

Paul's Ponderings

DEFENDER

When I think of this word, I think of an attorney, or public defender (PD). In our line of work, we often work with PDs. Most individuals we serve who have been involved with the court systems are unable to afford an attorney, so a PD is assigned to them. It is sometimes through these PDs that people come into our programs for help.

To extend this to a spiritual level, Holy Spirit is our *paraclete*, our counselor, our defender in the courtroom of heaven. When Jesus ascended to heaven, He promised to never leave us. What He meant was that Holy Spirit will be with us as our paraclete. John 14:15-17

The Greek word translated “Comforter” or “Counselor” is parakletos. The form of the word used here means “one called to the side of another”; it carries a secondary notion concerning the purpose of calling alongside: to counsel, support or defend the one who needs it. The third person of the Trinity has been “called to our side.” He is a personal being, and He indwells every believer. Isn’t this awesome! In the Old Testament, Deuteronomy 32:4 says, “The Lord is your **MIGHTY DEFENDER**, perfect in all His ways.”

Due to past sins, many stand in the courtroom of heaven facing accusations because our enemy, the devil is “the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night,” (Revelation 12:10). Many times, this guilt and shame weighs people down to the point of giving up and having feelings of hopelessness and despair. Without our **DEFENDER**, Christ, and his mercy, we are guilty and have no defense.

However, when we help others to see and fully grasp who Jesus, our Christ, is and how he paid our punishment and carries our burdens, we can pull others out of this despair and into a full life. They can then “resist him (the accuser), standing firm in the faith,” (1 Peter 5:9).

Your gifts and prayers are what support us in this life-saving work. Those we help may then know and experience the mercy and grace of their savior! Thank you so much.



Paul Stasi,
Executive Director,

Paul

3 Ways to Embrace Giving While Living

Committed to “giving while living,” billionaire Charles Feeney donated nearly all his wealth by the time he passed away in 2023. Here are three lessons we can glean from his example:



Pursue generosity now. There’s no time like the present to impact lives. And you don’t have to worry about having enough. You serve a generous God who will meet every one of your needs. “Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?” (Matthew 6:26).

Plan to give later. You can extend your generosity after your lifetime, from including a gift in your will for City Rescue Mission to donating appreciated assets like stocks or mutual funds.

Share your why. Charles Feeney desired to set an example with his giving. You can too. Sharing your commitment to generosity with your family can ignite that same spark in them.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of “3 Ways to Give Like a Billionaire” by contacting 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 \$51,670
- 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
- Scrubs (small, medium, large, x-large, 2x, and 3x)
- 100 cases of water
- 400 TWIN cotton thermal blankets or a gift of \$25.00 each
- Our store needs donations: gently used clothes, pots & pans, dishes, mugs, shoes, sheets and towels

Urgent Needs

Contact: Angela A. Washington
awashington@crmjax.org
(904) 421-5147

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New Life
NEWS

MAY 2024

SHEILA
“It took me losing everything”

From the outside, it appeared Sheila had it all – a nice home, a loving family, a good job. But on the inside, something was missing. She set out to find it, and her journey cost her everything she loved... and nearly her own life. In our care, through the guidance of our Christ-centered staff and gifts from friends like you, she found what she was seeking. We’re grateful for faithful support which offers people like Sheila a new life.

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Sheila's STORY

"It Took Me Loosing Everything."

An only child, Sheila was raised by a single mom who abused alcohol and suffered a string of broken marriages.

"There were a lot of people in and out of my life, and a lot of things happened," Sheila says, "bad things no child should be exposed to or endure."

As a result, she had to grow up fast... and provide for herself at a very young age.

Her mother's neglect made her angry. As her resentment grew, she began acting out, eventually adopting the self-destructive habits of the only role model she had. But when she became pregnant at age 25, it changed the trajectory of her life.

"I surrendered to Christ and began a different walk," she says. For the next 20 years, "I served my family, my community, my church. My husband and I started a business. We were living the American dream. I put all my energy into doing things right."

But something was wrong, and eventually she became emotionally and spiritually exhausted. Only later did she learn that she'd been so busy trying to do good things, she never took time to truly heal from her past.

When her marriage fell apart, she did too. And after losing two loved ones in a short span of time, her grief drove her further downhill. She reconnected with old friends, rekindled old habits and the trajectory of her life changed again.

"I went through this process of insanity," she says, "directing every skill I had to something completely destructive. I didn't care about myself or what happened to me. I just didn't wanna feel anything anymore."

When her financial means dried up, she became homeless... and her health deteriorated. She contracted an infection that nearly ended her life and was hospitalized. As she regained her strength, she thought about her future. "I was lost," she says. "I didn't know what I was going to do."

Then she received a text – from a friend she had met when she first met Christ: "You have a problem. You need help. God told me to tell you to call City Rescue Mission."

Sheila knew nothing about us, so she was skeptical at first. But she opened her heart to the divine relationship she'd abandoned long ago. "I believed in God enough to know that maybe this was Him. So I decided, OK, I'll try it."

In our faith-based LifeBuilders Program, Sheila found professionals with knowledge and training to help her overcome her challenges. Most importantly, they offered counseling for the trauma she experienced as a child, which she's never had before. "It

was so valid and accurate – I believe the team of people were put together by God just for me. It was an amazing thing!"

She also embraced our holistic curriculum which addresses the long-term emotional, spiritual, medical, social, educational and economic needs of those in our care.

"While our only hope is in Jesus Christ, the Mission also believes all things work together to create a healthy person – body, mind and spirit."

Today, as a graduate and alumna of our program, Sheila's life once again has taken a new trajectory. She's more than two years' sober... works in a catering business she enjoys... and her relationship with God and her children are her highest priorities. Looking back, she says her time at the Mission was the richest experience she's ever had.

"It took me losing everything – hurting my family and almost dying. But now I'm restored and healthy. I'm loved and I'm alive. And my life is filled with hope."



SPARK - WOMEN'S EVENT 2024

The mission of Spark Ministry is to Serve People And Reflect Kindness by ministering to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of women who are in difficult life situations. The ladies of Spark Ministry brought to our doorsteps an unforgettable weekend retreat, showering the women in our programs with gifts of love and encouragement, fresh-made meals, fun-filled outings, and lots of laughter.



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City Rescue Mission's 16th Annual Champion's Challenge Golf Tournament

TPC SAWGRASS STADIUM COURSE



GOLF COMMITTEE

We are looking for those who would be willing to serve on our Golf Committee for this year's Golf Champion's Challenge.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT:**
Angela Washington at
(904) 421-5147 or
CRMDevelopment@crmjax.org

AUGUST 26, 2024
12:30 P.M. SHOTGUN START

PLAY GOLF FOR A CAUSE!

Enjoy a day of golf at the iconic TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL and help transform the lives of those experiencing homelessness, hardship, and addiction right here on the First Coast.

Each registered player will enjoy a full afternoon of golf, complete with lunch, dinner, award ceremony, golfer swag bag, and silent and live auctions in the beautiful TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse.

Registration fees include on-course concessions, bag tags, and all of your forecaddie gratuities and golf fees!

Sign up as a team (4 players), an individual player, or become a sponsor of this event!

WE NEED SILENT AUCTION ITEMS!

Do you own a business and could donate items for our Golf Tournament Silent Auction? We would greatly appreciate your help to make this year's golf outing a success.



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

We love our volunteers!



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