

Paul's Ponderings

Love...what is it? There are many meanings. I can say, "I love chocolate," "I love my mother," or "I love my wife," but each is a different kind of love.



Paul Stasi
Executive Director

1 Corinthians 13 says, "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong doing but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." This is how love is demonstrated, but what is love? Or better, who is love? "God so loved the world that no one would perish but have eternal life." John 3:16.

Jesus took on flesh. Came as a baby in a manger. In His humanity He lived life with absolute purity. Jesus was crucified before the foundations of the world. He was so committed to the cross that He knew this was necessary before anything was created. Before there was sin, He already had the solution. God gives us free will. But, in doing that He knew that some may not believe in Him. Only the blood of the Son of God could free us from our sin for a lifetime. He died in our place taking on what we deserve.

Love

There is nothing in our present or future circumstances that can weaken His love. We encourage those we serve to focus on this love to keep from stumbling. The greatest reality in our life, is the love of God. We encourage our students to take moments in their lives to focus on the Love. Jesus came for them. Everything He went through was for them (and us). Because he loves us.

So, what is love...who is love? Jesus. He came as a baby, lived to establish His Kingdom. He loves you so much that He gave His life for you.

Your continued prayer and support allows us to continue to proclaim this love message to everyone who comes to our doors in desperate need every day.

Thank you for showing your love!

NAVIGATE TAX CODES & CHANGE LIVES

Family: A Bond Like No Other. There's a special bond we share with our children or grandchildren that's unlike how we feel about any other kid.

A similar relationship can grow between ourselves and the organizations we believe in. When you resonate with the mission of a particular charity, you may choose to donate your money... and when you do, their mission becomes yours too. Some people who share the mission of CRM have chosen to include a gift to our organization in their will. Those individuals:



1. Commit out loud. When someone notifies us of a planned, in-will gift to CRM they make a statement of their dedication to our mission and those we serve.

2. Create impact. Every dollar you give to a charity you care about is an investment that lasts. There may be tax savings and benefits associated with your gift, but even more than that, your investment ensures people's lives will be changed for good.

3. Build a legacy. Everyone wants to know their life counts for something. When you leave a charitable gift in your will, you design a legacy that will long outlive your life.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "3 Surprising Benefits of Generosity" by contacting CRM to bless your family with an up-to-date will. Some people who share the mission of CRM have chosen to include a gift to our organization in their will.

Those individuals: For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "3 Surprising Benefits of Generosity" by contacting Angela A. Washington at (904) 421-5147 or awashington@crmjax.org - Visit christianwill.org/crm to bless your family with an up-to-date will.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

City Rescue Mission is in need of the following:

- White twin sheet sets **Urgent Need**
- White towels and washcloths
- White, large drawstring laundry bags for student use
- NIV Life Study Bibles - Large Print
- Travel size shampoo, conditioner, and body wash
- Bus passes - 3 day passes - \$12/ 7 day passes - \$20
- Gently used or new furniture, clothing, home goods, books, and more for the CRM Thrift Store at 7200 Normandy Blvd.



CITY RESCUE MISSION

CRMjax.org



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SYLVIA NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHAT LOVE WAS UNTIL SHE ENTERED CITY RESCUE MISSION. HERE, SHE LEARNED SHE WAS LOVED BY GOD, AND LEARNED HOW TO LOVE HERSELF, AND OTHERS.

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SYLVIA'S STORY

From a young age, I never really understood what love was. I came from a broken family, my mother abandoned me at only two months old and my father was extremely abusive, not only physically, but mentally and emotionally. I became so timid, self-conscious and was always afraid to talk to others.

One day I discovered my father's alcohol; I was finally able to smile and like myself for what seemed like the first time. Little did I know this temporary satisfaction I discovered was the start of a destructive journey.

When I was nine, I moved in with my older sister, started hanging around the wrong crowd and began experimenting with harder substances. Over the years I began to embrace a life of crime, was in and out of prison, and finally found myself living in the woods. One day while walking the streets, I wandered into a parking lot where food was being served to those looking for a meal and people were talking about God, it was the City Rescue Mission. I let them know that I had a problem and did not want to live like this anymore. They



took me right in, I can remember hearing how loved I was by God when I walked through the doors and that made me so eager to learn more about Him and form a relationship. I began reading my Bible, talking with the LifeBuilders counselors, who helped me explore the pain and anger that consumed me for years, and I started to find strength. I began to forgive my father; I had compassion for the first

time and maintained my sobriety while learning practical tools and life-skills.

I am now a recent graduate of the LifeBuilders Program. I have a place to rest my head comfortably, a car, a job and a savings account. "Before being in the program, I didn't want to love, I didn't want to strive. Before, I treated myself like trash, the way my father used to. Now I know I'm a woman of Christ and with that comes self-esteem, self-worth, self-value."

8th ANNUAL DIFFERENCE MAKERS BANQUET

Featuring The Comedy of The Water Coolers



Thursday May 4, 2023

Seating begins at 6 p.m.

Banquet begins at 6:30 p.m.

Southbank Hotel Jacksonville Riverwalk

1515 Prudential Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32207

Tickets: Individual \$140

Table (10 seats) \$1400

Contact : Frances Stephens fstephens@crmjax.org (904) 635-3515



SAVE THE DATES

CRM UPCOMING EVENTS

SPRING LIFEBUILDERS GRADUATION - FRIDAY MARCH 31

Wayne M. Densch Chapel (426 S McDuff Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32254) Join us

EASTER BANQUET AT NEW LIFE INN - THURSDAY, APRIL 6

New Life Inn (234 W. State Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202) We will be providing Easter praise and worship, along with a traditional Easter meal for the public in need on April 6. Praise and worship will begin at 10:30 am and the meal will be served from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON -

THURSDAY APRIL 19. City Rescue Mission's McDuff Campus (426 S. McDuff Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32254). If you are interested in getting plugged into the volunteer program at City Rescue Mission, we invite you to contact Kimberly Crockett at (904) 421-5149 or volunteers@crmjax.org.

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FURNITURE SALE

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NEW & GENTLY USED FURNITURE
CRM THRIFT STORE
7200 Normandy Blvd.
Phone: (904) 421-5171

100% proceeds support CRM



CITY RESCUE MISSION'S HOPE BUILDERS MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM



Your faithful monthly giving transforms lives and provides hope, healing and change!

The Hope Builders Circle are partners in fulfilling CRM's mission. We exist to transform the lives of the homeless, needy, and addicted, serving them through the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. Through ongoing monthly giving, the CRM HOPE BUILDERS CIRCLE helps restore hope to men and women who really do want to overcome past mistakes and take steps toward a better life.

As a HOPE BUILDER, you will receive regular updates on how you are helping Northeast Florida's hungry, homeless, and addicted neighbors.

Please contact Angela Washington for more information (904) 421-5147 or awashington@crmjax.org.

THANK YOU

We want to thank JAX7 from Amazon for donating 9 Pallets of Apparel with an estimated total value of \$108,000. In addition to this donation, they will be returning with a pallet of food collected by their associates.



We are so grateful for JAX7. Thank you for blessing our neighbors in need!

