



[the way]out
MINISTRIES

Christmas Issue thewayout.org



Elder Brian Werner serves our guests.

he editor of the newspaper carried out his threat to hurt The Way Out Ministries. He expected our school to pay for an ad that we never placed, and our refusal brought front page headlines against me that were political in nature. He attacked my character as a pastor and as a city councilman. His vendetta

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THE WAY OUT MINISTRIES

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Merry Christmas

escalated as I endorsed candidates for an upcoming election. His paper continued to print insulting assaults on me and those candidates that I supported. His articles then attacked our ministry as well. Unfortunately, many of our local supporters must have read and even believed the paper’s hateful stories without ever contacting me for an explanation. Thanksgiving Day confirmed my suspicions. Food donations from local churches and volunteer sign ups were the lowest they had been in 30 years. The 75+ volunteers who usually run the dinner were down to only two, and the food for the dinner was largely bought and prepared by our staff. We went ahead with our dinner on faith that God would provide both workers and enough food for our guests.



Volunteer Charles Evans prepares some potatoes.

I arrived on Thanksgiving Day to find one staff member and two volunteers peeling potatoes for a dinner that generally feeds about 400 people. It was going to be a hard day! Two more staff people joined the force, and I went ahead and began to post signs. At eleven o’ clock, a group of homeless people came walking down the sidewalk much too early for the dinner which was to begin in two hours. “We are here to help”, one man said; and within minutes, they were helping with preparations. Soon afterwards, a van arrived full of early



Pastor Barry with Elsie De Jongh (age 91) from Christ Community Church in Buena Park, California. Elsie has faithfully volunteered at our Thanksgiving Dinner for the past 20 years.

dinner guests from a board and care home. When I explained to the driver that he was much too early, he inquired as to what he should do. “You can help”, I said with a grin. He laughed at first, but within a half an hour that is exactly what his fifteen passengers were doing!

Soon afterwards, volunteers from our church trickled in, and all the needed work was accomplished. We even had to open a half hour early to accommodate the line of guests waiting at the door! God had provided just enough volunteers and hundreds of guests as well. This year there was no food left over. The last of our guests even ended up eating spaghetti, but the spirit of the dinner was the best I can ever remember! Truly thankful hearts giving praise to a truly gracious God in spite of a truly wicked plan by the devil to stop God’s work. **This too is the glory of Christmas. God making a way despite impossible odds and great opposition. A way for mankind to be with Him and one day eat at His table (Revelation 3:20). If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)**

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Merry Christmas!

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CANDELIGHT SERVICE
December 24 at 7:00PM
The Gathering
We are located at: 22427 Norwalk Blvd., Hawaiian Gardens
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Year-end Shortfall



Founders, Rev. Barry and Terry Bruce

For the past 29 years of our ministries' history, we have always entered each new year debt free; however, as the economy worsens so does our financial year-end shortfall. Currently

The Way Out Ministries needs an additional \$48,500.00 to pull into the new year debt-free. **Terry and I ask you to please prayerfully consider giving an extra financial gift to The Way Out Ministries at this year-end if God has especially blessed you with the ability to do so.** As always, God uses all gifts, large and small, to collectively meet our needs. He is forever faithful through his people. As we look back through the many years and challenges in ministry, God's blessings and provision have been miraculous! This provision is eloquently expressed in a poem called Footprints. Perhaps you will find it an encouragement too if you are going through some hard times this Christmas season.

Footprints

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed He was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from His life. For each scene He noticed two sets of footprints in the sand. One belonging to Him and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of His life flashed before Him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of His life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times of His life.

This really bothered Him and He questioned the LORD about it. LORD you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me.

The LORD replied, my precious, precious child, I Love you and I would never leave you! During your times of trial and suffering when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.

A Leap of Faith



Greg and Angie Nardo light the Advent Wreath at The Gathering's Hanging of the Greens service.

Greg Nardo and his wife, Angie, found themselves increasingly dissatisfied with the time and energy his second job as a casino table manager required as their relationship with Jesus grew. Greg found himself wanting to become more involved with his

church, The Gathering, and volunteer work with The Way Out Ministries. After much prayer, the couple decided that they would take a leap of faith, quit his job, and see what God might do. "Our life is so much more fulfilling", says Greg who now teaches music at Turner High School, plays guitar in the church band and works tirelessly with youth in afterschool programs. What a blessing it is to see God work through such dedicated people.

Kodak

Pictured on envelope cover:
The Praise 4 Christmas Show 2010