



# RESCUE CHATTANOOGA

News from Chattanooga Rescue Mission

EASTER ISSUE 2011

www.chattanoogarescuemission.org

1512 S. Holtzclaw Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37404-0624

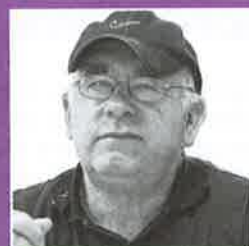
## Inside:



An Encouraging Word from Dale Grisso, Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries Pg. 2



Investing in a Life Pg. 2



The Mission relies on you once again... Pg. 2

## I'm grateful to so many for my recovery...

**M**y name is James. There are no words to describe how I feel today compared to how I lived my former life. In college I was a cheerleader and I got straight As. But that seems like an eternity ago now. That's because my life soon spun out of control because of my addiction to methamphetamines. I was shooting up the drug faster than I could manufacture it. I considered myself to be "the best cook in town." My girlfriend and I would swallow up to 25-30 ecstasy pills on a weekend. Ecstasy has a tendency to induce euphoria. For me, the result was a ruined life.

I knew I was going downhill fast. I was caught making meth twice, and I spent six months in jail. It was only through the Lord's blessing that I received three years' probation. I could have been behind bars for a long, long time.

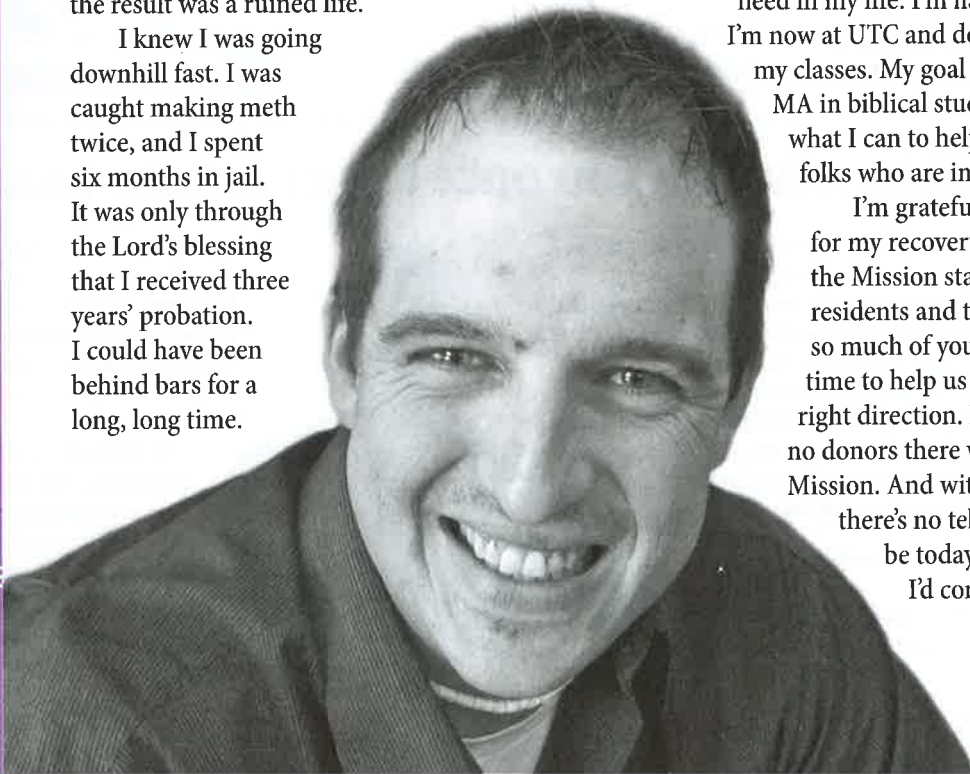
### I was an expert at poisoning people

When I think of the poison I put into my body, the bodies of others, *I'm appalled*. I would often have a mixture of Sudafed, lithium and Coleman fuel in a Gatorade bottle and I'd toss it away. But here's the terrible part. If some kid were to pick up that bottle and drink it, he or she would be dead. I regret all I did to hurt so many.

**"I was caught making meth twice, and I spent six months in jail. It was only through the Lord's blessing that I received three years' probation."**

Perhaps you can see why I appreciate the Chattanooga Rescue Mission so much. Dale Grisso visited me in jail — something for which I'll always be grateful. Here at the Mission, I'm enjoying the Bible classes and the structure I continue to need in my life. I'm happy to say I'm now at UTC and doing well in my classes. My goal is to get an MA in biblical studies and to do what I can to help feed hungry folks who are in such need.

I'm grateful to so many for my recovery: to God, the Mission staff, my fellow residents and to you who give so much of your money and time to help us all move in the right direction. If there were no donors there would be no Mission. And without this place, there's no telling where I'd be today. I just wish I'd come here sooner.





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

When our residents realize there is hope for their lives, something happens deep inside. They keep going on, no matter what. Hope gives them courage, strength, vitality, power. Those who place their hope in a living, resurrected Lord always seem to come through. That is the message of Easter. It's also a message we share every day of the year with our guests at Chattanooga Rescue Mission.



But when you're hooked on a feeling or a drug, hope diminishes quickly. In my experience, folks usually need to hit rock bottom before real change can take place in their lives. We don't have any magic words or formula. We don't have the power to fix anyone. But once a man or woman realizes that need for change, then and only then can there be a transformation. *That's when old things pass away and all things become new.*

### You are helping people break the pattern of self-destruction

With your help, I'm happy to say we see people break the pattern of a life of sin and self-destruction every day. It's a great joy to see smiles on faces that once were dejected. Over time we hear our guests saying things like, "I'm starting to like myself... I now know there's hope for me... I realize I have value regardless of how I lived my former life."

This is when hope becomes practical. Families are restored. Our guests go back to school, acquire new job skills and become involved with a church that encourages them in their new walk with Christ.

And isn't this what we all want? A closer walk with our resurrected Lord and a renewal of our minds? Without your generous support people like James might still be in his meth lab or in jail. But he's not in jail. He's getting on with his life because he's discovered hope in his relationship with God.

Right now we have even greater needs here in our new facility. But we know God will continue to honor our decision to live by faith as we extend our compassion to even more who have lost their way. Come pay us a visit. Witness your compassion firsthand. Talk with our guests. When you do, there's a good chance you'll walk away saying, "I never really knew how much good the Chattanooga Rescue Mission is doing in our community."

Your servant to the needy,

*Dale Grisso*

Dale Grisso, Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries

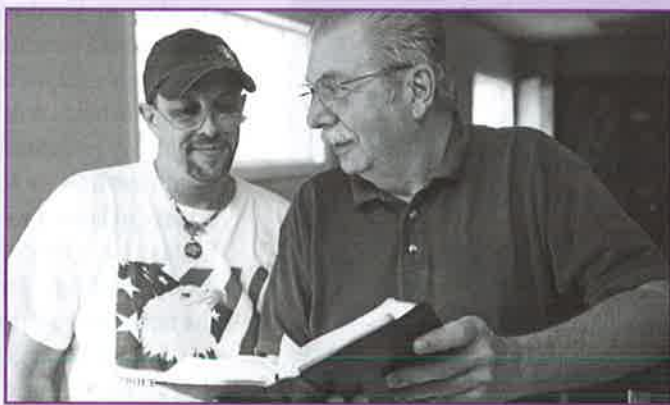
## Investing in a Life

In these days of monetary instability, one wonders just what solid investment can be made with his money. I'm no financial advisor, but I have discovered one absolutely sure investment. It is when one pours his time and resources into the lives of others.

I was recently invited to tour one of the largest manufacturing plants in our city. I was amazed at how much time and money they put into helping their staff with their personal lives: a gym for exercise, marital and financial counseling, a library of books and videotapes, even a monthly meeting for prayer and encouragement from the Word of God. People truly were regarded as this company's most valuable asset.

What a comparison to the work of a Rescue Mission. We are not here for ourselves. **Our heartbeat is people.** Reaching out to meet physical needs. **Counseling those who have made bad decisions.** Comforting broken hearts. **A helping hand to those who have fallen.** Encouraging those who have no hope. Instruction in righteousness for those who are chained to addictions. **Making a difference — one person at a time.**

Yes, there are lots of things into which one can pour their time, money, and energy. None will ever compare with investing one's life in others! There is no better feeling than to know that one has made an eternal difference in the lives of precious souls. No better end than a changed life. No better reward than to hear the Savior say, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these..." Matthew 25:40.



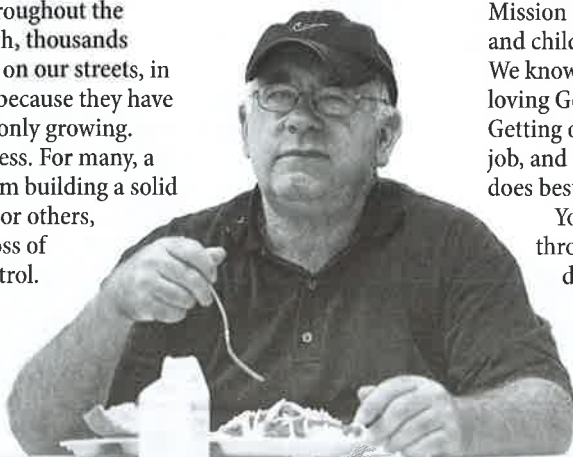
## The Mission relies on you once again to help touch needy lives

As the number of homeless people throughout the United States rises to an all-time high, thousands find themselves living in the woods, on our streets, in doorways, in parks and in abandoned cars because they have nowhere else to go. And their numbers are only growing.

There are many reasons for homelessness. For many, a series of poor life choices has kept them from building a solid foundation to carry them throughout life. For others, homelessness may be a result of sickness, loss of employment or situations beyond their control.

### Getting out of the rut of homelessness is an inside job

But whatever the reasons for living a homeless lifestyle, Chattanooga Rescue



Mission is here to share God's hope with those men, women and children who choose to get their lives back on track. We know that unless our residents place the power of a living, loving God at the center of their hearts, nothing will change. Getting out of the syndrome of homelessness is an inside job, and changing people from the inside out is what God does best.

You have been a faithful friend of the Mission throughout the past several months. To make your donation today, please use the remit slip enclosed.

You may also give your donation online at [www.chattanoogarescuemission.org](http://www.chattanoogarescuemission.org). God bless you for being an Easter friend to people in need.