



LOVE INITIATED VENTURES INVESTING IN NEGLECTED GROUPS

A Summer On The Move

"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone, a new life has begun!" **2 Corinthians 5:17**

This summer, L.I.V.I.N.G. Ministry is blessed to have Lauren Steen, a recent high school graduate, participate in a summer immersion internship with the ministry. Lauren's servant heart has driven her to spend 40 hours a week joining us on our adventures with the homeless, all while challenging her as to what the life of an urban missionary looks like. In just her first few weeks, she has managed to be actively involved and a number of people's lives. Below are her reflections from her time with a woman from a local women's shelter...



With tears falling down her face, this appreciative woman asked, "Do you think I am blessed?" With whole-hearted certainty, my honest reply was a resounding 'Yes'. Just a few hours earlier, however, when I first saw this woman and her daughter I would have answered differently.

This woman, with traces of hurt and abandonment expressed on her face, stood on the stoop of the emergency shelter with her young daughter eager to move out. Leaving this shelter meant leaving the anxiety of finding safety, the frustration of stolen food, and the community of addicts that they had grown accustomed to on a daily basis. All of their belongings fit into just a few tattered boxes and their groceries only consisted of a half dozen eggs and a package of hot dogs. All that they owned was loaded into the backseat of the van as we journeyed on the road to their new home with a new beginning.

My sister in Christ was more than ready to leave her life of abuse, homelessness and mistakes behind her and to be given a clean start with a new home she could call her own.

Years of welled-up emotion finally burst into tears as soon as the key opened the door. Some were tears of joy, coming from the knowledge that she was finally away from her scarred past. Others were tears of excitement in knowing that she could provide a better life for her daughter. Most of all, these were tears of gratitude to the Lord for providing in her desperate time of need. Through these tears came the very heart wrenching question, "Do you think I am blessed?" Filled with hope, I replied with confidence "Yes, you are blessed!" She was not just blessed with a new home, but with a daughter who looks up to her, a playground in her backyard, a shelf full of new groceries, and the Lord's saving grace in her life. This woman had been wandering from place to place, but now she and her daughter can rest in the Lord's provision. They continued to express their gratitude with 'thank you' after 'thank you', but I was appreciative of the reminder of what a fresh start looks like.

Anyone who has accepted Christ as their Lord has been given a new life just like this woman I helped move. We can trust God's grace will enable us to live free from our yesterdays. Whether our old life was filled with hurt and suffering or regrets and mistakes, we can be assured that we have been given a new life. Our past and whatever it was filled with is cleared out of the way to make room for a new life filled with hope. This hope is based on the promise that when we seek Him we will find Him and when we knock on the house of the Lord, He is faithful to always open the door.



Volunteer Spotlight: Dillon Hoffman

I started working for LIVING ministry in January 2012 to fulfill a 45 hour volunteer requirement for my Introduction to Social Work class. I was interested in getting a real social work experience and was quickly taken on as an intern to shadow Charles Chapman. My responsibilities ranged from helping the ministry itself (such as helping to set up for upcoming events) to actually working for the ministry to find individuals work or help maintain a positive presence at multiple men's shelters. One of my favorite memories from working for the ministry was my involvement in helping to install a hot water heater in the ministry house. I had never done anything like that before and didn't think I could but Charles and I ended up successfully installing it, thus giving the ministry house hot water! I learned something different every day I worked for the ministry. One of the most significant things I learned from my involvement was the fact that though I saw many people from many different places of brokenness, the thing that seemed to have the most profound positive effect on their life was their faith in God. No matter what circumstances they came from, in the end, it is a relationship with Christ which truly creates change. I plan on using my faith in my future as I pursue an occupation in ministry, working to supply others with both their physical and spiritual needs. My experience with LIVING Ministry has taught me more than I have ever learned from my classes and I feel extremely blessed to have been a part of LIVING Ministry.



Dillon just recently finished his freshman year at the University of Pittsburgh with thoughts on majoring in Social Work. Desiring to go into full-time ministry someday, Dillon serves on the ministry team at Cornerstone Christian Fellowship. Originally born in Pittsburgh, Dillon has spent a good portion of his teenage life in the eastern part of Pennsylvania. During the school year, Dillon lives in Oakland, and attends Allegheny Center Alliance Church and Bellefeld Presbyterian Church.

Celebrating 10 Years!

On Sunday, June 17th, L.I.V.I.N.G. Ministry celebrated 10 years of ministry! With guest speaker Saleem Ghubril and almost 100 guests, the event was filled with story after story testifying to the power of relationships in the lives of hearing people. Those in attendance were given a chance to see all that God has been doing over the past 10 years, and were encouraged that their support has not been in vain. All in all, everyone was blessed to be a part of this very special occasion. Through God's grace, we look forward to another 10 years of dynamic and exciting ministry!

A photograph of a man in a suit and tie speaking at a podium during a 10-year anniversary event. He is gesturing with his hands as he speaks. In the background, other people are seated at tables, and the room is decorated for the occasion.

Project L.I.F.E. Coming To An End



Believe it or not, but Project L.I.F.E. has officially entered its 6th month for both Doug and Gary. As their time comes to an end in the program, it has been amazing to witness all that God has done in and through their lives. The last phase of their time here in the ministry is transitioning out of the program and back into the community. Both Doug and Gary are actively pursuing job leads and should be employed within the next few weeks. Please keep them in pray as they look to finish strong and begin God's next journey for their lives.

To conclude the program, we will be having a graduation party for both of them on **Saturday, July 28th at 12:00 PM** at the ministry house. If you would like to come and see firsthand what Doug and Gary have been doing, or if you are just interested in showing your support of them and their efforts to follow God's will for their lives, then please come and attend! Please **RSVP** to Josh McKinley at mckinley@livingministry.org. A free lunch will be served.

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Questions or comments? Check us out at www.livingministry.org or call 412-586-4663*