

Gospel Gazette

Salt Lake City Mission

April 2007

MY STORY....



Mike Thompson

I spent most of my life without a father. I was very angry inside. I started at a very young age to mask my hurt and pain using anger. My mother could not handle me, nor my anger. So, she took me to a youth ranch and left me there. This didn't help. I began to use drugs and sell drugs too. This went on for about 20 years, I was in and out of jail. I even ended up in prison, twice. Finally, at the age of 42 I was again thrown into jail. This time I had come to the end of myself.

While I was in jail pondering my miserable life, another inmate told me about the Salt Lake City Mission. He told me I could get help there to change my life. Well it didn't take me long. As soon as I was released from jail, I went right to the Mission. While at the Mission I learned about the Good News of Jesus Christ and His free gift. I received Him and His free gift of salvation. He gave me power to change my life and break the bondage of addiction. My future is bright now. I need sunglasses. Now I have peace in my heart.

Guarantee

Jesus promised to never leave us, nor forsake us. In fact He promises us security, provision and help in all that we do with Him. Not only that, but we are also promised that He will soon return to receive us and we will spend eternity with Him. This is the hope of every believer.

These promises are not only for Mike, but all who take God at His word, and receive Him as their personal Savior.

HELP FOR HELPERS ***A Biblical Counseling Framework***



Have you ever wanted to help someone with a problem, maybe give some good advice or counsel to a friend, family member or fellow worker but felt inadequate or not sure what to say? I believe we all have been there before. And many times we feel bad afterwards because it seems we didn't help much. One of the best counseling scriptures in the Bible is found in 1 Thes. 5:14. It is my prayer this passage gives you confidence and faith in the Lord's ability to work through all of us.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 says

Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

This passage is powerful and very useful because it helps us discern between what to do when trying to help people with different issues. Some people may need encouragement, while others may need to be corrected or flat out rebuked. The most effective way to discern between what action to take is to listen, observe, and continually pray for wisdom. And of course always ask if the individual you're dealing with wants your help.

So let's break this scripture down a little to get the most out of it. First of all, we see God's characteristics which He uses in helping us.



- (1) Exhorting- urge
- (2) Admonish- warn
- (3) Comfort- encourage
- (4) Support- help
- (5) Be patient- give it time

(1) To exhort means to urge. The Greek word here is *parakaleo*: Which means to call a person along side you. It means to help them see the light at the end of the tunnel. This same word is used by Jesus as the name of the Holy Spirit sent to indwell the believer and "counsel" us.

Speak words of hope. It is very important to know scriptures like Romans 8:28, Phil. 4:13, etc. These are great exhorting passages. To be a good counselor means to be one who has received good counsel. We are not counseling others because we are so intelligent, we are testifying to the truth of God's goodness in our own lives. We just simply tell the truth of God's daily saving power. It is also important to not water things down but to be real and share personal challenges God has seen you through. Make a connection by showing others you are human but you also know an awesome God who helps you in your weakness.

(2) To admonish someone means to warn them of what consequences usually follow specific actions. The Greek word here is *nouthesia*: It means to place an idea in some one's mind. It also means to correct, train, and even reprove. You may feel a little uncomfortable correcting

someone because we don't want to hurt other's feelings, but remember, you are not sharing your time with them to hurt them, even if it does sting a bit. You are attempting to help them come to grips with truth and reality. God's counsel is always beneficial, never harmful. At this point you may want to share with the other person that you are not trying to be critical or mean. Maybe even share it isn't easy for you to say corrective words but I really feel a need to tell you this because I care. The person's response may be abrupt or even combative but we serve an awesome God and trust He will use us to wake them up and see them through whatever comes up in life. Being liked isn't the priority. Saving someone from long-term pain is. Remember, always show compassion. God does not enjoy correcting us but He knows it's necessary. True correction is compassion

(3) This next one is one of the most important. Comfort or encouragement - The Greek term is *paramytheomai*: It means to soothe, cheer up or console. To encourage someone to the point of moving forward in Christ. We may feel compelled to use clichés like, "just trust God" or "don't worry, it will be alright". There is a proper place for these statements and they are true but sometimes we use these phrases because we don't know what else to say. Be careful not to speak just because you feel you must. Again, it is OK to admit to others, "I don't know why this is happening but I do know I am here and I'll remain with you as long as you want." There are times when no matter what you say or do, people are going to hurt. Respect their pain and be available. God knows all they are going through and never leaves us without hope. Also, remember to let the Spirit do His work. Calmly pray for His comfort to overcome all of us.

(4) The fourth characteristic Paul states here is to support or help someone - The Greek word is *antilambano*: It means to help the weak and needy, to take up their slack, to lay hold of. Here is a place to really pray for wisdom and

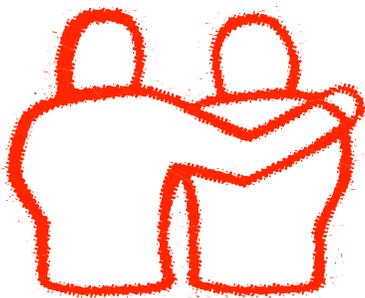
look for what the real need is. Money isn't always the answer. Stuff doesn't always help, and an apparent way out or "quick fix" isn't always helpful. For example, paying someone's bill, bailing them out of trouble, making them "feel" better many times isn't God's will. Help may be in your face, raw or even hard. Pray that God will help you discern between helping Him or hindering Him. We can actually enable others to stay stuck because we try to fix their problems. Let God be God alone.

In addition, this is a good place to turn to Psalm 23, Luke 1:37 and like scripture. These promises from God strengthen us and build our faith. Genuine support and help only come from one place. GOD! His Word is our very present help.

(5) Finally Paul says be patient with everyone. Not those you like, those who are pleasant, but everyone. The Greek word here is *makrothumeo*: It literally means to suffer long with others. Patiently enduring with them. We are patient with others because God is patient with us. When assisting others, always remember the only reason you can is help at all, is because God is carrying you. Patience is a fruit of the Spirit. We must be planted in God's truth and love or we will never be able to support another.

One of the best things we can do to counsel some one is to just be there for them. Don't feel useless because you don't say all the right things. Just pray for God to use you and trust Him to do so.

So, we see that sometimes people need the exhortation to hope, sometimes they may need to be warned, and at other times they need to be strengthened. Most importantly, we all need to be loved.



Jerry McAuley

McAuley Water Street Mission was named for Jerry McAuley, born in Ireland in 1839. His father, a counterfeiter, fled home to escape the law, and Jerry never knew him. His mother evidently languished in prison, and the boy was raised by his grandmother. When she couldn't control him, he was sent to New York where he lived under the docks, drinking, fighting, and stealing from boats. In 1857 he was caught and sent to Sing Sing.

Sing Sing inmates were forced to live in unbroken silence in cell blocks five tiers high. Each cell was a little coffin—three feet wide, six feet high, seven feet long. It was wet in the summer; icy in winter; always grim. There was no plumbing, just buckets. Cells, never disinfected, filled with vermin, lice, and fleas. Infractions were punished by flogging, the "iron collar," or the "shower bath" in which prisoners were repeatedly drowned and revived.

One Sunday McAuley was herded into the chapel. He was moody and miserable until he glanced on the platform and recognized a well-known prizefighter, Orville Gardner. The boxer told of finding Jesus, and McAuley listened attentively. He soon began reading the Bible, page after page, day after day. He read it through twice; then in great agony he fell to his knees—but jumped up immediately in embarrassment. He did this several times. Finally one night, resolving to kneel until he found forgiveness, he prayed and prayed.

"All at once it seemed something supernatural was in my room. I was afraid to open my eyes; the tears rolled off my face in great drops, and these words came to me, "My son, thy sins, which are many, are forgiven."



He was released in 1864, having been incarcerated seven of his 26 years. He devoted himself to rescuing other incorrigibles. Twenty years later on September 18, 1884, the

huge Broadway Tabernacle was packed for his funeral, with multitudes flooding surrounding streets. His Water Street Mission, a pioneer among America's rescue missions, has been a haven of hope for over one hundred years.

"I tell you that all her sins are forgiven, and that is why she has shown great love. But anyone who has been forgiven for only a little will show only a little love." Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven." *Luke 7:47,48*

SMILE

A little girl walked to and from school daily. Though the weather that morning was questionable and clouds were forming, she made her daily trek to the elementary school. As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up, along with thunder and lightning. The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school and she herself feared that the electrical storm might harm her child. Following the roar of thunder, lightning, like a flaming sword, would cut through the sky. Full of concern, the mother quickly got into her car and drove along the route to her child's school. As she did so, she saw her little girl walking along, but at each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up and smile. Another and another were to follow quickly and with each the little girl would look at the streak of light and smile. When the mother's car drew up beside the child she lowered the window and called to her, "What are you doing? Why do you keep stopping?" The child answered, "I am trying to look pretty. God keeps taking my picture."



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Salt Lake City Mission for more info visit our web site
P.O. Box 142 Dept. 10/2 Salt Lake City, UT 84110-0142 at www.saltlakecitymission.org

Costs are average and include the expense of preparing and providing meals, and may be used for programs for the homeless throughout the year.

Outreach: Coffee and food behind the Road Home Shelter everyday at 8:00am (except Sundays)
Easter in Pioneer Park. Easter Sunday from 8:00am to 4:00pm
Volunteers and donations are needed and welcome. Sign up soon at 355-6310

Volunteer Opportunities

The Mission feeds over 40,000 meals through out the year in our year round programs, holiday dinners and outreaches. It take hundreds of people to make this happen. Your help, no matter how big or small, may just be what helps someone get on their feet.

Needs

Clothing drives
 Hygiene kits
 Hats, coats, gloves, van and trucks,
 Hay and feed (for the ranch animals)
 Fund raisers and furniture.
 All donations are accepted.
 Just get creative and have fun.