Paul's Ponderings

As children, many of us were captivated by stories that sparked our imagination and quietly shaped our character. One such story is Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel—a tale of grit, determination, and the power of never giving up. Mike and his trusty steam shovel, Mary Anne, exemplified perseverance as they faced challenges and opposition but chose to press on. Their journey reminds us of a deeper spiritual truth: perseverance is not just a virtue; it is a command and a Executive Director calling for believers.



Scripture is rich with encouragement for those who feel weary or tempted to give up. James 1:2-4 urges us, "Consider it pure joy...when you encounter trials... because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance." Our trials are not wasted. They are the soil in which God cultivates endurance, maturity, and wholeness.

The Christian life is often likened to a race. Hebrews 12:1 tells us to "run with endurance the race set before us," casting off everything that hinders us. We are not alone on the track—there is a great cloud of witnesses cheering us

Paul reminds us in Philippians 3:13-14 to forget what is behind and press forward. Setbacks may delay us, but they do not disqualify us. Psalm 27:14 assures us that waiting on the Lord is not passive—it is an act of courage and strength.

For those we serve, perseverance is often a daily challenge. But 1 Peter 5:10 promises restoration, strength, and security for those who endure. Jesus Himself said in Matthew 24:13, "He who perseveres to the end will be saved."



3 Meaningful Gifts to Give Your Family

- The gift of clarity. Having a will in place means your family won't have to guess at (or worse, disagree about) your wishes the quardian who will care for your children.
- The gift of simplicity. A will maintains your instructions in they need and understand their next steps.
- The gift of love. Psalm 145:4 reads, "Let each generation about your faith and the values that have shaped your life. And when you make a gift in your will to ministries you care with your family and the people who will be impacted by your

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WE NEED YOUR HELP!

City Rescue Mission is in need of the following:

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- Women and Children Garden:
- » Two-Bay Post Swing Set \$5,500
- » Pavillion \$800
- »(1) Pavilion table \$1,250
- »(12) Pavilion chairs \$1,500
- »(3) Pavilion side tables \$750
- » Fence \$2,500
- » Arbor \$500
- Bus Passes: Weekly \$20 each, Monthly \$65 each
- Bedding Bundle (200) \$60 each
- Graduation cap and gown \$25 each set (Need by Sept 20)
- Volunteers in reading, math, and English to help our students
- Clothing, shoes, and accessories for men, women, and children

Craig Henderson, Chair Chad Perce, Vice-Chair Kendall Spencer, Finance Doug Milne, Secretary/Parliamentarian



Shontrell Anderson Alan Cottrill David Eure Brian Andrew Tina Daniels Lee Nimnicht Ed Perez Carrie Chupp Steve DeSorbo



TANYA'S STORY

I WANTED TO LIVE AGAIN



Food and clothing. Guidance and direction. A roof overhead. Raising six children carries a lot of responsibility, especially for single parents like Tanya.

Tanya's life unraveled when her husband went to prison. Left to raise her six children all alone, she struggled to stay afloat – financially and emotionally. Finally, the weight of it all became too much to bear. Desperate to ease her stress, she made some poor choices.

"I was always a drinker," she admits, "but then came the

> drugs. It started as a weekend thing. Then it became every day."

To support her substance abuse, she baked and sold cakes – something she once enjoyed. But now it only reminded her of what her life had become.

In 2022, she had a terrifying experience. While visiting a friend she considered family, she was poisoned with an unknown substance. She woke up in a hospital, intubated and hanging on to life by a thread. "You'd think that would've been my rock bottom," she says.

But she still struggled to break free of substance abuse's hold.

Finally, two years later, Tanya did reach a turning point. "One day I looked into the mirror and said, 'Who is this woman? I don't recognize her.'" As she recalled the pain and heartache she'd brought on to herself and her family, she said, "I'm done – with being tired, with hurting, with losing." And she asked for our help.

Today, Tanya is thriving in our LifeBuilders program. Through Bible study, life skills development, workforce development and faith-based counseling, we help individuals like Tanya learn to care for themselves and become productive members of society.

"The hospitality team, the classes, the other women – it's all been so healing. This place gave me something I hadn't had in a long time: hope."

Tanya is rebuilding her relationship with God. She's also reconnecting with her children and grandchildren and hopes to become a Christian role model for them. She credits the faith-based foundation of the program with helping her rediscover who she really is. "I learned that Jesus Christ loves me," she says. "God forgave me. But I had to forgive myself. That was the hardest part."

She now serves on our hospitality team and continues to dream of a future filled with purpose. "I want to get my own place again, join a church and bake cakes – not to support substance abuse, but because I love it."

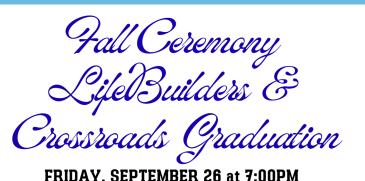
"This time it's different," Tanya smiles. "This time I'm doing it with God."

Tanya hopes her story will inspire others to seek help and embrace God's grace.

"If I hadn't come to the City Rescue Mission, I'd be dead. But today? I feel like an 8.5 out of 10. And I'm climbing."







FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 at 7:00PM 426 S. MCDUFF AVE.



THANK YOU, ST. FRANCIS SOUP KITCHEN!



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep CRM in your prayers for:

- Recovery from July storm damage
- Men, women, and families in our programs
- Resources and finances needed for the Mission
- Staff and their families