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Steve

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Untitled

Part of my Journey through life

I was born in Vermillion, South dakota. I had 2 sisters, both older and two younger brothers. Mom and Dad both worked full time. Dad worked at the University of south dakota in public broadcasting. He was a pioneer in South dakota public tv and radio. Mom was a registered nurse. ^{NOTE, If you look up History of South Dakota} My home life was a happy one though Dad was never much for conversation. ^{Dakota Public Broad casting you'll see} School life was quite different. being picked on at school was something that happened alot. I quit school after the 8th grade. I went back some years later and got a GED.

When I was 16 I ran away from home and hitchhiked to Kansas city and went to ^{the} my Aunt's house. Mom and Grandpa came to pick me up. If I had known how ^{name} much it would have hurt my Mom, I never would have run away.

in 75 I thought i'd go out and check things out, so i started hitchhiking, I went up to north dakota and then headed east. I traveled to Maine and then south to NYC, it was my first time there, and I walked up the stairs to the crown of the statue of liberty. that was a day i'll never for get. Key west ,Florida was my next stop. I ended up traveling around the outside of the United states finally ending up back in North dakota and heading home to vermillion. the trip all together took 6 months. I'd stop in different towns and cities, work for a few days, a week or so, get up a road stake and head back out on the highway

I got a job at the University of South dakota . I started there in March of 77. 13 months later , I decided to head back out on the highway. Mom never understood it. but she said I had a wanderlust. I headed east again stopped in indianapolis, had a chance to see the indy 500 in person.that was cool. from there I went to ohio. I ended up out in California before deciding to head back home to South dakota. I'm glad I decided to stay in Vermillion for awhile at that point. It was Christmas day of 79. we were over at my sister Dorothy's house. Mom was there.

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It turned out to be the last time I ever saw her alive. after Christmas she went to florida to see her sister, and then she had to go to omaha to the hospital. she spent three weeks in the hospital before she passed away on Jan 26th. I miss Mom, she was the greatest.

Life on the street wasn't all bad, there was some good out there.

One of the bad things was the day I was in Georgia, out in the country on the shoulder of an interstate highway. I was standing next to the guard rail just off the shoulder. As a car was passing I saw the muzzle flash and heard the shot. the bullet hit the guard rail less then a foot away from my leg.

a few days after that I arrived in San diego. spent a couple days there. You are not able to do this anymore, but In san diego i went to the county and the next day I had a check for 179 dollars and food stamps, I sold the food stamps. then i went to the next town , a day later i had a check and food stamps. In some towns it only took a couple hours. In other towns it would take a day. I had arrived in san diego with a pack of cigarettes and a couple dollars in my pockets. I left northern california with over 1400 dollars in my pockets.

I went from there to my second trip to Alaska.

In 87 I stopped in Saint paul for a couple weeks. I really enjoyed saint paul. which was probably why I chose saint paul a couple years later to make that my home. Whenever I would get to a town or city, i went about finding homeless shelters and gospel missions that provided food and shelter. unless I was out on the road I'd sleep under interstate overpasses. there were times when a shelter or mission wasn't available , but a boarded up house was,so that came in handy. One night I stayed in a cave in california on the coast. that was cool watching the sunset and then seeing the waves roll in under the moonlight.

I've had successes and failures in life, same as anyone else. Since arriving in Saint paul,

I stopped a couple people from burning an American flag by taking the flag and

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running. I got beat up by trying to stop a guy burning a flag,
I moved into my own place in saint paul, it wasn't much but it was my first place
here and it was mine. I was married to katie for 7 years, we were together for 8
years. She passed away from breast cancer. I've filed bankruptcy twice since 89.
I met Linda, we've been together for almost 12 years. I am now in my second
home.

Being homeless , living on the street, life on the road, whatever a person chooses
to call it is very real. It is a part of my life that I will never forget. It is a part of
my life I would never ever want to return to. With God's help and some hard
work I'm not out there anymore.

Now I have my recliner and big screen tv as one thing i've noticed over the years,
A roof is a wonderful thing to have.

today is about living your life in the present, remembering the past for what it
was, and looking forward to the future and the good that has happened, is
happening, and will happen.

Thank you.

Steven Prusha

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