

The ROOT

REPENT  BELIEVE
MINISTRIES CANADA Newsletter

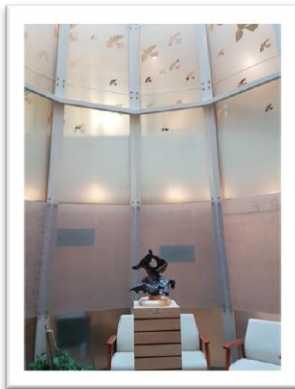
With prayer and thoughtful consideration from Ryan and Elizabeth;

“... servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus ... grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ”

Philippians 1:1-6

Our hope and prayer is that everything is well with you and your family and that 2017 has been a wonderful and blessed year. The year started and continues to be busy for the team at Repent and Believe Ministries Canada (RBMC) as our glorious Lord has blessed the team here with rewarding work.



- Southlake Regional Health Centre, Newmarket Ontario. Level 1 Chapel

RBMC has been guided into several assignments at the root of the family and God opened up an opportunity for chaplaincy as a Spiritual care worker at South Lake Regional Health Centre. The Lord has expanded our

one-on-one session's and has brought many new individuals and couples our way with questions about salvation.

Please keep us in your prayers as we rely on God and his word to guide all he places in our path towards him.

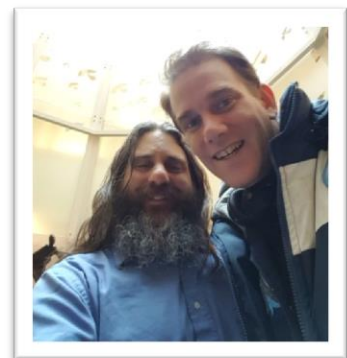
To God be the glory in all things!



James' story . . .

is like many others. He grew up not knowing the love of God in his life. Always in his heart wanting to know more but not having guidance or hearing the truth, not knowing or caring to check it out for himself. Left to his own devices James, like many other people, had hit the bottom. Sitting in solitary confinement in Ontario's Central East Correctional Center, confused and broken, he cried out to God to save him from his situation. Miraculously and without explanation to him, he was released on parole the very next day. While in confinement the Lord was pressing on James to contact Ryan whom he had not spoken to in many years.

Upon his release, James contacted Ryan and shared with him his experience and cry for help. Ryan and James began spending time together, removing the harmful influences from his life and putting him on a reconstructive path towards clean healthy living and a reconciled relationship with God.



- From left to right; Ryan, James

The road has been rough for James. Not every change has seemed like a blessing to him. James has lost many who he thought were his close friends, he lost his home and a routine of living that he had become use to. In reality God was setting the stage in order to free James from people who were leading him away from God's love. He was helping him to have stability, a safe living environment, repair damaged relationships that are a good influence on him and surrounding him with individuals that have the Lord Jesus Christ as the ruler in their lives. Like cleaning the stain out of your favourite shirt, the Lord has been working in James' life to wash the darkness away and prepare him for life in the light.

As time has gone on James is learning more and more about the Lord God and how he expects his children to live. On March 15th, 2017 God worked miracles in James' life so that he could spend the rest of his parole time in a halfway house, getting much needed care, instead of having to go back to prison. Through witnessing this miracle James accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour. Repenting and believing, James committed his life to Christ and started to immediately share Christ's love with others. Please help us to pray for James. This is just the beginning of his amazing journey and he will need strength to preserve and remain faithful. Praise God for James and the testimony his life is becoming in order to glorify God!



Mental Illness

Catered to by Society, Cared for by God

Is it not amazing what God puts in our path? Just when you get comfortable, in your zone and you think everything is moving along status quo He asks you to do something that is completely out of your element. Something so different, that there is no mistake that it is the work of the Lord. Those are the days that you know you are heading in the right direction because God is stretching you and the work you do for him.

Entering the mind of a person classified as mentally ill is a challenge that most turn away from. Even more challenging is helping them to understand the importance of Jesus' love in their life and how he does not choose for them to live this way. Those suffering from illness that is classified as mental illness such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), anxiety, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia are often not shown love in the world. This is not new news but it is easy to ignore if the Lord has not made it part of your life. Understanding mental illness from a biblical perspective and how to help those suffering in their minds is one of the blessings and challenges that the Lord has brought to the Repent and Believe Ministries Canada.

What do you think of when you hear that someone is experiencing a mental illness? Some people feel concern, fear, or confusion. Some even avoid those who experience mental illnesses because they do not understand or feel it is beyond their ability to help. Fear and confusion are not the ways of our Lord;

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

2 Timothy 1:7

We need to step up as followers of Jesus and show people that the Lord does not want them to live their lives

this way. We can show them through patience, love and caring that when they rely on the love of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ they will no longer be mentally ill and a victim to what the world has to offer them.

Often the first step towards loving someone is to understand why they are the way they are. The Bible teaches that every man is dying in their sin. That means that each of us do not have a perfect body and nothing in us works the way that God intended. Our spiritual desires, our intellect and our bodies are distorted and affected by sin. Why do we get sick? Common colds, infections, heart problems, indigestion are all things experienced because we live in bodies dying in sin.

Paul speaks of this in his letter to the church in Corinth;

“For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.”

2 Corinthians 4:16

We live in bodies that are wasting away so we should not think of illness of the mind as any different or as surprising when we think of it in these terms. Someone with anxiety or schizophrenia is no different than an individual suffering with the flu or diabetes.

When we start to think of mental illness in these terms it becomes easier to identify with and less threatening to handle. We can now freely approach someone with anxiety or depression and help them find a cure for their ailment instead of enabling them as the secular world would have us do.

Maybe someone who is anxious just needs to know the love that Jesus provides and then their suffering will end. Maybe a family just needs to know that they have support so they can stop enabling society dependent behavior in their loved one. Maybe the person who is suffering with the disorder just needs to hear the good

news of salvation to understand that God does not want them to live their lives a slave to their own minds but to turn to him and his word for comfort and guidance. Maybe that person just needs the encouragement to persevere knowing that one day they will be in glory with Jesus where there is no sin or sickness.

“The righteous cry; and the Lord heareth and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.”

Psalms 34:17-20

Mental illness is not something invented by a secular world. Rather, it is part and parcel with living in a fallen, sinful world. Until the day Jesus returns, we will live in bodies that do not function as God originally intended. Our brains will not function correctly. Chemicals will become imbalanced. Our brain, just like every other part of our bodies, is prone to illness. If I believe that sin has affected every part of my body including my brain, then it should not surprise me when my brain does not work correctly.

Are you or a loved one suffering from a mental illness that you are seeking God's guidance to help you with? There is a lot of conflicting information out there that may be confusing. What does God say about mental illness? Although we may not know his true feelings until we meet Him in glory we can make some educated assumptions based on his words. God is love. He loves us failing bodies, failing minds and all. We need Him to help us through all the challenges in our lives.

Helping someone who has discovered and relies on God's love for their strength is different than helping someone who does not rely on the Lord. The saved can understand that God will help them with their failing bodies

promising them perfect minds in the next life. The lost can fall deep into depression because they do not have God's promises to rely on. It is up to us to not shy away from these challenges as they are placed before us and from sharing the hope that we have in the Lord Jesus Christ with everyone. All people, the healthy of mind and unhealthy of mind need to understand the promises of the Lord so that his love can help them through the suffering of this life into the peace of an eternal one.

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”

1 Timothy 2:1-4

My Testimony

By Normand Picard



- Normand Picard

“I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which

say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”

Revelation 2:2-5

I was reading this verse and He hit me. It was the Spirit that lead me to that verse! He hit me with a sense of overwhelming joy! I realised that I had stopped at the cross. Over a year I was repenting and not knowing what I was repenting about? I was bound by what other people would think or say. God was holding me on a string to save me. That was the grace of our Lord. When you are a battered reed it is the will of the Almighty God that saves you.

It was when I was preparing to give my testimony that I realised this. My brother Ryan encouraged me to give my testimony and spent time with me. After giving it, I was freed. It was the Holy Spirit that lead me to Revelations 2, specifically verse 5. It is the word of God that is the wisdom.

While I was writing I remembered when I fell and repented and I realised that I was stuck where I fell, stuck at the cross. Like so many I was pining in my sin at the cross. Harboursing the hurt I felt for sinning against God.

I knew I was liberated from that past. My testimony was like a baptism. I remembered where I had fallen and that sanctification takes all of our lives. We grow in faith and we grow in sanctification it takes time. Through my testimony and the wisdom of God I have moved past the cross and now live on the other side, celebrating the resurrected life. Celebrating all the grace, love and relationship of love our great Lord provides to His children. Praise the Lord. Amen.

**BECOME A MEMBER OF THE MINISTRY
AND HELP SOW SEEDS**

CONTACT US TODAY!



Glorifying God
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