



# Life Lines...

January 2011

Building Lives, Growing Relationships, Imparting Hope

## Glory in the Frost submitted by Darien Northup

Christmas morning I made my way outside to finish up a little snow blowing. The temps were quite balmy and I had noticed the trees were laden with frost. My walk to the barn would normally take just a few seconds. But this morning was different. I couldn't help but stop and gaze. The conditions were perfect, little to no breeze, warm temps, and overcast skies. Not only had the frost enveloped everything out there, it was evenly coated on every side. As I cleaned up the driveway I couldn't help but stop often to soak in this awesome display.



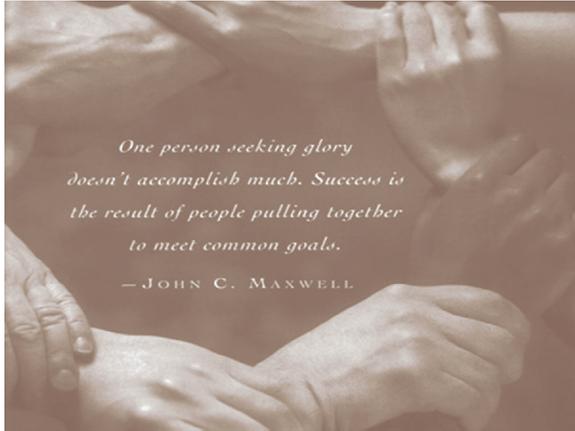
The beautiful "hoar" frost remained all day. Sunday morning dawned with clear blue skies. As we drove to church that morning, again and again I would have to slow down to marvel at the heavy white frost on each limb. Even the needleless Tamarac looked as though they were declaring the glory of the Lord. I have seen beautiful frost before, but this was truly "glorious". LaFerne expressed it well when she commented, "You will never see anyone flock a tree as well as God can flock a tree!" That is so true; our efforts apart from the Lord fall so short. It was easy to see that we can try to mimic the work of the Lord, but our best works never come close to the real thing.

It is easy in the business of life to hurry past some of the signs that God is at work. We have so many good works to accomplish. We have so many people that could use a touch or a hand up. It caught me a little by surprise one day. We had just finished painting the Gonvick gym. I was headed out the door and turned to look back. And there it was "glory"! What just happened? How did it happen? The Gym was beautiful! It was "restored". Many hands had joined together, tearing down, scrubbing, building, painting and scrubbing again. It shown like fresh fallen snow, clean and new, somehow the impossible was accomplished. Again in a morning bible we gave testimony of God's work here at the Center. We reminisced on how a few joined together with nothing in their hands to accomplish what seemed impossible. It brought again that sense of awe "Look what God has done"! How did He do it? Somehow the conditions were right. Many around Clearbrook were ready for a chance to display the "Glory" of the Lord. Hearts without their own agenda joined with the heart of God. Many of you stood up and said, "Here am I, use me". When I slow down and take a look around me, I see **each of you**. You shine! You display the glory of the Lord. You may have felt like a barren tree in the dead of winter. But when the Living God put His breath in you, things began to change. When you submitted to His will, He began to work His plan through you. He has done that with each of us. What a marvelous work He does through us, His hands, and His feet!

Isaiah 6:3b "The whole earth is filled with his glory!"

# Appreciation Banquet "Hands & Feet"

January 17th 2011 at 5:00pm in the Gathering Place  
(small gym on the bottom floor of  
CWLC)



Volunteers, staff, and donors mark your calendars and plan to attend our dinner and short program honoring YOU – our hands and feet! We so appreciate each and every one of you and want to have an evening just for you.

“But God made our bodies with many parts, and He has put each part just where He wants it. What a strange thing a body would be if it had only one part! Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. Now all of you together are Christ's body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it.”

1 Cor.12: 18-20,27 (NLT)

## Upcoming Classes

**Parents Forever:** Offered February 4th from 6:30pm to 9:30pm and February 5th from 8am to 2pm. The class is a 5 part educational series for families transitioning through separation and divorce or for parents who do not live in the same household. The cost of the class is \$30 or \$55 if you are court ordered.

**Anger Management:** Offered Monday evenings February 7th - March 14th from 7-9pm. In this class you learn to recognize the many faces of anger, what triggers are, and how to effectively deal with them. This will ultimately help you to manage your anger and have more control over your choices. If you are court ordered we will work with you to schedule the extra six sessions. The cost of the class is \$10.

**Booth Camp Weight Training:** We have a weight room full of equipment to get you in shape and keep you healthy. To be a member please plan to attend the three training classes offered February 7th, 8th, & 10th from 5:30-7pm. The cost is \$30 for the class and you get 2 months free. Monthly membership is \$15 after that.

Join the Free Aerobics classes every Monday and Wednesday from 4:15 - 5:15pm in the Gathering Place. (small gym in Clearbrook) Childcare is available upon request.

Call or stop by for our class registration forms.

# Thoughts from a Shop keeper at “Restore It!”

When I am at CWLC Gonvick helping at the furniture “Restore It!” shop, I have my routine after I arrive. I look into the two furniture show rooms to see what new furniture has arrived and what has been sold since I was last there. I am always so pleased to see furniture “moved on” to find a “new home”. I then putter around a bit moving some pieces into a new setting, finding some baskets or decorations to add to it. When someone walks in the door to look around I feel so happy to meet new people and excited to show them what is available, it gives me a sense of being connected in the community and a gratifying purpose in my day. I feel very blessed to be there. I have volunteered on occasion in the Youth Center since 2006, there are many youth to connect with and you leave feeling richer for taking the time to chat, listen and laugh together. I know that if someone is looking for a part time volunteer experience, Clear Waters Life Center would welcome you with open arms and find a place just for you in one of the many areas of service. As my elderly friend Stutsky told me years ago, “What blesses one blesses all.” Come along and be a blessing!!



Shirley Joy Shaw



Come and visit our showroom which displays several couches, side chairs, end tables, desks, dressers, tables, refinished antiques and more!

Most items have been repaired, cleaned and ready for your home, all at low reasonable prices.

## Restore It!

### Furniture Shop

#### Open:

**Wednesday 10am-4pm**

**Friday 10am - 5:30pm**

**Saturday 9am - 1pm**

**Restore It!** Furniture Shop operates by repairing and re-selling donated furniture items. If you have an item in fair to good condition that you would like to donate, please call us at 776-2789 or 487-5290. Items can be brought to our Gonvick location or we will make arrangements to pick up your items!



# Mustard Seed Homes Testimony...

I'm Randy, a resident of the Mustard Seed Program at Clear Waters Life Center. I've been given this opportunity to introduce myself and give a short testimony of the way of life that brought me here. I also wish to use this opportunity for one other purpose which is to express my gratitude.



From a very young age, I learned the effects of alcohol and have struggled with addiction. I learned how alcohol could take away my worries, fears, inhibitions, and loneliness. I learned how alcohol could help me establish bonds with people, enjoy my surroundings, and help me deal with my troubles. It became a personal friend to me, something to rely on. It picked me up when I was down, it would fill me with great joy, it would make me warm inside and make my body tingle. I could see why this was so important to so many. It made me feel great. I fell in love with it. I grew dependent on it. It became my first thought in the morning and the last of my thoughts at night. Then, it turned on me. After just one drink nothing was more important than the next.

I grew up hearing Bible stories on Sunday. Mom would drop my brothers, sister, and I off for Sunday school. We got bits and pieces of God and Jesus and tried to make sense of them on our own. There really was no learning; neither did it have much effect on me. Sunday school was something we did because Mom said it was important. Church was something we rarely did as a family; so it seemed to hold very little purpose at all. The things that seemed to be most important to my folks always centered around and with alcohol. There is no way to visualize the scale as to how much time, focus and energy was spent on drinking, and how little of the same was spent on spiritual growth. I naturally followed what seemed to be most important and fell away to the wrong spirit.

Without me knowing, I was deceived. Alcohol became my savior and redeemer. I knew way more about it than I did of Jesus. With all my weaknesses and troubles and downfalls, I turned to it to lift me up. My story goes many directions with many ups and downs. I was blessed so much in life by God: a home, family, talent, healthy children. While following this great deception, my eyes were closed to His gifts.

The ultimate path that brought me to Mustard Seed Homes was at times very ugly. Alcohol turned from a deception to the great destroyer of my life. It kept taking and it never gave back. I kept giving in, until I had nothing. No family. No home. No job. No self-respect. No hope.

Today, with my eyes open to the almighty power of God and His grace, I am beginning to understand how it was so easy for me to rely on this deception. There is no blame toward my parents. They were following the same great deceiver that I was. Instead, I am grateful that they planted the seed of God's Word in me way back in Sunday school. Through that seed, I called out to God in prayer and He answered. I've learned through His word in Lamentations 3:57 (NLT), "You came when I called; you told me, Do not fear." Lamentations 3:31 tells me, "For no one is abandoned by the Lord forever." Through the prayers of my own and others, God has brought me to Mustard Seed Homes and the communities of Clearbrook, and Gonvick. He has blessed me with you as neighbors. It's through your support and belief in the Clear Waters Life Center and its staff that I have been given hope. Through your loving kindness and God's blessing, I have come to know the true God and His most precious gift to us – His Son, Jesus Christ.

The thought of my suffering and homelessness is bitter beyond words. I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. Yet, I still dare to hope when I remember this: "The faithful love of the Lord never ends". His mercies never cease. Lamentations 3:19-22

# CWLC Gonvick



We are developing a wood working shop in the old locker room off the gym. We use the space to repair and build furniture to sell in our Restore it! Furniture Shop and our Grow it! Greenhouse. We are looking for items to help with this; if you happen to have wood shop tools that you are not using, we can put them to good use. We are specifically looking for the following items: Wood Lathe, Surface planer, Table sander, Belt sander, Wood clamps, Pipe clamps, 4" angle grinder, Biscuit Joiner, Bench vise and a Drill Press. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you for all your support!

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If you would like to become a financial supporter of the Clear Waters Life Center please send this in with the needed information. All donations are tax deductible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to become a monthly financial donor and will commit to giving \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month. I understand I will receive a monthly donation coupon book for this purpose.

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to make a one time donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Please return to: CWLC, PO Box 155, Clearbrook, MN 56634

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to receive your newsletter by email. My email address is: \_\_\_\_\_



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