



Restoration VILLAGE

FEBRUARY 2017

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2215 Little Flock Drive
Rogers, AR 72756

A New Way to Remember

Recently a retired pastor, who we haven't visited with or seen in at least 10 years, stopped at the Village. The church he pastored had loaned us their passenger van in our early years to take residents to White Water, Christmas parades and other events when we needed a larger transportation resource. I had the honor to speak at the country church several times and they graced us with food collections from time to time.

While we visited, He shared some stories with us about a couple of church members who had completed Beverly's "Restoring the Wounded Soul" group workbook. One was a 72-year-old lady who shared she had kept suppressed the childhood molestation by her father and of the peace she had come to know by admitting for the "first time, those terrible memories." Another was a lady in her 50's who shared about the military-type discipline of her father to her and her siblings and of the emotional damage for these years until she faced her "wounded soul." The Pastor had just stopped by to see how the Village was doing and left with thanksgiving for the peace restored to those who had been impacted within his own congregation.

Christmas Eve is always a festive evening of songs, skits, stunts and presents, but this year a resident shared some very personal prose. The room was completely silent as she read, except for the few sniffles coming from various directions. With her permission, we share with you:

DAD

"All those times I cried for you, you never came.

Of all the sports I played, you never showed up at one game.

All the awards I received, I never heard you clap.

You were never there for me to sit on your lap.

All the times I fell and scratched my knee, you were the one that wasn't there to comfort me.

All those times I was bored and wanted someone to call, you still weren't there, not there at all.

I always tried to make you proud, hoping you would love me more, but you never seemed to care.

So what did I do it for? You weren't there for any of my firsts, might not be any of my lasts.

It's like you're not here in my present, just like you weren't there in my past.

I try to move on, but no one knows how



Village News

Happy Valentine's Day!

During the month of February we have come to celebrate Valentine's Day by sharing cards and gifts with friends and loved ones. While little is known about the life of St. Valentine, we know that you don't have to be a saint to show love. At Restoration Village we encourage our residents to welcome into their hearts God's love and to open themselves up to the restorative power of that love.

We are blessed to have community partners who have shown unconditional love to the Village by providing us with support throughout the year. **As you make plans for Valentine's Day we ask that you consider making a gift to the Village honoring the sentiments of love, connectedness, and caring for one another that this day has come to represent.** Your tax-deductible gift will directly support the programs and services for women and children at the Village.

Gifts can be made online at www.restorationvillage.net or by mail to 2215 Little Flock Dr. Little Flock, AR 72756



Tax Statements

Tax statements for 2016 should have arrived in your mailbox by now. If you have not received your 2016 contribution letter, please contact us at (479) 631-7345 or email from our webpage: <http://www.restorationvillage.net/contact-us/> We will respond quickly to the request.

Village Pantry

Thank you to all who answered the call of the Village pantry! We are so grateful for the following individuals and groups who have donated items and are organizing collections: Design Travel, Megan Nickels, Noon Rotary Club, WEB Club at Lingle Middle School led by Kim Phillips, the congregation at Redeemer Church, Dana Floyd and her small group at Cross Church! We appreciate your contributions! If you would like to host a donation drive for Restoration Village please contact Cie Cochran at cie@restorationvillage.net



2016 Report

"The fruitfulness of a gift is the only gratitude for the gift," wrote Meister Eckhart. 2016 was a fruitful year for the resident women and children at Restoration Village. Some of the 2016 stats: **37** women and **56** children; **284** hours of counseling with a licensed counselor; and **283** hours of direct advocacy. Some of our women went back to school, most were either approved for benefits or found employment. We were able to provide **3** automobiles to residents through donations, and the impact of your investment goes on. Next month we will provide a year in review with statistics that will amplify our impact upon lives at the Village and outside the Village.

New Board Chair

We would like to extend our deepest thanks and appreciation to Marty Parkhurst, our new Restoration Village Board Chair. Marty joined the board June 2015, has led many of our outdoor beautification efforts and has been instrumental in sharing the mission and vision of the Village with others in the community! Please join us we Congratulate Marty on his new role!



If you would like to learn more about volunteering on a committee or serving the Village in a volunteer leadership capacity please contact Beverly Engle, Director, at Beverly@restorationvillage.net.

New Chapter

Thank you to Saving Grace for donating some kitchen items to our resident who recently moved out. We are so grateful for you and how you serve women in our community!



Afternoon of FairyTales

Thank you to our 3rd Annual Afternoon of Fairytales Sponsors!

Restoration VILLAGE PRESENTS

The 3rd Annual Afternoon of FairyTales

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hard it is for your own father not to love you
I hold my head up high to keep these things from
looking so hard.
But deep down I still wish I had love from my dad.”

The first book I read by author Walker Percy was, *Lost in the Cosmos*. In it he writes that moviegoers love a good plot twist in which the characters either find themselves creating a new identity or an event occurs where the protagonist bumps his head and forgets the past. “The source of pleasure for the moviegoer is not the amnesia but the certified and risk-free license to leave the old self behind and begin a new life whether by amnesia or mistaken identity.” Some sort of a ‘forgive and forget’ mentality. I understand that movies are a momentary escape and that transference into the main character(s) can occur, but it was the idea that maybe we viewers really do enjoy when a ‘new life’ is represented that the movie is more than escapism. The scars of the past of abuse, trauma, etc., do not go away, and giving forgiveness does not remove the memory of the event(s). As Walker implies, a new beginning, a ‘new life’ is freedom.

The memory of an abortion does not become forgotten. Traumatic events are not forgotten. The marriage that started so sweetly and ended with divorce is not forgotten. The tragedy of a loss is not easily put away. The childhood memories of abuse, parental discord, teasing or bullying just don’t fly away into oblivion. So where is the opportunity, as Percy suggests, to begin again with a “new life of freedom?”

With 40 years of being involved in the lives of wounded individuals, encouragement has been offered by a passage in John 20:24-29 regarding Thomas who said: “I won’t believe until I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.” Thomas, one of the disciples who went to sleep when Jesus asked him and the others to pray, who ran at the time of Jesus’ arrest, who did not attend the crucifixion, who wasn’t at the resurrection or in the upper room and when confronted with the possibility of Jesus presence, remained doubtful. What relief he must have felt when Jesus appeared

in the room and spoke directly to Thomas: “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Thomas’ relief was no doubt followed by sudden grief and regret. If only he could have a do-over, or get amnesia regarding his prior lack of courage and disbelief.

The forgiving and healing of these events and memories does not mean that they never took place.

Thomas, just like me, just like all of us; carries scars of regrets, memories of things done unto us, and thoughts of wishing we had done something a different way. They are scars that remain unseen until they are brought to light by the admission of a woman in her 70’s, a woman in her 50’s, and a young single mother.

Jesus with his wounds, enters a locked house and begins the whole conversation with some of the most encouraging words for us “Peace be with you.” Jesus holds out his hands and He invites them (and us) to touch the wounds. “He was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we may have *peace*” (italics ours). The passage is not about forgetting, it is about our forgiveness, and the wounded Savior joins us in our sorrows and pains.

The forgiving and healing of these events and memories does not mean that they never took place. Forgiving what we cannot forget creates a **new way to remember**. A new way to remember allows us to be “wounded healers” to others because we understand. A new way to remember changes the way we relate to others without judgement or bias. Memory reminds me that I am a crooked man in a crooked world; a thief on a cross, but I can still look to the One in the middle and say “remember me today” and hear back, “today you will be with Me in paradise.”

“But do not be faithless any longer, believe.”

