



The L.I.V.I.N.G. Ministry

LOVE INITIATED VENTURES INVESTING IN NEGLECTED GROUPS

Resting In Peace

Volume 4 Issue 7

"Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death" Isaiah 57:2

Patrick Slater (February 13th 1956 — September 11th 2010). I didn't recognize the number that called me that Monday afternoon. Maybe someone was in need of help finding a job. Maybe it was a volunteer asking how they could help at ALIVE. When I picked up, an older woman began talking, asking if Charles was available. I could not recognize the voice, but I listened intently to what she had to say. Periodically choking up, the woman explained that she was Patrick Slater's mom, and that she was calling me to explain that Patrick was found dead in his apartment. Hearing the news, I was completely shocked. While, I knew that Patrick had many health issues, I just never thought that it would cost him his life so abruptly.



For those that don't know, Patrick was one of our first participants in Project L.I.F.E. He came into the house in November 2009, and stayed until late April. Patrick grew tremendously in his faith in the time that he participated. He grew closer to his family, and even moved back in with his mom after leaving the program. At the funeral, I was encouraged when I hugged his daughter, brother and sister-in-law, and mom, and they praised God for the amount of change they noticed in Patrick since being the program. In Patrick's words, they felt like the old Pat was back, the one that cared for God, his family, and the good of all people. The last 5 years had been very difficult for Patrick. He lived in and out of shelters and his health got worse and worse. The doctors even told him that he wasn't going to live longer than 1 more year, but God is a greater physician and knew

that He was not through with Patrick. So his life was extended for 5 years which was just enough time to get back into his daughter's and other family members' lives, and to reconcile his relationship with God. Once those things happened, Patrick's time was up, and now I believe with all my heart that he has entered peace and has found rest as he enjoys fellowship with Christ in heaven.

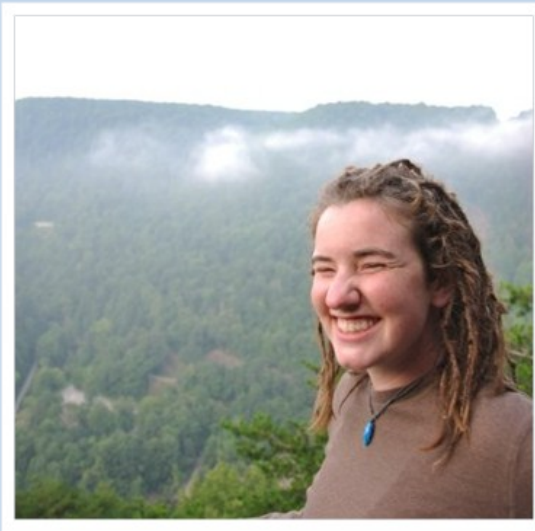
Below, I have included Patrick's first and last reflections from being in Project L.I.F.E. I think they are a great summary of his time spent in the program. Please pray for Patrick's family, that they would all knew Christ, and thank God that he gave us the opportunity to know Patrick in the last few months of his life.

"I'm thankful to be alive and to be in somewhat decent health. Being in this house has brought me out of my shell and I'm thankful for that as well. I am thankful for my family, especially my daughter and her mom, and my immediate family. I thankful that I live in a place where we can worship freely. Being in this program has been like a blood transfusion: everyday God has been emptying the garbage from my soul and filling it with His Word and His comfort through the Spirit. By focusing on what we can do today (forgiving ourselves and others), we can begin take steps toward the future. Being grateful and thankful takes all the work and 'stinkin' thinkin' out of the equation and allows us to letter better today. In my life, I have tried every way to stay sober and clean, but nothing has worked. I am most thankful that this way, God's way, seems like the solution.



In the last month it seems that I have been really motivated by the Spirit! I have been enthusiastic to learn and study the Bible. I have had a great deal of progress overcoming my depression through being around the guys and feeling the love that they have for me. Their closeness and bonding was something that I did not expect at first, but now have grown to love and appreciate. I have also been learning how to use a computer more and more. For the first time, I got my entire family to come to church with me this Easter. This hasn't happened for years, and I think the main reason it did was because of all the change they have seen in me. They can see how I'm blessed by God, and it is impacting their lives. Currently I am looking for housing for after I leave the program. My health has been pretty ok, which is also a blessing. I am eager to be able to achieve my next goals in life, as well as give back to Project L.I.F.E. and the men that will be staying here in the future.

Volunteer Spotlight: Maggie Adams



"Through the LIVING ministry, I have enjoyed waking up excruciatingly early and proclaim myself the "sandwich wrapping champion." My favorite moments include holding "free carwash" signs and talking with folks at Labor Ready about God's idea of a city rebuilt. I think the LIVING Ministry is a creative and compelling force that feeds bodies and souls throughout the Pittsburgh Community. I moved to Philadelphia in October and am hoping to get involved in a ministry with as much life as this one."

Maggie graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in the spring of 2010 with a degree in environmental studies. While she cares very greatly for the earth and it's wellbeing, God has also birthed a passion in her to care for the wellbeing of people. She has served at the labor halls for over 4 years, cooking breakfast sandwiches and sharing the love of Christ with her contagious smile. Maggie attended Hot Metal Faith Community while in Pittsburgh, but now has moved to Philadelphia to spend time with her sister. Her hopes are to be able to someday return to Africa to do missions work.

Other News

ALIVE 2010—November 20th, 2010

It's fall again, and as is our custom, we are preparing for our next ALIVE celebration. For the past 7 years we have been throwing the best party for the homeless Pittsburgh has ever seen! To make this year's celebration the best ever, we will need your help. Last year we had 200 volunteers. Praise God! This year we will need even more to do this great work. If you like to pass out clothes, prepare food, play board games, sing worship, or pray with people, then we have a place for you!

This year we are attempting to be more organized than ever before! On our website we have dedicated an entire page to ALIVE 2010. There you will see our volunteer registration form, ways to donate clothes, how to get groups to sign up, videos, and much more. Just visit our website at www.livingministry.org and look for the **ALIVE '10** tab.



LIVING Ministry Is Collecting Winter Clothes

L.I.V.I.N.G. Ministry is currently collecting clothes for ALIVE 2010. If interested, please read the following information. We only have a need for the following articles of clothing. Please do not donate anything but:

men's and women's winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves, jeans, sweat pants, sweat shirts, sweaters, flannels, new socks, duffle bags, blankets, and any toiletries.

As a ministry, we are extremely picky in the clothing that we pass out. We adhere to what we call L.I.V.I.N.G. Ministry Quality. We are only looking for the best items. No lame sacrifices! Please do not say that "if I were homeless, I would wear it". That is not how we treat our friends, nor how we desire to treat the homeless. If you have clothes to donate, or if you want more information, please visit our website at www.livingministry.org or email us at donate@livingministry.org.



To remove your name from our mailing list please email us at contact@livingministry.org
Questions or comments? Check us out at www.livingministry.org or call 412-302-1678