



LOST AND FORGOTTEN

Deuteronomy 13:6 - "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your GOD goes with you, he will never leave you alone nor forsake you."

As I go to bed each night, as I pray all day, as I provide clothing, meals, advice and counsel, love and prayer; I struggle knowing that so many of those we help will lose their battle with life; so many will choose a life of crime, rather than a life dedicated to the needs of their family; and most tragic, so many will put their lives at risk, surrender to the immediate, temporary high, rather than find the eternal joy of GOD's love!!!

There are the homeless youth:

Austin, who started using meth at the age of ten, before his brain was totally formed. He has condemned himself to a life of paranoia, fear, hallucinations, and the need for an artificial high, which is always followed by a deep, dark depression, which will inevitably end in suicide. There is nothing the doctors can do!!!

There is Sabrina, who is pregnant for the second time, by her boyfriend, Troy. They are homeless. Sabrina had been accepted by several houses for homeless pregnant young women, but she chooses to stay with Troy on the streets. During the seven months she has been pregnant, Troy has been in jail three times, for a total of over three months. Sabrina stays on the streets, alone, always waiting for Troy to return. I have informed the police several times, but they have no valid reason to arrest her, even though she would have a warm, dry place to stay. When Troy is out, half the time he leaves her, for days at a time, choosing to partner with a woman who is not pregnant. Each time, Sabrina forgives him. I fear so much for the life of the child!!!! Will he be born with a meth drug habit or have a physical and/or mental disorder? How will he survive in such an unstable relationship?

There was Manuel, who was sentenced to prison for dealing Meth at 17 years old. He was very intelligent, handsome and outgoing. He used these talents to con people, to use people, and to become a very successful drug dealer. He was able to con the parole board to be released from prison after one year. Once out, he quickly returned to selling drugs. In the end, he died from a meth overdose.

There was Ross Yaffe, who struggled with a low self-image, self-doubt, and fears and hallucinations. He surrendered his life to Christ, but even so, could not overcome the challenges of his life, and eventually committed suicide.

There was GGG, who struggled with drugs and a low self-image. She finally accepted Jesus as her Savior and had turned her life around. She regularly attended church, and had a good job. This fatal night, she had no apartment, as her friend had evicted her. She hooked up with another friend, BBB, who invited her to stay with him. He was a drug dealer. That night he took GGG with him to sell some drugs. The deal went bad. When the smoke cleared, GGG was dead, the drug dealer was seriously injured and BBB had run from the scene. BBB was captured and sentenced to life in prison for the death of GGG.

There are the violent offender youth:

They have been to juvenile prison (Yes, we have prisons for children!!!), then to a Halfway House and are on their final stop, a residential center, which is a home that houses 4-6 youth before being returned to society. These youth are the most dangerous!!! Many have significant mental and emotional issues, and most have been physically, sexually and emotionally abused. When they are finally released, few are accepted back with their families, so they turn to life on the streets. Most will die or return to prison.

There are the men at the Halfway House:

They have been to prison and have been paroled to a Halfway House, the next stop after prison. A halfway house is a very restrictive residential center, which usually houses 100+ men or women. It provides counseling, job searches, educational opportunities, clothing and a gradual reintegration back into society. We provide Bible studies, high adventure mountain trips, transportation to church, individual Christian counseling, and most of all PRAYER!!!! Unfortunately, over 40% will return to prison.

I ask, that as you read this book, you will keep this ministry, the youth, the men and women living in the halfway houses, and all of our volunteers in your thoughts and prayers.

GOD Bless,

Skip Starr