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TRUTH AND CONSEQUENCES ABOUT HAVING CHOICE

We all appreciate choice.

Our freedom to choose what to do with our lives, how to earn our income, who to marry and what to do with our resources is at the core of what makes our society one of the most envied in the world.

Our public discourse often revolves around choice – where does our choice start limiting that of our fellow citizen? What choices are better left up to private people and which ones will governments make for us?

In our private lives we are constantly evaluating our freedom to choose. Do we have the power to choose but not the ability to escape the necessity of choice? Is there a difference between our destiny and our fate – and do we have a choice in either?

In working with vulnerable men and women who are homeless, our mantra is always “client choice.”

We generally operate under the philosophy that people have to want to move forward in their lives – they have to make that choice for themselves. Once they do, we will do everything in our power to help them reach that goal.

In a homeless shelter environment, choice is a luxury. You can't choose when to get up, what to eat or when to eat, who your roommates are or when the lights go out in the evening.

That's why I thought people in that reality would jump at the chance to choose a way forward – and many do.

When they want to get off the streets, we give them a choice as to what kind of housing they want, what levels of support they feel they need and what goals they want to achieve.

This works for many, who successfully move toward more self-sustainable lifestyles.

But over the years I have also learned that many people choose to avoid choice.

These folks let life dictate their outcomes. Whatever situation they are in, it seems safer than making a decision to change.

This is often true for people who have been abused and keep making the choice not to leave their abuser. We have seen people in these situations who chose not to seek change even when their very survival depended on it.

For people in our shelter who are choosing not to choose, we have to take drastic measures.

That means that sometimes we have to make certain choices for them.

At times we have even forced folks out of our emergency shelter into supportive housing to get them to a place where they can live much better lives. There is always a lot of anxiety and complaining that goes with the process.

But after a few weeks the client often asks us how come we didn't move them into a place sooner.

We don't like forcing people to make a change because we are taking the decision away from them while expecting them to accept the consequences.

But the truth is that some people have a higher capacity of making decisions for themselves than others. Life is messy, and sometimes having the right to choose inflicts more harm than good.

Floyd Perras
Executive Director, Siloam Mission

ANSR CONFERENCE TO FOCUS ON MILLENIALS

This year's Association of Nazarene Sociologists and Researchers (ANSR) Conference, to be held May 19 through 21 at MidAmerica Nazarene University, will focus on "Millennials and the Church."

The free conference is designed for denominational leaders and aims to provide attendees with an innovative resource for ministry. Held annually, the conference brings together trending sociological research and speaker-leaders from across the Church of the Nazarene. The conference begins Thursday evening and ends following breakfast on Saturday, allowing attendees time to return home for Sunday services.

The keynote speaker for this year's conference is Richard Flory, who directs the Religion, Culture and Politics Working Group at the University of Southern California. Flory is also the author, co-author, and editor of several books.

"We're looking forward to spending time with you at this year's conference, which is being held on the beautiful MidAmerica Nazarene University campus and hosted by the Sullivan Center for Church Leadership," said Dale Jones, director of Nazarene Research Services. *"Together we'll enjoy gifted speakers, significant research, amazing food, and meaningful fellowship – including a presentation game night event."*

While the conference itself is free, on-campus meals and rooms are available for a fee.

For registration and details, visit ansrconference.com or contact Research Services at research@nazarene.org or 1-800-306-9928.

– [Nazarene Research Services](#)

The above article appears courtesy of NCN News. For more global Nazarene news, please visit www.ncnnews.com.



MULTIPLYING THE LEGACY

Embarking to teach Greek in an underground seminary behind the Iron Curtain, Miriam Charter ended up establishing a women's ministry that multiplied exponentially across Eastern Europe.

Learn how Dr. Charter discovered her calling and why she's chosen to come home to Ambrose after years of overseas ministry and teaching at other institutions.

Read the full story in the latest issue of [Alliance Connection](#) or on the [C&MA website](#).

THE DYNAMIC TRIO

The Dynamic Trio, the most recent publication of Dr. William Stewart, is now available!

At the most hopeless and discouraging time of her life, Allison meets a group of new friends who have started studying the three primary Christian qualities of hope, faith, and love. As Allison begins to absorb the meaning, power, and truth of this "Dynamic Trio," she is introduced to new ideas, principles, and purposes that will change her life. With the help of her new friends, she applies hope, faith, and love to her own situation and is transformed from a lost and defeated person into someone with purpose, meaning, and fulfillment.

As you join Allison in her journey, you may come to a fresh understanding of these three qualities and begin to enrich and renew your own spiritual journey.

You can purchase your copy of The Dynamic Trio from the National Office for \$20.00 (includes shipping charges).

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and see your information appear in the next edition of
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