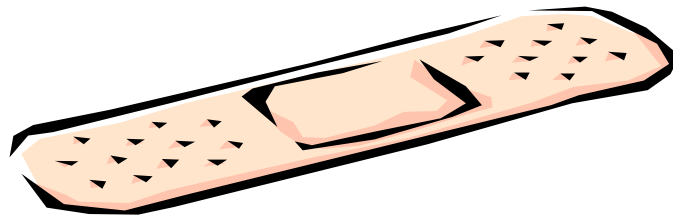




A place to find friendship and help

January 2004 CCM Newsletter

Why are bandage solutions important?



“But a certain Samaritan who was on a journey came upon him and when he SAW him, he felt COMPASSION, and he CAME to him, and BANDAGED up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took CARE of him.” NASV.

The past few years have taught us well as a ministry that God’s grace is dispensed most often in process. In Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan, we see an example of this process at work: The Samaritan saw, felt compassion, approached the victim, applied oil and wine to the wounds, bandaged them, carried the victim to safety, and committed himself to further care.

So, having in mind Jesus’ parable of The Good Samaritan, we are this year using the bandage as a symbol, a constant reminder that Jesus himself came for the sick and the wounded and that he has called us to go to others even when our own health or wealth may be limited.

In my view, the bandage has been given a bad rap. To suggest that a particular response to a problem doesn't really fix anything, we say, "It's a bandage solution". But deep wounds need bandages.

In the Parable, Jesus tells us that the Samaritan first disinfected the wounds by pouring in oil and wine. He could have stopped there and continued on his way—after all, he was on a journey. But he did not. He interrupted his schedule to tend to this dying man. Recognising that without them the risk of further damage was high, he took the time to apply bandages.

Too often in our quick-fix culture we seek a pour-the-oil-and-wine approach to social ills. We hope that such things as giving an occasional donation or writing a letter to protest cuts to social services will bring about a speedy solution to problems. And we are right to pay attention, to support worthy causes, to hold government accountable – to pour oil and wine on the wounds.

However, in the process of helping our neighbor and loving others as ourselves, we must all be more like the Samaritan, who invested himself in the healing of this suffering man. After tending and dressing the wounds, Jesus' protagonist carried the victim to a place of safety and dug into his wallet to pay for lodging and care. He knew that healing would take time and more hands-on care. In fact, Jesus says "he cared for him".

Here at CCM, we have great stories to share of real people, wounded people, who have needed a time to begin healing so that they could be moved on to another level of help. Sometimes wounds are visible; more often, they are not. Nevertheless, the victims in these stories all have one thing in common—hurt, or brokenness. The oil and wine is poured onto people's lives as staff and volunteers welcome warmly all who come as guests. Applying bandages can be a long task; we all know that when a wound is serious, the dressings must be changed regularly. By sharing our lives with one individual at a time, providing acceptance, love, and care, we participate in the healing process.

When you support Capital City Mission you make our part in God's process of grace possible. We thank all those who have supported us with gifts of finances and of time in 2003. We go forward this year to deliver kindness to Lowertown Ottawa with a greater sense of our responsibility than ever.

Will you make a commitment this year to touch broken, hurting people? Here are a number of ways that you can become part of God's process of grace at Capital City Mission:

- Make monthly donations to CCM through our website or by mail
- Individually or with your prayer partners, pray for one or more of the people whose names and/or needs you can find on our website
- Arrange to receive a weekly email informing you about specific needs among the people we reach out to.

timothy

DROP-IN 505 Rideau Street, PHONE: 613-241-2407 EMAIL: capitalcitymission@sympatico.ca
Mail: 390 Rideau Street Box 20183 Ottawa, On K1N 9P4 Director: Rev. Timothy Meisenheimer

www.capitalcitymission.com