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Dave Feick, Coordinator

In Tribute



On January 7, 2014 a P2P volunteer passed away. Peter Hiebert had been a long time visitor in the P2P program in Prince Albert, but when the person he and his son Paul had been visiting was transferred to the Regional Psychiatric Center in Saskatoon, Peter and Paul continued

visiting with him here. They had just recently begun visiting with someone new just prior to Peter's death. Peter was a very giving person. Along with the prison visits, he was also involved in the Gideons and numerous missions. His farm has been the site of the annual Food Grains Bank Sale for many years, with his nephew now owning the farm and continuing to host this sale. Peter had many friends and he loved to be with people. He will be missed.

The rest of the story

When Dave went to visit Tommy, the person that Peter and Paul had just begun visiting, to let him know the news, he was obviously shocked and his first comment was to ask how Paul was doing. He then asked Dave to say a prayer for both Peter and Paul when he attended the funeral the next day.

Then, he asked, “Do you think Paul would continue to visit me?” Dave promised him that he would look into it. But Dave knew that this was not a simple request.

Years ago, Paul had been injured in a car accident which left him with some permanent damage. He has been able to work at Menno Industries in Waldheim for years and now lives at Menno Homes there. Though he was once able to get around with little difficulty, he now requires the help of a walker or a wheelchair.

George Born has been a P2P volunteer for some time in both Prince Albert and Saskatoon but has not been visiting at RPC since the last person he visited was released. George is on staff as a supervisor at Menno Industries in Waldheim. When Dave asked George if it might be possible and if he would be interested in bringing Paul to visits with Tommy, he said he would look into the logistics of it. When George had gotten all the proper permissions he then asked Paul about Tommy’s request and Paul responded with a hearty, “Yes, I would love to.”

So, recently, Tommy and Paul were together again. Tommy really appreciated Paul coming to visit him. He couldn’t wait to tell the chaplain about it.

Unfortunately, George will be moving away at the end of March and there is no one else at Menno Homes who would be able to bring Paul to Saskatoon for visits. Perhaps there is someone out there who would be interested in helping these visits to continue... **Please call The Micah Mission if you can help.**

Moving on

Along with George Born mentioned above who will moving to Vancouver Island to retire, Henry Block, who has been a CoSA member as well as founding Chairperson of The Micah Mission has moved with his wife, Gladys to Winnipeg to be closer to children and grandchildren. We do thank both George and Henry for their participation and support of Person to Person, Circles of Support and Accountability under The Micah Mission as well as your spouses for supporting you in your volunteer work. We also wish you well in your new settings. Blessings to you, your spouses and your families. We will miss you.

Person to Person

There are currently 13 inmates/patients being visited by volunteers, including two women inmates/patients visited by two volunteer women. Though we can say that all those cleared for the program are being visited, and all volunteers interested in visiting at this time are matched with someone, there is the above issue with Tommy. If we cannot find someone to bring Paul to RPC then we will need to find a new volunteer to visit Tommy. Also, if any other inmates/patients are cleared for visits in the future, then they will have to wait for new volunteers to be cleared. **So now is definitely the time to volunteer! Please call Dave at The Micah Mission.**

Circles of Support and Accountability

There are six active circles in Saskatoon plus one core member who no longer has a circle, but who continues to meet weekly with one or two of his original circle members. In March two men seeking circles will be released into the Saskatoon community and in April, another may be released. There is also someone in Saskatoon who formerly had a circle, presently does not, but is interested in having a circle once again. **Volunteers are needed.** We do have people in place for one of those circles, but more will be needed for the others. **Please call Dave at The Micah Mission** to participate in this very rewarding and very important ministry. Help to ensure that there are **No More Victims!**

Forward Step

This support group for anyone who sincerely does not want to return to prison upon their release is catching on. There are groups meeting at both the Regional Psychiatric Center as well as Saskatoon Correctional Center, giving people the opportunity to talk about how things are going for them and to think about making the changes they need to in order to remain outside and crime free. A number of volunteers also support several men on the outside as they meet regularly at Meewasinota, the Federal half-way house on 20th Street in Saskatoon. **Please call Peter Oliver (306-260-6213) for more information or to volunteer.**

10,000 Healing Steps: Resilience and Community Conference

On February 5 and 6, STR8 UP, together with its partners put on an awesome conference to a sold out audience. Stories by STR8 UP members as well as Father Greg Boyle and two former gang members, now members of Homeboy Industries were greatly appreciated by all and touched us all deeply. The opportunity to talk about gangs, recidivism and other issues was very worthwhile and many asked for more of this. Dave Feick and Eric Olfert also had opportunity to present CoSA and The Micah Mission in one of the breakout sessions. It was a good two days of information and a celebration of Restorative Justice initiatives in Saskatoon.

“How can I get involved in The Micah Mission?”

Here are some ways to get involved:

1. P2P stands for Person to Person. This program provides support to individuals who are in prison through bi weekly prison visits. The contact person for this group is Dave Feick at 306 653-3099. Security clearance and an orientation to the prison are required before one can provide this support.
2. Forward Step - Provides support for people who are leaving prison and as they first come into the community. Currently there is a group that meets at the Saskatoon Correctional Center on Tuesday mornings, another that meets at the Regional Psychiatric Centre on Wednesday afternoons and one that meets in the community on Monday evenings. Sponsors are people who join the group to offer support for the individuals who have left prison. Contact Peter Oliver if you are interested in this group. 306-260-6213.
3. CoSA stands for Circles of Support and Accountability. It is a support group for individuals who are leaving prison and have committed serious sexual offences. Several people gather weekly to journey with the person. Orientation and training are provided to the support persons. To enquire further about this group contact Dave Feick at 306-653-3099.
4. More detailed information can be found on The Micah Mission Web Site:
www.themicahmission.org
6. Volunteer to serve on the board. We do have good representation from the Mennonite Church and recently two new board members were appointed from the Roman Catholic Church and one from the Anglican Church. We gladly welcome people from all denominations and all faiths who have a heart for restorative justice. Please call.
7. Donate to The Micah Mission. Donations are gratefully accepted to assist in the ongoing work. Please send checks to the address below, or download a form from our website for direct deposit donations.

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