A Trip That Could Change Your Life

REFLECTION REPORT

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There’s always this one event in your life that happens and Sometimes that event will have the impression to change your Life forever. We like to call it the awakening, sometimes it works for our good and sometimes it seems to challenge the most of us. The Bible reminds us in Romans 8:28, that all things work together for the good of those that Love God whether the experience was good or bad God still has a plan for it. Ss my story begins like this back in my younger years, I ran into one of the many awakening moments in my Life, now I look back at them a see them as God’s turning point or his timing of transition in my life.

Well As a young girl, for years, I watched and heard my mom at times experience abuse whether it being physical, mentally or emotionally by the man she called husband the supposedly love of her life. It was strange because that once nice man would become jealous and abusive every blue moon, a person that we never knew existed. He would be the prince charming during the day and the abusive masked man at night. He would abuse my mom, accuse her of all type of things, move us around, keep us isolated from people and control her with lies, manipulations, witch craft and several other things. We lived like prisoners in our own home, it was just me my mom and two brothers were all we had to get us through tough times.

My mom would always tell us that we were her strength and friends to get her through those difficult times and her faith in God from losing her mind. But one day was what we thought was an end, my mom ran away and escaped having us force to be without a home or place to go or anyone to turn to and there this journey begins. Finding a Women’s Shelter for domestic violence victims.

You see most of Every city that you may travel to, most of every parks you may visit or even most of every streets you may drive or Travel down you will eventually encounter the existence of homelessness and victims of some sort whether a Drug Addicts, Abuse, Domestic Violence, Family Neglect or Victims of at Risk youth that has been running all their lives or just trying to survive this thing called Life. Sometimes life places us in situations and circumstances that we wouldn’t imagine like divorce, lost of job, domestic violence, ex-prisoners, at risk youth, rape victims.

So, the existence of homelessness, Victims and survivors in our society is still relevant and exist evident today. It is likely that you will witness a homeless person, a victim or a survivor in their own right struggling to survive globally to these everyday economic issues. Over decades it's been a race against time to address this most critical social justice issue, every Human deserves a secure and comfortable place of their own to dwell and not left on the streets to perish. Globally we Live In society where the rich get richer, and the poor get poorer.

What I learn from experience of homelessness and being a child of a victim and survivor of domestic violence, I have learned the compassion and patience and the footsteps of those. Anyone interested or having the passion and desire to Work with or Volunteer at a facilities and shelters whether full time or Part time will find it very rewarding and an eye-opening experience. Its not just a recreation or volunteering opportunity its actually seeing with the lens of those you serve and walking in the shoes of those that are presented before you.

Over the past month, I have experienced trouble with accessing a facility because it was either a timely process or a process of going through procedures to serve in their facility such as background checks and several time-consuming things. So, I remember this place I found in Atlanta where I once serviced Prior as their landscaper servicer.

This area is located in Atlanta off the most known area near the expressway. Most people that stay in the area are homeless or abandoned. So, I waited there hours to gather their time and gave them notice and gathered information from them and decided to come back. Saturday evening is the biggest day that majority of the people are out there. So, I parked at the burial site in which I know I have seen blankets and personal items there in the past. I took food and personal items in a back pack sat and ate with them. One guy told me normal people pass out the bags, food and items then leave. He questioned why did I stay and eat with them. I explain my childhood and then I explain the goal of my ministry that if I had the money that's one of my goals to have. He told me that it was something different about me and I was not a usual preacher. He said he became homeless years ago because he lost his family and became ill and mentally unstable. He said he adapted to the lifestyle and they became his family. He responded that he would

give anything to get his life back. I asked if there were facilities close by and he responded they are normally overcrowded or they won’t take him in. I asked if he had a place for the night, he said that he was okay, not sure if it meant yes. But immediately my heart sink because not only is this an issue but God has called us to restore people like that. Not just to keep passing out food and items but to get their life and freedom back to them. Though I was unable to visited a facility I like that better. I wasn’t afraid because if I was called to die or anything happen to me God knew before I did. But I chose that because it personal and I was able to do ministry how God lead me. I wish I had a facility or home its so much that I desire to do that’s not like the homes we have today. Thank, God, for them but the people need something with longevity.

My experience I only occasionally been a part of a local church outreach that included serving hot meals to the homeless but not meeting and getting to know the people or hearing their stories. Being a Pastor and manager exposed me to an entire spectrum of issues and needs of our society's most vulnerable and it has changed my Life forever.