



The Minor Prophet

Here We Grow Again

Dominick Corradino, Board President

In 2002, a small group of people believed that there was something that could be done to help the poor improve their place in society. At that time, the best we could do was to serve 300 burritos each Saturday to day-laborers standing on corners looking for work. We realized that most of the men we were feeding had families and that they could use some assistance beyond breakfast on Saturday mornings.

Out of that belief came Micah's Way as we know it today. We adopted Micah 6:8 as our motto, believing that this was the way we could best serve those in need. We started to dream, to believe that we could impact our world. Our efforts sprang from the gospel values that we all believed.

In 2004 Micah's Way became a Public Benefit nonprofit 501(c)3, rented a small office in Santa Ana and began working with families and individuals as we then understood our vision. We called, and still call that program the Family and Individual Service program. When we began, I don't think any of us understood what was going to be required of us, and how much we had to learn.

Eleven years later, we are ready to move out of our small 800 square foot space and to a larger facility that will allow us to do more than intakes, offer emergency food and clothing, procure

documentation, guide where we can, and a variety of other services for those coming to the Resource Center looking for help. We are ready to expand our services closer to the dream we have had since our inception.

Our dream has always been to offer a wide range of services including advocacy for those without a voice, tutoring for both middle and high school students, assistance for adults trying to complete or expand their education to enable them improve their lives with higher than minimum wage jobs. We

dream of a facility that will include laundry and shower capabilities, a phone bank that would allow individuals to receive personalized messages, a functioning computer room to both allow our clients to do job searches, and, or, become computer literate, and many other services that would help those we serve improve the quality of their lives.

So, we celebrate our current growth, realizing that all we have is the result of our generous benefactors' belief in Micah's Way. We are, and will always be, grateful for your donations, your prayers, and hours and hours of volunteer service.

For those of us who continue to dream big dreams, this is just another step in the right direction on the path of making our dream a reality. Our prayers are always prayers of thanksgiving for those who believe and trust us with their faith.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.



Late Breaking News... No, the Resource Center has not moved quite yet. You were generous with the money to do it, but we're still scouting locations where nimbyism is not an issue. When we do move, you'll be the first to know. Okay, *among* the first to know. •One of the program expansions Dominick mentions, the tutoring –MicahU, has just received a boost in the shape of a grant of \$2500 from Southern California Edison. Thank you, more power to you! We'd better get on with it...

George Bassett's Reflections

-or-

Why I Volunteer

So... why do I volunteer?
cure homelessness?
end poverty?
feed the hungry?
alleviate despair?

Not likely!

Does my ego require
recognition?
thanks?
that I assuage guilt?
grandeur (to be part of something 'big')?

Probably (o.k., 'Yes')

Micah's Way... 'big?'

Really?

a bus pass?
a cup of coffee?
pastry?
birth certificate?
I.D. voucher?

More likely!

Will this feed my ego?

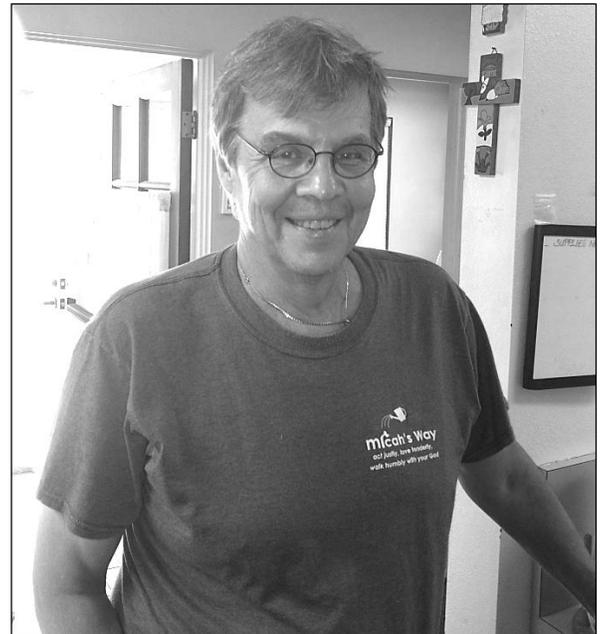
Not likely!

So... *Why?*

"Whatever you do unto the least of these, you do unto Me."

So...

Denis said:	"You could!"
Dom said:	"You should!"
To God I said:	"I would!"

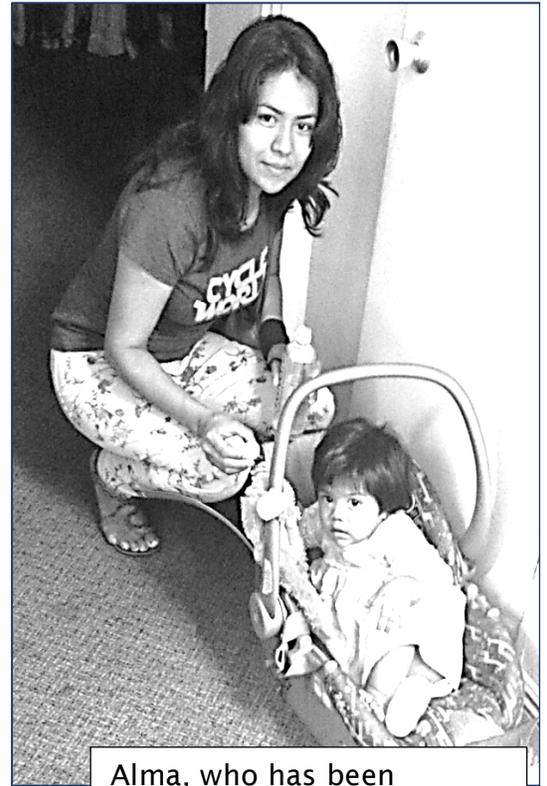


Why is George smiling? He recently took on the task of Treasurer after the redoubtable Randy McMahon had carefully steered the ship through choppy waters for eight years. George is smiling because he thinks he has cooked up a scheme to keep Denis from spending madcap amounts on pollyanna initiatives. Randy and the rest of the Board are smiling too, but not for the camera.

micah peeps!



Hazel and Megan of Prospect Medical Group brought by huge boxfuls of sensible toiletries donated by their Human Resources Department.



Alma, who has been studying English this year, found time to bring Almadeborah into the world, complete with a record-setting head of hair.



Theresa came by to report that after tough months of trying to find work she had landed the ideal position and had been promoted in her first week.



In the basement of the Episcopal Church of the Messiah we conduct the Solemn Shirting of the two Marys - two of our Outreach workers who serve the monthly Street Meal, MiBistro. The indefatigable Pat DeLuna leads the applause.

Supervisors Approve Orange County's First Official Homeless Shelter

Ken Kawamura, Publicity Magnate

November, 2015, Santa Ana. The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the construction of Orange County's first official year-round homeless shelter. The shelter, which is planned to open at the end of 2016, will be a 200-bed facility that will offer services to help its residents find permanent housing and employment. The shelter will also provide its residents with transportation to appointments and work, when necessary. The goal of the facility is for the residents to have an average stay of 30 days with a maximum stay of 6 months.

The Board of Supervisors' vote approved the purchase of a 24,390 square-foot warehouse at the cost of \$4.25 million. The cities of Fullerton and Anaheim are each contributing \$500,000 to the purchase of the property. The proposed location of the shelter is in Anaheim, north of the 91 Freeway at 1000 N. Kramer Place. The Supervisors must still select an agency or organization to operate the shelter before construction can begin. This could well be the kink in the tracks that wrecks the train –again. If you're a praying person, pray that things go smoothly.

The construction of the shelter will be a good step forward in the long road to achieving full and appropriate services for homeless people in the county. The 2015 Orange County Homeless Count and Survey Report (based on the national Point-In-Time Count) states that 4,452 of our neighbors are homeless on any given night and estimates that over 15,000 people will be homeless at least one night in 2015. This estimate does not include many people such as adults who are living temporarily with friends, runaway minors, people who sporadically live in motels, or people who live in campgrounds such as O'Neill Park.

So, business as usual in the O.C for another year. After that, we can hope for some improvement in the problems that beset our county on the homeless front.

Ken has sedulously improved Micah's Way PR this year. The above is an example of what he puts out for the Legal Aid Society newspaper. He runs the front desk at MicahCenter on Thursdays, is our go-to guy for pharmaceutical (licit) questions, plays the saxophone rather well and is the unfortunate supporter of the Premier League's Aston Villa F.C.

Fritz Eichenberg, 1901-1990



Ruminations on Poverty

Dominick Corradino

There are a couple of things about poverty that always amaze me. The first is that I've never met anyone who said, "When I grow up, I want to be poor." The other thing is, for all of our chin-wagging about solving the problem, little is really done to eradicate it. I understand that poverty is a constant throughout the world. I also understand that all great wealth stands on the backs of those who live in dire poverty. For every one-percenter, there are a corresponding many-percenters living with little or no income.

Orange county is one the wealthiest places in the world and yet we can walk the streets in most any city in the metropolitan area and find those who have nothing or next to nothing. We cannot separate ourselves from the fact that our actions speak our concern, or lack of concern, for the poor, and about how we take care of each other as a culture.

The poor belong to us whether we like it or not. They do not live in cities by themselves, they do not speak a particular kind of language, do not live an eccentric manner of life, or live with different desires than all of us. They want what the rest of us want, a life worth living. Poverty was not discovered by any great man, nor was it instituted by God.

Poverty is the result of what nature, culture, and society have required of us or done to us. Every decision we make influences all of those who surround us. Nothing happens in a vacuum, and a knife always cuts both ways and separates one part from another.

The poor have the same aspirations as the rich. Some marry, have children, work very hard to try to keep families together, and deal with all of the same daily problems as everyone else. Some choose to live as individuals. For many of them, however, their efforts produce less than what they need. They are often underpaid and underemployed, but they continue to work and try to do what they believe is best for their families. Some of them end up living on the streets. Some prefer that, and that's a decision made based upon their desires, or the experiences and events in

their lives that produced results that were not anticipated, nor desired.

Micah's Way is about helping those individuals who want to become viable contributors to the society to which they belong. Our efforts concentrate on guiding and assisting our clients help themselves. We cannot do anything for anyone who is not willing to be a part of the process, but we can encourage, guide, help solve problems, and celebrate each accomplishment achieved along a path that often seems daunting and impossibly difficult.

It seems to me but if we are to live out all of the values we call 'American,' or 'Christian,' or the values that any other religious people attest, we must work for the common good. I do not believe we can turn our backs on poverty. Somehow we have to help our brothers and sisters, even when the task requires us to give up some of our own time, treasure and talent. That is the most difficult part of all. Somehow we have to learn how to share rather than possess.

I do not believe that any of us succeed or fail based upon our own merits. All of us, at one time or another, had the assistance of individuals, groups, and, I believe, blessings of a loving and caring God. Ultimately, we will all have to answer for our actions and will be held accountable for how we've taken care of each other, *especially the poor*.

Certainly, Pope Francis sees the gospel values as important and has called the Church to focus more specifically on caring for those who are most in need. He has encouraged those in the Vatican who have traditionally stayed behind its walls to get out and become servants to the poor.

His is a call for all of us.

Perhaps these thoughts will lead you in a new direction or encourage you to follow the direction you are already taking. If poverty is the elephant in the room, the only way we can get rid of it is to eat it a piece at a time. That is the commitment of Micah's Way.

Forgive the Rant, But I'm Getting a Little Tetchy

Denis Clarke, Director Micah Center

Kakistocracy is a word I came across the other day. It means 'rule by the worst people.' From the regular moaning you hear about what the authorities are doing and not doing and how they're doing and not doing whatever it is they're up to or not, it is surprising that the word isn't particularly popular. Things are not what they should be: guns in the hands of cowards; television news is lamentable; still no shelter for the homeless of our fair county; gasoline refiners are crooks; MediCal is a joke; student loans aren't funny anymore—name the issue, fill in the blank. Older people know things are not as they should be because everything was a whole lot better in our day. Younger people know things are not as they should be because they have ideals—which are trampled on at every twist and turn. And our greatest indignation is reserved for when we realize that here we are in a first-world country complaining about third-world problems: illiteracy; hunger; overcrowding; poorly-trained police; corrupt officials; porous borders.

I'm not trying to minimize or dismiss the severe effects of this list of ills. Every day at Micah's Way we sit across the table from people who are about to succumb to the pressures: the man who can show the marks of four bullets to the torso and who missed all his newly distant healthcare appointments because he couldn't read the bus timetable; the woman who lives in half a garage near Disneyland with her daughter and grandson and who cannot abide the people who have moved into the other half because they have commandeered the spigot, the landlord all the while making steady payments to the housing inspector. You would have to be pretty callous not to at least acknowledge the unnecessary suffering.

And I'm not saving my bile for the authorities who have garnered the capacity to address such problems and who pay themselves well to do so but who yet don't. That would be very silly. It's been going on like that since the year dot and what do you expect? Nor can we point the finger at our fine democratic institutions: I do read history books and newspapers and at the moment can't recall a single election that wasn't horribly compromised. Who or what then, is to blame?

In some parts of rural Africa, when you fall sick you don't think of finding a medical person. You send someone to discover who has paid the witchdoctor to curse you. Then you pay the witchdoctor another sum to lift the curse and when you feel better you go after the person who started the trouble in the first place. This is not a very good system, if only because it wastes time and energy. Note that however the matter is resolved, the witchdoctor is paid twice. The system is predicated on two notions: things are not as they should be; and, someone is to blame, which notions may be true or not. Developed-world-style adversarial litigation is similar: it can fix blame, so you get the feeling that something useful has been done, but often as not, it cannot fix the problem.

Given that we have limited time and energy to address our list of problems, and given that the Kingdom of God is at hand, perhaps an approach that does not involve blaming the authorities, institutions and the people who are not us, might be called for. Of course you can roll over and play dead and say that yes, there is suffering in the world, live with it. Or you can say that there is both good and evil in the world and it is not for us to mess with the apportionment. There is a lot of sense in both Gautama Buddha's teaching and in



classical pagan theology, and however many times I hear that the USA a Christian world, I see and feel unredeemed fatalism on all sides. Which certainly suits our capitalist, narcissistic culture just fine.

As an eight year-old altar boy, I'm not proud to admit (because I should have been on the soccer field), I did spend an inordinate amount of time trying to understand exactly what it was the grown-ups were talking about with respect to the virtues peculiar to Christianity. Three things stuck: i) No-one gets into heaven on their own –that's what communion is all about, ii) Jesus was dissatisfied with the way things were and did something about it –that's what the miracles are all about, and iii) The Kingdom of God is at hand, or *within*, depending on the text you're reading. This latter means that you're not to wait around for heaven to happen, it already *has* happened and you're supposed to act like it. For the rest: the Holy Books, lots of praying, being kind, thinking about God (if you can), and so on, these things are shared with other religious custom and practise –and are without question fair enough in themselves.

The take-away for the Christian is: *do* something, and do something now.

At which point, Pete, the MicahCenter Office Manager, sticks his head around the corner and quotes Cassius in Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* (I forget the context):

“The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,
But in ourselves, that we are underlings.”

Pete does not often come up with literary allusions, so when he does, you stop and think: blaming fate, the authorities, and so on, for our inaction only diminishes us.

And this calls to mind the lexicographer James Murray. After spending the best years of his life compiling the Oxford English Dictionary, he received a number of letters complaining about words that had been left out. He shot back to the effect that the blame lay not with the people who had worked on the dictionary, but with the people who had *not*. How's that for tetchy?

Micah's Way for Left-brainers – 2015

75	family and individual intakes
2599	recorded visits to MicahCenter
111	birth certificates obtained
8	Board meetings
102	MiChristmas children
220	people using our mailing address
9000	cups of coffee served at MiCafé
22	pairs of new workboots
16	people helped with college textbooks
315	California IDs obtained
0	justified grumbles

Micah's Way
P.O. Box 1631
Santa Ana CA 92702

At the Resource Center we can always use:

- men's clothing
- clean blankets
- store gift cards
- #5 & #6 diapers
- postage stamps
- deodorant
- toothpaste
- socks
- backpacks
- day bus-passes
- compassion

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Micah's Way is a Public Benefit Corporation, 501(c)3 tax ID: 54-2166918

The Resource Center address is:

1913 East 17th Street #109, Santa Ana CA 92705

ACT JUSTLY, LOVE KINDLY, WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD

FOR THE TIME, TREASURE AND TALENT YOU CONTRIBUTE, THANKS TO: MIKE BALDWIN & FAMILY, MARY BALDWIN, NANCY BIGDA, JUDY CARREON, ARACELI GARCIA, BARBARA BENUN, DONNA ENGLISH, BEVERLEY CAMPBELL, BRAD & JAN KARELIUS, RICH VOGL, LORI PECK, CHARLIE ELL, SHARON CORRADINO, ERINN, PATTY Mc, PETE, RANDY McMAHON, RICHARD MEREDITH, ROLAND, SAARAH, SVEINN & SIGRID, VASKIN KOSHKERIAN, RJ, JOHANNA ASIS, GLEN ARMSTRONG, ANITA RIVERA, MILTON, JOANNE GOETZ, MAGDA SALDANA, MARYJO RYAN, JUDY MICHALEK, LEN & LORI GALASSO, JEAN CARVILLE, DANA & MARK MALMBERG, THE LITTLE COMPANY OF MARY, THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, ST. JOSEPH HEALTH, STARBUCKS, CHIPOTLE, MICROSOFT, PAT DENNIS, JOANNE STRAUSS, JACQUELYN & WAYNE SHEPARD, DIANA MACALUSO, LEROY SCHMAUS, NANCY, CLAUDIA SAWAYA, JOSEPH KELLY, RJ SERRA, RAMONA LEOPOLD, TIM KOCH, LEIGH ADRIANCE, JEANETTE CURRAN, RANDY & SUE FRANS, DORIAN HINESLY, BETTY FARRELL, MARY ELLEN & SCOTT, MICHAEL & KAREN CHRONLEY, BONNIE LAYMAN, MARY KERSHAW, ANTHONY BUBE, STEVE BRUCE, DENNIS MILLER, FRAN STERGAR, JEAN DUFFY, THE WEISER FAMILY, KOREAN MARTYRS CATHOLIC CENTER, PETER KIM, MARGARET WALSH, ANTHONY CORRADINO, THOMAS McCARTHY TRUST, CURTIS WEIGEL, DIANE JOHNSON, KARINA CERVANTES, MARY VENZA, MARILYN FURSE, ST. NICHOLAS CATHOLIC CHURCH, LINDA KNIGHT, CHARLES MUDGE, KAREN ABDALLAT, UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, LOURDES HORTINELA, ROSE CHAMBERLAIN, TONY & LINDA SEIDEL, JANICE WRZESINSKI, NORMAN BASHAM, JULIE RULAND, ANITA ZULKARNAIN.... **AND PLENTY OF OTHER MARVELOUS PEOPLE.**