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“All The Lonely People”

There are several songs written about “all the lonely people” and I picked up a small booklet with the same title on one of my trips to the U.K. I am often reminded of the lonely people as I reflect upon and talk about the ministry work of Stauros.

Sometimes I’ll have a conversation with myself and it goes something like this; Who will help those who don’t seem to be interested in help? Someone needs to help them, or do they? Are they just covering their desire for help by hiding, taking drugs, being obnoxious? Who will help them? After pondering these questions I decide, I’ll go.

It seems that most of the people I come across fall into the category of the “forgotten, lonely people”. Ruth Graham Bell wrote a book entitled “In Every Pew Sits a Broken Heart”. I believe we can certainly extend that past the pews into the whole world!

Who will help *them* get past the ‘walls’ they have constructed? Who will ‘walk through the mud’ as they try to learn how to navigate life? There is a saying, often wrongly suggested to come from The Bible, that states: “God only helps those who help themselves”, and I often hear people suggest that “if they want help they will ask for it”. I’m not so sure those statements are fully accurate. While I realize that there are limitations which hinder getting everyone to ‘change’, I do know that most people, who are lonely and hurting, want to change so badly they will do almost anything, and they do, and it is so often directed at the wrong things.

I have greatly benefitted by various books, seminars, workshops and conversations I have had, over the past number of years, and I have been burdened to learn more of how to help ‘all the lonely people’.

Through learning about helping others, I have learned quite a bit about myself as I have experienced the varying dynamics and opportunities afforded through Christian life, work and ministry. I have learned that I am quite introverted and that my place in God’s work is to remain behind the scenes as I reach out those I describe as ‘having fallen through the cracks’. I am closest to God, in terms of ministry work, when I am sitting with someone who is hurting and I can offer some measure of hope. I know that a person’s only, long lasting, hope can and should come from Jesus Christ, yet to so many people we are the hands, feet and mouths of Jesus! As I continue offering my best, to God, in order to do His work to these lonely people!!

Please consider praying for me & all who are associated with Stauros Ministries. As you pray, please consider supporting us financially as we continue to minister to those who are hurting. Since I began working with Stauros, much has changed as pertains to available help to people in substance abuse. People often ask for help with housing, food, work and things which support everyday life. When the US economy crashed in 2008, a large portion of funding for these things disappeared and it left a number of individuals in a very difficult position. While Stauros is not a benevolent organization (we do not disperse monies and/ or resources to those in need) we do spend a lot of time helping people get to and from appointments looking for available help as this is one of the ways we can build a platform in which to share The Gospel!!

John Burghauer

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Beauty for Ashes ~ *Melisa Riffle*



When I was born, for whatever reason my parents did not stay together. I did not know my earthly father until I was 10 years old. For the first 10 years of my life, I felt like “The Ugly Duckling”. I would look at men and wonder, “are you my father?” I always felt inferior to my friends that had a dad. When I was 10 years old, I finally got up the courage to ask my mom if I could meet my dad. She got in touch with him and I went over to his house on the weekends for a year, until one day, out of the blue he called my best friend’s house and left a message that he didn’t want to see me anymore, no explanation. That confirmed to me I really was “The Ugly Duckling”. When I was 11 years old I started looking into unhealthy activities to suppress the feeling. Then, in my early teens, I started looking into the eyes of older men to see if I could be beautiful. My behavior made me feel even uglier on the inside, no matter how good I tried to dress up the outside.

I was raised in the church, and I had 2 praying grandmas. When I was 17 years old, I knew I was on a path of destruction. I needed a Savior that I had heard so much about. On Easter Sunday I went forward in church and accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior. I learned that I am fearfully and wonderfully made, that God will give us beauty for ashes and about God’s forgiveness for myself and others.

During some difficult times, in recent years, my family went through a very tough times and “The Ugly Duckling” started to resurface, but thankfully, my brother in Christ, John Burghauer, reminded me that our heavenly Father never rejects us, even when we reject Him at times. I am also reminded that Satan is a liar, I am a Princess daughter of the King and I am washed white as snow through the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. If anyone hearing this can relate, listen to the song, “Beautiful” by Mercy Me, and believe it.



“Get Out of Your Comfort Zone?” ~ by Stephen Altrogge

We Christians love to encourage people to get out of their comfort zones. In church we tell everyone to greet someone they don’t know. If someone is nervous about doing evangelism we become the Jesus version of a head coach, trying to get them psyched up and out of their comfort zones. Worship leaders are always exhorting people to get up and move and dance and clap and shout and be happy. If someone doesn’t like going to small group we slap them cheerily on the back and tell them it will be good for them. How do I know these things? Because I’ve said and done them all. I’ve been the Jesus head coach and the worship cheerleader and the back slapper.

But lately I’ve been thinking that maybe we need to stop encouraging people to get out of their comfort zones. In fact, maybe we need to encourage people to operate within their comfort zones more.

I’m an introvert. This doesn’t mean I don’t like people, but it does mean I am refreshed by solitude and drained by extended times with people. It also means I’m more prone to quiet reflection, wrestling with ideas, reading good books, and spending time with a few close friends. There are some things in scripture that are crystal clear. God must be worshiped. Fellowship is a necessity. Evangelism must take place. These are non-negotiable principles. Every Christian must do these things.

What is negotiable, however, is how these principles are practiced.

Introverts and extroverts both need to evangelize. An extrovert may excel at sharing the gospel with lots of complete strangers while an introvert may excel at developing deep relationships with a few unbelievers and sharing the gospel with them over time. Both are good, God-honoring, and necessary in the church. Extroverts, don’t try to make everyone like you. Introverts, don’t try to make everyone like you.

(excerpted– for more go to: <http://www.biblestudytools.com/blogs/stephen-altrogge/maybe-we-should-stop-encouraging-people-to-get-out-of-their-comfort-zones.html>)



Kim Arrogancia-Florida

Greetings from Florida! For those of you who don't know me, I'm the part time Stauros worker in Port St Lucie, FL. I've been working with the ministry since 2001, starting as a volunteer worker when I lived in Maryland. My family moved to FL in 2003 where I continued the work of Stauros.

My interest in the Stauros work started because I came from a background of drug and alcohol abuse. I grew up in an alcoholic family and at a young age found myself caught up in the same sinful lifestyle. I am blessed to say that The Lord Jesus Christ delivered me from that sinful life 24 years ago, and today I am drug and alcohol free and walking with The Lord. I give Him all praise, honor and glory for delivering me and loving me unconditionally regardless of what I have done in my past. He promised He would never leave me or forsake me and He keeps his promises!

So, what do I do in FL? The Lord has given me a heart of compassion for people who are trapped in a life of addiction, a life of pain and loneliness, a life with a void that cannot be filled with the things of this world (good or bad). We all have a certain amount of compassion for our fellow man, but what can we do to help them? The Stauros approach is very simple – we befriend them. We come along side them and walk with them through their everyday struggles so we can lead them to the One who can help them, the One who can deliver them. We meet them where they are, broken and searching for a way out. We know that we cannot fix them - that's not our job, but the job of the Holy Spirit. Our job is to show them the love of Christ through our compassion, to be there for them when no one else is, and to love them unconditionally. As we model Jesus while we minister to them, we earn the right to tell them how God loves them and wants to bring them into His family and into a life filled with peace and joy.



So, what do I do in FL? I meet with women one to one usually for 1 to 1-1/2 hours a week and talk about their life, their struggles, and help lead them to make decisions based on Biblical principles. I make myself available to them any-time they need someone to talk to. I share my story with them about how God delivered me and set me free. How I am not what I used to be. How I am free indeed! Most importantly, how He wants to do the same for them. I help them reconcile with their families, prepare for job interviews, find their value and self worth in Christ, to see themselves and their circumstances though the eyes of God. As our relationship grows, we do Bible studies, learn how to establish a daily quiet time with God and ultimately integrate them into a local Bible teaching church. We don't have a set program or method because each person's needs are different. We don't need a program – we need a Savior. Please keep me and the women I meet with in your prayers. Pray for the expansion of the ministry work here in Port St Lucie and that God will continue to put women in my path that He wants to deliver. Thank you for your prayers and your support!

Prayer requests:

- * strength & energy to continue meeting the needs of others
- * discernment for wisdom & guidance from the Holy Spirit
- * family of Lorraine in her passing
- * financial support





Working Together

As 2015 comes to a close, I have been reflecting on how the ministry of Stauros here in the United States has changed and stayed the same. The Lord has provided new people and families to minister to while others have decided to go their own way. This is the work of Stauros; knowing that one-to-one ministry will benefit men and women who want to make changes in their lives through the working of Jesus Christ. I have seen people I have been working with for years take the next step of faith and have been greatly encouraged. Please continue praying for 'All The Lonely People'- as many of the men and women I meet with aren't able (or inclined) to get out to groups and/or fellowship gatherings. Not being able to share names and situations (due to privacy issues) we can only assure each of you that there are many people reached- through your committed support! Please visit our website for events and information.

Mission Trip 2016



As Stauros workers, Peggy and I periodically travel to the U.K. to attend training with the U.K. Stauros workers. We are asking our Stauros supporters and brothers and sisters in Christ to prayerfully consider sponsoring us for a June 2016 trip. Our goal is to raise **\$1,500.00 each** to cover airfare and minor incidentals while in Northern Ireland. We will be sending out a "request for training fund" letter in January and would greatly appreciate any contribution you make toward helping us. All donations, payable and sent to Stauros Ministries, (please put 'Training Fund' in your check's memo line) will be tax deductible.

Thank you for your consideration. John B.

New Website

Please visit our new website at: www.staurosministries.com We want to thank Bruce Wallis from the White Marsh, MD area for coming forward to offer help in hosting & managing our site. We also want to thank Richard White, from the UK, for his work of building and maintaining our prior website for the past number of years. Many projects begin with individuals who are willing to give of their time and resource, and these two men have exemplified that very thing. Thank you!

Sharing Testimony

If you know of a Church or gathering who would benefit from Stauros member(s) coming to visit, please let us know. We would help raise awareness and offer hope to those who are affected by drug and alcohol abuse.

All donations should be directed to:

STAUROS MINISTRIES

P.O. BOX 11

HANOVER, MD 21076

Mission Boxes

We have "Mission Boxes" available for you to place in your home, office or Church. The box can be filled with loose change and paper currency that we collect on a quarterly basis giving us an opportunity to update you on the work, and collect your gifts.

You will then receive a receipt of your gifts, at year end, for taxes.



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