



KNMT

PORTLAND



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Joy In Our Town



Bill Russell Executive Director, Union Gospel Mission

HOMELESSNESS: Homelessness is disconnection and isolation and we need a broad, collaborative approach to it. People can enter into a new family by rebuilding trust and living God's way of life. Trust builds slowly, is earned, and happens in networks of people. It is usually trauma and conflict that separates us. If people are the source of our wounding, then people are the source of our healing. We give out of the overflow of what we have received and have to take ownership inwardly. The core of repentance is admitting your mistakes and wanting new life. Some people are so far gone mentally, they are incapable of change and God has to do a miracle of healing just to get them to the starting line. As believers, we need to partner with people on their journey to recovery.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE: Having a drink is substance use, not substance abuse. Some people may use opiates after surgery and never get addicted to them, while others will. Substance abuse happens when your life becomes controlled by the substance. As a trial lawyer, Bill got to the point where he was chemically dependent upon alcohol. When he became a Christian, he had to quit hanging around other substance abusers. Recovery is long term. If you have a loved one who is addicted to substances, get them into faith based recovery. There is a cross; upwardly we need to find connection to God through Christ, and laterally we need to find connection with one another. People can go to recovery groups but if they don't deal with their pain and conflict on the inside, they will still have problems. The picture of a cross is the balance of our relationship to God and to others. Patience is a fruit of the Spirit, so it is important to know that recovery takes time.

HEALTH: All of us struggle with some area where we are not perceiving things clearly or accurately. There is a huge spectrum of mental health that is different than the narrow spectrum of mental illness. We have God's Spirit dwelling in us, but the flesh wars against the spirit. Chemicals, trauma, and painful memories are all part of us so we need to separate things properly. We have to allow the truth of God to help bring healing. We have bio, psycho, social and spiritual components to us and each can penetrate the other. We hear other human beings' perspectives and counsel, and to know the right source to go to for help.



Apostle Victor Alvarizares, Father's House/Casa del Padre

FAMILY: Many people feel that technology is getting in the way of their family relationships. Technology is neither good nor bad. Communication is necessary in a family, but technology can derail it if it is not used to enhance our communication. What would happen if we treated our Bible the way we treat our smart phone? 90% of people have their smart phone at arm's reach 24/7. If we treated our Bible the same way, our relationship with God would be healthier. When our relationship with God is healthy and balanced, everything else will fall into place. A balanced spiritual relationship is the key to many of the issues that affect the family. Does (the use of) technology magnify a problem that was there before, or does it create a new problem? We need to look at the root of our problems. Technology can be a good tool in evangelizing, so take advantage of the tool. Sanctify everything to the Lord, even your use of technology. (PRAYER)

YOUTH: Scripture tells us that marriage is for life. You know you are ready for marriage when you are ready to die to self. One of the biggest conflicts in marriages between young people is that although they are in a marriage, they still want to go out and live the single life. We need to approach the different stages in life by taking full advantage of each stage and living it with no regrets. There are different cultural expectations when it comes to marriage. Before God gave Adam a wife, He gave him a job. Some young people believe that marriage will make them responsible, but they need to be responsible before committing to marriage. If we cannot find happiness in our Christian life when we are single, don't expect anyone in the world to make you happy. There is not a magic age to getting married, but there are character issues and responsibilities that should be in place before fulfilling God's purpose through marriage. One of the biggest challenges is trusting God to bring the right person to marry.



Dr. John Calcagno

HEALTH: As a Pediatrician, Dr. Calcagno has seen a lot of children in need of medical attention. **Childhood Injury:** God made the world so we can have fun in it. As humans, we have created tools for fun but all of them have inherent risks. Children may not have the wisdom to make safe choices when recreating, so parents need to always apply safety first no matter the age. They should always think what the safest way is, but still have fun. **Childhood Illness:** When we become parents we should have a sense of the great responsibility God has entrusted to us. Faith is believing that God has a plan for us and will look after us. Some people believe God is obligated to look after them when they take unnecessary risk. Other's live in fear and refuse to take advantage of the advances in modern medicine. We need a closer tie to spiritually and scientific knowledge. Prayer does heal although it may not always prevent. We need a healthy mentality of both science and spirituality. **Mental/Emotional Health:** The rise in mental illness in the world has been dramatic, and is evidenced in anxiety, depression, bi-polar and mood disorder. It could be related to our fast paced society. Are we

teaching our youth the right values and coping skills? The electronic revolution has created a big piece in our fast paced lives and it has become like emotional food. Nature abhors a void. Everything we are, we are from childhood. Many constructs of our self- worth, value and personalities are formed in childhood and have come from parenting. We have not been helpful to young parents by helping them understand the importance of building positive self-esteem in children. Families need to communicate to build strength. Sometimes Christian parents overprotect their children because they are fearful of external influence. They guard their children to such a place that when the young adults go out into the world, it overwhelms them. Character, persistence and fighting the good fight starts at a young age. Self is who you are at your core. Your spirit is connected directly to God and that is where it starts.

WHAT A FEW GALLONS OF PAINT AND A LOT OF WORK CAN DO



BEFORE



AFTER



Letters:

After a tour of our facility from a viewer and her children, we received a note of thanks:

"Wow! What a dream come true for us!"

"Thank you – TBN is a blessing and encouragement to me."

"Praise God for the help you give others over the air ways."

"Praying for souls to be saved. Thank you for your prayers."

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