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John 21:15

Peter said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus told him, "Feed my Lambs."

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- A new year
- Board and officer elections
- Easter event
- In memoriam
- Departmentally speaking
- Inspirational message
- From the street

It hardly seems that spring is already just around the corner. It was only weeks ago that we saw the Great Snow of 2010.

In North Texas, bad winter weather days are few and far between, and the notably bad ones become nostalgic mileposts in our shared history. When we received up to a foot of snow on February 11, the newest generation gained a common experience that perhaps they will remember for years to come, much like the Great Snow of 1978 is still etched on my mind.

For a week in 1978, our entire neighborhood went without power (and thus TV, radio, and heaters). However, we had a gas cooktop and plentiful firewood, and our house became a gathering place for neighbors who wanted to share the hearth or get a hot meal.

Let us strive to be that source of refuge for those living on the street, for whom each Great Snow, Great Cold, Great Rain, and in fact almost every day is another struggle.

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On March 1, we held elections to fill these Board and Officer positions:

Board members: Ron Adams, Stacey Beck, Ron Dudick Jr (Chairman), Richard Getz, Dennis Sirratt, Carol Trnka, Tom Trnka (Vice-Chairman)

Officers: Dennis Sirratt (President), Anita Calkins (Secretary), Carol Trnka (Treasurer), Tom Trnka (VP Administration), Ron Dudick Sr (VP Purchasing and Sergeant at Arms), Ron Dudick Jr (VP Church Affairs), Chris Halicke (VP Ministry/Prayer), Clinton Mills (VP Communications)

Our first meeting of the Board & Officers is scheduled for April 10.

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On Saturday, April 3, we will hold a children's Easter egg hunt and party at the Women and Children's Shelter in Ft. Worth. We will be there from 11:30am until 2pm with picnic sack lunches, a puppet show telling the Resurrection story, Easter egg hunts, and crafts for the children!

We have planned to need only 22 volunteers, and eight of these positions have already been filled. If you would like to volunteer, contact Tom Trnka ASAP to see which openings remain, or if you'd like more information about this or other of our events, please email us at [hotdogsandhope@yahoo.com](mailto:hotdogsandhope@yahoo.com).

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It is with heavy heart that we report the loss of one of our own. Richard Vittitoe (aka Moses) passed away due to respiratory failure on February 7. He was 63. Rick had been serving with us for most of five years before health problems made it impossible to do so. We all know that the ministry grows with each of us, but he was fond of noting that he was growing with the ministry as well.

The family is tentatively planning to hold a memorial in April; if you'd like more information, please email us at [hotdogsandhope@yahoo.com](mailto:hotdogsandhope@yahoo.com) and we will keep you updated.

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Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

Leo Buscaglia

Departmentally speaking...

**Communications:** We have instituted an official recognition of service for volunteers (notably teenagers), and communication responsibilities are now vested in an Officer position.

**Fundraising:** Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory chocolate bar and HD&H T-shirts are still selling, and we're thinking about repeating the pancake breakfast.

**Special events:** See the item on page one about the Easter party!

**Services:** We are continuing to search for more cost-effective sources for supplies; our greatest expense is the hot dogs. We are also formalizing a Volunteer Guidelines document.

**Stewardship:** The Treasurer's Report for fiscal year ending 31 Dec 2009 was released.

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I asked God to take away my bad habits.

God said, "No. It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up."

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.

God said, "No. His spirit is whole; his body is only temporary."

I asked God to grant me patience.

God said, "No. Patience is a by-product of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is learned."

I asked God to give me happiness.

God said, "No. I give you blessings; happiness is up to you."

I asked God to spare me pain.

God said, "No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me."

I asked God to make my spirit grow.

God said, "No. You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful."

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life.

God said, "No. I will give you life, so that you may enjoy all things."

I asked God to help me LOVE others, as much as He loves me.

God said, "Ahhhh, finally you have the idea!"

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### **December 14, 2009:**

What an amazing time in service to the Lord. If you missed the children's party, I'm really sorry. There's no way to explain to you the smiles, the laughter, the hugs - the wonderful time we all had, both residents and volunteers. Thanks from all of us goes out to Andy Cochran our events leader, to all of you amazing volunteers who brought your crafts, your presents, your skills and your love.

From the Mother who said she had never sat on Santa's lap (so she did and we took her picture) to the group of six mothers in the courtyard who told me "no-one ever takes the time to give them a party", to the beautiful little girl who just had to have her picture taken with all the crafts she had made and her face painting - this was an experience none of us will soon forget.

Once again - we could not do this without all the volunteers who gave their time and love.

Hotdogs & Hope Ministry belongs to the Lord and we praise him for the many blessings we receive from doing his work.

**Go to our blogs to read more first-hand reports of our experiences on the street!**

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web: [www.hotdogsandhope.com](http://www.hotdogsandhope.com)

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