

New Horizons Ministries

A NEWSLETTER OF HOPE TO FRIENDS OF NEW HORIZONS

AUGUST 2003



A Glimpse of Addiction

by Susie Steinke, Development Events Manager



I ran into Joy two weeks ago on my way to have lunch with a friend. I gave her a hug and told her to come see me.

She looked awful; she was too skinny

and obviously strung out. She came to New Horizons a week later. I was shocked. She usually doesn't want to see me when she is so caught in addiction. She mentioned that she had a surgery follow-up appointment for Monday. We agreed to meet at New Horizons at 9am on Monday so that I could go with her. I didn't really expect to see her, as is her pattern, but she showed up. She complained of not feeling well and said she was dope sick (experiencing withdrawal symptoms). While in the doctor's waiting room, she slept fitfully on the floor in front of me.

After we were taken into the doctor's office, Joy fell asleep again on the patient table and wouldn't wake up. The intern tried to wake her up to examine her, but to no avail. When the doctor came in, he physically sat her up and was very firm about waking her. She was very upset with him, saying that he was mean. The doctor said her wound was healing fine, but now she had another abscess from her heroine use and he wanted to admit her right away for surgery. While he went to get the paper work, Joy got up to get dressed. "I can't sit here any more. I'm too dope sick. I've got to go get something." I tried to talk her into staying. I told her that she was in a good place where they could take care of her while

she detoxed and that she needed the surgery. It was obvious that she felt I just didn't understand. Joy told the doctor that she was in too much pain to stay. He said that he could give her medication for the nausea she was experiencing from detoxing and

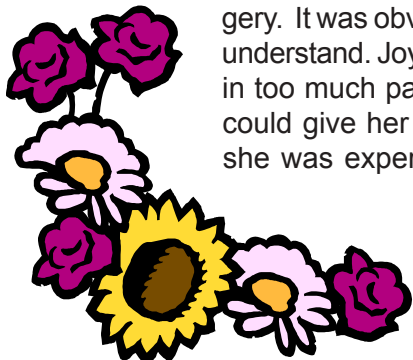
that he could give her pain medication for the abscess, but that he couldn't treat the addiction. She agreed to stay. Ten minutes later she was walking

out of the hospital. The nurse tried to stop her, but Joy responded with " *&%\$ you!" All I could do was follow.

Once out of the hospital, Joy asked me if I would go back with her after she got her fix. I told her I couldn't go with her while she got her fix and that when she was ready she should go to the emergency room. As I was driving her back downtown, Joy spotted some "friends" that would help her get her fix she needed. As she was getting out of the car she begged me for \$10 for the drugs. "That's all I need and then I'll be better. Can't you see how sick I am?" I just had to let her go.

I dropped her off knowing that she would be willing to do anything to get the fix she needed, knowing that I loved her and that my heart ached for her and the pain in her life. I left, not knowing when I would ever see her again. I left knowing that today, I had practiced the ministry of presence but wondered if it was enough. I left knowing that God loves her more than I and that the best and only thing I could do was to pray.

May Joy find God's peace that surpasses all understanding, His grace that abounds, His forgiveness which covers and His love that is enough.



*The mission of
New Horizons Ministries*

*is to be in relationship with homeless youth,
serving and loving in the way of Jesus,
equipping youth to leave street life.*

The Walk was excellent this year. The weather was beautiful, we had fun, and broke records. An astounding 202 people joined us at Seward Park to help raise over \$30,000 for Seattle's homeless youth. Cass Holloway, our top money raiser, brought in over \$5,800. Our top youth fundraiser was the sister team of Annie and Emily Haight raising \$420.



Three years ago, we were debating whether or not to continue with the Walk. We felt that participants were losing interest and that it really wasn't bringing in that much money. We decided to give it one more try. Since that year we have had increases every year in participants and money raised. Plus we've gotten feedback that people enjoy coming. They like being together with the NHM community and raising money for such a good cause.

Thank you to everyone that participated in the Walk!

Thanks for walking, raising money and for sponsoring walkers.

A special thanks to all our friends who donated prizes: Willows Lodge, Roger Winter, Bob Wyman, 21 Central Restaurant, Mama Lucia's Restaurant, Jen & Ben Ross, Lowes Theatres, Cranium Inc., Wild Waves Enchanted Village, Tony Roma's, REI, Taproot Theatre, Spa Bellissima, Abra Greene and David Anema & Andrea's Carpet Cleaning.



Addicts and Prophets



**by Scott Steinke,
former Discipleship Volunteer**

In Dr. Scott Peck's book, *"The Road Less Traveled; The Unending Journey Toward Spiritual Growth"* Peck says,

"I think that people who become slaves to alcohol and other drugs are people who want, who yearn, to go back to Eden—who want to reach Paradise, reach Heaven, reach home—more than most... There are two ways of looking at this yearning to go home. One is to look at it as a regressive kind of phenomenon, a yearning not only to go back to Eden but to crawl back into the womb. The other way to look at it is as a potentially progressive kind of phenomenon; that in this yearning to go home, addicts are people who have a more powerful calling than most to the spirit, to God, but they simply have the directions of the journey mixed up" (136 - 137).

The first time I read Dr. Peck's work it rocked my world. I had to step back and confess to the Lord that it is no longer "they and I" but it is "we". There is no difference between the youth we serve at New Horizons and those who minister to the youth.

Have you ever considered that the "drunks," "drug users," and "prostitutes" have a stronger calling to God than most believers? More to the point, have you ever considered that you and I are the addicts and the "addicts" are the prophets of our time?

I would venture to say that the majority of us would not even consider the fact that we are addicts because our addictions fall within the norms of our society. We have disguised our addictions. We could be addicted to comfort, money, food, acceptance, the satisfaction of helping the needy and being needed. Whereas the "addicts," to some degree, realize that they are in need. Be it a fix, shelter, food, or clothing, they are very aware of and driven by their needs.

Matthew 9:11-12 from The Message by Eugene Petersen: When the Pharisees saw him keeping this kind of company, they had a fit, and lit into Jesus' followers. "What kind of example is this from your Teacher, acting cozy with crooks and riff-raff?" Jesus, overhearing, shot back, "Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? Go figure out what this Scripture means: "I'm after mercy, not religion. I'm here to invite outsiders, not coddle insiders."

I realize that using the words "addictions" when talking about our daily vices may seem strong to some. God says we have "all

sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:12), and He tell us to "put no other gods before Him" (Exodus 20:3). What is "addiction" but the purest form of putting a god before the Lord? This is idolatry. This is sin. The same sin that separates us from God, the sin Jesus died for, the sin we live with in a fallen world.

These things lead me to believe that we are all idolaters in some shape or form. I often find myself neglecting God and giving precedence to my own vices and need to cope. With this realization, I've begun to wonder if the "addicts" of this world often take the role of prophets because they remind us we are in need of a savior, one bigger than ourselves. We live in a place between Eden and Heaven and there is a tension there that we all, in some form or fashion, seek to escape from because we were not made for the fall but for God. The "addicts" with whom I work know who they are and seem to live well in that knowledge, yet despising the addiction. They seek to return to Eden (to Heaven) by feeding their addiction and finding escape from this world—even to the point of death. As prophets they are saying, "We do not belong here."

During a Bible study with the youth, we were talking about the provision of God, a hard topic to discuss with people who are homeless. There I sat, frustrated with my finances, continuing to make poor monetary choices, living the American dream in debt and talking to homeless youth about God's provision. Max was 25 years old. He had been living on the street since he was 14. He was addicted to drugs. He was sleeping in a newspaper recycle bin and scrounging for meals out of dumpsters. Max told us, with faith and conviction, that God has been faithful to meet his every need. He didn't always get what he wanted, but God provided for him. Max had a faith and understanding of God that I may never have.

We are all created in the image of God and we are all idolaters. We all live between Eden and Heaven—living within that tension. "Addicts," however misguided, understand and seek to escape the tension of living in the fall. We, too, in our misguided way, seek to escape the tension of living in the fall. Unfortunately, to find rest in drugs, sex, alcohol, food, money, comfort or in anything else is not rest. True rest comes from the Shepherd of our souls, Jesus. Rest is only found when we can quiet our spirit and hear, "You are my beloved child in whom I am well pleased."

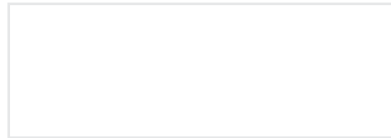
I pray for true rest with God for you and for our kids—for all of us as addicts and prophets.



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NEW HORIZONS MINISTRIES

FOUR

Celebrate

*NHM's 25th
Anniversary*

*at the
Dessert Extravaganza*

November 7, 2003

Morning Food Groups Needed



We need morning food groups to purchase, prepare, serve and clean up a delicious breakfast for approximately 40 youth.

Please contact Naomi Y. at extension 130 for detailed information.

Tooth Brushes and Trial Size Toothpaste Needed.

Contact Sarah at ext. 110.

