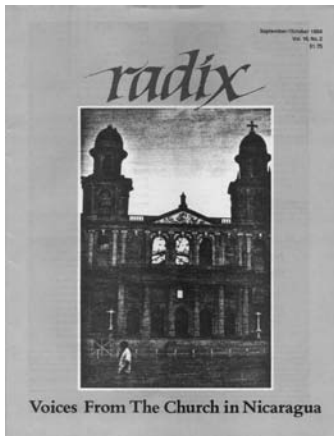


Towel & Basin News

"Serving So Others May Serve"



One of Towel & Basin's first projects was partnering with *Radix* magazine to co-sponsor and coordinate a research trip to Nicaragua. The fruit of that collaboration was *Radix's* September/October 1984 issue pictured here.

In This Issue:

- Two Decades of Service
- The Best View
- Upcoming Activities
- A Holiday Prayer

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Two Decades of Service

Towel & Basin's founders had a vision—to see Christians serving throughout their entire life-span from youth to young adulthood, middle age and the senior years. Calling Christians of all ages to do as their namesake had done: pick up the towel and basin – that is to say undertake humble, even humiliating acts of service for humankind.

Twenty years later, this vision still guides Towel & Basin purpose to help people and organizations discover their God-given visions for service; develop those callings, and demonstrate excellence in serving.

Founders David Best, Michael Estep and Cecil Paul outlined six ways in which Towel & Basin would endeavor to accomplish its purpose. The notes from the organizational meetings and earliest brochures list these activities as:

- Networking
- Resourcing
- Consulting
- Training
- Volunteering
- Communicating

Still today, these are Towel & Basin's core functions. Frequently serving "behind the scenes," Towel & Basin offers support services, technical assistance, leadership development-multiplication to individuals and groups working with some of the world's most vulnerable people and at-risk communities.

Towel & Basin has served neighborhoods in New York and Nashville, emerging leaders in Kansas City and Kiev. Refugees in Albania and undocumented immigrants in America. Pastors ministering to India's complex cities and compassionate community leaders in Latin America. Christian leaders in Los Angeles and London, Quito and Calcutta; Berlin and Bombay; Manila, Managua and Madras.

For twenty years, those so often left behind, looked over or locked out have found hope, healing and empowerment through the ministries of Towel & Basin and its partners.

And now it is right to give God thanks and praise.

Several events are planned to celebrate these two decades of service. The first ones are scheduled for December, 2004 in Southern California. Watch upcoming issues of *Towel & Basin News* and visit www.TowelandBasin.org for details on future 20th Anniversary events in other cities. We hope you can join us at one of these special occasions.

We also ask that you pray for the board of directors' wisdom in leading Towel & Basin into its third decade of ministry.

As always, it is your faith-filled prayers, your volunteer service, and your financial gifts that makes it possible for Towel & Basin to continue "serving so others may serve."

Towel & Basin News is published by Towel & Basin, Inc., to report on its activities and educate the public of needs and opportunities for service.

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Fall 2004

The Best View

Beginning . . . and Continuing



Recently, Towel & Basin announced a season of remembrance to honor God and give thanks for 20 years of ministry. A number of people took time to write and send us some very gracious, affirming words. We plan to print selections of these in a future edition of *Towel & Basin News*.

But in this issue, allow me to share some excerpts from Towel & Basin's earliest documents that I have reread while reflecting on the past and praying about the future. Here is a sample:

Excerpts from Minutes of Board of Directors' Meeting - June 1-2, 1984

The organizing founders of Towel & Basin met June 1-2, 1984 in Bethany, Oklahoma. Present were Mike Estep, Cecil Paul, and David Best.

The first day was given to a discussion of the purposes and subsequent possible programs of Towel & Basin.

After a lengthy period of brainstorming, conceptualizing and dialogue, the following was formulated as purposes and scope of Towel & Basin (See Attachment #1). [*Editor's note:* Attachment #1 is online at TowelandBasin.org]

The session on Saturday, June 2, focused on issues of organization and incorporation. It was agreed Towel & Basin incorporators would be Mike Estep, Cecil Paul, and David Best. Additional discussion followed about including Steve Pennington and Bob Brower as incorporators or as interested staff.

Discussion of the specific nature of the organization structure included the merit of working with or without an advisory board. (Individuals considered for such a board were Dr. Mark R. Moore, Franklin Cook, Norm Shoemaker, and Don Strong.)

David Best
Secretary Pro Tem

Excerpts from Executive Director's Annual Report - March 21, 1985

It is my privilege to bring to you, the Board of Directors of Towel & Basin, my first annual report.

Towel & Basin is finally becoming a "dream come true."

After months of dialogue, dreaming, planning, . . . questioning, searching . . . , Towel & Basin was officially born April 17, 1984. . . . The accomplishments of our first year [are in part:]

Program Director Cecil Paul was instrumental in establishing the Family Care & Enrichment Center in Boston which is now fully operable and functioning on its own.

Editorial Director David Best was involved in an on-site visit to Nicaragua which resulted in the featured issue on Nicaragua in *Radix* magazine. As a result of this effort, *Radix* readers were better informed about the key issues facing the church in the U.S. and Nicaragua.

It has been my privilege to work on structuring the organization and checking out what it is we need to do.

. . .

In a day when people are very much concerned about "What's in it for me?" kind of living, Towel & Basin offers a vehicle to challenge individuals to reexamine servant relationships.

Mike Estep
Executive Director

Over the past 20 years, office location and programs have changed, but never the underlying vision.

Towel & Basin still strives to call the Christian community to the life-validating vocation of servant to God's world. We continue to help persons answer what the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., called "Life's most urgent question: What are you doing for others?"

In all this, we humbly pray: "Lord, make us instruments of your peace."

Experiencing Success and Significance Through Serving

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: The only ones among you who will be truly happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

ALBERT SCHWEITZER

"Whoever would be great among you must be your servant."

JESUS CHRIST

Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love. And you can be that servant.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

GIVE A GIFT THAT GIVES TWICE

Each of these resources will inspire and encourage you, or someone you love. And, with each purchase, your gift also helps support the ministries of Towel & Basin.



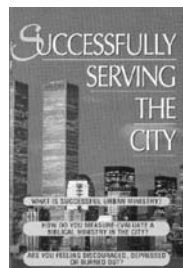
Happy is the Man Who Knows the Lord

A classic collection of music from the West Coast Jesus Movement era by a pioneer group of the "California country" sound and today's contemporary Christian music.



One More Ride

Features songs from three decades of making music and a tribute to Dana Walling. A portion from each sale of *One More Ride* benefits Dana's scholarship fund at Point Loma Nazarene University.



Successfully Serving the City

An audio book written and recorded by David Best. Six sessions filled with practical, proven steps for living and serving in today's metropolitan communities. Visit TowelandBasin.org (go to "Resources") for more details on the sessions and comments from those who have used this unique resource.

\$8.00 Holiday Special (regularly \$12)
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Get either CD for \$16. Or two for \$22 (\$2 shipping/handling for first CD and \$1 more for each additional). And you can get both music CDs and audio book for a special holiday price of only \$25 (plus \$4 for shipping/handling).

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or use the online order form at www.TowelandBasin.org (Click on "Resources")

UPCOMING TOWEL & BASIN ACTIVITIES (Partial List)

December 9, 2004

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

Cleveland Park Neighborhood Association
Nashville, Tennessee
Community and leadership development

December 10, 2004

Towel & Basin, Inc.
Board of Directors Annual Meeting
Aliso Viejo, California

December 11, 2004

20th Anniversary Dessert Reception
San Diego Area
Point Loma Nazarene University
President's Dining Room
San Diego, California
Dr. Bob Brower, host

December 12, 2004

20th Anniversary Luncheon - Los Angeles Area
Glendora Community Church
Glendora, California
Dr. Dick Pritchard, host

December 12 and 19, 2004

Glendora Community Church
645 N. Grand Ave.
Glendora, California
Tel: 626.963.7637
David Best preaching at both morning services

January 4-8, 2005

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

January 13, 2005

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

Cleveland Park Neighborhood Association
Nashville, Tennessee
Community and leadership development

January 18-19, 2005

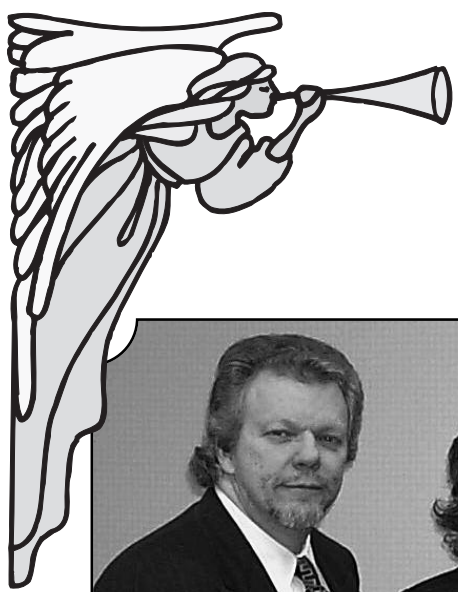
Bresee Institute for Metro Ministries
Kansas City, Missouri
Consultations & board development
(For Bresee Institute go to
www.TowelandBasin.org and click on "Links")

January 28-30, 2005

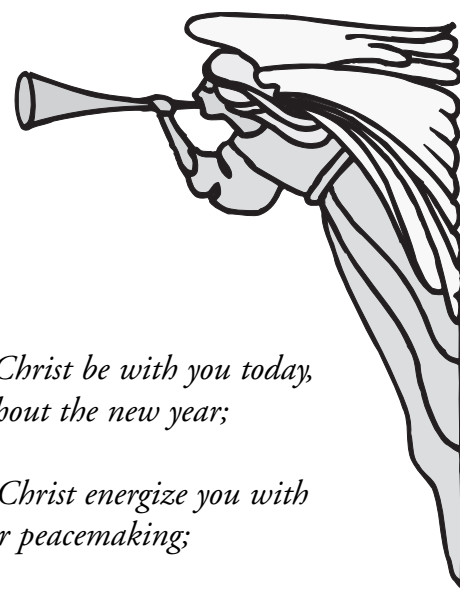
CompassionWorks Conference & Retreat
Chicago, Illinois
Towel & Basin is a conference sponsor
David Best will be leading workshops
(For YouthPartnersNet go to
www.TowelandBasin.org and click on "Links")

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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.*



“And the angel said to them,
 ‘Be not afraid; for behold, I
 bring you good news of a great
 joy which will come to all the
 people;” Luke 2:10



*May the peace of Christ be with you today,
 and throughout the new year;*

*May the spirit of Christ energize you with
 power for peacemaking;*

*May the mind of Christ be in you choosing
 obedience for serving your community
 through doing justice, loving mercy and
 walking humbly with God.*

David & Marilyn Best