOOD.CHURCH

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