



You First

Learning to put yourself first is often mischaracterized as an act of selfishness, yet it is arguably the most vital component of long-term well-being and effective contribution to others. For many, the impulse to prioritize the needs, schedules, and expectations of everyone else is deeply ingrained. However, failing to prioritize one's own mental, physical, and emotional health eventually leads to burnout, resentment, and a diminished capacity to help the very people we care about.

BY JAE WEBB



Spoken Word

The best revenge is a life well-lived full of love, laughter, and positive anticipation for what is yet to come. Don't allow the actions of those with loose morals and a lack of consideration for the people around them to become the lens through which you view everyone else. Most people are good and are looking for the same things you are: friendship, connection, bonding, and brotherhood.

Where one friendship doesn't work out, there's another person around the corner waiting to pick up the slack. Your people are out there. It's up to you to take the initiative and go find them, because they are also looking for you.

BY JANE



STREET VOICES

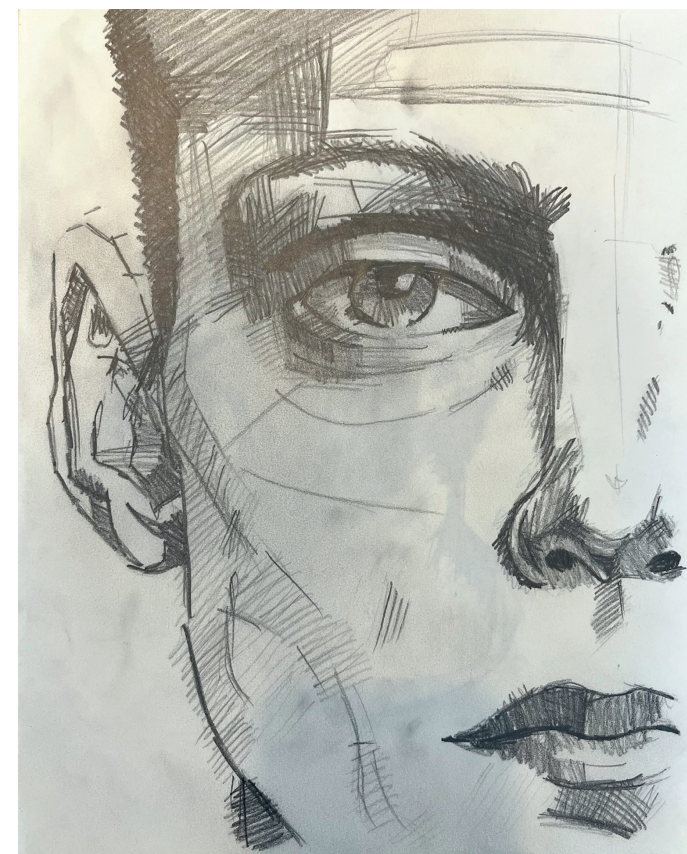
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Community Newsletter

This week's collection brings together reflections, poetry, spoken word, and spiritual encouragement centered on faith, compassion, perseverance, self-worth, and humanity. Featured writers include Denston Hinds, Mercedes, Mike Gonzalez, Jae Webb, Rhyan Scorpio-Rhys, Jane, Cora Shaw, and Martian Barrien. Artwork featured by Joseph Richardson and Derrick Lola adds another creative layer to this edition, helping capture the emotion and spirit behind each piece.



Artwork by Joseph Richardson

*Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust and not be afraid.
The Lord, the Lord himself, is my
strength and my defense
he has become my salvation.*

ISAIAH 12:2 NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

WEEKLY TRIVIA CHALLENGE

Be the first person to correctly answer all three trivia questions and win a gift card!

This Week's Trivia Questions

1. Which animal can survive the longest without water?
2. What is the only edible food that never spoils?
3. Which planet in our solar system has the longest day?

Answers to Last Week's Trivia Questions

1. Who wrote the play Romeo and Juliet?
William Shakespeare wrote the play Romeo and Juliet.
2. Which country gifted the Statue of Liberty to the United States?
France gifted the Statue of Liberty to the United States.
3. Which ocean is the deepest in the world?
The Pacific Ocean is the deepest ocean in the world.

We're all brothers and sisters, and we have to lift each other up so we can do better and become better. We have to be our best selves and keep going, and we need encouragement to do this. Life is very hard for most of us, so we need encouraging and kind words to keep us motivated and keep us on our feet when we feel defeated. Wise words from our God once again on how we should treat each other.

BY CORA SHAW

FRANCISCAN 360 IS OPEN!

WHAT: Case Management, Computer Access, Mailing Address

WHERE: 144 W. 32nd Street

WHEN: Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 4pm
Scheduled appointments only on Friday from 9am - 4pm

WHO: All are welcome!

If you have any content to share for our newsletter please send content to streetvoicesnewsletter@gmail.com. We are in need of content such as a poem, lyrics, writing, thoughts, questions, image of your artwork or anything uplifting or informative. Anyone who contributes content for our newsletter will receive a \$10 gift card.

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God's Love

God loves you, he loves the good that you do
We are all just human, trying to see this thing through
In the day, we try our best, put everything to the test
And when we achieve what we want, we make do with the rest
Extra consideration is often times needed
Because at the end of the day, we're all just regular people
We all do our best, put our dreams to the test
We're all going to make it, it's what God loves best
God loves you and the world does too
Just make sure that YOU love what you do

BY DENSTON HINDS



Artwork by Derrick Lola

For years, I was a mirror, polished bright, reflecting every need that came my way. I walked on eggshells through the quiet night to keep the shadows of your storms at bay.

My voice was just an echo in the hall, a muted note within a grand design. I built the chairs so others would not fall, while never claiming any space as mine.

I measured worth in how much I could give, in hollowed chests and hands worn down to bone. I thought that was the only way to live to be the soil where others' seeds were sown.

But gardens perish when the wells run dry, and silent martyrs crumble into dust. I watched the seasons of my life go by, betraying self to earn a stranger's trust.

BY MARTIAN BARRIEN



Invisible People

People pass by with sharpened eyes, treating worn blankets like stains on the city. They clutch purses tighter, avoid every greeting, as though hunger itself were a contagious disease.

A man beneath cardboard becomes invisible trash, a woman beside traffic becomes another broken sign.

The world forgets they once carried dreams, held children, kissed lovers, laughed through hard winters.

Cruel whispers turn suffering into entertainment, while comfort hides behind locked apartment doors.

Yet every homeless soul still carries a heartbeat, still feels cold rain and sleepless humiliation.

The cruelest poverty is not empty pockets alone, but strangers deciding someone deserves less humanity. Compassion fades whenever fear becomes more fashionable than understanding on crowded sidewalks filled with people pretending mercy no longer matters.

BY MIKE GONZALEZ

Weather as Teacher

Weather does not ask our permission.

Rain comes when it comes. Heat settles in. Wind rises. Snow interrupts every plan we made as if our calendars were never consulted.

Maybe that is why weather can teach us something spiritual. It reminds us that we are not in charge of everything.

A storm teaches endurance. Not the dramatic kind. The ordinary kind. The kind that says, stay inside if you can. Keep the light on. Wait it out. Not every storm is meant to be conquered. Some are meant to be survived with your soul intact.

Winter teaches waiting. Bare branches are not dead just because they look empty. The earth knows how to do hidden work. So does God. So do we, even when nothing in us appears to be blooming.

BY RHYAN SCORPIO-RHYS



Reflection

It's easy to be saved. All we have to do is declare that Jesus is Lord. We have to know that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and He died for us so that we could have a chance to live a mortal life on earth, follow His words, and rejoin Him in heaven after our mortal deaths. Read your scriptures and you will know the truth. God's word is final and infinite. If you follow His words and believe they're true in your heart, you will be saved and you can't go wrong.

BY MERCEDES

