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# ❖ Restoration Village ❖

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March 2012

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The genuine realist, if he is an unbeliever, will always find strength and ability to disbelieve in the miraculous, and if he is confronted with a miracle as an irrefutable fact he would rather disbelieve his own senses than admit the fact. Faith does not... spring from the miracle,

## BUT THE MIRACLE FROM FAITH.

(Fyodor Dostoevsky)

**You** know the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) when an “expert of the law” asked a question of Jesus about “inheriting eternal life.” The man asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Which is a way of saying, “Ok, but who am I **obligated to love?**” He wanted to know if he was to love his next door neighbor, those whom he works with, the people in his social class, etc...But that was not the most important question and Jesus doesn’t answer that question when he finishes the parable of the Good Samaritan, but leaves us all with one we have to answer.

For 22 years Restoration Village, by faith, has taken in, one at a time, women (usually with children) during a crisis time of their life and offered a safe place to choose to begin a new life journey of rebuilding, renewing and restoring their life. In the year 2000, by faith, we began the Children’s Advocacy Center to serve children who have been abused, maltreated, or physically harmed. These ministries have responded to the first part of the story when we are confronted by Jesus’ first question of: “What is written in the law?” chose to “Love our neighbor and thou shall live.” Jesus turns the tables when the man asks Jesus a different question that deserves a different answer as Jesus asks at the end of the Samaritan parable: **“Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbor to him that fell among the thieves?”** *The first question is works based; the second one is about love being its own reward. The question is not “who?” The real question is “Am I a neighbor?”*

A question for us all, “Do I move toward another person’s need as quick as I move toward my own?” I recently read the transcripts of the Grand Jury investigations into Jerry Sandusky, the ex-Penn State assistant football coach. Victim #6 arrived home after an evening at the Second Mile (Sandusky’s foundation) and his hair was wet. After his mother got the story, she called the police, even though her young son was not molested. The “mother bear” called the police to protect her “cub.” The coaches, the staff, the others who knew, had talked amongst themselves, but did nothing. Who was the neighbor? It was the mother!

I have read some research regarding the “bystander effect” (inaction) and why people do not do what is needed in times of another’s distress. The main failure is that the bystander is most often motivated by an inner assumption “that it’s someone else’s responsibility.” Researchers show that altruistic people do perform selfless acts to assist others, but does not necessarily mean that they are a “hero.” Heroes, the ones who go the extra mile, are the ones who give a personal sacrifice and have an inner commitment to a noble purpose. The personal test is not “Who must I

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The real question is “Am I a neighbor?”

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love?” The personal test is “Am I one who loves?” The question is not “Am I altruistic, but am I a potential hero?”

There is a window of opportunity for you to be a part of an amazing piece of faith at work that will change the future and be historically known in the annals of the protection of children. If you had the opportunity to eliminate a major economic burden to the State and Nation that you live in, would you? If you had a chance to save the psychological lives of children prior to their adult years, would you? If someone were to challenge your faith and tell you those children would be safer, more secure, within this current century, would you be one of those heroes that chooses to give sacrificially of yourself to make it happen?

Recently a group of researchers have calculated the actual financial cost is to America as a result of child abuse. Based upon 2008 confirmed cases of child abuse (physical, sexual, psychological and neglect) the total cost is \$124 billion dollars over the victims lifetimes. The cost of health care, child welfare and other services for each victim will be \$210,012.00 over their average lifetime. The most disturbing part of this study was that the average age of these victims (important to determine the costs over the life time of the child) **is six years of age**. This study wrote of, but has no financial figures for the finding that 27% of abused and neglected children have had a juvenile arrest and this has a financial cost to the general public. The paper reports that future studies must look at... reduced life expectancy, decreased quality of life, negative parenting behaviors and negative intergenerational outcomes...” in order to establish more accurate economic impacts of child maltreatment. The point I wish to establish in this short newsletter is that **a chance to impact America can made by lowering the economic burden of child abuse travesty.**<sup>1</sup>

The most disturbing part of this study was that the average age of these victims is six years of age.

Considering the economic impact in the above paragraph; the long psychological impact on the victims; the sad reality of the “bystander impact” to the growing number of abuse cases; now comes a chance to act in a moment of faith to change the outcome and answer the question of “Am I a good neighbor?” It would only cost 3 million dollars to begin the renovation necessary to complete the National Child Protection Center here in Northwest Arkansas. That is such a small request for contributions in comparison to the average yearly cost of what the current statistics say the national economic impact of child abuse totals. Multiply the saving of just 2000 children times \$210,000.00 and an investment in the NCPTC is a wise investment.<sup>2</sup>

M. Scott Peck writes, “...**the only ultimate way to conquer evil is to let it be smothered within a willing, living human being. When it is absorbed there like blood in a sponge or a spear into one’s heart, it loses its power and goes no further. The healing of evil – scientifically or otherwise - can be accomplished only by the love of individuals. A willing sacrifice is required...I do not know how this occurs. But I know that it does...Whenever this happens there is a slight shift in the balance of power in the world.**”<sup>3</sup>

History confirms that being a “bystander” to inhuman acts is easier when a person, or a group, or a culture believes itself as being unrelated to the rest of humanity. We do this when we say aloud or silently, “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

You can change the balance of power,

*David Engle*

1. You can find the link to “The Economic Burden of Child Maltreatment in the United States and Implication for Prevention” by web search for that title or Fang, X, et. al. in *Child Abuse and Neglect* (2012).

2. Link to National Training Center and chance to give financially: <https://api.nwacc.edu/ncptc/donate.php> or call 479.619.4321. A reality tour of facility is also at this site.

3. M. Scott Peck, *People of the Lie*, New York: Simon & Shuster, 1983, pg 269.

## Village News

THE STATISTICS ARE STAGGERING, THE REPERCUSSIONS SHOULD BE OF PROTEST AND OUTCRIES FROM PULPITS ACROSS OUR GREAT LAND AND YET, I still hear silence of muted groups that could help stop this travesty. How old are your children? How old are your grandchildren? What is the median age of children in your church programs?

In 2008 (most up to date, accurate statistics) there were over 772,000 children determined by Child Protections Services in all 50 states to have been victims of abuse or neglect. These are children who are known, not a guess! Seventy-five percent of these children had no previous victimization. The average age of these 772,000 children was:

### 6 Years Old

That same year, 1,740 children died as a result of abuse or neglect. The silent holocaust of America's children and most of it occurs in their own home, not behind barbed wire fences.

SEVERAL TIMES IN THE NEWSLETTERS AND OUR THANK YOU LETTERS WE HAVE TOLD YOU OF THE REMARKABLE JOURNEY of a young lady we are proud of, you can be proud of, and her life journey is a testimony of courage, resilience, and the results of people working together to give her a chance. The Village had a party for her last month to celebrate her amnesty to America, her patience to secure the documents necessary to become an American, and now her first semester enrolled in college. We are grateful to all of you that contribute to Restoration Village so that our doors are open to serve others. We wanted you to share in her special day at least with the pictures.



Dorcus and her attorney  
Danielle Robinson Briand



OH MY! SOME MONTHS HAVE MORE BIRTHDAYS THAN ANY OTHER DURING A YEAR. We will have celebrated eight birthdays the first quarter of this year. It is a grand occasion when we can celebrate a birthday and tell the recipient "we are glad you were born!"



HOLY! HOLY! But the men weren't at church. Thanks Jeff Doss and his nephew Josh Doss who gave a whole Sunday afternoon to gather on the roof at the main lodge and take out the vent boxes and attic fan that we no longer need, and was a major water leak problem when the rains came down. Many of you don't know that the main lodge has only had air conditioning for 6 years and this is the first full year that we have had central heat. The residents appreciate it.

LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER MENTIONED THE BOOK, *THE SILENCE*, BY SHUSAKU ENDO. Since that newsletter I have discovered that Martin Scorsese, the man whose movie *HUGO* won five Oscars is making a movie based upon *THE SILENCE*. Scorsese wrote that *THE SILENCE* is..." a story of a man who learns – so painfully – that God's love is more mysterious than he knows, that He leaves much more to the ways of men than we realize, and that He is always present...even in His silence."

The film adaption is currently in production.



GET YOUR PLANNING CALENDAR OUT AND WRITE IN SOME DATES BEFORE IT TOO LATE!!!



April 2: Kick off Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month at Dave Peel Park in downtown Bentonville. Free hotdogs, presentation of the Shining Star Award to citizens who have gone above and beyond to prevent child abuse and have April proclaimed Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention month by the county Judge. After the luncheon we will travel around to various police departments and place pinwheels in the ground as a reminder of the confirmed cases of child abuse in Benton County in 2011.

April 13<sup>th</sup> is undoubtedly going to be the most fun 1-mile fun walk/5k/500 yard dash in the history of the Cherishing Children Challenge to benefit the Children's Advocacy Center. It is a nighttime explosion of glow in the dark with glow sticks, bounce houses, inflatable's, and just a fun family event.

Both of these events can be reviewed at [www. Cacbentonco. com](http://www.Cacbentonco.com)

MARCH 16, all day. Thanks to the WIDOW'S SONS and the CELTIC GRILL in Bentonville, Arkansas, the St. Patrick's week end begins with 10% of the meal purchases being donated to Restoration Village. The food at the CELTIC GRILL is awesome and the chef is one "cool guy." I enjoyed the food! Have lunch or dinner at the Grill and help us too. Thanks to the Widow's Sons for setting this up. Widow's Sons and their purpose and works can be reviewed with a web search.