

The Connection



Transformed Life

Through tears Major recalls, "My Paw Paw was everything to me. His passing changed my life. I lost my purpose." Surviving loss, jail, and homelessness, Major shares his story of transformation for the first time.

Fifteen years ago, in his home state of Mississippi, Major did not have a handle on his anger and rage issues. He was living with his sister and grandfather, he lovingly calls Paw Paw; the only father he has known. Witnessing someone verbally abusing Paw Paw one day, Major lost his temper, attacked the abuser, and wound up in jail.

That brought on depression and he turned to marijuana to cope. Subsequently he lost his job. Not wanting his anger to be a problem at home again, he chose to live in a tent in the woods for a couple of years. One day he decided he was ready to quit smoking weed and go home. Like the prodigal son, Major was welcomed home with open arms by his Paw Paw with no questions asked.

Back to work, things were going well. One day nearly nine years ago, he received a phone call that changed his life. He was told he was going to be a daddy! That excitement was quickly overcome by another phone call. His Paw Paw had passed away.



The next nine months he adjusted to this loss and then welcomed his baby boy, Emmett Lee. "I seen my baby boy in my hands. My life was filled back up!" Major and his son became inseparable.

A short four months later, Emmett's mom left with their son. Once again, Major experienced loss. About four years later he moved to Michigan. Without a place to live, Major sought shelter at Good Samaritan.

Grateful for a roof over his head, he began to help in the kitchen. "It puts a smile on my face seeing everybody being served and knowing I'm making a difference," says Major.

Major still helps in the kitchen and is now taking classes in the S.A.V.E. program too. Recently after chapel one day Major experienced another life changing event when he gave his life to the Lord, "I gave up everything and gave it to Him. I'm happy every day and always smiling now."

Major is looking forward to his upcoming vocational training that will help him to be prepared for a career in the food service industry. Major's advice, "Never forget God always will be there for you. God bless everybody!"



DIRECTOR'S DESK



There is a lot of worrying and discussion about the state of our national economy. Are we in a "Bear" market or a "Bull" market? Are we on the verge of a recession? And then of course all of the finger pointing and blaming goes around in cycles. It is an exercise in futility that has no impact on the outcome.

Is Congress the source of our prosperity? Our Governor? The President of the United States? No! God is the source of our prosperity!

Jesus shared a parable in Luke 12:13-21 and he warned about the dangers of covetousness. Usually our worry about provision stems out of lack of trust in God's care. If we truly believe the God of the universe cares for us, then we should never have one day of worry.

Another clear principle in this passage is that covetousness leads to selfishness. Sometimes our worry takes us away from doing God's work and draws our eyes and our giving inward. When charity or giving only occurs when we have abundance, then we have missed the message of this parable. Take a few moments and meditate upon this next thought. Is God waiting for me to be obedient in my giving before bestowing any further blessing? Do I ultimately receive more from God when I give more?

As you meditate upon that concept, don't make the mistake to consider only dollars and cents. Be sure to include your time and your talents in your giving. One of the most powerful verses in the passage is verse 15. It says, "...take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

So before you get excited about the decisions that our politicians are making that are influencing our financial investments, take time to think about the rate of return you're receiving from God. Ask yourself, "Have I been a good steward of God's blessings in my life?"

Dan Streeter
Chief Executive Officer



LIGHTING THE WAY HOME

Mark Your Calendar

SATURDAY
March 2, 2019

*Bring your church groups,
employees, family and friends!*



Single Tickets are \$13.
Visit www.r3monline.org
to order your tickets.

Groups of 20 or more are just \$10 (EACH)
and must be ordered by calling
KIMBERLY ANCEL at
989-752-6051 ext. 123.

Join us for a fun-filled night including:

- BROOMBALL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT
- PRE-GAME CONCERT featuring Frankenmuth Bible Praise Band
- SAGINAW SPIRIT HOCKEY GAME

PLUS, Fun Kid Activities!

Operation Hope and Care

A little bag makes a big difference!

Help Provide Hope and Care to the Homeless

Fill a hope and care tote with items:

- Toothpaste (Children & Adult)
- Body Wash
- Anti-Bacterial Liquid Soap
- Lip Balm
- Shaving Cream (Men & Women)
- Tampons
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Brush & Comb
- Deodorant (Men & Women)
- Tissues
- Socks (Men)
- Disposable Razors
- Hand or Body Lotion
- Anti-Bacterial Wipes
- Newborn Diapers & Wipes

The annual Operation Hope & Care launches March 4, 2019. Operation H & C is a great project for church groups, civic groups and individuals. Every family and individual who checks in to the Mission's emergency shelter receives a Hope & Care tote filled with NEW hygiene products. Call Marlene to order your bags and posters at 989-893-5973 ext. 221. Transforming Lives... one life at a time!



Mission Statement:

To glorify God by serving people in need, proclaiming the Gospel, and establishing disciples among disadvantaged people.

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• FAMOUS DUTCH APPLE PIE SALE! •



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Marlene at 989-893-5973 ext. 221 or
marlene@gsrmbaycity.org

*Proceeds help provide emergency shelter
for homeless men, women and children.*

**Your prepaid pie orders are available for
pick up at GSRM:
Monday, April 8, 8:30am to 6pm**



Thank you for
SHARING

The December 19th Sharing Hope
Radiothon hosted by Alpha Media raised

\$46,242

providing **1,540 NIGHTS**

of warm, safe shelter to the homeless in
the Great Lakes Bay Region.

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