

**2.8.2014**

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## **TRADITIONAL UNDERSTANDINGS OF CHARITY**

### **Can Helping Really be Hurting?**

As Men of God who seek to know, love and serve Him, we must answer God's call to help the poor and disadvantaged in our midst. Many times helping actually encourages more dependence rather than encouraging a healthy independence. However, there are ways to create a positive situation in the lives of both the helper and the person being helped.

We have good examples of modern followers of Christ right here in Akron answering God's call. Let us hope to gain an inspiration to come to service in more practical and effective ways. One such man has come to share his experience with us.

Duane Crabbs is a former Cuyahoga Falls and Akron firefighter-paramedic. He and his wife Lisa moved their family of six into the high-crime, impoverished neighborhood of Summit Lake and formed South Street Ministries in 1997.

Over the last seventeen years, South Street Ministries has grown out of their home and created a legacy of good works for our Lord. In that time:

- 1,000+ youths have earned donated and broken bicycles that they helped to fix and repair
- Hundreds of elementary school kids have been regularly fed, loved and tutored.
- The "Summit Lake Neighborhood Association" was founded and nurtured by Crabbs to be a positive force in the community in partnership with the Summit County prosecutor's office.

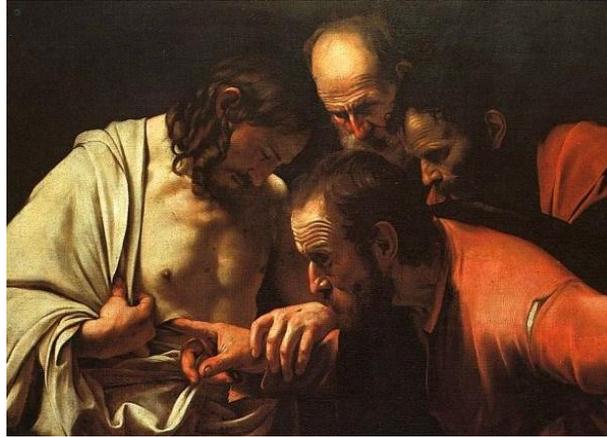
Duane continues His work by volunteering as a chaplain in the Summit County Jail and the pastor of an interracial fellowship of the broken and recovering. This group meets at the "Front Porch" at 798 Grant St. The Front Porch also houses a Café that employs recovering addicts and ex-offenders and is open from 7-3 Monday through Friday. Duane and Lisa are humbled that all four of their adult children are following in their parent's footsteps in vocation and lifestyle.

Before we begin, let us take note of selected scripture that reveals the Wisdom of God as manifested in our lives.

May God bless us with His work and the wherewithal to complete the mission. Amen

**“YOU HAVE NOT LIVED  
TODAY UNTIL YOU HAVE  
DONE SOMETHING FOR  
SOMEONE WHO CAN  
NEVER REPAY YOU.”**

*- John Bunyan*



**Luke 21:1-4**

When Jesus looked up he saw some wealthy people putting their offerings into the treasury and he noticed a poor widow putting in two small coins. He said, "I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest; for those others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood.

**1 John 3:16-18**

The way we came to know love was that he (Jesus) laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him?

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

The Word of the Lord



**Duane Crabbs and Family  
Walk of Faith and Witness of Christ**

Duane, Family, South Street Ministries and 2 stories illustrating the dilemmas and challenges faced as to how to move beyond traditional understandings of charity.

1. A welfare mother offering to babysit our very young children overnight in exchange for all the kindness we had shown her over several months.
2. Hiring a 53 year old man to work for us who had been arrested 116 times and had no previous work history.

"This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Of these I am the foremost."  
1 Timothy 1:15

### Questions to Focus on:

1 What would you do if you were with the Crabbs Family? How is your decision affected by your faith?

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2 Can you think of ways to help the needy without creating "Lifetime Dance" lessons and increased dependency?

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A Man who never quits is Never Defeated.  
We are ordinary men who labor for Christ.

### Men's Group Calendar

<b>2/22/2014</b>	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
<b>3/8/2014</b>	<b>Men's Group</b>	<b>7 AM Mass</b>
<b>3/15/2014</b>	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
<b>3/22/2014</b>	<b>CMFNEO CONFERENCE</b>	<b>8 AM St. Joe's Euclid</b>
<b>4/12/2014</b>	<b>Men's Group</b>	<b>7 AM Mass</b>
<b>4/26/2014</b>	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
<b>5/10/2014</b>	<b>Men's Group</b>	<b>7 AM Mass</b>

\*\*\* CMFNEO Annual Conference is March 22, 2014 \*\*\*



*Lord, help me to pray not as an exercise of my will, but a surrender to Yours.  
Thank You for Your goodness to me. Amen.*

Saints are upright and God-fearing people but they were not always so. Some were great sinners before they became great saints. Let us remember always that saints are regular people who made the decision and commitment to participate in, and assign the image of the holiness of God, to their lives.

May God Bless You.  
St. Hilary Men's Group.

**ACTION PLAN**

This week I will do my best to bring God into my heart by:

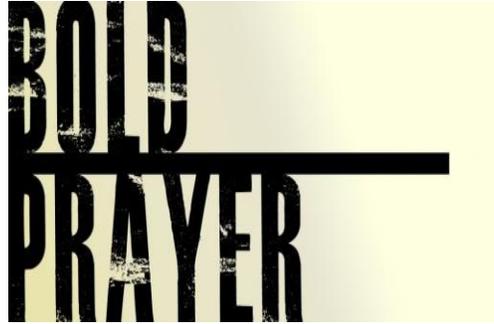
Creating a daily prayer practice

Seeking God in prayer and being quiet in His presence

Asking God for strength to resist temptation and sin

Paying more attention to Blessing those in my life as God intends

Asking Jesus for help in becoming a better servant



**Lord, God and Savior, by your love you draw me to yourself, forgive me, and fill me with every good thing, not withholding even the gift of your most beloved son.**

**Send forth your Holy Spirit to guide me in your path. Make me worthy of your love, and teach me how to forgive as you forgave. Amen**

The Our Father in Different Words

Dearest Father who is everywhere at all moments in time,  
Your name is Most Holy, Most Sacred.  
Your kingdom is come in our Hearts and Minds.  
Your will is throughout the Earth even as it is throughout the universe.  
You fill our needs from day to day,  
And you forgive us our offenses without reservation.  
We must likewise forgive our offenders.  
Let us not be lured by things of this Earth.  
Have Mercy on us always, keeping us separate us from evil, error and sin.  
Because yours are the kingdom, the power and the song of praise.  
From all ages, throughout all ages.  
Sealed in Faith, Trust, Truth and Love. Amen.

*Amended from Expanded translation by Dr. RA Errico - RJ Bradner*

## Layman's 10 Commandments

1. Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout the journey.
2. So why is a Car's WINDSHIELD so large & the Rear View Mirror so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, Look Ahead and Move on.
3. Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes a few minutes to burn, but it takes years to write.
4. All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long either.
5. Old Friends are Gold! New Friends are Diamond! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a Base of Gold!
6. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"
7. When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities.
8. A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision!"
9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
10. WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE.

