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SHAKE IT OFF AND STEP UP



A parable is told of a farmer who owned an old mule. The mule fell into the farmer's well. The farmer heard the mule 'braying' ... what else would a mule do! After carefully assessing the situation, the farmer sympathized with the mule, but decided that neither the mule nor the well was worth the trouble of saving.

Instead, he called his neighbors together and told them what had happened ... and enlisted them to help haul dirt to bury the old mule in the well and put him out of his misery. Initially, the old mule was hysterical!

But as the farmer and his neighbors continued shoveling and the dirt hit his back ... a thought struck him. It suddenly dawned on him that every time a shovel load of dirt landed on his back ... HE SHOULD SHAKE IT OFF AND STEP UP! This he did, blow after blow. "Shake it off and step up ... shake it off and step up ... shake it off and step up," he repeated to encourage himself.

No matter how painful the blows, or distressing the situation seemed the old mule fought "panic" and just kept right on SHAKING IT OFF AND STEPPING UP! You're right! It wasn't long before the old mule, battered and exhausted, STEPPED TRIUMPHANTLY OVER THE WALL OF THE WELL!

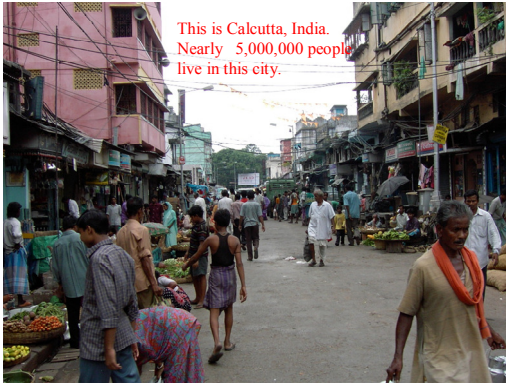
What seemed like it would bury him, actually blessed him ... all because of the manner in which he handled his adversity. THAT'S LIFE! If we face our problems and respond to them positively, and refuse to give in to panic, **FEAR**, or self-pity ... the adversities that come along to bury us usually have within them the potential to benefit and bless us!



Remember that FORGIVENESS, FAITH, PRAYER, PRAISE, and HOPE ... all are excellent ways to "SHAKE IT OFF AND STEP UP" out of the wells in which we find ourselves! This story reminded me of life. The dirt is a symbolism of the tests and trials that we go through in life. The stepping up is the symbolism of growing and learning from our life experiences.

Gary Smith

Washington Post Story Leads to a Partnership with Waterboyz for Calcutta Project



Washington DC attorney, Donald Harrison was featured in an article in the Washington Post Magazine on December 31, 2006. He invested in a friend's high-tech startup and received a windfall of several million dollars. The article featured Mr. Harrison's commitment to Christian philanthropy, particularly for overseas charities with these funds. He is especially interested in groups that help poor, ill and abandoned children. Jeannie Foss read the article and encouraged Paul to write to Harrison and explain the mission of the Waterboyz and Paul did so in early February. In spite of many requests as a result of the article, the Waterboyz were the first charity that Harrison chose to talk to.

Several days later, Paul Foss and Pastor Rajendra Pillai met with Mr. Harrison and his wife for lunch. Paul explained the mission of the Waterboyz and Rajendra shared his background of growing up in India and the dream of starting two orphanages in Calcutta. The Harrisons have decided to partner with the Waterboyz and Rajendra is busy putting together detailed plans. They are planning to visit Calcutta with Paul and Rajendra in November and see the results.

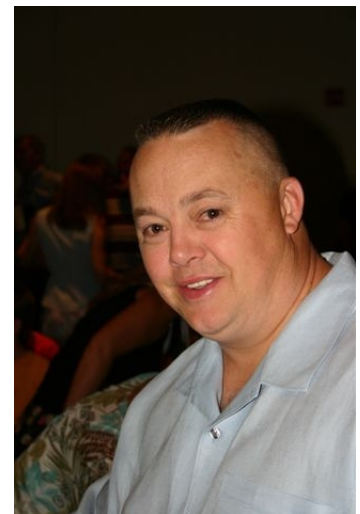
Pray that this partnership will lead to hundreds and thousands of lost souls being redeemed into eternal joy. Pray that God will bless these two dear people who have determined to be rivers of mercy instead of dead seas of greed. We will keep you posted of the progress of this project.

Spotlight on Eric Closs

Eric has worked in the Hospitality industry as well as Retail. He has also worked in Construction. For the last 15 years, he has been in the IT Consulting business.

He has been a Christian for about 16 years and was delivered from Drug and Alcohol addiction. He and his family attend Damascus Road Community Church, where Eric is an Elder and has been a Trustee and given seminars on Stewardship. He is also involved in Men's Ministry as well as teaching in Children's Ministry.

We asked Eric why he was involved with the Waterboyz. He responded, "I am involved with the WB because it gives me an opportunity to lock arms with other men and live out the Christian life. I get to be involved in watching lives get changed by the power of Christ. I enjoy helping Men activate their God-given gifts to serve. I truly believe that when Men come to fullness in Christ they can impact their families, and surrounding community for eternity. When we serve together we become Jesus with skin on and God not only affects the ones we serve, but He changes us too."



SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

March 31 Laura Reese Help a single mom move
 April 21 BIG Sweep Fundraiser for orphans in India
 April 21 Balt Block Party Feed and cloth the margins
 April 22 FUNDRAISER Shopping Center Fire Victims

OTHER EVENTS

April 27 Sight and Sound Lancaster, PA
 June 16 Men's Choir Centennial Church
 June 17 Men's Choir Damascus Road Comm Church
 July 5 King's Dominion Concert & Rides

TEN MEN TABLES

Meet Every Week: Monday Evenings—at Panera's -Frederick. ; Thursday Mornings—at Four Seasons-Mt Airy; Thursday Evenings—Urbana
 Friday Mornings—Mt View Diner-Frederick