

PRODIGAL SON-TIMES™



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My Journey from Shytown by Andrea in Family Services

The journey from Chicago began December 20, 2006—actually it started December 19. The day I left was a day I almost disobeyed what God had instructed me to do. (My plan was to be in Atlanta or Orlando.) I'm from the "windy city." It's cold there. Big city, big problems.

But being the child of God that I am, because the God I serve is a powerful and mighty God, I had to listen. When God tells me to do it, I do. Sometimes I try to do it my way. Then, when I am humbled and can't do anything except pray, I ask God for forgiveness.

It's hard being in a city that you don't know. Because I trust God with my whole heart, I know that His plan is always greater. My trust in man is getting better because I am letting go and letting God work it out and stepping aside. On my own strength I can't do it alone. Yeah, I am strong in so many ways and everyone always depends on me but I can't stand it, because I am so tired of everybody *(cont on page 2)*

Field Trip Report by Bob Guterwill

This article is about a trip a few friends and myself took to the Historical Center of Industry and Labor Museum. It turned out to be very educational. We learned that in the 1920's many immigrants were drawn to our valley because of the abundance of jobs available thanks to the steel industries. You didn't need any skills as long as you were *(continued on pg 2)*



Bible Quiz by Joe Spera

1. *T or F* — The work "brain" does not appear in the Bible?
2. *T or F* — Lot's daughters were the mothers of their half brothers?
3. *T or F* — In Exodus, death was the penalty for working on the Sabbath?
4. *T or F* — The Hebrews were not allowed to eat meat that died itself?
5. *T or F* — Ezekiel preached about a valley full of bones?

Answers on page 2

It can take less than 60 seconds to make someone's day!

Encourage someone!

Dear: _____

From: _____

Home Sweet Home ...

By Melissa in Family Services

Hollow streets lit up bright,
Open windows out of sight,
Millions of people hiding madly,
Us children looking up so sadly,
Everyone is really, really scared,
Sometimes the world is a big dare,



Warriors fighting in the night,
Elbows clinging on real tight,
Evenings flooded with gangs in pairs,
Teens out forgetting their cares,
Homies robbing each other for cash,
Obstacles reminding us of their past,
Infants being born on drugs,
Baby daddy's showing no love,

Education is the key,
But that's something that we don't see,
There's a method to our madness,
That's God, He can take away your sadness,
The ghetto is an island,
Young'n dieing in silent,
Some love it,



Some hate it,
Some glad that they made it,
The ways of the world,
I can't handle,
Souls melting away like candles,
I know the truth hurts,
But we gotta make it work,
This is the beginning,
So let's slow down on the sinning.

(*Shytown cont.*)

depending on me. I need someone to be strong for me. When I was back home, anytime someone needed something—I was always available, no matter what. Now this child of God is not so available. I'm in a state so far away from a comfort zone that God didn't desire for me to be in. If it were up to the father of all lies, I would still be in shytown doing the same ole same ole. Thank God for salvation and God's anointing on my life.

(*Historical Center cont.*)

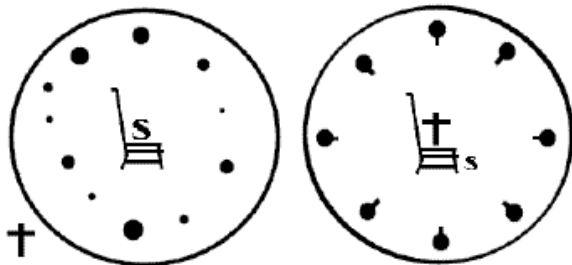
willing to be a laborer. The working conditions were very bad. They would work 6 or 7 days a week and 12 hours a day. That would contribute to men getting hurt or even killed. The pay was so little that most families couldn't get by, so companies built housing for their employees to live in and charged reasonable rent to stay there.



That all changed in the mid 30's when they formed the United Steel Workers Union. They fought for higher pay scale and even medical benefits. This also made for a safer place to work. I recommend if you get a chance take this trip. I found it to be very interesting and fun.

Answers from Bible Quiz
1. T; 2. T; 3. T; 4. T; 5. T

Something to think about from Campus Crusade for Christ



S = Self; †=Christ; • = your interests

If these two circles represent two types of lives, which circle best represents your life? Which would you like to represent your life?

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“Home Again” by Joe Spera

I was a resident here for nine months; and, through God’s grace and mercy, the Rescue Mission of Mahoning Valley became my spiritual haven that helped me grow as a disciple of Christ. Since the day I came here, I sensed the presence of God working here to provide for basic needs as well as to convert those who reside here.

I left here for a job at a group home for severely mentally ill men, but found the work schedule and demands of the job too much for me. I slid back into drinking alcohol for relief, rather than remaining focused on Christ, my Savior. Then I found a luxury apartment in a high-class neighborhood, and the owner was even going to let me have the dog of my dreams, a dog just like our “Max”. However, on the day I moved, I fell on a cement parking lot and sustained a severe head injury that left me hospitalized for two weeks, and receiving physical rehabilitation for another four weeks.

Several remarkable acts of God’s healing occurred during that time. For instance, my neurosurgeon looked at my C.A. T. scan before he saw me at the hospital, and he told me that he expected me to be paralyzed and in a coma, but I was not! Two doctors referred to my recovery as “remarkable” and “amazing.” I recognized it as the result of the amazing (*cont. on page 4*)

Learning Center Field Trip— The Alpine Tower at Belmont Pines



The Alpine Tower is a 50' tall, self-supporting structure that provides unique challenges and team-oriented experiences for groups. The Resident men had a great time climbing the tower and encouraging each other to reach new heights.



The purpose of the Rescue Mission of Mahoning Valley is to serve and glorify GOD through CHRIST-centered outreach of love and compassion that responds to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of disadvantaged men, women, and children without regard to race, color, or creed.

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(Home Again cont. from pg. 3)

grace of God; who, once more, saved a wretch like me.

As this was occurring, Doc. Finnegan came to see and pray with me weekly. Several residents also came to visit, and Lee Taylor even brought presents on Christmas Day! The entire staff sent a "Get Well" card. All of these events led to a spiritual healing and awakening that I will never forget and will always appreciate. How grateful can I be... never enough! Now, I'm back in the Men's Christian Discipleship Program; being a part of the Rescue Mission is a wonderful blessing to me; taking Bible instruction from Doc. Finnegan and Ron Starcher, the very best of the best Biblical instructors in my opinion; five morning classes with Raelyn at the Learning Center have helped me become more

wholesome and a better student of life the daily Devotions and Chapel services lift my spirit and renew my hope that I can follow the ministry of Christ. There's also the daily opportunity to touch a nonbeliever's heart in some way, spreading the Good News, giving everyone that comes here an opportunity to know Jesus Christ, if only by example, and spending every day and night in a structured setting that allows me to focus on Christ and what He's done for me and others.

The Rescue Mission of Mahoning Valley is my refuge that gives me an opportunity to become a better disciple of Christ. Thank you for welcoming me here to this earthly home of rescue, as we walk on the road to a happy destiny in Heaven

Word Search



Genesis

- | | | |
|----------|----------------|--------------|
| Abel | Abraham | Adam |
| Ark | babel | Beginning |
| Benjamin | brothers | Cain |
| Covenant | creation | dreams |
| Egypt | Eve | famine |
| flood | Garden of Eden | Isaac |
| Israel | Jacob | Joseph |
| Light | man | moon |
| Pharoah | rainbow | Sabbath |
| Sarah | serpent | seven days |
| Sin | stars | tree of life |
| woman | | |

Y K N E D A L C L H A R A S G
 E T O U E F E I V A K G D E X
 L V T G E N G N I N N I G E B
 I J Y B U H I I S E R L F W B
 H P U J T S S M A D A I H D W
 T N Z O S R S A A E L S I V K
 R I S S A E B J C F C A I N D
 C W B E R H V N O O O B P H J
 S R L P K T D E N N V B D I L
 R O E H J O E B N E E A R Q P
 A N H A O R A H P D N T E B T
 T O C L T B O A B R A H A M W
 S O F G E I W O M A N Y M F G
 B M J L P Z O P J G T E S B N
 O N N E R A I N B O W Z C U A