WHAT’S IN THIS EDITION?

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WHEN IT ALL GOES WRONG!

I have read a lot of newsletters from Christian organizations over the last 37 years and I don’t think I ever read one that focused on the things that went wrong! I think there are three reasons for that:

1. Nobody likes bad news.
2. We fear that people may not support a ministry if there are problems.
3. The leaders don’t want to look bad.

This newsletter is dedicated to bad news and our failures. You might be saying “why read on, I have enough of that in my own life?” I hope your reading it will produce two outcomes:

1. That you will be encouraged in knowing that we all go through rough patches, often at the same time as the good stuff.
2. That you will know how to pray for us.

4 Live 180 Participants – (these are real people, but not their real names)

BEN (35) – I first met Ben in January of 2016. He came to Or Savior’s, our Bible studies and was supporting others in the group. He desired to reconcile with his wife and child. In June of 2016, we began texting, chatting on the phone and meeting regularly. His knowledge of the Bible and his desire to grow was wonderful. Periodically he would use and then come back. I would encourage and pray with him. He was one of the best-looking men I have ever met. However, this is not helpful in a city full of gay men. It was easy to use those looks to gain shelter, money and access to drugs. His departures became more frequent and longer. After each return, I would spend time, prayer and often money trying to help. Once he said, “Sometimes when I was high, hungry and on the streets, I would just come by the Wednesday Night Bible Study and sit nearby just to be close to the love that I knew was in the group, but I felt I did not deserve.” The last time I saw him, he was a shell of the man I once knew. He moved out of state and is a bit more stable and occasionally makes contact, but he still struggles with his demons.
JIMMY (50) – 18 months ago he was in a Sober Living House after finishing rehab due to drug use and losing his long-term job the previous year. He came every week to our Saturday group and most Wednesday nights and occasionally on Sundays. I met with him individually almost 50 times. He would stay in places for a month or two and then it would fall apart. He would pick up the meth pipe and then things would get worse. He would quit, go back to rehab, then make the meetings and one-on-ones with me and then repeat the cycle. He developed medical issues and rapidly deteriorated. Imagine one of the worst people you have seen on the streets, and that was Jimmy. He would come by completely disorientated, disheveled and obviously very fragile in his health. I would give him water and a few dollars for food and let him sit in the cool for a while. When the summer hit this year, he ended up in the hospital a number of times. Finally, he just disappeared. I hope he is alive, but likely he is dead. Did you know that 50% of the homeless in the USA are over 50?

JOSEPH (22) – 18 months ago, fresh out of rehab, he began coming each week to Bible Study and our Saturday Live 180 recovery meeting. He was adopted as a 3-year-old, which had a special place in our heart since we adopted Glenn as an older child. His story is remarkably similar to Ben’s above: great looking, remarkably intelligent, and great faith when he was drug free. I would speak regularly with his father, who was always searching for me to have some good news. Sometimes I had good news, but more often I did not. Last week, his dad flew here to try to get him to go to rehab close to home. He would not. He chose the streets and his addictions. I saw him 3 days ago and gave him a big hug and reminded him that Jesus loves him and so do we. He was glad but, walked away with his six-foot frame hunched over weighing 125 pounds.

BRAD (42) – 24 months ago, still in sober living, he began attending Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays every week for 6 months. I met him individually at least 50 times. He was one of the kindest and most tortured people I have ever met. Alcohol was his nemesis and self-hatred his regular companion. He thought... How could Jesus continue to love him when he has broken so many promises to Him, his family and to himself. He met a girl, also in rehab, and they got pregnant. She had mental problems along with her addictions. The relationship became more toxic and he became more self-hating. He rarely smiled, chain smoked and always looked at the ground. He knew God loved him, but just could not live in that love. He knew he did not deserve it. Then one day in October of 2017, he just disappeared. He still has his same phone number but will not respond to any of his friends in the desert.

These 4 people, and I could add some more, represent hundreds of hours my time with no visible success. But God……

Ray Ray – In the last month the doctors have taken a dozen samples of his lymph nodes and thyroid from the outside and inside on two different occasions. They have done a PET Scan and still don’t know what is happening. Both remain swollen and sore. They are now going to send him to a specialist. He finally got a job in a local rehab two weeks ago, only to have them call 3 days before he was to start and tell him that they fired the guy who hired him and they are going in a new direction. Then, the next day, his transmission began acting weird requiring his car to be parked. 10 days without a car and $1,000 later, it is still not drivable.

David – I was diagnosed with psoriasis and prescribed some very strong medicine to knock it down. I look like a leper and it is very irritating.
David & Andrea – Giving is down to the ministry, and we took a 50% reduction in pay this month.

I am going to resist giving all the good news too!! Tune in next month!

Other past testimonies can be seen on our website’s “newsletter” tab www.Live180.org

View the Live 180 website or follow us on Facebook.

HOW TO PRAY FOR US
- **That** – the four people above will be set free!!
- **That** – Ray Ray’s health, car and job will work out and God will get the glory!!
- **That** – Pastor David’s psoriasis will go away as quickly as it arrived.
- **That** – we will continue to adjust to our financial situation while trusting that God will provide as He always has!!
- **That** – our neighbor Billy, who has a bad internal infection after his surgery, will get the specialized help he needs and that he will have real faith in Jesus!

WE EXIST BECAUSE WE BELIEVE
- God wants all of us to live 180 degrees, that is, turning our eyes off ourselves and fixing them on Jesus and others.
- There are a large number of people in Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley who are uneasy about walking through the doors of a church.
- There are others who are looking for a place without labels and a lot of love to grow in their faith walk.
- That these people are longing for the following things:
  - a safe place to meet one-on-one and in groups to talk honestly about God.
  - a relationship with God.
  - a place to use their gifts to serve God and others.
- **That** Holy Spirit will lead each of us closer to Him and to His church.

OUR MAILING ADDRESS
Live 180 PO Box 5167 Palm Springs, CA 92263
Live 180 is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit. Donations are tax deductible. Checks can be made out to “Live 180.” Online giving is available through our website as a one-time or ongoing gift.

OUR PHYSICAL LOCATION
11 La Plaza, by “FARM” restaurant, in the historic La Plaza, in the heart of downtown Palm Springs

CONTACT PHONE
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