

Towel & Basin News

"Serving So Others May Serve"



Mission 9-11 Continues

Soon after the attacks of September 11, 2001, Towel & Basin received many calls for assistance in helping groups respond to the needs. Particularly because of our New York City program, the Center for Urban Strategy

Development, and President David Best's 15 year residency, Towel & Basin was able to connect resources from outside New York City to real needs and experienced, proven organizations serving in the city

One example of Towel & Basin's services of "networking" and "resourcing" was connecting Heart to Heart International with Isabella Geriatric Center. Heart to Heart, a global humanitarian organization was committed to leveraging its contacts for response to New York City's needs. Founder Dr. Gary Morsch and his staff got commitments from pharmaceutical corporations and companies producing personal care products. With FedEx donating valuable warehouse space in the city, Heart to Heart had the capacity to provide thousands of dollars of supplies. It needed trusted partners in New York, so Heart to Heart turned to Towel & Basin for advice and consultation. One of the organizations Towel & Basin referred Heart to Heart to was Isabella Geriatric Center.

Offering a comprehensive array of services to over 1,200 frail elderly (from in house residents to those in independent living apartments, day care and home care), Isabella is one of the oldest, most respected centers of its kind in the United States.

Towel & Basin arranged for Dr. Morsch to meet with Hope Miller, Isabella's Vice President of Care Services. From this meeting a mutually beneficial relationship was formed.

Isabella implemented a distribution program for the provided products consistent with its commitment to changing the culture found in so many skilled nursing facilities. Rather than "warehouse" or over-medicate the elderly, Isabella respects the dignity of each resident and

seeks to empower the resident's continued development, encouraging them to remain active and engaged in all aspects of life, including meaningful service. This is in harmony with Towel & Basin's vision that persons have opportunity for service across their entire life spans.

Volunteers place the various products in a cart which is rolled through the resident floors. Residents are then able to take the items they want. The program is ongoing and has been warmly received by residents and staff alike. And Heart to Heart has a trusted, proven partner in Isabella that it knows will effectively use the product it is providing.



Although located at the opposite end of Manhattan from Ground Zero, Isabella, like many other nonprofits in New York City has been affected by 9-11. Isabella staff and residents lost friends and loved ones. And in the wake of the outpouring of support for 9-11 responders, a drop off in general donor support affected many nonprofits not engaged directly in disaster relief. The emphasis on military and infrastructure security issues has put pressure on city, state and federal resources that previously might have been available to nonprofits. Donations from organizations such as Heart to Heart are vital.

Towel & Basin is pleased it was able to make this introduction and foster a new partnership.

To learn more about Heart to Heart and Isabella, go to www.TowelandBasin.org and click on "Links"

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The Best View

Moral Values



It frankly is wearying at times. So much talk. Often loud, screaming talk. Each side claiming ownership of the moral high ground. And I'm not speaking of the 2004 political campaigns in the United States. I am thinking of what's become a major, post-election story: moral values. Now Christians are debating among themselves what are the real moral values. Some Christians, depending on those strongly held values, are labeled as liberal or progressive, others as evangelical, conservative or fundamentalist. So much ink and air time has been given to this "discussion."

My heart and mind keeps turning back to Jesus. At a time when the disciples of Jesus were arguing among themselves who was most correct, most suitable, and most able to wield significant positions of leadership – the high moral road—Jesus said to them, Whoever wishes to be great must be a servant.

Servanthood. I haven't heard much discussion of this issue in recent weeks, or even months.

While Christians of various persuasions on the political and theological spectrums argue and often abuse each other, the number of children living in poverty in the United States has increased in the past few years. The AIDS pandemic continues to virtually annihilate whole families and villages in the African continent. Debt reduction for poor, developing nations is stalled in geo-political maneuvering of the wealthy countries, and debt increases in the wealthiest nation. Worldwide, thousands of children — equal to ten 9-11's — die each day of malnutrition related diseases. In U.S. cities, just blocks or a few miles away from most of us, young teens hang out on street corners – with no adult role models but drug pushers, pimps and prostitutes.

And Christians continue arguing about what are the real moral values, who is the most authentic, genuine Christian. Jockeying for position, place and power at the table of true Christianity, but all the while either not seeing or ignoring the stench of sin and injustice around them. No one willing to stop talking, or get up, lest they lose their position or prestige.

At that moment, Jesus stands and picks up a basin of water and a towel. He ties the towel around his waist, then kneels down to begin washing dirty feet so that the meal of commemoration, celebration and liberation can begin.

Jesus says to his disciples that day—and today—"Now, you go and do likewise." Probably no one thought he meant "go be a foot washer." No, he was teaching: Be a servant of God; go serve others.

The Apostle Paul understood what Jesus was saying in his actions that night. In a portion of scripture the Church has for hundreds of years associated with the Advent and Christmas seasons, Paul's hymn of kenosis declares: "Have this mind among yourselves, which you have in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross." (Phil 2:5-8)

It's strange, 2,000 years after Jesus' dramatic enacted sermon for his disciples, I still don't see too many of his followers rushing to grab the towel and basin...to lovingly and gracefully wash away the dirt of despair, disease and destruction imbedded in our neighbors' lives and our communities.

I imagine the argument will continue about what are the genuine moral values. Discussion can be good, and important. But amidst all the discussions about values, let's hope followers of Jesus won't forget to do as their Master Teacher-Lord has done: *demonstrate* values of service, mercy, grace, justice and peace. Because what I learned from the African-American Church is still true, "Your talk walks and your walk talks, but your walk talks further than your talk walks."

David M. Best
President

News from Towel & Basin's 20th Anniversary Celebration

Towel & Basin has been blessed by the wonderful expressions received during this time set for celebrating two decades of service. Here is one letter. Additional anniversary greetings can be found online at www.TowelandBasin.org

Dear David and Marilyn:

Greetings in the gracious name of our liberating Lord.

It is a privilege to join you in celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Towel & Basin ministry. On behalf of the Board of General Superintendents and the Church of the Nazarene, I want to extend words of gratitude to God for your visionary, prophetic leadership which is allowing compassionate Nazarenes to be involved in meaningful, transformational projects.

During these decades numerous individuals have been inspired, motivated and given avenues through which to serve others, while countless in need have found a resource of God's provision.

We pray the Lord's very special joy and blessing on your celebrations..., and even more on your effective impacting Kingdom ministry for Christ. God bless you.

Blessings and love,

Jerry D. Porter
General Superintendent, Church of the Nazarene

Towel & Basin is honored by those who have made special 20th Anniversary gifts. A grateful thank you to the following persons (current as of this printing):

"Do As I Have Done" Gifts

The Rev. David & Marilyn Best	Dr. Bob and Linda Brower
Kito Bryant	Truman & Gaile Lawson
Dr. Michael and Suzanne Pitts	Dr. Norman Shoemaker
Dale V. Thomas (<i>and in memory of the Rev. Vernon E. Thomas and Ruth L. Thomas</i>)	

20th Anniversary Memorial Gifts

Andres & Virginia Gonzales *in remembrance of Gloria Quintero*
Steve Martin *in remembrance of Mountain Glory music and my Dad, John*
The Rev. Patricia A. Reeberg *in honor of David Best*
Lou Ann Walling *in remembrance of Dana Walling*

20th Anniversary Gifts

Michael Funk	Don Goehner	Sylvia Lambert
Laura Mulay	Andrew Randolph	Dr. Harold Ivan Smith

We continue the 20th Anniversary celebration with receptions planned for Kansas City, Nashville and New York areas. Check the web site or call Towel & Basin's office for updated details. David & Marilyn Best hope to see you at one of these locations.

Life's most urgent question is: "What are you doing for others?"

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.

—Sir Winston Churchill

How are you or someone you know involved in serving others? We'd like to hear from you. Write us at PO Box 101393, Nashville, TN 37224 or send an email to info@TowelandBasin.org. We may publish your experiences to encourage others in their service.

UPCOMING TOWEL & BASIN ACTIVITIES (Partial List)

July 21, 2005

Cleveland Park Citizen Advisory Committee
Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency
Nashville, Tennessee
Urban housing/neighborhood development

July 24 - August 3, 2005

Center for Urban Strategy Development
New York, New York
Urban program development

August 11, 2005

Cleveland Park Neighborhood Association
Nashville, Tennessee
Community and leadership development

September 11, 2005

9-11 4th Anniversary Service
St. Paul's Chapel
New York, New York

October 21-22, 2005

Bresee Institute for Metro Ministries
Kansas City, Missouri
Consultations & board development
For Bresee Institute go to
www.TowelandBasin.org
and click on "Links"

October 22, 2005

20th Anniversary Reception
Kansas City Area
Location TBA
See www.TowelandBasin.org for details

October 23, 2005

Trinity: A Church of the Nazarene
4418 Rainbow Blvd.
Kansas City, Kansas
Tel: 913.384.1919
David Best preaching in Kansas City
See www.TowelandBasin.org for details

November, 2005

20th Anniversary Reception
Nashville, Tennessee Area
Date & Location: TBA

20th Anniversary Reception
New York City
Date & Location: TBA

Towel & Basin News

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Towel & Basin Mission Statement
*Helping people and organizations
 discover their God-given visions,
 develop their full potential
 and demonstrate excellence in service.*

Servant-Leader Recognitions Given

Towel & Basin presents various awards to honor persons demonstrating faithful obedience to a life of service as signified by Christ's example with the towel and basin. (John 13:4-5)

The **Servant-Leader Award** recognizes persons who have contributed significantly, either in finances or time, in partnership with Towel & Basin's mission. The honorees are presented artist Scott Stearman's "Towel and Basin" rendered in casting stone, with a walnut base and inscription plate.



The most recent recipients of "Servant-Leader Awards" were David and Robin Shere of Anaheim, California (right photo) and Truman and Gaile Lawson of Glendora, California. Truman was unable to attend the presentation due to illness.



Echoing the words of St. Paul to the Philippians, Towel & Basin's Board of Directors thanks the Sheres and Lawsons for their "partnership in the Gospel."