

“THE TRAUMA TREE’S VISION”

An unknown author once wrote, “it’s easy to love a rose, but harder to love a leaf.” In other words, “it easy to love the extraordinary, but harder to love the ordinary.”

We are all leaves, desperately trying to be a rose. Dreaming of who and what we want to be, or think we should be, instead of embracing the beauty of who we are. We try to imitate that which we deem better, or extraordinary, while ignoring, or trying to cover up what is not.

I want to talk about a very ordinary man, whom no one esteemed. A man who, for thirty years walked the earth unseen, unacknowledged, and unknown. His name is Jesus.

Then, for three years, Jesus walked in His true identity as the Son of God. Knowing He was deeply loved, and cherished by His Heavenly Father, He stopped at nothing to bring Gods message of redemption to the people.

Well, we all know what happened to Jesus. He was whipped, beaten, and eventually hung on a tree to die alone. But, before that, He was ridiculed, tormented, and eventually betrayed by everyone. He knew great sorrow, and much persecution. Yet, He prevailed. He did not give up. Why? He had a job to do, and nothing stood in His way.

I, like Jesus, have, all my life, been bullied, tormented, and forsaken. I have been accused, used, sued, and abused. Also, like Jesus, I have walked for much of my life, 48 years to be exact, without much notice. Except, that is, when I was being used by men, arrested and dragged through court, or being billed for treatment after treatment in hospitals and treatment centers.

Finally, I was rescued. I “saw the light.” Or, in other words, I saw my own worth, or divinity. I was shown how to heal and given a choice. I followed, and here I am to share it with you.

Are you struggling? Do you feel ordinary, unseen, broken, and used? Have you had enough of the world’s way?

Healing is possible. It won’t be easy, and it won’t be quick. But it will make you free. And soon, you won’t want to be a rose anymore, but will embrace the beautiful and unique leaf that you are. I am going to use an analogy of a tree to expound on this, and to explain our vision, and a verse in Romans 11:16.

The root of the tree is trauma. The leaves are the addictions and ailments that stem from it.

I would like to introduce you to an approach to healing that set me free from almost four decades of addiction and mental illness, and which I know will also work for you. It can work much like AA or NA, but with the focus on the word of God, and its healing power. This coupled with the support of mentors, the community, and tools of the program, can change our world.

Focusing on the root and not the outward manifestation is the answer. The root, which is our pain and grief, and the layers of pain underneath, must be uncovered in order to heal at a deep level, and insure that we do not retreat into illness again.

We seek out all kinds of therapy, counseling, and medication to help us. Those suffering from mental illness, or addiction, can find many ways to aid in healing what ails them. All these people have one thing in common. All of their pain stems from the same root. The root is trauma, and treatment which does not focus on the root will not work for long. It only treats the symptoms and is like trying to heal a sick tree by focusing on the leaves.

I know little about trees, but I know a lot about disease. For almost four decades, I fought a war with addiction, trauma, and mental illness. No traditional treatment gave me any lasting relief. I have had every available form of treatment available. Nothing helped.

Why? My roots were bad. My thoughts, feelings, and emotions had to be uprooted and replaced. The deep things that were driving these addictions had to be uncovered, experienced, and then discarded. Only then did I experience true freedom.

I was “delivered” many times. By this I mean jail, rehabs, hospitalizations, and treatments. These did not last for long, because I needed “a healing after the deliverance.”

Many are delivered from their own destruction when they are sent to jail, or rehabs. Others flood churches or self-help groups seeking support. This is not found because it is not safe to express and expose the deeper things which are driving the illness.

My illness was driven by the brutal death of my father at the age of six. My deliverance came at 48 when I was arrested and jailed. My revelation of God and my account of the journey to healing that followed is described in detail in my book, titled “50.” The title is based on how my decision to smoke \$50.00 worth of cocaine when my trauma symptoms became too hard to deal with, cost me my home, my children, and almost my life. It also outlines how I healed and the treatment centers vision that will give others who are suffering what I and my children needed then, but was not available.

Now, with almost five years free from addiction, I am starting a campaign to fund “Holy Spirit Houses,” and offer to others what I needed and sought for four decades but could not find. I hope to help others avoid the suffering I went through by offering what I needed then.

WHAT'S YOUR WOUND?

What's your War? What's your wound? With every war, comes a wound. Whether you are actively engaged in war, or just one of the walking wounded, we are asking you to join with us. Please bring your wounds, and your war, and join us. We at WhatsYourWound.org understand that we are all engaged in a war of some sort. Whether you are fighting your own battle with addiction, physical or mental illness, or are battle weary from carrying a wounded son, daughter, or loved one, we are asking you to join us as we work together to bring forth a solution.

We offer much support to our war veterans, and thankfully so. We want to bring the same awareness to our veterans of another kind. The one's who often go unnoticed. Such as the police officers who fight the war on drugs every day. What about the doctors and hospital employees who fight to save lives, and go home battle weary? What about the pastors and clergy who work around the clock to counsel those in

need? And, what about those fighting their own war of addiction, and mental illness, resulting from a wound that no one talks about. And no one can seem to heal. Those who believe life is over for them. Those who feel there is no way out. Those who are angry and scared and hurting. The lonely and elderly that have no one to talk to. Those who will end up in jail or dead because they take out their anger on themselves or others, and then what about the rest of u? The ones who go to work every day? Raise families? Do all the right things? And yet, are full of pain, and depression, and anxiety? What about all of us? We are all God's children, and we all have a right to freedom, and healing.

We are all bruised but walking around desperately trying to hide it because it is deemed unacceptable by society. But we all have a deep desire to be accepted and loved. We get bruised by "soul wounds." The wounds caused to our minds, wills, and emotions in wars fought and lost as children. Children who were too young to be in a war and our now people with festering sores just below the surface. The wound's which show up as depression, addiction, and violence. The wound's which we desperately try to heal with medicine, therapy, and church. Wounds which, if not brought out and cleaned, will eventually become cancer. Whether actual cancer, or the cancer of addiction, depression, or suicide, or just the cancer of a life that has only sadness or pain, it will slowly erode everything about life which is good.

We are bruised people, and we spend all our money and time trying to cover our bruises. With make-up, weight loss, beautiful clothes, or the love of others, we strive to cover up the shame and pain. In desperation, we seek after everything we can, hoping it will make us lovable to ourselves and others, and we will no longer feel the ache. The shame. But we soon find that nothing will fill that hole. Nothing can cover the bruise. And the bruise is why we use. Whether we use alcohol, drugs, food, sex, gambling, or any other addictive behavior, it is still there. It still calls to us in the night. It is our wound.

We at Whatsyourwound.org have found a way to expose the wound, cleanse it, and then allow it to heal. And then we no longer have to hide, and can use our energy to heal, and to love. A place like no other where the Holy Spirit inside each of us can guide us into true freedom.

Wont you support us as we go forward in 2018 to build a facility that will help those who want to heal.

It will be called "Holy Spirit House." Where the hole can become whole. A place where wounds can be exposed, cleaned, and healed. All by the power of the Holy Spirit, and the many tools He has given us to heal.

The tree will only be holy, if the roots are holy. And Holy simply means Whole. If the roots of our thinking and emotions are not whole, then our lives will not be whole. We will teach those who come, how to be whole. We will give them a place, and permission, to experience the pain, and begin to heal. All in a supportive environment where they are safe. We will also offer tools and resources to help them experience what they are looking for in drugs, or other addictions. Where they can receive what is not available anywhere else. A revolutionary approach to healing that will bring lasting results.

This visual demonstration of our vision was made and donated by a student at Allegany College of Maryland. Thanks Brianna!!!! Great work that shows our vision beautifully!!!!

THE PROBLEMS

THE SOLUTIONS



The trunk is the “root,” which is trauma. The leaves are the symptoms that show up in our lives.

THE PROBLEMS

- Addiction
- Mental illness
- Physical illness
- Violence
- Crime
- Depression/anxiety
- Suicide

On the other side, we show the same “root” which is Jesus, and the things He has given us to help us heal. These are as follows:

THE SOLUTIONS

- Healing relationships (mentoring, etc.)
- Healthy touch (massage, healing and safe touch)
- Healthy food (food can be used as medicine)
- Yoga, dance, and movement as healing tools
- Art (teach to “paint from the soul” a practice which allows our soul to paint the trauma and tell us our own story, and provides healthy outlet for emotion and grief)
- Animal therapy
- Music (worship will bring emotions to the surface and allow the client to find healing by having a personal encounter With Jesus.)

The trees in the forest get their nutrients from the other trees.

We need your help in making this happen. Will you please help us by becoming a leaf on the tree?

On May 25th, 1986, there was an event called Hand across America. Billions of people came together and held hands in a human chain for 15 minutes to support local charities. On that same day, I was being arrested in a hotel room in Washington D.C. I was 20 years old, addicted to drugs, being trafficked for sex to pay for those drugs by men twice my age, and overdosing daily.

Now, 33 years later, I am having an event on the same day to help build this dream. I am asking you to join me as we join together and pray for our country and our President. We will hold hands and pray and sing to our God. We will ask of Him what we need and He will answer!!!! Many of our children are saved by a program, an overdose, or jail. This only helps for a short time. What these precious people need is a safe place where they can heal. They need a place to GET WELL!!

A year ago, I was in a crisis and spent time on the behavioral health unit in Cumberland. The cost for this was almost 8,000. It was not my first, by far. I have spent years of my life in and out of hospitals just like this one. This time though, I had the chance to with sober eyes what has been a problem my entire life.

Here I was in a crisis. Clean and sober for almost four years, but in need of help. Not the help of medication that would just treat the symptoms for a while, but real help. What I found was a whole lot of

other people in the same position. We were all in different stages of seeking, but all were in some way, seeking relief and an end to their suffering.

As for me, I was seeking a place of rest, where I could seek God. A place of safety where I would not be tempted to resort to my old ways of coping. Others were in much more dire situations. Some were homeless or were using the hospital as a place to hide from the law. Others were struggling with mental demons. Most were just looking for help. Real help. Not a solution to their outward situation, or another rehab. Not another pill that would help them sleep or only temporarily stop the insanity in their minds. But real help. Real relief. Real peace. Real hope. The answer is not in adding more behavioral health rooms at the cost of 2.7 million dollars, but the very different approach I am proposing.

We hope you will join us by becoming a leaf on the tree. Donations can be made to the pay pal link below. Thank you and God bless you for supporting our vision.