

Paul's Ponderings



Paul Stasi,
Executive Director, CRM

A discussion about truth should be simple. For example, when you take a test, there could be true or false questions. That implies that the statement is either true or, "in accordance with fact or reality," or not. So, how did we get from this as a meaning of truth to, "your truth, my truth, their truth?" In many ways, there is a war on truth in today's culture. We are in an age of expressive individualism.

The Wall Street Journal, the Pew Research Center, the RAND Research Institute, Impact 360 Institute, and Barna Institute have all studied truth in today's culture. RAND uses the term "truth decay" to describe a society pulling apart over basic facts and opinions as the overriding factor. They define "truth decay" as "the diminishing role of facts." This leads to general uncertainty around what's true and what isn't. Impact 360 Institute noted that "the survey results and trajectory were deeply concerning. It means moral reality, moral truth, shifts as society shifts."

The Barna Research Group studies showed that less than one out of three born-again Christians adopt the notion of absolute moral truth. In another study, people were asked if they believed that moral absolutes exist and are unchanging or that moral truth is relative to the circumstances. By a 3-to-1 margin adults said truth is always relative to the person and their situation.

The term "post-truth" is often used to describe the current climate in the United States. Reality has become relative, and facts are open to interpretation due to the influence of opinion over facts and declining trust in what was considered a source of factual information. This can lead to alienation and disengagement.

We have gone from a religious world view to a secular work view. "The attempt at self-creation doesn't lead to deification it leads to dehumanization." (Russell Moore, Christianity Today).

As Christians, we need to go back to the basics for truth- the Bible (John 17:17). Because God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). Jesus Christ, as God, is the personification of truth (John 14:6; Ephesians 4:21). Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

There is so much confusion! We share The Truth- God's Word, Jesus the Messiah, every day with those who come to us for help because when we know the truth, "the truth will set us free." (John 8:32).

We are so thankful to you because it is only through your support that we can continue sharing the truth.

May God bless you,

A BREATH OF FRESH HEIR

Have you heard about these outside-the-box bequests?



- A wealthy Portuguese bachelor randomly selected 70 names from the Lisbon telephone directory and bequeathed his fortune to those individuals.

- Billionaire Leona Helmsley's left \$12 million to her dog (and excluded two of her grandsons).

- Robert Louis Stevenson gave his birthday, November 13, to a friend who didn't like hers.

These stories illustrate a larger point: your estate plan is one of the best ways to communicate with your loved ones about what's most important to you. It's Psalm 78:4 in action: "We will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders."

You can get started by:

1. Writing a Legacy Love Letter. This cover letter for your estate plan outlines guiding principles, stories of personal faith, and future wishes for your family. Contact us for a free guide.

2. Including a Gift in Your Will to City Rescue Mission. An in-will gift to our ministry makes your priorities clear and helps us impact lives.

Your will is the ultimate opportunity to share what's most important to you.

For more information, please contact Angela Washington at (904) 421-5147 or awashington@crmjax.org.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

City Rescue Mission is in need of the following:

- Chapel Roof and Steeple \$54,670
- New Life Inn Men's Dorm AC \$5,680
- Homes of Hope Roof \$15,000
- Kitchen exit doors for New Life Inn \$10,000 and McDuff exit doors \$22,000
- EKG Machine for the medical clinic
- AED Machine for the medical clinic
- 400 TWIN cotton thermal blankets or a gift of \$25.00 each.

Urgent Needs

Contact: Angela A. Washington
awashington@crmjax.org

(904) 421-5147

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MARCH 2024

CRM
CITY RESCUE MISSION

New Life
NEWS



BRUCE

Bruce's efforts to help his family took a turn he never imagined – a road filled with homelessness, incarceration, and despair. While he knew he needed help, he knew he couldn't help himself – and he was relieved to be referred to The City Rescue Mission. Here, with support from friends like you, he found God, found himself, and changed his life.

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426 McDuff Ave. S., Jacksonville, FL 32254 Phone (904) 387-HELP (4357) www.CRMJAX.org

PROVIDING HOPE, HEALING AND CHANGE SINCE 1946

CRM exists to transform the lives of those experiencing homelessness, hardships and addiction through the love and compassion of Jesus Christ.

BRUCE'S STORY

I LEARNED I CAN JUST BE ME

Bruce and his four siblings were raised by a single mom who struggled to provide for their needs. Sometimes, they went hungry. Often, they wore clothing they'd long ago outgrown. Always, it seemed, they lived in fear of losing their home.

As Bruce grew older, he came to recognize the challenges his mother faced and took it upon himself to help. But with little education and no marketable skills, his options for earning money were limited. "So I was always doing criminal activities," he says. "And when I wasn't doing that, I was locked up." Over the years, he was incarcerated four times.

Because of this destructive cycle, Bruce never developed a sense of self-esteem or relationships that gave his life meaning. He grew increasingly depressed. His hope for the future waned. He began using drugs to ease his deep despair.

He spiraled farther and farther downhill until finally he found himself homeless.

As he reached rock bottom, he realized nothing he could do on his own would heal his depression, restore his hope, and reset his course for the future.



"I got tired of being homeless. I needed medicine. I needed help," he says.

Not knowing where to turn, Bruce checked himself into a mental health facility... and they referred him to City Rescue Mission. He recalls the sense of relief he felt when he first walked through our doors.

"It was like a load had been lifted up off of me and they accepted me for who I am. In the past, I would try to fit in, but here I could just be me. I could just be Bruce."

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Robert Broadhurst, Counselor
25 Years at CRM!

Robert Broadhurst has recently celebrated 25 years at City Rescue Mission. He is one of the male Counselors in our LifeBuilder's residential recovery program. He came to us in 1999 after pastoring a church in South Carolina, but he has been helping men facing homelessness and addiction for much of his life, which has prepared him to have great influence with the men he works with here at CRM.



Robert sees his role at City Rescue Mission as his ministry, not just a job. He teaches the tools to overcome all kinds of addiction and serves faithfully at the mission, truly understanding the goal of helping to transform lives. In addition to counseling, Robert is a choir member and enjoys sports and fishing.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A
TOUR
OF CITY RESCUE MISSION?



234 W.
State
Street



426 S. McDuff Ave.

We would love to show you our campuses!
Call Sherrie at (904) 387-4357
To arrange a visit.

Did you know?

Just a teaspoon size amount of Fentanyl can kill



300-500

people?

There is a crisis in our nation! Fentanyl killed more Americans in 2020 than car accidents, gun violence, breast cancer, and suicide according to CDC data.

Every day at City Rescue Mission we are fighting the enemy of addiction, bringing **HOPE, HEALING AND CHANGE** to those who desperately need our help.

CITY RESCUE MISSION'S 9TH ANNUAL DIFFERENCE MAKERS GALA

FEATURING THE COMEDY OF

Robert G. Lee

RECOGNIZING DIFFERENCE MAKERS

VyStar Credit Union
Briggs Equipment
Movement Mortgage
Callahan First Baptist Church

**May
2nd**

Robert G. Lee is a seasoned comic who comes armed with a refreshingly clean, relatable act. He's a sitcom warm-up trained to ad lib off the cuff with any type of crowd.

Robert has been entertaining audiences behind the scenes on Hollywood sitcoms such as "Golden Girls," "Wings," and "Old Christine" for over 3 decades! Whether delivering laughs nationwide on his DryBar comedy special, Sirius radio's Laughs USA, or writing punchlines for produce on "Veggie Tales," Robert's clever, slice-of-life observational material along with his impish and punchy storytelling style is always a guaranteed audience pleaser!

What Do Churches Have To Say About Robert G. Lee?

"I don't think I've ever enjoyed a comedian more. It takes a great talent to be funny in a clean way in our culture, and boy, Robert, you scored tonight."
- Josh McDowell, author and speaker

"Robert was able to step into a retreat setting, catch on to the dynamic of the group and run with it. His prepared material is funny, creative and engaging, but the highlight of the evening was his ability to interact with the group."
- Michael Cork, Worship Pastor, First EV Free Church of Fullerton, CA



Seating begins at 6 p.m. Gala begins at 6:30
Southbank Hotel Jacksonville Riverwalk Tickets \$150 Table (10 seats) \$1500
1515 Prudential Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32207
Contact: Angela Washington (904) 421-5147 or crmdevelopment@crmjax.org