

TESTIMONY

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# A NATION IN SEARCH OF ITS SOUL

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## INTRODUCTION

The most critical and crucial question of American History must be answered in the near future if we are to rise above the violence and social chaos of our time.

A. The question is, "ARE THERE ANSWERS FOR A NATION IN SEARCH OF ITS SOUL?"

1. This a faith question and demands faith answers.
2. Political answers are not sufficient for faith questions.

B. The faith answer must be grounded in the dignity, self-worth, hope and dreams of each and every individual.

1. Only the faith answer is sufficient for the cry for dignity, the hunger for individual worth, the longing for hope, and the agony of living without a dream.

C. TEEM has demonstrated, proven, and can document that helping people to help themselves through a model built on the foundation of faith touches the inner being of the individual to release that which is decent, honorable, and noble because each is created in the image and after the likeness of God.

1. Supporting that which is decent about people is what we mean by helping people to help themselves.
2. I want to use the Public Relations Brochure and Program Chart to show you what we are doing, how it works, and the economics of helping people help themselves -- with the hope you will understand it is the answer for a nation in search of its soul.

## BODY

This is a complete program that will work for anyone in any place to solve any problem for which they will accept responsibility.

A. I want to use the brochure to show you the FOUNDATION OF THE PROGRAM.

1. The phrase "Rebuilding individuals to rebuild America" is to show you must tap that which is decent in people to release the power from within to prime their dreams and follow their vision.
  - a. This must always happen in helping people to help themselves.
2. There is a major difference in helping people help themselves and helping people.
  - a. We are only about helping people help themselves.
    - (1) There are many needs that must be met, but it is a paradox or

perhaps a contradiction to just help people in a program designed to help them help themselves.

3. The LOGO on the front was designed to symbolize the Biblical Faith and the World upheld by the hands of God.
  - a. My lawn mower mechanic says, "If you can do what you say you can do in the logo, you can help anyone who will help themselves."
    - (1) He said, "You have the symbols of faith, self-esteem at the top, plus values and skills at the bottom, and back at the top you have goals and growth."
    - (2) Then he said, "I have slept under the bridges and have been over the long, rough road...and I know from experience if you can do what the logo says, you can help anyone who will help themselves."
4. The MISSION STATEMENT is, "to rebuild unemployed and underemployed individuals through a program of self-help so they can take responsibility for their lives." No longer fix people or make them do anything or do it for them.
5. I was clear the ministry must be grounded in SIX PRINCIPLES:
  - a. Faith in God to show there are moral and spiritual laws by which to live and you reap what you sow.
  - b. Change the self-image from being nobody to one created in the image and after the likeness of God. From loser to winner, from victim to conqueror.
  - c. Seldom do people have a long term change if they stay in the environment in which they got in trouble.
  - d. Individuals require support for a sense of community and family because it is tough by yourself.
  - e. Acceptance of all people without asking their history with the goal of their acceptance of others. When you help people help themselves, they most often help someone else.
  - f. Productivity as a way to give expression to the cry for dignity by people in what they do.
6. These principles are achieved through THREE DIVISIONS that offer a way to solve any problem...but are grounded in the freedom of choice, and grounded in the axiom "Some will, some won't, and some are waiting."
  - a. The first division is the Employment Education Division or the Job Readiness Workshop where we help people discover their interests, values and skills, and help them recover dignity, self-worth and self-respect to build confidence and self-esteem.
  - b. The second division is a way to be productive as an answer to the cry for dignity which comes with achieving self-reliance.
    - (1) Unless there is a way for people to be productive and receive pay check therapy, they flip back into the "poor me victim attitude."
  - c. The third division is a Continuing Education Plan and Program to start people where they are to rise above whatever obstacles they face.
    - (1) We range from illiteracy to Ph.D.'s...and they all need support and new growth.

B. FINALLY. LET'S TALK ECONOMICS. The economics of helping people help themselves is at least two-fold:

1. When you help people help themselves they will help someone. This starts a ripple effect that continues to expand.
2. It is impossible to place a value on a life changed so that they live by a dream and are self-reliant, but I want to call to your attention the figures on the back of the Program Chart enclosed in the Brochure. These dollar figures show the impact based on minimum wage.

### CONCLUSION

What is the answer to a nation in search of its soul?

- A. You find answers to the cry for dignity by helping people help themselves.
- B. You release the tremendous potential of dreams and give everyone their chance to the golden opportunities which are the promise and hope of America.