



VOICES FROM PRISON AND *THE EDGE*

ISSUE #15
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Everything was going womp, womp, womp!

A MOTHER'S CRY

IN AUGUST, 2010, A HOT SUMMER MORNING ON MY WAY TO WORK, I GOT A CALL NO MOTHER WANTS TO GET—"YOUR SON WAS SHOT." AFTER GETTING THAT CALL, MY BELLY STARTED TO FLIP, MY HANDS BECAME SHAKY, MY HEART WAS BEATING FAST

WHILE I WALKED DOWN THIS LONG ROAD TO GET TO WORK. I MUST SAY THAT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. THE FIRST THING I DID WAS CALL HOME TO SEE IF MY DAUGHTER HAD ANY INFORMATION. WHEN I WAS CALLING HER, SOMEONE WAS AT THE DOOR TO TELL HER THE NEWS AS WELL. IT SEEMS LIKE IT TOOK ME FOREVER TO GET TO THE HOSPITAL, AND AT THIS TIME I DIDN'T KNOW IF MY SON WAS DEAD OR ALIVE. WHEN I FINALLY ARRIVED AT THE HOSPITAL, MY SON WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD AND TAKEN TO THE MORGUE. DEAD, AND ONLY TWENTY YEARS OLD. I FOUND OUT LATER THAT HE WAS TRYING TO STOP HIS FRIEND FROM GETTING ROBBED.

I DIDN'T REALIZE I WAS IN SHOCK BECAUSE ALL OF MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS WERE THERE, AND I WAS LOST FOR WORDS, AND EVERYTHING WAS GOING WOMP, WOMP, WOMP. I SAT WAITING, HOLDING ON TIGHT TO HIS LOVELY DAUGHTER, ZARIAH, LOOKING AT HER WITH SADNESS IN MY EYES, KNOWING SHE WILL NEVER GET THE LOVE HER DAD HAD FOR HER. ONLY EIGHT MONTHS OLD AND FATHERLESS NOW. THEN, ONLY ONE YEAR AND THREE MONTHS LATER, I GOT ANOTHER CALL. MY NEPHEW WAS MURDERED ON NOVEMBER 12 2011, NINE DAYS BEFORE MY SON'S BIRTHDAY. I BECAME NUMB AND WAS SO AFRAID TO FEEL THE PAIN ONCE AGAIN. IT HURTS SO BAD. I MISS THOSE TWO YOUNG MEN SO VERY MUCH. SOMETIMES I FIND IT HARD TO LIVE LIFE WITHOUT THEM. MY NEPHEW ONLY TWENTY-ONE AND KILLED OVER \$21 DOLLARS IN A GAMBLING INCIDENT. THE STREETS OF PHILADELPHIA HAVE BECOME A WAR ZONE. WE ARE KILLING ONE ANOTHER WITH SENSELESS ACTS. WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO "I'M MY BROTHER'S KEEPER"? *STACIE.*



I MET STACIE AT THE INTERFAITH SERVICE FOR LIGHT AND HOPE IN DECEMBER AT ST. RITA'S PARISH. PEOPLE OF MANY FAITH TRADITIONS GATHERED TO LIFT UP THE MEMORY OF THE PEOPLE KILLED IN PHILADELPHIA IN 2012. STACIE IS JUST ONE OF THESE PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THIS VIOLENCE. THEIRS IS A GREAT CRY THAT RISES UP FROM OUR CITY, AND FROM EVERY CITY AND TOWN IN AMERICA AND THE WORLD. WHAT ARE WE DOING? WHY ARE WE SOLVING OUR CONFLICTS WITH GUNS? WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO CHANGE THIS? STACIE IS A MEMBER OF MOTHERS IN CHARGE. WHAT CAN YOU SAY TO STACIE? WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO HER SON AND NEPHEW IF YOU HAD THE CHANCE? OR TO THEIR CHILDREN? WHAT KIND OF HOPE CAN WE OFFER TO YOUNG BLACK MALES WHO ARE SO VULNERABLE? WE CAN COMPLAIN ABOUT THEIR PARENTLESS VIOLENT LIVES, BUT DO WE KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THEM? WHAT IF

YOU WERE BORN INTO A SITUATION WHERE SELLING DRUGS WAS THE ONLY JOB THAT IS AVAILABLE TO YOU? DO SOMETHING. ANYTHING! YOU CAN REACH MOTHERS IN CHARGE AT 215-228-1718.

AN IMAGE COMES TO MIND: TWO PROCESSIONS OF PEOPLE WITH CROSSES (AND OTHER RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS) WALKING ACROSS THE BEN FRANKLIN BRIDGE FROM THE CAMDEN SIDE AND THE PHILLY SIDE (ON THE PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY) TO MEET IN THE MIDDLE. WE PROCESS ACROSS THE BRIDGE TO SYMBOLIZE WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER. WE PROCESS TO PRAY AND WORK FOR AN END TO THE VIOLENCE, THE GUNS, THE WASTING OF YOUNG LIVES, AND THE POVERTY IN CAMDEN AND PHILADELPHIA THAT FUELS THIS. WE ARE SENDING A SIGNAL TO OUR CITIES AND TO AMERICA THAT WE ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO CREATE POCKETS OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION. YOUNG BLACK MALES CAN BE INVITED TO LEAD US, SINCE THEY ARE THE MOST ENDANGERED AND THE MOST DANGEROUS WHEN THEY HAVE NO HOPE AND OPTIONS. ORGANIZATIONS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BRIDGE CAN BE ENGAGED IN THIS ACTION FOR PEACE. MOTHERS IN CHARGE (MIC), EVERY MURDER IS REAL (EMIR), HOPEWORKS IN CAMDEN, THE MURAL ARTS PROGRAM, THE CASCIA CENTER FOR RECONCILIATION AND ADROP/ADEODATUS PRISON MINISTRY ARE JUST A FEW OF THESE. WE CAN AIM TO HAVE THIS "REACH ACROSS THE BRIDGE FOR PEACE" IN SEPTEMBER IF NOT BEFORE. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

MARY MAGDALEN, WHOM JESUS APPEARED TO FIRST AFTER HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD, IS LIKE STACIE IN SOME WAY. SOMEONE DEAR TO MARY HAD DIED A VIOLENT DEATH. WRACKED WITH GRIEF, HER MIND MAY HAVE BEEN GOING *WOMP, WOMP, WOMP!* BEING ON THE EDGE AND SO ALONE, SHE WENT TO THE GRAVE OF HER DEAR ONE. WHAT SHE EXPERIENCED CHANGED HER HISTORY AND OURS. ARE WE SO DIFFERENT THAN MARY? IF YOU BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS RISEN, THEN WITNESS TO NEW LIFE SOME WAY. WHY NOT COME TO OUR THURSDAY NIGHT SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP? IN THE MOMENT OF SILENCE WE TAKE TOGETHER, YOU MAY HEAR THE AMBULANCE SIRENS AND THE *WOMP, WOMP, WOMP* OF THE CITY, YET EXPERIENCE JESUS ALIVE IN OUR MIDST. YOU WILL GAIN COURAGE AND HOPE. ALLELUIA!



STACIE'S VOICE CRIES OUT FROM THE EDGE: *THE STREETS OF PHILADELPHIA HAVE BECOME A WAR ZONE. WE ARE KILLING ONE ANOTHER WITH SENSELESS ACTS. WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO "I'M*

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER"? OUR ADEODATUS SUPPORT GROUP—FOR EX-INMATES AND ANY ONE WHO CARES ABOUT THEIR REINTEGRATION INTO SOCIETY—MEETS ON THURSDAY NIGHTS (7:30 TO 9:00 P.M.). ON THE FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, WE MEET AT THE BEVILACQUA CENTER AT KENSINGTON AND LEHIGH AVES, PHILADELPHIA. ON ALL OTHER THURSDAYS WE MEET AT ST. RITA OF CASCIA RECTORY, 1166 S. BROAD STREET, PHILADELPHIA. THROUGH PRAYER, THE GOSPEL AND CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP WE OFFER STRENGTH TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE IN THIS WORLD. YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

FR. PAUL MORRISSEY OSA

DON'T FORGET NOW. JUMP INTO OUR CONVERSATION ON THIS TOPIC. GO TO WWW.FACEBOOK/ADEODATUSMINISTRY.COM. AND SAY A WORD OR TWO. WE NEED YOUR VOICE FROM "THE EDGE." WE DISTRIBUTE THE NEWSLETTER TO 12 PARISHES AND 20 REHAB CENTERS IN PHILADELPHIA. A DONATION OF \$5 OR \$10 DOLLARS WOULD GREATLY HELP THIS MISSION. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ADROP/ADEODATUS AND SEND TO:

ADEODATUS PRISON MINISTRY
259 N. LAWRENCE ST., PHILA.
PA 19106

OR, GO TO WWW.RIGHTSOFTHEPOOR.ORG AND PRESS "DONATE" BUTTON. FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS FROM THERE.