

MICHAEL BRYANT

THE LIFE YOU SAVE MAY BE YOUR OWN



3/24/21

The York Region and South Simcoe HSJCC presents:
**Pathways to
resilience beyond
the Justice system**

THANK YOU

WWW.MICHAELBRYANT.COM

MICHAELBRYANT@ME.COM

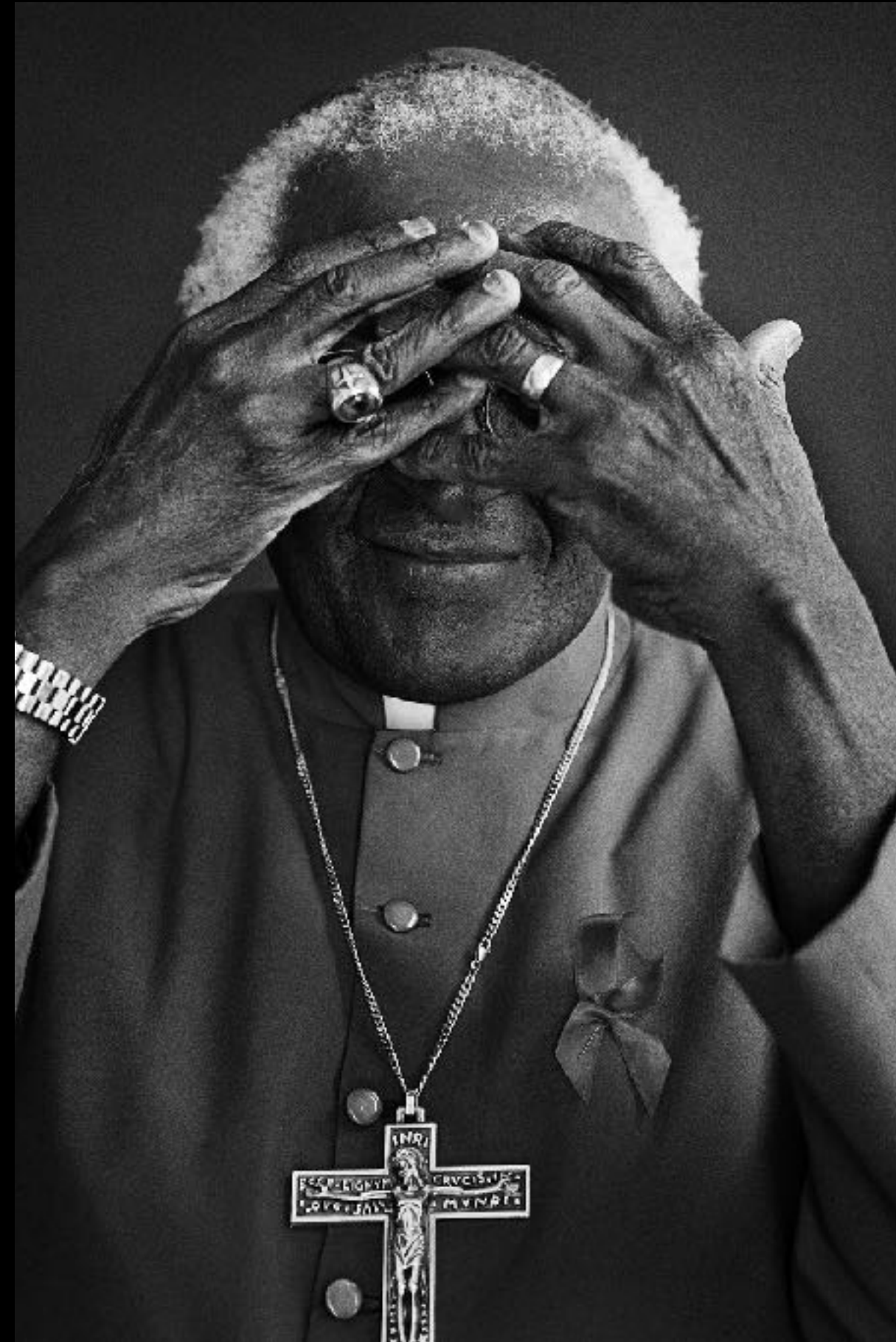
TALE OF TWO



- social safety net or dragnet?
- are we educating and healing?
- or are we arresting and jailing?

STIGMA

"The first thought that came to my mind was 'Hey, there's no white men in that cockpit. Are those blacks going to be able to make it?'"







A photograph of a city street at night. A prominent neon sign in the shape of a martini glass is mounted on a brick building. The sign is illuminated with a bright blue light. Below the glass, the word "AZUC" is visible. To the left, a street sign reads "LOW-ANGLE NO PARKING ANY TIME". The street is dark, and a few cars are visible in the distance. The overall atmosphere is dark and urban.

March 7, 2006

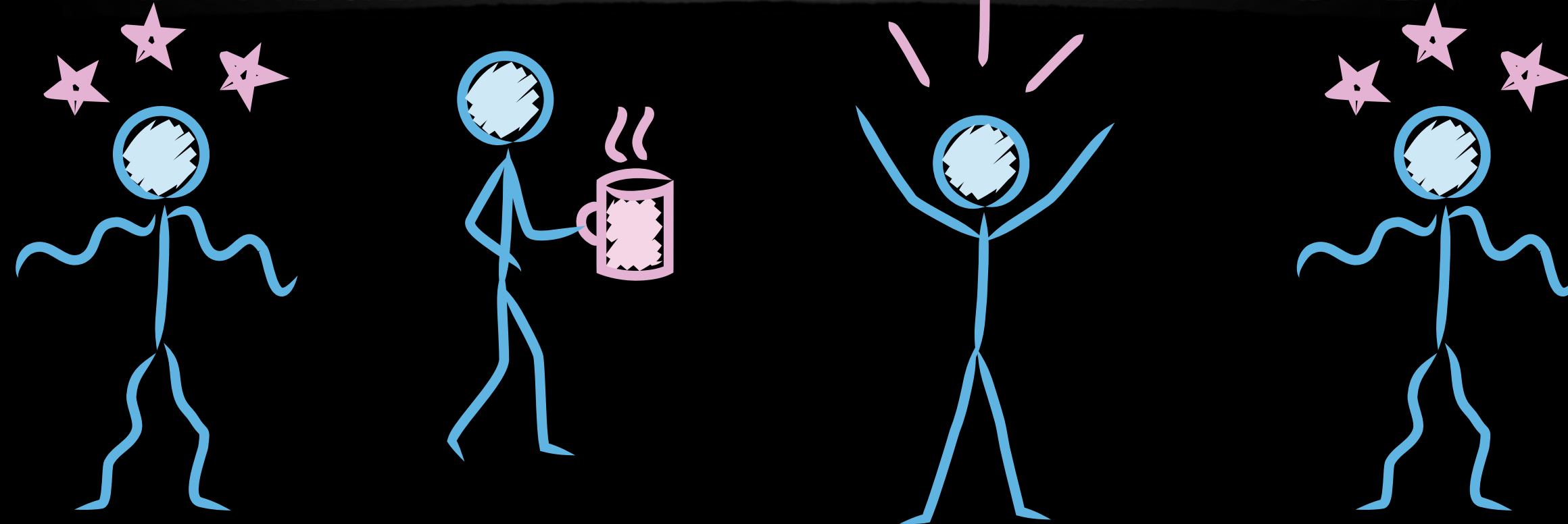


August 31, 2009



“Compassion is not
a relationship
between the healer
and the wounded.
It's a covenant
between equals.”

– FR. GREGORY BOYLE



SCIENCE, PHYSICS, METAPHORS

MENTAL
ILLNESS

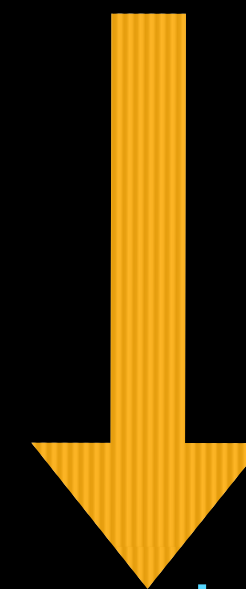
=

depression

anxiety

addiction/alcoholism

20% or more



schizophrenia

1%

“Many [mental health] impairments have been recognized as disabilities under the *Human Rights Code*, including anxiety, panic attacks, depression, schizophrenia, alcohol dependence, and addictions to illegal drugs. .”

- ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION

ADDICTION

what is it?

“the Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine:
A **primary, chronic disease**, characterized by
impaired control over the use of a
psychoactive substance... Like other chronic
diseases, it can be progressive, relapsing and
fatal.”

–CHIEF JUSTICE OF CANADA

CANADA (A.-G.)

v.

PHS COMMUNITY SERVICES SOCIETY (2011) SCC 44

COMORBIDITY

- up to 50% of addicts have comorbid **psychiatric disorder**.
- 25-50% of alcoholics meet criteria for an **anxiety disorder**.

Kaplan & Sadock's Synopsis of Psychiatry, 11th ed.

“IF WE AGREE THAT IT’S A
DISEASE, SHOULDN’T WE
MAKE TREATMENT THE
FIRST PRIORITY AND
PUNISHMENT THE
SECOND?”





**then let's take
off the cuffs**

MENTAL HEALTH DIAGNOSIS/TREATMENT

- no universal screening
- tons of pharmacology
- psychology/group
- some brain scan/stimulation

ADDICTION TREATMENT & REHAB

- abstinence
- harm reduction
- pharmacological
- counselling/therapy
- 12 Step
- in-patient/out-patient

DUMP PROJECT CONVERSION

- stop the debating over treatment efficacy.
- create communion, harmony, understanding, respect, compassion for everyone in the human family, especially those in pain, and especially those not of your tradition.

PAIN'S PLURALISM DESERVES TREATMENT PLURALISM

- respect for autonomy
- beneficence
- nonmaleficence
- fairness
- humility: no healers, no wounded



IDENTIFY

- WITH YOUR STIGMA
- WITH THE PAIN
- BY EXERCISING
COMPASSION, NOT
SYMPATHY OR BIAS

“We must learn to regard
people less in the light of
what they do or omit to do,
and more in the light of
what they suffer. .”

–DEITRICH BONHOEFFER

WWW.MICHAELBRYANT.COM

MICHAELBRYANT@ME.COM