
BSTTW TEEN NEWS

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BSTTW OPENING DOORS

Thanks To The Profile Manger

By: Michael Appleman, CEO

Burn Survivors Throughout The World, Inc. (BSTTW) is an international 501 (c)(3) non profit organization. BSTTW works in many areas of the world offering face to face support, medical referrals, medical supplies, medications and support groups. BSTTW is currently working in Africa, Argentina, Canada, Egypt, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Hong Kong, India, Iraq, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Slovenia, Spain, the UK, the United States and Viet Nam.

BSTTW also offers one of the top internet sites to the burn survivor community and the public world wide. Our internet site offers burn survivors and family members a support team, advocacy, membership and education. We also offer the information needed by the public to help increase their education relating to taking part in rebuilding the lives of a burn victim and fire safety.

BSTTW needed a program that would help BSTTW keep track of our members and also offer the burn survivor community a family like atmosphere. I searched the internet and found Profile Manager. It looked and sounded like the program we were looking for. I downloaded the free version and gave it a try. The profile manager worked great. We got an excellent response from the burn survivor community. The areas that members were asking

for was only in the premium version of Profile Manager. I knew that BSTTW and our members needed the upgrade. The problem was that BSTTW was in the process of raising money to transport medication and medical equipment to different areas of the world. We also had several burn victims that were in need of free medical care. The BSTTW board of directors felt that we could not pay for the upgrade to the premium version due to the fact that the money spent for an internet program could be used to help a burn victim get medications and/or medical attention. I decided not to give up hope and contacted Interlogy Internet Technologies, LLC (IIT). I spoke to Aytakin Tank from IIT and explained BSTTW's situation and the work we are doing to save lives and asked for their support. Mr. Tank reviewed BSTTW and informed me that IIT was very interested in the work that BSTTW was doing to help rebuild the lives of people who suffered a burn injury. Mr. Tank also informed me that IIT wanted to take part in helping not only BSTTW but the burn survivor community. The Profile Manager Premium version was donated to BSTTW. Immediately I

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A FAMILY AROUND THE WORLD

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upgraded the site and informed our current members, email lists and others about our new membership. We received a very positive response.

I would like to tell all of you that are reading this article that the Profile Manager Premium program offers the webmaster and the registered members options that most other programs do not. Your members are protected, you have a choice to accept or deny membership and control existing member's actions.

With the use of the professional version, BSTTW was able to offer our members the availability to search out other burn injuries that had similar burn injuries and family members are able to find other family members. Both burn survivors and family members can contact each other in order to not only gather the support and information needed but to also make new friends. All of our members can also upload pictures, visually see what each other looks like and meet each other in a private and secure chat room.

Below are a few quotes from our members:

1. "Before we only filled out an e-form. Today after the e-form is sent, we go directly to the membership sign in. I signed in and it was great to see a list of o their members that I could talk to."
2. "I was so happy to receive an email from another member. This helped me to feel that the support was truly available."
3. "Since the membership is private, I feel more secure uploading pictures for others to see."

The BSTTW board of directors would not only like to publicly thank Aytekin Tank and Interlogy Internet Technologies, LLC, BSTTW would like to suggest that other groups, non profit organizations, elist groups and companies purchase the Profile Manager Premium program in order to offer your members and clients a stable and secure membership area.

College Fires and Staying Safe

By Delores Gempel Lekowski

Author of The Hurting Angels

Parents work hard so that they can offer their children the best education money can buy. Children work equally hard in an attempt to better themselves through a good education that will enable them to achieve a financially rewarding life. In fact, going to college is an important step toward financial freedom and establishing a sound footing into adulthood. I am sure we all agree how important a college education is to our young adults. After all, they are our future.

It takes a lot of hard work and energy to raise our children and get them off to college. Once they are away from home and out on their own, they must then take responsibility for their own safety. As parents, we need to instill the importance of fire safety and teach our children to be pro-active in fire prevention. They must be aware of the dangers and know how to react if something should go wrong. They need to take these dangers as seriously as they take their Psychology 101 class, instead of assuming that a fire will never happen to them. The reality is that fires do occur at colleges, and too many bright young adults have lost their lives as a result of fires in dorms and off campus housing. While colleges and universities are taking steps to ensure the safety of students, it is up to the students themselves take a more active role in their personal safety. Some students were recently interviewed about their concerns about campus fires and what they would do in the event of a fire. It was shocking to hear how casual they were about the subject. Several had never thought about it before. Some said it would never happen, so why should they worry about it? Others said that the fire alarm goes off so many times that they just ignore it when it goes off now. It seems that some students think it is funny to set off fire alarms for no reason, and frequent false alarms encourage other students to ignore them. Students who pull alarms as a joke should be made aware that it is both unsafe and criminal to do so, and the behavior can be cause for

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termination from college.

Fact: Most fires can be prevented and happen as a result of carelessness.

- A cigarette thoughtlessly discarded in the trash spells tragedy.
- Someone passes out with a lit cigarette and a fire is born.
- A lit candle in a room with drinking students is a prescription for disaster.
- Designate someone who doesn't drink to monitor house safety. This person can discard the trash and check to make sure it is not smoldering. This person can be the one in control to make sure everyone stays safe.
- Don't let carelessness end your life at the very beginning of your adulthood.

Fact: A fire gets out of control in three minutes and doubles in size every thirty seconds.

- Just because you are housed in a brick building, don't think that it won't burn. The furnishings, curtains, carpeting, bedding, books and everything else in a dorm feeds fire and produces deadly smoke.
- Don't block exits.
- Don't overload electrical outlets.
- Routinely check smoke alarm batteries, and never purposely take out the batteries to keep it from going off while you are cooking.

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- It would be smart to purchase a fire extinguisher. In fact, this should be the first thing you put in your dorm when you start college.
- Assume every fire alarm is the real thing, because it just might be.

When you hear the alarm:

1. GET OUT! Don't try to save your stuff and don't make any phone calls to warn the fire department or friends - JUST MOVE!
2. Touch the door with the back of your hand to feel if it is hot.
3. If your door feels hot or there is thick smoke in the hallways and you are too high to jump out of a window, call attention to yourself by waving and yelling for help to let others know you are trapped.

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4. Know where the exits are at all times.
 5. If there is smoke, CRAWL.
 6. If an alarm is on your way out, pull it, if not, don't waste valuable time looking for one.
 7. Once out of the building, call for help.
- Just as parents take an active role in securing a college education for their children, they also need to take an active role in ensuring their safety while in college.

Many colleges and universities have installed fire sprinklers while others haven't. It is common

knowledge that a fire sprinkler system stops fires from spreading and saves lives. If your child's

dorm or other campus housing does not have sprinklers installed, voice your concern. When you

send your children off to college, make sure you encourage them to take an active role in their own fire safety. Arm them with smoke alarm batteries and a fire extinguisher. Ask questions. Find out what fire preventions the school has in place, what the fire procedures are and how often students are informed about the procedures.

Off campus housing is not required to follow the same fire safety procedures as dorms and is not required to install sprinkler systems. Your kids have to be just as vigilant, maybe more vigilant, in alternative housing as they are in college dorms. In fact, since off campus housing is not required to install fire sprinklers or fire alarms, students should take it upon themselves to create their own escape plan, and if they are on a third floor or higher, they should consider buying a fire escape ladder.

While we want our children to experience all phases of their new college life - the good times and challenges, educational growth and new friendships - we also want them to come home.



BSTTW is part of the United Way of Lee County Florida and eBay Giving Works.

NEVER DESPAIR

By: Richard (Iron) Baayeh

At 21 years of age, I was enjoying fame as a junior national athlete. The stakes were high for me in the athletic field, as far as the future is concerned. I was determined to build a wonderful career as an outstanding athlete. I was toying with becoming a professional and most of all A World Champion in the 100 and 200meters fields.

The outlook was good for me and I had already established myself as a junior national. I had worked hard to secure college admission and an athletics scholarship with the Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA. But, all this while, little did I know that my life would only become sweet after I have tasted the bitter side of it first.

Then on November 14th, 2000, my entire world came crumbling down like an earthquake hitting a bridge. I was helping my mother and within a split second my legs were on fire. I suffered severe burns to both my legs. All I saw was my future burning up from the waist down. I was rushed to the hospital. I did not want to face that my athletic future and my education in the USA may never become a reality. After over eight long rough months in the hospital, I returned home to start the second phase of healing, recovery, and rehabilitation. I thank God that my family was at my side. During these period I thought that for all practical purposes my life has come to an end. I had lost the enthusiasm with which I used to live my life. As night and day came and went I grew terribly depressed, frustrated, confused, and most of all I felt empty inside. I was unable to recognize that my misfortunes do not mean the end of the world. The world would go on with or without me. If I would leave the past behind the better my life would be.

I began to realize that my biggest mistake since I left the hospital was that I kept God

out of the recovery process. I forgot that God was the one who preserved my life. Sometimes I wondered if God really loved me. I reunited with God and began to live for him. I allowed God's words to teach me that he loved me as much as everyone else. I remembered that God's love for each one of us caused him to teach and save us all through Jesus Christ His own son. The scriptures are clear - God has an infinite love for each of us – and this includes burns victims like you and me and those who are not.

The world and the entire universe are the creation of Eternal God. Nothing happens that he is not completely aware of. It is an incredible thought to understand that the God who created the universe knows each of us by name. He constantly extends his divine hand to hold us, to lift us up, and to encourage us by His wonderful love.

Pain and suffering are not part of God's ideal world. Isaiah tells us that in the new earth, "the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more. With God in mind, my rebuilding started in earnest. So I lived one day at a time. It became my fervent prayer that God should give me strength to live. Things changed tremendously and I was beginning to live with a sense of purpose.

It was late October just eleven months after my accident that I reached my recovery. This was much faster than anticipated. My mind and legs were well enough to begin running again. I started jogging in the hills near my home. I began to imagine that I would be back racing again, winning the gold medal and becoming a world class athlete. Time flew by and my will to live grew stronger. My perceptions about the misfortunes I suffered were gradually fading out of my memory. The pent-up fear I had inside since the burn injury occurred had dissipated. Healing continued at a tremendous pace, and now I was enjoying not only the recovery but my growing relationship with Jesus Christ. I wanted everything God Had to offer me in athletics, in spirit, and in life.

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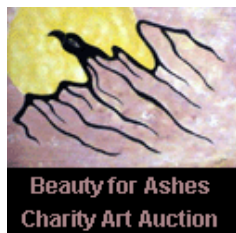
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As for my scars, they remind me of God's love for me and every burn survivor. If God didn't love me I would have died. I feel that it is also the same for every other burn survivor.

I did return back to the athletic field in Ghana. I took part in the 2004 Ghana Athletic Games. I had to make several changes in my goals. Due to the fact that my legs were not as good as they were before the burn injury, I had to use more of my upper body. I became a discus thrower. And I won the Gold Metal. What a great feeling. My life was not over. And your life is not over. You might have to make new goals but you can reach them, thank God and enjoy your second chance in life.

I might never be a world athletic champion. But one thing I do know is that God will help me achieve something even bigger than world championship for the mutual benefit of mankind. All you and I need is to pray for Life and seek God and all other things shall be added unto us. May the God lord Bless us all. Amen.

Beauty for Ashes Charity Art Auction
TAKE PART WITH **BSTTW** AND RAISE THE FUNDS NEEDED TO REBUILD THE LIVES OF OUR CURRENT & FUTURE BURN VICTIMS AND BURN SURVIVORS



The **BSTTW** Beauty for Ashes Charity Art Auction on eBay Giving Works is from June 7th through June 21, 2005. Over 100 artists from the Worldwide Women Artists Organization (WWAO) has started the Beauty for Ashes Charity Art Auction in order to join **BSTTW** and rebuild the lives of our current and future burn survivors.

These artists understand, care for and love everyone who suffers a burn injury. **BSTTW** and the WWAO asks you to take part in this auction.

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Survey to Measure Satisfaction with Internet Social Support Following a Burn Injury

By: Cheryl Inmon Long

You are invited to participate in a study about the everyday social experiences, sources of support, and coping strategies among adult burn survivors. If you are a burn survivor at least 18 years old, you are invited to participate in the study.

- It is my hope that results of the research will provide burn professionals and the burn support community with important information about the types of support that adult burn survivors find helpful when dealing with everyday situations.
- By types of support, I am referring to support from Internet resources (like burn support listservers, chatrooms, burn support websites, etc.) or in-person types of support (like from family members, in-person burn support groups, friends, etc.).

Participation is completely voluntary. I will not ask for your name or for identifying information. The survey will take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete. Your answers will be combined with the answers from many participants and will be reported only in a group summary [for example, "more individuals liked blue than red"].

As a token of appreciation for participating in the study, you will have the option of entering a drawing for one of four \$40 gift certificates to Amazon.com. You will also have an opportunity to request a summary of the results of the study. To enter the drawing or to request a summary of results, you would need to provide either an e-mail address or a mailing address in order to receive the gift certificate if you are drawn or to receive a summary of the results. Your address in this case would only be used for the purpose of the random drawing and/or to receive the summary of results and would not be linked in any way to your answers

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CONTINUED From Page 5 “SURVEY” on the questionnaires.

Please be assured that there will be no way for me to identify you.

To participate in the study, please go to <https://www.psychdata.com/surveys.asp?SID=9369>

or alternatively, go to <https://www.psychdata.com/> and enter “9369” where it asks for the survey number. *If the survey does not open automatically, please click the “click here” directions to open it.*

If you have questions about the study, please contact me or my advisor Robert Nutt, Ph.D. at the e-mail address or the phone number below.

Cheryl Inmon Long, M.A., Doctoral Candidate
Texas Woman’s University, Counseling Psychology
Advisor: Roberta Nutt, Ph.D.

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Dr. Nutt at: rnutt@mail.twu.edu)

Cheryl Inmon Long at: cinmonlong@comcast.net

Living For Today

By: Michael Appleman

Everything seemed so good for me
I felt that my life was free

It just happened that day
I thought my life was taken away

A burn injury is the worst I know
A life I would never want to go

The pain and suffering is the worst
I thought my body had just burst

For months I lived in a daze
My body was an ugly glaze

The doctors said I would be ok
But surgery seemed to be every day

God why did this happen to me?
I always did everything for thee

Anyone who can answer the question
please let me know
This way my life will again have a
fantastic glow

Michael Appleman

If you would like to submit a poem or story to **BSTTW** you can do so by email at poems@burnsurvivorsttw.org or stories@burnsurvivorsttw.org. **BSTTW** also has a program on our internet site that allows you to submit your stories and poems electronically. You can submit the full story at www.burnsurvivorsttw.org/stories/storymaker.html and your full poem at www.burnsurvivorsttw.org/poems/poemmaker.html

Burn Prevention Education

By: Lynda Rae Fraser

I was burned over twenty years ago in an apartment fire. Very early one morning my then five year old son woke up and found some matches that someone had left behind. Like most children that age he started playing with them and soon a fire broke out in our living room. When I woke up a few minutes later he was too scared to move and so I went into the flames to get him out. As a result I would up with burns to 80% of my body, 50% of them were third degree. My son was more fortunate than me because of a quick thinking neighbor who put him into a tub of cool water. He wound up with burns to 40% of his body, 10% were third degree.

Several years ago I started talking to students at schools in my home town about my experience, usually because the local fire department invited me to attend with them. I could see that the impact on the students of hearing and seeing what can happen when you get burned from someone who had been through it was incredible. Unfortunately, at the time, no one was paying people to do this kind of burn prevention program and like most people I needed to make some money so I could feed and house myself and my son.

Then a few years ago my local burn support group started an education program and employed another burn survivor to deliver the program. At the time I was not all that active with the group and did not know about the position until a couple of years later. When the group was looking to expand the program to two educators I expressed an interest and was hired. I have no been doing this for almost two years.

I travel to schools around my province here in Canada. I talk to all grades from Kindergarten up to grade 12, gearing the presentation to the age I am talking to. I talk about the different ways people get burned (sunburn, frostbite, electrical, chemical, friction, contact, scald and fire) and what can be done to prevent these

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from happening. I talk about 'Stop, Drop and Roll and Cool the Burn'. With the older children I talk about first, second and third degree burns. Then I tell them my story – how I got burned and what my recovery was like. It depends on the age of the group how much detail I get into about the recovery. It can also depend on how the group is behaving, if it is teenagers and some of them are acting like there is nothing to this then I get really gross with them (e.g. give them a blow by blow of staple removal). I have two videos I use, one for K-4 and one for 5-12. I finish up with a question and answer period.

I get a lot of satisfaction out of my job and I get great feedback too. The teachers fill out an evaluation form for me and the comments are almost always positive. Some of the students send me thank you notes and questions they didn't get to ask while I was at their school I always answer these questions. While I may never know if I saved a life I do know that the children really listen while I am there and hopefully that translates into them being more careful.

 **BURN SURVIVORS
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD**



BSTTW CONTACT INFORMATION

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

BSTTW has a support team that is on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week to help a burn survivor, family member or firefighter deal with a burn injury and fire related emergency. You can contact **BSTTW** on the internet or by telephone. On the internet go to the **BSTTW Emergency Email E-Form** at www.burnsurvivorsttw.org/eforms/emergemail.html or the **BSTTW Support Team E-Form** at www.burnsurvivorsttw.org/eforms/supportemail.html

To contact **BSTTW** by telephone by dialing 941-364-8457 or toll free at 800-503-8058. If we are not in the office or it is after hours, you can leave us an emergency message in our voice box 44 and a support team member will respond to you within 24 hours.

BSTTW Directors

Michael Appleman: **Executive Director**
michael@burnsurvivorsttw.org

Nguyễn Thi Diêu Trân: **Director- Việt Nam**
tran@burnsurvivorsttw.org

Ariel Gonzalez: **Director- Mexico**
ariel@burnsurvivorsttw.org

DONATIONS

As a 501 (c)(3) Non Profit Organization, **BSTTW** depends on donations from corporations, organizations, families and individuals. All donations, big or small are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the United States government tax laws. **BSTTW** has several different funds that you can donate to. The **BSTTW** general fund, the *Bishop Peter Nguyen Van Nho World Wide Burned Children's Fund*, the *"Dwight Lunkley Racing To Victory" fund*, *USA & Asian Burn Camp funds*, *BSTTW Healing Weekend Fund*, *BSTTW Viet Nam Fund* and the *World Burn Congress Fund*.

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Your donations will help **BSTTW** to do what is needed to help a burn survivor, family members rebuild their lives. It will also be used for public awareness on fire safety and how the community can help a burn survivor reenter their community.

BSTTW also offers people that donate \$25.00 or higher to a free copy of the **BSTTW Music CD**. To learn more about this you should go to www.burnsurvivorsttw.org/donations/donatecd.html or www.burnsurvivorsttw.org/donations/donations.html

Remember your donations can be money, clothes, a used bicycle etc.. All will help burn survivors and their family. Many families loose their homes and property. Please personally think about and talk to your family and friends about donating to **BSTTW**.

MAKE DONATIONS PAYABLE TO & MAIL TO:

Burn Survivors Throughout The World, Inc.
650 N Beneva Road #305
Sarasota, Florida 34232

DONATE ON LINE

To learn more about donating on line go to:
www.burnsurvivorsttw.org/donations/donations.html

If you have any questions call us at 941-364-8457, toll free at 800-503-8058 or by email at:
donations@burnsurvivorsttw.org

VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME

There are many children, adults and families around the world that need support and other help. You do not have to be a burn survivor or family member to become a **BSTTW Volunteer**. All you need to do is become a **BSTTW member** and then apply to become a **BSTTW Volunteer**. If you are a burn survivor or family member, in order to become a **BSTTW Member**, fill out the **BSTTW Membership & Profile Registration E-Form** at:

www.burnsurvivorsttw.org/membership/memform.html,

Next fill out the **BSTTW Volunteer E-Form** at:
www.burnsurvivorsttw.org/volunteer/volunteer.html

If you are not a burn survivor or family member you can skip the [BSTTW Membership & Profile Registration E-Form](#) and go directly to the [BSTTW Volunteer E-Form](#).

By volunteering with [BSTTW](#), you will be taking part in rebuilding lives and helping burn survivors reenter their community.

If you have any questions, you should first review the [BSTTW Volunteer E-Form](#), after that if your questions have not been answered, you can contact [BSTTW](#) by email at volunteers@burnsurvivorsttw.org, and by telephone at 941-364-8457 or toll free at 800-503-8058.

BSTTW ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBERS:

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650 N Beneva Road #305
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(941) 364-8457
Toll Free: 800-503-8058
Fax: (941) 364-8441

Feel free to contact [BSTTW](#) if you have any questions and/or comments by using the [BSTTW Comment & Question E-Form](#) at: www.burnsurvivorsttw.org/eforms/emailform.html