

Volume 1 Issue # 3

## New Book To Be Released Through West Bow Press



### Inside this issue:

*Taking the Plunge* 2

*Melody in the Misery* 3

*Beyond Belief* 3

### POINT TO PONDER:

**EVERY ORGANIZATION  
WHETHER IT IS A  
BUSINESS, CHURCH,  
GROUP, FAMILY, OR  
INDIVIDUAL LEAVES  
A LEGACY.**

**WE WILL BE  
REMEMBERED MOST  
FOR THE EXPERIENCE  
THAT WE GIVE OTHERS  
IN OUR  
RELATIONSHIPS.**

**THIS LEGACY CAN  
EITHER BE ONE OF  
INCREDIBLE HEALING  
AND GRACE OR ONE OF  
DISASTEROUS  
WOUNDING AND PAIN.**

**THE QUESTION THAT  
NEEDS TO BE  
ANSWERED: WHAT  
LEGACY WILL YOU  
LEAVE—  
ONE OF HEALING OR  
WOUNDING?**

Over the last four years, I have been teaching groups about having authentic relationships through my work at Keystone Substance Abuse Center and Anuvia Prevention and Recovery.

As I have developed these psycho-educational groups, I had many requests for outlines and audio tapes of this material. As I received more requests, it became clear that God was calling me to put this material in book form. So I started writing a draft of a book over the last nine months.

As the book started to take form, Krista and I discussed and prayed through the idea of getting it published. I researched publishers and found that self-publishing is the best option because I am an unknown author. (Self-publishing means that the author pays for getting the book published).

After researching several publishers, we decided on West Bow Press. West Bow is under the umbrella company of Thomas Nelson Publishing. This means that it is possible to get picked up by this company for larger publication.

We are both excited. The tentative title is: *The Other Side: Embracing Emotional Safety and Relational Freedom*. I am a little over half way through writing the book. I hope to have it published sometime in 2014.

I would appreciate your prayers as I am looking for an editor to help me with development. I am also thinking about a possible study group to walk through the material as I work on the book so it can be used with individuals or groups.

God continues to bless us as we walk in obedience to him.

Remember— you are his beloved,

Steve

## Taking the Plunge

From October 10-13, I participated in the Urban Plunge. This is a three-day weekend sponsored by our church, Lake Forest. The theme of the weekend was to “Live, Learn, Serve and Worship.” Throughout the three days, seven of us stayed at a local church (Warehouse 242) in downtown Charlotte.

The first day we learned about the ministries in the area that served the homeless, poor, and those in crisis. We went to Crisis Assistance which helps people with their bills if they have a job. We also explored Charlotte Rescue Mission, Urban Ministries, and Love Inc. Each of those ministries serves a certain population of the poor and disadvantaged.

The second day we worked on an elderly person’s home by painting and repairing portions of his house and then served des-

*The gospel lives in community when we make ourselves available to people’s hurts, become open to being vulnerable with our own, and share in the power of brokenness.*

serts at the Charlotte Rescue Mission. This was extremely interesting to me since I work in the addictions field. This rescue mission is a Christian residential center for people who are recovering from addiction. It was wonderful to talk and walk with people who have seen the power of the gospel reach into their souls and struggle with addiction on a heart level. The gospel lives in community when we make ourselves available to people’s hurts,

become open to being vulnerable with our own, and share in the power of brokenness.

The last day we went to an African American church and worshipped with them. It was a joy to see my brothers from another culture worship in spirit and in truth. Throughout the evenings seven people from different backgrounds shared their stories, reflections, and ponderings about what God was doing in their heart as they experienced poverty and homelessness.



Above: I am painting the trim on the side of the house as one of my teammates holds the ladder



Above: It was a joy to get to know the stories of my teammates for the weekend. Below: Replacing the damaged trim on the house.



## Melody in the Misery

The line was long. There was a little chill in the air. Some of these people had been gathered at the building since 5:30 in the morning. They were there for crisis assistance or, to put it bluntly, money. This money was to pay bills such as rent, electricity, or gas.

Our group of seven filled cups of orange juice and gave out pre-packaged cinnamon rolls. As I gave out these items, I stopped and prayed for many who needed more than just what I could give them. As I listened to each story, my heart hurt for all the situations of desperation. One after another, story after story, the details were different but the lyrics were the same - brokenness, loneliness, betrayal, and confusion.

After a prayer, I heard music from an acoustic guitar. It was so beautiful. The strumming of the strings and the beautiful chords put together a melody that caused you to sing. After I got done with the prayer, I wandered over to talk with the man. We talked for a while. The musician's name was Mr. Southgate. He came down to play guitar several times a week to give comfort to those who were hurting. It was a melody in the misery. These people had to stand in the cold, embarrassed and broken. But in the midst of this struggle, there was the comforting music from a gifted man.

As I listened, a thought occurred to me. God gives us his melody in the misery. He gives us the melody of his sovereignty. He gives us the lyrics of people's whispering voices. He gives us the track list of songs that allow us to experience his love in the misery. For in the misery, there is a melody of his love. Listen, really listen and hear the lyrics of his love. For there is mercy in the memories, mercy in the misery, and melody and rest.

For there is a melody in the misery.  
Come hear the song of his grace.  
Find the lyrics of his mercy  
In the darkest sorrows of your day.  
For when you listen, really listen  
you will hear the quietness of the strings  
And find the peace and blessings  
that only his great love brings.  
So listen, really listen to the melody in misery  
in the quiet song of his rest.

## Beyond Belief

Krista and I acted like little college students over a weekend in October. On Saturday, we drove to Krista's hometown. We got there in just enough time for us to watch the Ohio State game with her parents. We woke up Sunday, went to church and then headed to the destination of the weekend's adventure— A PETRA concert. Yes— they are still around. I enjoyed a 75-minute concert enjoying songs



that have been my friends along my life's journey. It brought back many special memories. After meeting and greeting the band, Krista and I drove back on



the seven hour journey home. We got back about 4:30 a.m. We then went to both our jobs after a couple hours of sleep. What a neat time. I made some new friends along the way.

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*“Finding Grace Along the Roads  
of Life”*

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### *Grace Roads Counseling Center PLLC*

**Vision:** To provide teaching, training, and counseling that will enable individuals, families, and churches to experience God’s powerful grace in transforming their stories.

**Mission:** To provide a pathway for people struggling on the journey to find hope for their broken hearts, healing for their wounds, and a hiding place to wrestle with the grace of God.