



The Knox News

from Mike & Sheryl serving with Cru

March 28, 2018

Dear Friend,

God can reshape and redirect the life of a young gang member. God can reclaim and redeem the life of a young man wrongly imprisoned. God can restore hope to a homeless druggie, who is running from responsibility and resigned to a lifetime of worthlessness. To each of these young men, God gives them strength to build “a quiet sort of confidence...that begins to work wonders!” These are the life stories from my group of Toolbox4Life trainees, which recently graduated on March 8th.



We're gaining drywall skills!

Mike's next 8-week Toolbox4Life training cycle begins April 3rd with another group of young men. Tuesdays are spent “in-class” gaining awareness in the **A - E** areas of **A**nger management to **E**tiquette, the **Big F** areas of **F**ashion (dressing for success) and **F**inancial budgeting, and the **I - W** areas of **I**nterviewing to **W**alking with God, just to name a few of the topics covered!

Then on Wednesdays and Thursdays, the Toolbox4Life training takes us to construction job sites. Much more than construction skills are gained and developed, e.g. developing a healthy pride from a job well-done, self-respect, self-worth, self-confidence, being reliable and able to show up consistently for eight weeks.

Working with these guys day after day, how can you not love them? Calvin, pictured in the yellow shirt, is 30 years old and has lived in Orlando his whole life. Calvin's father has also lived in Orlando his whole life. Yet, Calvin had not seen his father since he was 15 years old...until the day our jobsite was on a street where Calvin said, “I think that's my father's house across the street.” As we worked outside and the garage door across the street opened for his father to go to work, I encouraged him to go over and talk with him. That's a story for another day, but I can tell you this, “Working with Calvin changed **me**.”

The beginning of March marked my 30-year anniversary of working with Cru. Sheryl and I have simply been available. We are grateful to God for the continuing opportunities He provides us to connect lost people with Jesus, for your vital part through your prayers that God hears, and for the resources you give that He blesses. We are seeing God draw people to Himself. May your heart be continually blessed in this process together with us. We are so thankful for you!

Mike + Sheryl



Father Greg Boyle (2nd from right), founder of Homeboy Industries in L.A. County spoke at our Toolbox4Life graduation. He reflected on his decades-long rehabilitative work with the “homies” in 1,100 gangs with 86,000 members.



Mike with Eliezer, a former Puerto Rican boxer, who lost his house and savings while wrongfully imprisoned for six months leading to his being homeless for 3 years. He successfully completed the Toolbox4Life program.