

Love Thy Neighbor in Service

Measuring Success



What is success? We are periodically asked what is the success rate at Love Thy Neighbor? Initially one would not think that too difficult a question. In business normally a company has a goal to sell so much of a product. If more than expected is sold in a specific year, the year is considered a success. The measurement in the life of a human being is not so simple.

Love Thy Neighbor started helping six individuals approximately seven years ago. Three of them are now dead. Two of them lived in an alley one block from my office (Shorty & Ted). We were initially able to get them off the street with money they received for disability. This was when LTN was more of a helping organization than

one specifically focused on Jesus Christ. They were off the streets for approximately two years but ultimately ended up right back in the alley.

Moving an individual without a renewing of their minds simply does not work. Paul says in Romans 12:12 NIV, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -- his good, pleasing and perfect will." We have found this to be true and point everyone to be reading the Bible daily and praying daily.

Ultimately, Shorty ended up in Grady Hospital ill. He was moved to a home that cared for sick individuals, and then consistently taken to a small church. The church members were mainly adults who were at children's mental and emotional level. He heard the gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ both preached and shown in love.

He started to help, began working in the garden for the

church and somewhere in the process accepted Jesus Christ. They would have sales of the potted herbs to raise money for the church. He was as happy as I ever saw him living that modest life. He died within a year of his new life, and is with the Lord now.

Ted is still sitting in the alley today. He suffers post traumatic stress disorder from his Vietnam experience and drinks to kill the pain. At this point no repentance appears to have occurred in his life and he continues to pay the price even while receiving \$850 monthly in disability.

Another of the six was schizophrenic. We helped him for 2-3 years. He disappeared, and we assumed he had been taken to jail. Later we found out a Christian couple, who had known the man from high school, had taken him back to south Georgia to live at their home. As far as we know, he is there to this day.

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One woman had been employed with a national company responsible for a major part of the county. In holding on to (hiding) secrets from her past she dealt with the pain through the use of an array of drugs. The result was for her to have a complete mental breakdown only to be found wandering the streets in downtown Atlanta. After we encountered her she was able to get another job making very good money and appeared to accept Jesus Christ.

In that process she allowed a young neighbor to begin living with her and her boyfriend. They effectively raised the child for 4-5 years. The mom lived downstairs and had little interest in the child. When the mom finally was dispossessed for nonpayment of rent she let the mom move in with them. Four people lived in a one bedroom apartment for three years. However, she never dealt with the secrets.

The continued drug use resulted in crushing debt with the IRS, credit card debt and finally job loss. Only recently, at 57 years of age, she went to sleep one night, had a massive heart attack

and never woke up. Only the lord knows if she is in heaven. Her boy friend, one of the original six, has accepted Jesus Christ, is still raising the child but has an array of earthly problems.

The last individual was an alcoholic trying to raise his son. The dad was living on the streets, and the state had taken the son when we met him. They had both previously been living on the streets. The man was the individual the Lord actually used to get Love Thy Neighbor started.

He knew all of the homeless people in downtown and would bring them to my office to try and help them. This was before Love Thy Neighbor even existed. The

path led to the formation of LTN.

He was instrumental in helping many people in desperate situations. However, he never went to any long term recovery. He stopped drinking for a short period after almost dying in Grady of alcohol poisoning. He would listen to the New Testament on tape, and periodically went to church.

Finally, he drank himself to death. We attended the son's baptism when he was 15. The troubled son has been in foster care moving to four different homes and is now approximately 17.

As you can see measuring success in the population we serve is very difficult.

What can you do?

We need your prayers! It is the most important thing you can do for the ministry.

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

(James 5:16 NIV)

LTN is committed to spreading the Gospel by Christ's example to "love thy neighbor as thyself." Matthew 22:39. To this end, LTN has designed programs with the purpose of helping clients build a relationship of faith in God, regain their dignity and eventually, regain their self-sufficiency. Contact us to learn more about the services and programs.

Love Thy Neighbor In Service is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation (IRS#17053159005021). Gifts are tax deductible in accordance with tax law.

Love Thy Neighbor In Service

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Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Matthew 22:39



Is It All Worth It?

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However, nowhere in the bible are we called to measure the success of the individuals we serve. WE ARE ALL JUST CALLED TO SERVE.

Jesus Christ gave the ultimate example of service. Being God, he came to earth in human form, lived with his family until his late twenties, went on His ministry journey for approximately three years and then died on a cross as a suffering servant (only to rise again). His life was eternal redemption for all who did, have and will accept Him.

At LTN we continue to show up each day pointing those individuals willing to listen toward Jesus Christ. The attempt is made to give the earthly provision to allow them to stop long enough to go searching. We will serve, and allow the Lord (Father)/Jesus Christ (Son) to receive the glory and credit for the results.

God bless you,

John Chapman, Jr.