

The New Kevin - Walking by Faith



Kevin McLaughlin was a maintenance repairman in the Essex County Jail for 22 years. It was there that he developed the lifestyle of drinking on the job, after the job and any other time as well. After leaving the jail, he took a job that came very natural to him, bartending.

In 1990, Kevin's girlfriend of seven years, Ellen died of cancer. His mother and father died also, all within a period of four months. This sent him into a deep depression. Then Kevin had to leave his bartending job because of diabetes. He suffered terrible pain in his legs and a severe loss of energy. Things were looking really bad.

Because of his alcoholism, Kevin began to attend our Overcomers meetings. He enjoyed the openness and genuineness of the meetings. There he met Karen Storz who was leading an Overcomers group. Kevin found out that Karen could help him with food as well from the Matthew's House food pantry at The Hope Center.

When Kevin came in he was quiet, looked gloomy and bitter,

but he found that he had never been treated so well as he was at Matthew's House. He became a frequent visitor and one fine day, Karen asked him if he would stick around for the day, to help provide security. Kevin had a life changing experience that day.

A homeless man came in asking for some shoes. Karen looked through her supplies, but came up empty. Then an amazing thing happened. Another man sitting next to the homeless man took off his expensive new shoes and brand new socks and handed them over. The homeless man tried them on and they were a perfect fit! The barefooted man then stood up and walked out the door onto the street. Kevin was dumbfounded by this and couldn't understand what happened. He asked Karen what had happened and she just shrugged.

That man who gave up his shoes was Roscoe Snell, an Outreach Director for The Relief Bus. Kevin couldn't stop thinking about this incident and even lost sleep over it. In his life, no one ever gave away anything without expecting something in return. Everyone had an angle.



Karen at Matthew's House

Because of the diabetes, doctors were forced to amputate one of Kevin's legs. This was a tough time for him and one year later he lost his other leg as well. Over a twelve-month period, he had thirteen operations. The day after losing his second leg, the doctor pointed to a wheelchair and said, "That's you from now on", meaning he would never walk again. It was at that moment that Kevin remembered that day at The Hope Center when the homeless man got new shoes. Somehow he knew that God would take care of him the same way.



Kevin went through physical rehabilitation for three years and now walks on two prosthetic legs. He is sometimes called upon to counsel with other amputees who have lost hope for their future. Now he serves at Matthew's House food pantry, on the Relief Bus on Friday nights, at CityTribe Church and is a regular on the phones at The Hope Center. He has been alcohol free for almost six years. Kevin will tell you today, "I'm a better man with two artificial legs and Jesus than I ever was with two good legs!"

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Asked and Received!

In our Fall 2004 newsletter, we asked;

- We needed cups (10 -12oz) to serve soup and drinks to people in need.
→ We received 375,500 cups from Solo Cup Company in Maryland which will supply our needs for the whole year!
- We needed funds and volunteers for the new kitchen and roof construction.
→ We received \$25,000 for the roof construction which will fully cover the project completely and we have now begun the New Kitchen Fund. We are hopeful to start the kitchen construction in late spring of this year. Please consider contributing toward our new kitchen fund!

It is truly amazing how God answers our prayers in every area through people like you. We thank God for His love for those in need. Thank you for all your support and for being a part of New York City Relief. ☐

Want to become a Full Time Urban Missionary?

Please join New York City Relief to reach the poor and homeless in the streets of New York City to help and to bring hope.

- Internship: Leadership Intern Program for 3-12 months.
- Staff position: Mobile Outreach Team Member / Office Administrator.

Please contact Richard Galloway at 800-736-2773 or email to richard@nycr.org. ☐

Special thanks to the following foundations for their generous support in year 2004.

Carlton Hill Family Foundation
Charles Schwab Corp. Foundation
Christopher D. Smithers Foundation
E. J. Grassmann Trust
The Hollinger Foundation
Hope for New York

James S. Herr Foundation
National Christian Charity Foundation
PSE&G Company Foundation
Westfield Service League
William E. Simon Foundation, Inc.



Needs

If you would like to contribute toward our specific needs, please contact Anne Jones at 908-352-8778.

- Funds and volunteers for the new kitchen construction.
- We need a good stock of socks, hats, and gloves for the people.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN DRIVING A BUS THIS SUMMER?

New York City Relief is in need of bus drivers for the summer. If you or you know of someone who is interested in driving the outreach bus, please call Richard Galloway at 1-800-736-2773 or send an email to richard@nycr.org. ☐



East Coast School of Urban Ministry students enjoying their time in class.



New York City Relief is a mobile outreach to the poor and homeless. We base our mission on Isaiah 58:6-12 and Matthew 25:34-40.

We are 501(c)3 non-for-profit organization.



New York City Relief was founded by Richard and Dixie Galloway in 1989.

New York City Relief
Mailing: P.O.Box 64, Times Square P.O.
New York, NY 10108-0064
Street: 1181 E. Broad Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
Phone: 800-736-2773 / 908-352-8778
Fax: 908-352-6446
Email: hope@nycr.org
Web: www.nycr.org