

S.T.E.P LITERARY JOURNAL

Collected works from the Wayfarer Center

If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes . . .



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These are our thoughts and our words . . . that we wanted to share with you . . .

...I would have never believed it!

When I was driving tow truck in 2000 on I-5 just southeast of Woodland. It was really foggy and there was a big accident of cars, trucks, and diesel trucks that had crashed and caught on fire. I was one tow truck drivers called to the scene to help clear it up. All the tow truck drivers, ambulance, fire trucks, and highway patrol personnel had to sit there from about 6 a.m. to noon for the fog to lift. When it lifted I-5 looked like looked like a junkyard. When the fires were out we, the tow truck drivers, helped each other to put the burt and unburnt cars on the flatbeds and take them to the highway patrol yard and put them back the same way they were on the Interstate. I never seen so much twisted metal and the most disturbing was seeing burnt bodies of adults and children. It's something I never want to see again.

...John Smith

The birth of my children was the most miraculous experience that I got to experience in my life. I always knew that it was a miracle but seeing it with my own eyes made me believe again in so many ways it's the most beautiful thing in the universe and nothing compares to it.

...Eric

I wouldn't have believed it when 17 years old I remember when a rig went off the over pass going to Sac and me and my brother stopped cause there was a crash and there was a van on fire with kids in it. But we got the mom out but we couldn't get them out cause it was too late.

...Dionicio Vasquez

The Miracle of Life!

Seeing my son born by c-section 9 years ago watching him pulled out of his mom's abdomen and taking his first breath of air into his lungs. Prior to his birth, sonograms could not reveal his sex, so we had 2 names chosen: Casey + Kalie. Obviously he was a Casey, as the doctor as we was born!

...Mark Van Note.

I had my heart attack I truly believe I died. I saw parents the exact way they looked the last time I saw them alive in 1969. I saw my wedding to my son's father, the premature birth of my son and as he grew up. When I came to I was being shocked back to life.

...Lavada Blyth.

An invisible wall that I know I can't see

I've been depressed of this week.

My tears, my heart, my pride has been shattered But hope, faith, and God is all that matters

Standing close to a hole
I slip and I fall
Nothing but darkness and a
crack in the wall
My sanity is gone I now it's
not right

So I get close to the crack and see a think light

I dig and I dig and I dig in the wall

On the other side there is hope after all

... Ricardo

When I feel smug I'm laid back from assurance of things will get done or they are already taken care of. Smug is confident and relax. It is two feeling in one.

...Ricardo



... I never would have believe it!

I grew up on the San Andreas earthquake fault. As a child, I experienced quite a few earthquakes. As early as I can remember, I knew as a very small child what to do in the event of an earthquake. It was normal as a child growing up in elementary school to have earthquake drills rather than fire drills. We were taught to get under our desks if there was an earthquake and if we were at home, to get under the door frames and brace yourself until the shaking stops.

I can remember in 1989 we were on a camping trip in the Santa Cruz Mountains. There was this horrible rumble coming from the valley, I could see animals darting out of the woods and running to higher ground. I began to feel the earth tremble and I ran with my brothers to our mom and dad's tent. My dad, who always remained calm, told all of us to get underneath the picnic table and hold on. I was so scared. I had never experienced an earthquake like this before. There were mudslides coming down the hill towards our campsite, trees were falling down and it was really, really loud and scary for me. Once the earthquake stopped, we were actually 100 feet from our original camp. My dad told us we were going to have to leave as soon as possible. Once we made it back tour camper and were on the road to get out of the mountains, we reached a part of the road that had split due to the earthquake. I have never seen the earth split like that in my life. We had no way to get out of the mountains and we ended up staying in our camper for 7 days. Thank God for the crew of workers who came to rescue us by building over the damaged cracked roads so we could carefully drive across and head home. I will never forget those 7 days for as long as I live.

... Ruthie Fields

It was a rainy day Jan 22 . . .

I woke up today to a very rainy and gloomy day and to myself I thought "I hope my day wouldn't be as gloomy, but all and all it turned to be a good day, but a little wet mostly on me.

. . .Frank

Today was a rainy day... but I did a good think today...I helpe a friend get something back that was lost.

. . . Tamara

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RAINRAIN ... RAIN ...

It was a rainy day today. I like the rain, especially when I see a rainbow when the sun finally breaks through. However when it rains, I find that I have lot laziness, and I don't want to be outside. I prefer to be inside. The rain makes me remember the story of the "Cat in the Hat". Today was a rain day.

... Ruthie Fields

I woke up from a dream and I wash up then I looked outside to see that it was raining outside. When I look out the rain, it reminds me of how good it feels to be free, cause when you're behind the wall it doesn't feel the same.

... Dionicio Vasquez

The rain today was miserable, especially when you don't have the gas to go nowhere made my day a bad day. On a raind day I like to be inside where I can relax and watch T.V. Bu this rainy day was bad because I called around for an apartment and got nothing but negative results. I guess it was the weather and that but me in a bad mood. Tonight I am getting in a better mood because I realize that I can't let the negativity get to me. Tomorrow is another day. All I want to do right now is go to sleep and forget about this day and prepare for Friday.

... John Smith

NEVER ALONE

My heart tho broken is fixable. The pain and sorrow visible only to the eyes of those whos hearts are linked to mine from some experience or another. From your heart to mine our emotins, our experience, our fate has been intertwined to see each other in new lights which none else can see.

From you to me and me to you, emotions from the heart can never be beat, there raw and from the core and sometimes you can't take more. While letting your masks fall to the floor, but you hide your true face stained with blood, sweat and tears; dry your eyes little one, your no longer in that oubliette alone. I'm here, my hand in the dark gripping yours letting you know that I am real.

Copywritten by Joshua Aaron Byrd

P.S. to all my friends who read this and for anyone who has ever needed someone to grab ahold of and hold onto. I feel your pain and I empathize with and for you. I love you all unconditionally and I hold my hand out to you.

ALONE

Internal loneliness, let down by humanity once again, I trusted once again, I fell, it hurts, when my soul crys, this time, nobody hears. I no longer am a mother, a daughter, a sister, I am invisible. I am homeless for now.

Anginette Sullivan

The writings found in this journal are the original work of the writers. They have signed release forms and have given permission to the Woodland Public Library Literacy Service and the Yolo Wayfarer Center to publish their work both in print and in electronic media. By signing this release they retain ownership of the work but understand they will receive no compensation for the work and release both organizations from any legal liabilities.





Editors note . . .

This is the eight edition of the Wayfarer Literary Journal, and I am very proud of the work within these pages. The pieces are a product of the "writing class" Mike Elfant teaches on Monday and Thursday nights, and the words are those of the author's, as written with all the humor, passion, sadness and joy that goes with them. I am proud not only of the work itself, but of the openness and courage it takes to share them.

HOMELESSNESS . . .

People need to look at someone who is homeless and realize that they are people. We are not a group of people that the world needs to be afraid of. People who live in nice houses and drive nice cars also commit crimes and some have drug problems. Some even steal and no one would ever look twice at a man and woman driving a nice car, but you see a man and a woman walking down the street with a bag of clothes and they would be looked at with shame! We may have went down the wrong path, but everyone walking or driving goes down the same path. We are all the same. Treat me like you treat your neighbor, with respect.

... Roddy Abeyta

For the Homeless, it is a Citizen that is trying to make it in life and still survive. Striving to succeed in life for themselves and the ones they love most. Waiting patiently for an opportunity to arrive, knowing to keep all eyes, ears and heart open and ready for everything.

I did not choose to be where I am (homeless) but I know you have to start at the bottom to get to the top. For me I want to see where I am so I don't make the mistakes so many wish to take back.

Being homeless isn't just sleeping outside. It's hard work, you have to be willing to do what it takes day by day. If there is a will there is a way. We want to do as those who have homes; work, eat, enjoy life and be loved. We have nothing, but yet we still survive. There is some that went from rags to riches. I have that same motive.

. . . Joseph Rojas