

THE INVESTMENT

I just had the strongest urge to pick up the phone and call my dad. He's been gone for almost four years now, and I have a feeling that there will be countless times to come that I crave a conversation with him. There is so much about life that has changed for me over the past year and a half, and I sometimes wonder what he would think of it all.

A prayer of mine used to be that my dad would find a ministry to invest himself in as he got older, sure that God would provide the right opportunity. Dad was very wise and there was much he offered that would have been a benefit to anyone. He always gave so much to us, his family. Little did I know that what he was pouring himself into (us) was the ministry that God was providing. Through his efforts to love, help and teach us, his influence would reach far beyond anything he could ever know, or that we could ever imagine.

Starting *The Encouragement Project* has been a dream of mine for well over ten years, and was kept hidden in my imagination until not too long ago. Perhaps dad never knew of this ministry by such a title, and certainly not in the structure it is taking on in these days, but through innumerable conversations over the years, he was helping me shape the thoughts and ideas, perspectives and motivations, and the purpose that is helping this Project now grow.



Although dad might not have always known it in any given situation or discussion, God used him abundantly in both basic and extraordinary ways to encourage and enable me to take the steps of faith required along the way...including setting out on this incredible adventure of The Encouragement Project.

I wanted to share this bit of backstory with you for several reasons...

simply listening to and encouraging others can have astounding effects

holding fast to the Truth (Jesus) can deeply influence those around you to follow Him completely

never EVER underestimate the impact you have on the lives of your family, friends, and those around you

May you be encouraged to persevere and joyfully invest in others as you follow the Lord. We truly have no idea what good things God will do as a result of it.



Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

DONATIONS!

It has been a great blessing this month to receive some wonderful donations of yarn for the *HUGS and KISSES* project! This enables us to share these resources with those who love to knit and crochet...who then create beautiful hats and scarves for those in need. If you have any unused yarn, or leftover ends from finished projects, we would love to make good use of them!



We have also received many fun and fantastic children's books for *THE BOOK DROP* that we have been able to process and get to children who will so enjoy these gifts!



If you have any items along these lines (or along other lines, too...) that could be used to help and encourage others, and you don't quite know who to get them to, let us know! We're working on networking with other ministries and organizations who can use all manner of things to support those in need.

Thank you for helping us help others!

THE MOTIVATION

There are a number of verses in the Bible about encouragement—a call that is all too often overlooked in favor of advice or critique. But we are commanded and encouraged to be bold and courageous, and to love and help one another.

The heart of *THE ENCOURAGEMENT PROJECT* is to encourage you and others to actually do what God has given each of us to do, and to not be afraid to do these things. The variety in that is beautiful. Don't imagine that because you can't do what your friend or neighbor does that you are without purpose. God gave you specific abilities that only you can use to love and serve people in ways only you can. Don't miss out on the extraordinary blessings.



Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:23-25

THE ENCOURAGEMENT PROJECT is run solely with the financial gifts and donations of those of you who are interested in helping and encouraging others through this ministry.

Gifts of any amount are helpful, and go toward seeing believers encouraged, and those in need helped. We greatly appreciate your willingness to be a part of this team. Would you join us monthly at the...

\$10 ~ *ground level*

\$25 ~ *creative level*

\$50 ~ *encouragement level*

Other amount (anything is a blessing!)

Checks made payable to "The Encouragement Project" can be mailed to:

The Encouragement Project ~ PO Box 452 ~ Alpharetta, GA 30009

If you prefer to set up a monthly gift, please let us know and we will send you the banking information.

The Encouragement Project is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All gifts are tax deductible.

CONTACT US... WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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