

Restoring America

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Changing the World

It's becoming more and more apparent that the only way this world is going to get any better is if we as individuals step up and make the changes we wish to see.

Just look around you and what do you see? Do you like the world you're living in? Do you feel at peace and that God is at work in all these things for the good?

It doesn't matter what source you use for information, every media outlet shows nothing but constant chaos and destruction. Riots, fires, homelessness, drought, famine, earthquakes, death, tornados, hurricanes, violence and corruption. It's obvious we are surrounded by serious challenges.

Even the evangelist stations, preachers and the "Good News" channels have to address the fact that there is utter chaos, confusion, sadness, lies and deception all around us. All of which are asking for money so "we can help the Ethiopians or Ghana, Chile", everywhere except to address our own problems right here in our own backyard in America. God forbid you take a trip with the family to some place that used to be a place to take the family now only to see needles laying everywhere on the ground, drugs, prostitution and homelessness.

This is going to sound a little harsh but it remains the truth regardless. As much as it breaks my heart to see the suffering in other countries, I don't care about any other country except America at this point. Do you know why? Because I don't see other countries and their pain unless I turn on the T.V. and that's the reason I don't watch T.V. anymore. Not to mention I don't trust any of the news sources. I believe they are all working together to cause this very strife, chaos and confusion.

I'm not running for President and I'm certainly not the guy to just snap my fingers and fix the problems, but if you know the President tell him to get in contact with me because I have been analyzing the problems and more importantly I have some proposed solutions. Or just send them this document and tell them to get busy. You can take credit for it, I'm not looking for fame or fortune, just looking to see America and all individuals in America be the best they can be.

I call it "The Lifeguard Theory". As a lifeguard, you cannot save anyone drowning if you yourself are drowning. This is the problem we've gotten into as everyone wants money to help change things that it seems never get solved because they haven't stopped asking for more money. If they're trying to fix some village in Africa, I'll never know if they changed or not because I'll never see the end results, just as I don't see the mess. I propose we fix our own back yard first, get out of the water and start casting life preservers out to those drowning in our own backyard. Then and only then will we be able to help other countries. Let's keep it simple and start with ourselves. Fix yourself first, then help others, like your family and friends, then venture out to the county line or big city.

This is where I believe we have failed. Sure we do a little here and there by handing out food to people, but we're not doing what Jesus would do. I believe we can solve the root of the problem by addressing the individual. Love your neighbor as yourself, and there is the problem, as most people don't even love themselves enough to start there. It first must start with self reflection, are you where you need to be to be able to help someone else? Most aren't, like the major majority. The one percent that could help is so self absorbed that they see others as the problem and though they may toss a few dollars at a problem just to feel better about themselves, they know full well that they're not helping. Sadly they don't care because they don't think or know where to even start.

I could go on for days and page after page pointing fingers to the problems and placing blame but that's not going to fix or change anything either. Yes, I'm going to point out the problems so that we are all on the same page, but more importantly I'm going to propose solutions. Yes, these solutions cost time, money and effort, but the reward and outcome far exceeds the sacrifices. More importantly, shouldn't we want to make our community the best it can be? Love people enough so that they are healed and can now they can join in to help save others? Restored people want to restore people. That's how I ended up on this keyboard.

The short answer is yes; of course that's exactly what we want to do. The question is "how do we do it?" I'm glad you asked, as the Lord has given me this vision that I'd like to share with you.

I pray that you will want to be a part of this plan to glorify God, bring people to Christ and make America the foundation of what it was created upon. One Nation Under God! Even if you are not a believer at this point, I believe that in time, as we see the progress and success of these ventures, one will come to the conclusion that "this must be a God thing".

Understanding the Problem (s)

Before any problem can be resolved, we first must recognize that there is a problem. Understanding the problem is the first step to finding a solution. Here is a generalized problem list for review, and consideration, then we can delve deeper into some proposed solutions. Understand, this is a brainstorming draft that is a fluid, ever changing document, as we discover the challenges in the proposed solutions and make the appropriate changes as we meet the challenges head on.

The key to the success of this problem solving dilemma is to have the right people assigned to the project from the start. Not some greedy, self-righteous, self-serving soul that is only looking to gain fame and fortune.

These issues are not simple solution resolutions and can only be resolved if the individual is willing to work on themselves. The challenge being that it's not easy to change someone else, they have to want to change. Recognizing first that there is a problem that needs to be addressed. Here's a short list of the complexities we face in America today.

- Homelessness
- Drug Addiction
- Alcohol Addiction
- Sex Addiction
- General Addictions (Social Media, Porn, Video Games, VR, etc.)
- Atheism, Satanism, Anti-Christ Religions
- Violence

- Hunger
- Destruction of the Family (Absence of the Father)
- Child Trafficking
- Gender Confusion
- Homosexuality
- Elderly / Handicapped
- Gangs / Mafia
- Prostitution
- Mental Health

I could go on and on with the challenges we face, this is a short list. All of these issues can be solved as we've seen multiple cases of individuals miraculously restored. It starts with helping one become sober by seeing themselves as one created by God, for a purpose.

The challenge is a little overwhelming when you look at all of the problems and how complex they are. Certainly not just a "snap your fingers, say a prayer, lay hands on these people" and presto problem solved.

These are serious, complex issues that will take time, money and continued programs in place to be able to work through these issues. It will take the entire country working together and programs in place that don't exist today to restore America.

Some of these problems are so complex that individuals with any one of these issues normally has a multitude of other issues that need to be addressed at the same time. For example, they're not just alcoholic, drug abusers, they're child trafficked individuals who are homeless and in prostitution. Complexity upon complexity.

Oddly enough, the same solution applies for all of the above, regardless of what the challenges may be.

Let's take homelessness as an example. If you've ever dug into the understanding of "how does one end up homeless", there's a multitude of reasons or causes. Mostly you'll find some tragedy starts the ball rolling, add abuse, addictions and self-worth issues and you will find the result being one of the challenges on the list if not a multitude of these challenges. It's a serious complex problem to say the least.

How can we fix that problem? It starts with having a plan, programs in place to bring these individuals into an environment to address the foundation of the issue; self worth and purpose.

Looking at Maslow's hierarchy we can provide the foundational needs, food, shelter, etc. But that doesn't address the root of the problem so that we can get an individual restored and hopefully to self actualization.

The church should have been doing this from the start but corruption has infiltrated the churches and they don't understand the challenges as they've never been any of the above. Or very few and far between have. The church could do it without the help of the Government, but wouldn't it be nice to see our tax dollars actually solving problems instead of creating them?

Understanding the Problem(s) – Deep Dive

From my own discovery and personal experiences, I've battled the greater percentage of the problems listed on the previous page. What I've come to understand is that people who have faced these challenges have an internal problem with self worth and purpose. When you think you are "worthless" an individual only works to validate what they believe and continue to do behaviors that "worthless" people do.

If you claim to be an "alcoholic" then most likely you will continue to validate that label by drinking alcohol. If your parents or "role models" were alcoholics this becomes a learned behavior. Not to mention, just turn on any football game or the T.V., billboards or magazine and you'll see that "everyone drinks and it's ok". Oh it's ok until you drink and drive and kill a family, friend or some innocent stranger. My ex-girlfriend is doing forty years for accidental manslaughter in which she had just a few beers, hit an ice patch, rolled the truck she was driving and killed her own mother and brother. She was 31 at the time. Think about that for just a minute and let that sink in. Not only do you have to carry that burden for the rest of your life, but now you have to do it in prison.

What makes these problems our problem? Aside from the example I just gave above, just look at California. One of the most beautiful places on earth is now a rampant cesspool of all the problems listed.

Do you want your children growing up in that world? Questioning who they are, why they are here and why there is so much evil in the world? Or would you rather take part in recreating individuals who know who they are, restoring hope, saving their soul, giving them purpose and the coping skills to add value to society instead of living in hopelessness, self-destruction and misery?

I believe the root of this problem is the "Absence of the Father". Not just one's biological father but the Father in heaven. What's worse is one can even grow up with a father in their life and still have an "absent father" or an "abusive father" neither of which helps solve this problem. If men would be the men they're supposed to be, do the right thing every time, we wouldn't even be having this conversation much less these problems. It starts with fixing the men in America. If we have good men, we will have good women who will have good kids. I know it sounds like a pipe dream, and maybe it is but I'd love to see this manifest and see healthy, happy, fruitful, individuals everywhere I look instead of homeless encampments, death, destruction and chaos.

Whether you agree, believe or disagree, the beautiful thing about the truth is that it will always come to the surface. I have no doubt in my beliefs as I didn't come to them by chance. I've been through the challenges of addiction, alcoholism and both mental and physical abuse. I understand the challenges of "the way we see ourselves" and how that gives us value or makes us "feel" worthless. I also understand how to foundationally change that view of oneself.

I understand that some people don't get the choice of having a father. The good news is the Father we all need is not our biological father, it's the Father of Creation. Once you find the love of the true Father, everything else doesn't even matter. I mean it has value, don't get me wrong, but when you have the joy of the Lord in you because you know He created you on purpose and with purpose, the whole ball game changes. This is a hard sell too as there is so much deception in the world. This coming from a man who was an atheist for 35 of my now 50+ years. I'm still not perfect but I know who I am. I am restored, redeemed and renewed.

Change starts with wanting to change. We can only change those who want to change, but I believe if we can save one, we can save two. If we can save two, then we can save all who wish to change. The best part is that those that are saved out of their previous hell, they will want nothing more than to offer their assistance in helping others recover as they have.

One lesson I've learned in my own challenges is that when one is at the bottom of the bottom, without purpose and feeling worthless, the best thing one can do to help oneself get out of the depression spiral is to just go help someone else less fortunate than yourself.

It boils down to giving people purpose. Of course getting them clean and sober and back to healthy is the very first step. Having the right resources, people and programs in place to enable sobriety is key in all of this. In my own experience I've been sober more than once as I failed time and time again. It's a daily battle and having the right people around you, and more importantly understanding oneself is the only way to achieve the goal.

Proposed Solutions

The very first thing that needs to be in place is a location that is set up and ready to accommodate the needs of those in the program. I call it a program, but it is really a "re-programming" program if you will. Starting with the individuals that are willing and ready to move forward to sobriety and committing to said program.

There needs to be psychologists, medical doctors, nutritionists, counselors, pastors and a plethora of other support teams such as custodial, security, maintenance, management, etc. It's a mega rehabilitation center for the body, reprogramming of the mind, the spirit and soul so that these individuals can see that they are made in the image of God on purpose and with a purpose.

I envision this to be more of a military type of program like bootcamp. It's not going to be fun to start with and it's going to require serious effort and commitment with achievable goals with reward. This will take a document in itself to define what this might look like. Again, I believe it will take some very sharp minds to talk through and walk through various scenarios to determine a foundational program. Understanding there will be individuals that may need additional services outside of the normal program due to unforeseen circumstances that will be addressed when the issue presents itself.

I believe this would be best as a voluntary program, but with the model in place this same model could be used for prison systems too as the same issues are the reason the current prison system is a failure. Furthermore, there can be laws to force behavior modification if need be but there's a fine line there as we are not a communist nation and don't want to be.

Here's a bullet list of the concepts that would need to be in place and why.

- Written contract detailing the program and expectations of individuals coming into the program. They must want the help and commit to the program to receive help and they will need a clear understanding of the program.
- Secure living facilities to house them throughout the program. Men and Women separated from each other or in completely different locations as we do not want to raise babies in this environment as conducive as it will be to family restoration. There can be a family section

separated from the others, but again these parameters will need to be defined and expected from the start as there are families on the streets today.

- Detox period – This will be the hardest part for the individual, getting clean and sober. This is why it would be best to have a rural location to maximize security as we don't want drugs coming into the facility. They will need medical and psychological rehab at the same time. Understanding that some of these people will need to be on medication at the beginning of the process until they can become clean and sober, and in their right mind.
- There needs to be strict hiring programs in place as we don't want the staff bringing in drugs or adding the problems we are trying to solve as this happens in the prison systems today.
- Healing through nutrition. I've learned that the key to having good brain health is having good gut health through quality, nutritional sustenance. Here's where part of the agreement come into play as the individuals in the program will need to drink water not sodas and sweet drinks etc. Just like in bootcamp.
- Giving purpose through raising and growing all food in the program. It would have to start off with store groceries but in time, using a multitude of farming techniques from organic to aquaponics, hydroponics, green houses and standard outdoor gardening while providing quality food for all, and an education on how to grow, maintain and process the very food that they will be eating. This serves multiple purposes such as training in horticultural, agricultural, and animal husbandry. Not to mention providing life long skills and training so that the individual will be employable in the market place once they graduate the program.
- Raising cows, chickens, pigs, and various other game animals to provide additional organic farm to table solutions. The key here is using those in the program to grow, feed, learn and in essence giving them a purpose in life. Taking care of plants and animals.
- Expand upon these concepts with raising fish and whatever else one can think of to surplus, creating jams and products that can be sold to the public to support the endeavor while using the participants to give them purpose and training on how to run a business and be a productive member of society.

It's actually rewarding to grow and process your own farm to table solutions. This is the main problem with America, we got away from family and the farm. The family used to work together because they had to for survival. There is nothing more rewarding than eating food that you planted, cared for and/or fed all year, processed and cooked.

- All of this plus the service such as housekeeping, custodial, cooking, processing, etc. In an effort to teach life skills and coping skills. Daily counseling will be required with a tight schedule for all included in the program as structure and routine is a requirement.
- Exercise and social engagements need to be part of growing the community. There's an unlimited amount of concepts that can be brought to the table such as learning an instrument, mechanics, arts, crafts, life skills and entertainment such as wholesome movies with educational foundations.

The Program Overview

The concept is simple as much as it is complex. “Teaching life skills, offering assistance, and programs to help restore individuals to productive members of society to the highest level possible”. While instilling foundational belief systems that express the value of a sober mind and a loving community that works together for all.

There are many programs that are similar to the proposed solutions in this program. I believe that working together, in community with purpose and direction, can resolve many of the problems. When Jesus said “I give you a new command, love neighbor as yourself”, this is exactly what he was talking about.

Looking back on ancient society and even tribal societies, community is the key to survival. Get someone alone and no one around and they will perish as there is safety in numbers. It’s biblical.

There is so much more that needs to be defined and developed with a team of like minded problem solvers. This dissertation was to inspire hope for the future. I’ve created a few other documents that are available for download on my website. You are welcome to download, update, and create from these documents as I want nothing more than these issues resolved.