

Board Members

1 We are seeking individuals who can volunteer their time, talents and business expertise for approximately 10 hours each month, attend a monthly meeting and have a heart for the hungry, homeless, abused and addicted who find their way to our Mission. For more information, visit our website at www.pathofcitrus.org and click on the Volunteer page, or call DuWayne Sipper at 352-527-6500.

Event Planning Committee Volunteers

Kathryn Sipper, Development Director is looking for individuals interested in using their time and talents to help her with our annual fall banquet and other fundraisers for The Path, time permitting. Specific committee leaders needed: Banquet Volunteer Coordinator, Banquet Business Sponsors Coordinator, Banquet Decorations Coordinator, Banquet Invitations & Seating Coordinator. You can also volunteer to help with the Planning Committee in general if you aren't sure what area you are interested in. The Planning Committee generally meets once a month for 1-2 hours, and more frequently closer to the event. Call Kathryn Sipper at 352-522-0514 for more information.



Donate Your Car, Boat, Motorhome . . .

3 truck, trailer, RV, motorcycle or any other transportation vehicle to The Path. Whether it's time for a new model or getting rid of an extra – help us bless someone in need with your vehicle donation to The Path today! Call DuWayne Sipper at 352-527-6500 for more information or to arrange your donation.

Donations of furniture and other household furnishings to

The Path Shelter Store- Contact the store at 352-746-9084, Monday – Saturday, from 9am – 5pm for more information or to arrange a pick up with our truck driver.



Land Donations

5 Property or dwellings are urgently needed so that The Path can expand to meet the growing needs in our community. Please pray about this special request and call us if you feel led to give . . . 352-527-6500 and ask to speak with DuWayne Sipper, Executive Director. **Don't forget us in your will!**

Cruise for Charity 2009 - January 4, 2009

It's not too late to reserve your cabin and join our executive and development directors, DuWayne and Kathryn Sipper, on a cruise to raise funds for The Path. Departing from Port Everglades, you will sail for seven nights to the western Caribbean on the Costa Fortuna while visiting Key West, Grand Cayman, Cozumel, and Roatan Island. Prices include all government taxes, port charges, RT bus, transportation, a private group party, and donation to The Path.

Come and be a part of our Rescue Mission: Pulling people to safety from adverse conditions, and from choices and habits that lead to damage and death . . . rehabilitating our local homeless through the life-transforming Gospel . . . providing guidance to help break the bonds of addiction and desperate behavior . . . allowing them to experience healing and wholeness. For more information, contact Kathryn Sipper at 352-522-0514.

Save The Dates . . .

Winn Dixie (Inverness) Grocery Collection Days: Saturdays, June 21, July 19, August 30, 10am – noon. Please call 352-522-0514 if you would like to help out and volunteer.

Path Shelter Store Yard Sales . . . thousands of **FREE ITEMS!**: Saturdays, June 28, July 12 & 26, 8:30am – 1pm. Drop off smaller items at The Path Shelter Store during business hours or call 352-746-9084 to arrange a furniture pick up.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stuart Green
President
(352) 637-3585

Mark Stone
Board Member
(352) 637-2777

Connie Lobel
Board Member
(352) 726-1559

Brian Ludwick
Board Member
(352) 563-6508

Gary Bryant
Board Member
(352) 344-3100

DuWayne Sipper
Executive Director
(352) 527-6500

Administrative Offices
27 S. Melbourne
Beverly Hills, FL 34465

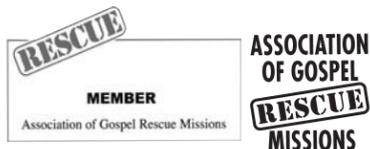
Phone: (352) 527-6500
Fax: (352) 746-6746

Mailing Address
PO Box 3024
Inverness, FL 34451-3024

Bargain Store
1729 W Gulf to Lake Hwy.
Lecanto, FL 34461
Hours: Mon - Sat
9 AM - 5 PM
For pick-up, call:
(352) 746-9084

www.pathofcitrus.org

www.agrm.org



A Father's Heart

David's Story

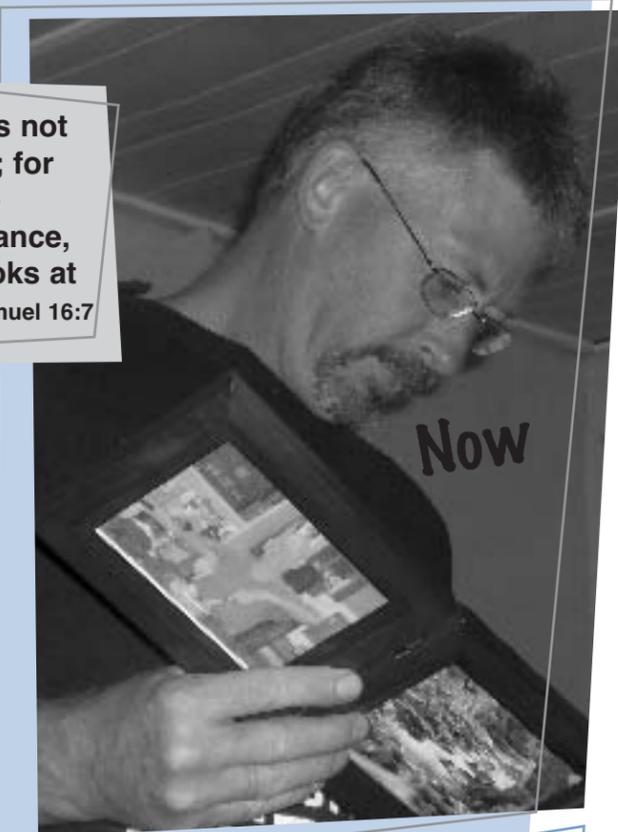
Once, on a rare occasion as a child, my elementary class went on a field trip to the zoo. It was there that I came upon a huge African lion, a large male – nearly five hundred pounds – with a wonderful mane and absolutely enormous paws. Sure, he was caged; yet those bars offered little comfort when you are standing within six feet of something that in any other circumstance saw you as easy lunch! I was in awe of an entity so powerful and noble and deadly. Perhaps it was fear mingled with admiration or simply that my heart broke for the big, old cat. This wonderful, terrible creature should have been out roaming the savanna, ruling his pride, striking fear into the heart of every wild beast, bringing down zebras and gazelles whenever the urge seized him.

Instead, that lion spent every hour of every day and every night alone . . . in a cage smaller than your bedroom, with his food served through a little metal door. His roar sounded not so much fierce, but rather mournful. He wouldn't look me in the eye. I wanted him to, but he just lay there, weary with that deep weariness that comes from acceptance of freedom lost, taking shallow breaths, rolling now and then from side to side.

After years of living in a cage, that lion no longer believed it was a lion . . . this metaphor is the epitome of who I was when God led me to The Path. I was a man who no longer thought himself a man in the eyes of society.

Suddenly, in a moment of clarity, I realized I was past forty and began to wonder where I had made the wrong turn – and why the consequences of my lifestyle far outweighed my desires. I had started out so strong, only to be brought to my knees. I didn't find the things for which my heart is made and had never been invited to live for them within my heart, so I looked for them in other ways. There I was without a battle in which to live and die, and the fierce part of my nature had gone underground, simmering in sullen

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“For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” I Samuel 16:7

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anger that had no reason. Alone in the woods I surrendered to God. He heard me and led me to The Path.

My outlook has changed: This is a very critical time in my life because all I have ever known has come crashing down. This is the true test of me as a man, the beginning of my redemption, because I can no longer rely on what I have used all my life. I'm mortified by my one - dimensional existence. The whole macho construct has fallen to the ground. I feel so alive, and am fighting back to gain control so that I may let freedom in and break the chains that enslaved my soul.

My new goals are to not lose heart, to believe, and never be on the wrong side again . . . to be strong and courageous. Ultimately, I want to be a man of integrity. The future is unknown in my life. I am putting all of my trust in God, and seek a daily reprieve so that I can face my destiny with grace.

When I was growing up in the 70's, one of my favorite bands was the Eagles, and one of my favorite songs was titled "Desperado." Let me share an excerpt from the song:

"Desperado – why don't you come to your senses, you been out riding fences for so long now . . . Oh, you're a hard one, but I know that you got your reasons . . . you better let somebody love you before it's too late . . ."

By letting my Lord love me, and subsequently obeying Him, it has opened many vistas to me. I can now be the real "Dave" without fear of reprisal. For such an uneducated and violent man I seem to be blessed with talents beyond my own

comprehension. Jesus is bringing them to the surface and they belong to whoever encounters me. Thank you, The Path, for being the vessel of Jesus! **May all who read this penning find the same love that has saved one of the worst – ME.**

Everyone will tell you about the miraculous changes in David during his two-month stay at The Path. On his own, Dave reached out for help to The Path's parenting coach, Carol, to find and contact his 19-year old daughter, whom he had never known. The staff searched the internet and located her. With Coach Carol's help, Dave wrote his daughter five letters, then spoke to her for the first time over the phone while he was at The Path. Dave needs your prayers in this area . . . it will take time to bring healing to this relationship. He has been discouraged in the past and very hard on himself – he has wanted to give up on himself and his new relationship with Jesus from time to time. But he's still hanging in there . . . we pray for him daily and hope you will, too.

Dave has since left The Path to pay the debt he owes in another state. If you would like to send him encouragement, please write a personal note or scripture on the back of the gift card or separate notepaper and send it to The Path in the enclosed return envelope. We'll make sure Dave hears from you. And thank you for your gifts of hope to others just like David – for helping us keep the doors open to help set their hearts free in Christ.

We goofed!

Rath Whitehurst raised money for The Path along with Julia Michael in the JOY FM Bikeride for the Homeless. She was pictured in our last issue, but not mentioned. THANK YOU, RATH!

Director's Corner . . .



DuWayne Sipper

Dear Friends,

In my Bible's Study Notes it says: "Learning to see things and people the way God sees them is a vital step in our growth process. While people tend to place great value on outward appearance, let us note that God looks upon attitudes of the heart." At The Path, we pray daily and remind ourselves to ask God to teach us to view our clients as God sees them. In every situation we face, God's wisdom and Word may dictate a different course of action than people, pressures, or circumstances would suggest.

Appearances often lead us to attitudes and assumptions much like those of Jesse and his sons when Samuel came to anoint the next king. None expected the chosen to be the youngest son, David, often described as "a man after God's own heart." But God saw the young man's devotion and character. God saw The Path client, David's heart, too. When I first met Dave, he was pretty intimidating. Rough and tough on the outside, but always polite. Quiet . . . Reserved . . . Hardworking. And one of the most humble, hurting men that has come through The Path.

Youth In Action . . .

Seven Rivers Christian School - Small Group Service Day

On April 29, students from Seven Rivers Christian School, Lecanto, went out to our community for a Small Group Service Day. 28 students, a few teachers and chaperones chose The Path Farm and Nursery for their volunteer day of service to our community. Another group helped paint much-needed signs at the Path Shelter store.



Students at the farm toiled at the strenuous tasks of weeding, planting, leveling the fields, plus so much more. Their enthusiastic participation made a tremendous difference in the spring crop yield: We now have squash, zucchini, radishes and other vegetables!



Volunteer/donor Jim Shidner, along with The Path's executive director, DuWayne, work with several youth to hoe the field, pull weeds and plant vegetable seedlings. An avid farmer in the past, Jim has been a tremendous asset to The Path and continues to provide advice and expertise.



The Path Farm and Nursery provides trees and shrubs to the community plus organic vegetables to provide healthy food for Path clients and the needy in our county. Thank you to all who joined in that day!!!

To learn more about how you can help out The Path Farm and Nursery, please call DuWayne Sipper at 352-527-6500.

"As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; for He knows how we are formed, He remembers that we are dust." Psalms 103:13-14

I hope you've taken a moment to read the cover story about David (Dave). He was baptized a few weeks ago and offered to share his testimony with all of you, as his way of thanking you for making The Path possible. He is a work in progress but aren't we all? Some of the fathers staying with us are thinking about their children and families, just like Dave – missing their loved ones as so many are separated. For them, Father's Day won't be much of a celebration.

But these men really do have a reason to celebrate. They have chosen to straighten out what was once wrong in their lives and to try to live a life serving the Lord. That's the best Father's Day celebration I can think of: **Praising our heavenly Father and following in the path he has led us.**

So when you go about your plans this summer, please remember these men in prayer . . . and all the others staying here at The Path. You see, their challenges don't take a vacation – they carry those burdens with them wherever they go.

Happy Father's Day . . . Congratulations Grads . . . and a Safe, Enjoyable Summer to everyone!

DuWayne Sipper

DuWayne Sipper
Executive Director
The Path of Citrus County