



RESCUE CHATTANOOGA

News from Chattanooga Rescue Mission

EASTER ISSUE 2010

www.chattanoogarescuemission.org

924 E. 8th Street, Chattanooga, TN

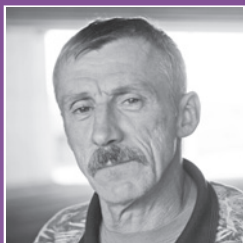
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I now hate the Devil As much as I love God!

My name is Todd. I want the first thing I say in my testimony to be directed to you who give so faithfully to the Chattanooga Rescue Mission. If it weren't for your kindness and generosity I'd still be out there on the streets drinking and drugging. But I'm not out there. I'm here, where I'm getting closer to God each day.

Crack cocaine was my downfall. It also didn't help to be living with my drug dealer. Whatever money I had in my pockets went for drugs. In the end, the Devil wants it all — and that's what I gave him: *everything I had*.

Today I can say I love God as much as I hate the Devil. For years, I chased that first high and never found it. Today, I experience a different kind of excitement. I feel the joy of the Lord in my heart.

“Whether it's serving food, talking to new people or mopping floors, I'm doing whatever I can to help repay what's been given to me.”

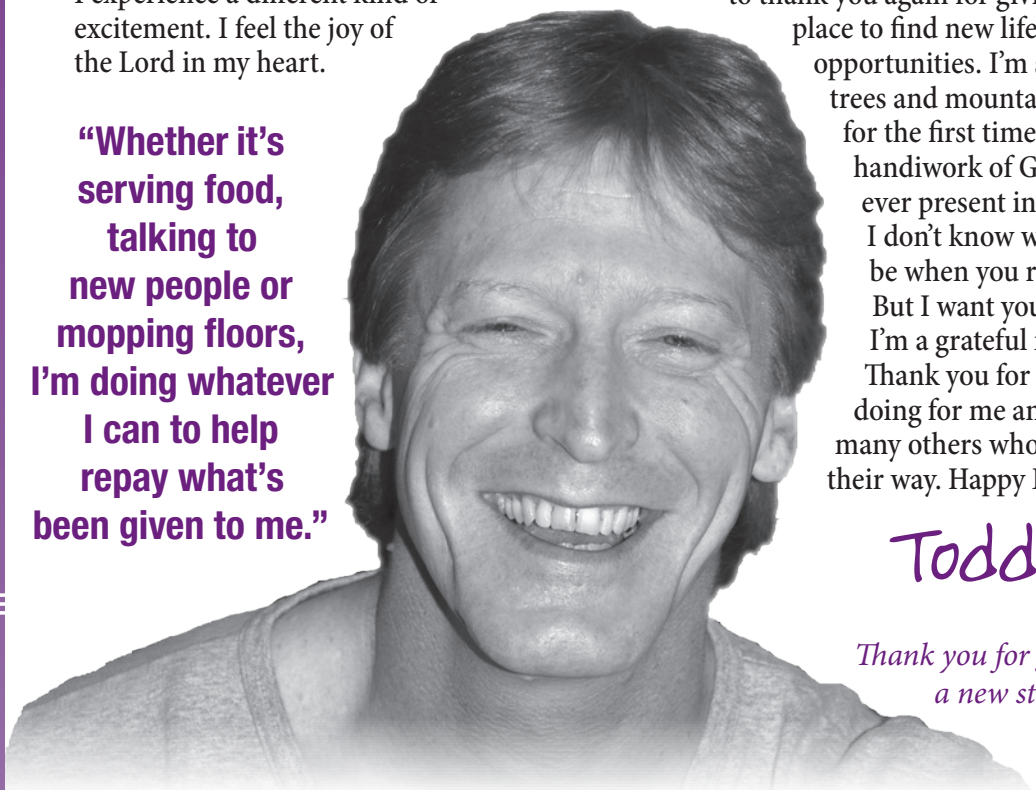
I had to serve jail time. I'm at the Mission because I choose to be here.

When people ask me if I can “stick it out” here on the program, I just remind them I've done jail time and I can just about get through anything. I'm here because I want to be here — not because someone made me come. I just never thought I'd need to go to a Mission to get squared away with Jesus. I also never thought selfish Todd would be reaching out to others. But that's what I'm doing. God is giving me a servant's heart. Whether it's serving food, talking to new people or mopping floors, I'm doing whatever I can to help repay what's been given to me.

Now it's almost Easter and I want to thank you again for giving me a place to find new life and new opportunities. I'm seeing trees and mountains for the first time. The handiwork of God is ever present in my life. I don't know where I'll be when you read this. But I want you to know I'm a grateful man. Thank you for all you're doing for me and for so many others who've lost their way. Happy Easter.

Todd

Thank you for giving me a new start at life.



An Encouraging Word from Dale Grisso
Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries

Max Lucado's book *He Still Moves Stones* is must reading for any Christian — especially at Easter. In this profound volume, Lucado reminds us of this: though our suffering comes from many different directions and causes, that suffering is real, and we often have no place to turn, thinking we are alone in our pain. Yet, in these situations, God is waiting, ready to step in and lift the burden. In other words, God still moves stones.



"The good news we share with our guests is that someone is waiting, ready to step in and lift their burden — and rolling away the stones in their lives is what Jesus does best."

And this stone-removing God is the One who pays us a visit at the Mission every day. The good news we share with our guests is that someone is waiting, ready to step in and lift their burden — and rolling away the stones in their lives is what Jesus does best. As you read Todd's story you'll see how the stones of addiction are being moved from his tortured spirit so he could become the person God designed him to be.

Chattanooga Rescue Mission is a place of many chances

But not everyone makes it the first time. Some folks come to us multiple times. And when they're ready, *amazing*, Jesus appears. Here everyone has a second, third or hundredth chance. We don't judge. We simply do our best to be Christlike in our compassion toward people in need.

But none of this would be possible without your generous support. I also want to encourage you to remember that Christ is alive. He's at work in your life also. Even when things are tough, you too have multiple opportunities to make it right with God.

So this Easter, I encourage you to open your own heart to Jesus as never before. Because the good news is this: *God still removes stones* — in your life and mine. God bless you and your family at this Easter season.

Your servant to the needy,

Dale Grisso

Dale Grisso, Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries

Diamonds in the Rough

When I first met one of the men who teaches in our Christian Life Program, he explained how he would go to North Carolina and buy buckets of dirt to mine for gems. He showed me a number of what he insisted were "gems." To be honest with you, I could not tell the difference between these stones and ordinary rocks. He insisted they were something special, and only convinced me after he held a ruby to the light to let me see the red color shining through. He then went on to explain how a stone does not reach the exquisite finished product with which we are familiar until after a process of tumbling, followed by cutting at the hands of a gemologist, and then placement in an ornate setting by a master jeweler.

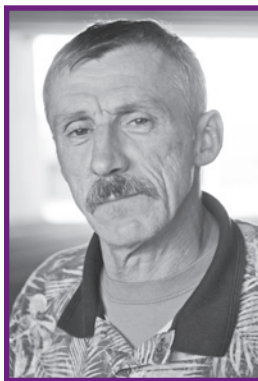
When one looks at the people who come through the doors of a rescue mission, he is very likely to assume that they are rogues, rather than diamonds in the rough. We deal with people who have made a string of bad choices and often have known the depths of sin. If we are not careful, we will look at them from the outside without realizing what God can place in their heart when they get born again. In so doing, we could also miss the opportunity to assist in their growth. When they come to us, our first task is to let the vicissitudes of life tumble off the rough exterior. Then we teach them how to cut away the sin in their life through the power of the Holy Spirit. Over time, we see them begin to look more and more like the mature Christian God saved them to be. The process is slow, but it is thoroughly rewarding when one hears them testify of the grace of God at work in their lives. These are not just old rocks — rogues to be ignored. In the eyes of God, and hopefully in our eyes too, they are diamonds in the rough — trophies of God's grace.



An Easter greeting ... with a heartfelt thanks for your support throughout the past year

Pat Kelley, a major league outfielder in the '70s, was a committed Christian. One day Pat said to his manager Earl Weaver, "Aren't you glad I walk with the Lord, Earl?" Earl replied, "Pat, let me tell you. I'd rather you walk with the bases loaded."

Perspective. It's all about one's point of view. It's what's important to the individual that makes the difference. One person's commitment may not be the same as another's — and that's what we often see at the Chattanooga Rescue Mission. Not all our guests understand what awaits them when they enter our doors. Many come for a hot meal and a warm bed. And that's a good start. But as important as it is to meet a person's physical needs, we would be remiss if we did not



concern ourselves with their walk with the Lord.

You are the lifeblood of the Chattanooga Rescue Mission

The good news is that your prayers, influence and financial support provide us with the opportunity to minister to the whole person — body, soul and spirit. You are doing more good than you could ever imagine.

It's not headline news that 2009 was a tough year for all of us. But because you stood by us during those difficult months, we made it. And because the Mission made it, so did hundreds of men and women who otherwise might have just been walking the bases *instead of walking with the Lord*.

To give your generous donation immediately, please use the remit slip enclosed, or make your donation online at www.chattanoogarescuemission.org. God bless you for being an Easter friend to people in need. Thank you for caring.

"... our Mission remains the same: to provide a safe haven where people who are homeless and want help can be rescued."