



RESCUE CHATTANOOGA

News from Chattanooga Rescue Mission

EASTER ISSUE 2009

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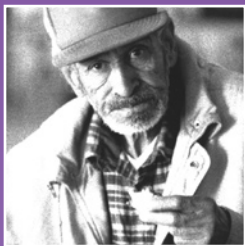
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There Just May be a Lion Behind the Door

My name is John. From age 16 to 35, I lived a life unto myself. Drugs and alcohol ruled me. Without the Lord, I was going nowhere. I drank and used drugs to try to fill a void, but all it did was pull me down and send me into a deep hole of depression.

On a typical day, I'd get up, take my pills, go to work, come home, watch TV, take a shower and then drink all alone. I worked — actually over worked — for one reason only: *to have enough money for my drugs and alcohol.* I lived my entire life in the flesh — without ever giving Jesus a second thought. How different my life would have been if I'd obeyed the commands of the Lord when I was young.

The change in my life is like night and day

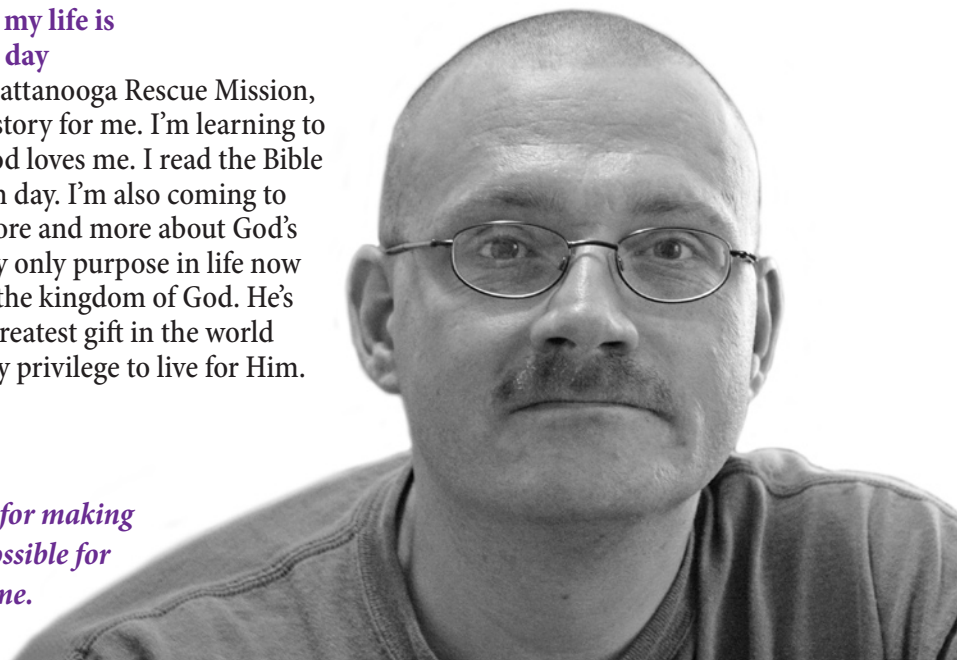
Here at Chattanooga Rescue Mission, it's a different story for me. I'm learning to believe that God loves me. I read the Bible and I pray each day. I'm also coming to understand more and more about God's great grace. My only purpose in life now is to seek first the kingdom of God. He's given me the greatest gift in the world and it's now my privilege to live for Him.

God bless you for making the Mission possible for someone like me.

In the days ahead, if God shuts a door, I'm going to assume there's a lion behind it. I want to be sensitive to the spirit of God in all I do and say from this day forward. When I was lost, all I did was rush around — filled with anxiety, with no sense of direction. Today I go to the Lord for help. I also rely on the people here at the Mission who are always there for me. This Mission is a blessing. I don't know where I'd be today without this place of rescue.

I also want to thank you who donate your time, money and influence to make Chattanooga Rescue Mission the place it is. Through patience and faith in my God, I'm confident I'll stay the course. Thank you and may God bless you this Easter.

"How different my life would have been if I'd obeyed the commands of the Lord when I was young."



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

A few days ago, I received a letter from a man who had been with us at the Mission several months ago. He wrote me from New York City. He said he'd made a mistake by leaving the Mission and going back to New York. He started his letter by saying "I'm not the man I used to be." He wrote that he was there in the middle of New York City, surrounded by all the sin he wanted. *But he no longer wanted it.* God had taken control of his heart. He was a saved man. "I don't have the joy I expected to find here," he wrote. "The Mission helped me change my attitude about life, and I want to thank you," he said.



"Yes, times are tough — and yet you continue to care, to give and to be involved. That makes you an extraordinary friend. God bless you."

That note brought tears to my eyes. Sometimes God just gives us a hint of how the Mission is helping people change direction and become the individuals God created them to be. I would like to believe this letter represents many *unwritten* letters of how God's grace has entered the hearts of others.

You are the one who helps make such stories possible

I wanted you to know about the change in this man's life because it's you who help make such Divine miracles possible. Without your gifts, prayers and selfless service, there would be no letters such as this. In fact, without your support, there would be no Chattanooga Rescue Mission. So again, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Yes, times are tough — and yet you continue to care, to give and to be involved. That makes you an extraordinary friend. God bless you. Thank you. And may the Lord pour out His blessings on you as you continue to reach out to those in need.

Because of you, we're able to remind hundreds each year that old things can become history . . . and that all things can — and do — become new, through the power of our risen Lord. Thank you for sharing the dynamic of the Christian life — not only at Easter, but 365 days a year.

Your servant to the needy,

Dale Grisso

Dale Grisso, Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries

Caring About People

When our Lord Jesus Christ saw the multitudes of people thronging about Him, His heart was moved with compassion toward them. He cared for them not only as a group, but also as individuals. To emulate the compassion of the Lord Jesus is at the heart of the work of a rescue mission. Each new day is another occasion to reach out to meet someone's need.



I think of the opportunities from just the past twenty-four hours. Each evening we open our doors to the hungry and homeless in order to meet very real physical needs. Jesus met physical needs. I suspect that He would endorse the hundreds of coats we're preparing to give to those who have to spend all day in the cold. That's compassion in action.

The work of a mission involves much personal counseling. Just today there was occasion to deal with a young man who was about to make a terrible mistake. At the other end of the spectrum, there was premarital counseling for one of our graduates to whom God has brought that "special one." Then, there was the man still on the program who said with tears unashamedly rolling down his cheeks, "I've got to make it. I don't want to mess up. This is for my life."

Compassion! It gives a caring spirit, making one reach out to meet the needs of people. We start first with the foundational human needs of food, clothing, and shelter, and then we move to help with the greater spiritual needs. It's nothing else but the concern of the Lord Jesus being lived out through the lives of His servants.



God's Blessing on Those Who Help the Poor

There are some interesting verses concerning the poor and needy in the books of Psalms and Proverbs. Proverbs 14:21, ". . . but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he." Psalm 41:1, "Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble."

Perhaps someone wonders what they can do to reach out to the poor and needy. One example is a couple who make a trip to the department store to buy shampoos, deodorants, and pajamas and bring them to the mission. Such gifts mean so much to our operation, and are so very special to our guests! Other ways to help are to volunteer some time, or to give a certain amount to the mission monthly. Most important of all, one can pray for the Chattanooga Rescue Mission.

While one should never serve the Lord just so that blessings can follow, God has promised that those who reach out to the needy will receive blessings, deliverance, and happiness from the Lord in return.

2009 Promises to be a Banner Year at Chattanooga Rescue Mission . . . thank you in advance for your generous support

The entire Chattanooga Rescue Mission staff thanks you for your overwhelming support of this ministry of rescue during the past several months. It would be an understatement to remind ourselves that these are challenging economic times. *Unprecedented, would be a more appropriate word.*

But as tough as it is for many during these days of uncertainty, it's even more difficult for the men and women who are streaming through our doors at this Easter season. These are the homeless, the ex-offenders, the addicted and the lost. The good news is that those who choose to make positive changes in their lives are finding new hope, new opportunities and new life when they decide to walk with their Savior and Lord.



God bless you for giving from a loving heart

Even though you may be feeling the pain of the uncertainty of your investments, you continue to reach out to others who are hungry, homeless and without a friend. And we simply cannot thank you enough for your ongoing generosity.

To give your generous gift today, please use the remit slip enclosed, or make your donation online at www.chattanoogarescuemission.com. God bless you for being a friend to people in need — not only at Easter but throughout the year.

" . . . as tough as it is for many during these days of uncertainty, it's even more difficult for the men and women who are streaming through our doors at this Easter season."