



# RESCUE CHATTANOOGA

News from Chattanooga Rescue Mission

EASTER ISSUE 2014

www.chattanoogarescuemission.org

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## All I did was binge drink . . . and break the hearts of my family

**M**y name is Donnie. Once, I figured I pretty much had it all. I had a good business and owned a gas station for 14 years. I was also a race car mechanic. Things were moving right along. But it's amazing what happens to a man's life when he's disobedient to God. Alcohol was my problem. It started in my late teenage years, but it got even worse after my father died. I drank to numb the pain. When I wasn't working, I would drink all day. During that time, I broke the hearts of everybody in my family. My own heart has been broken for longer than I care to remember.

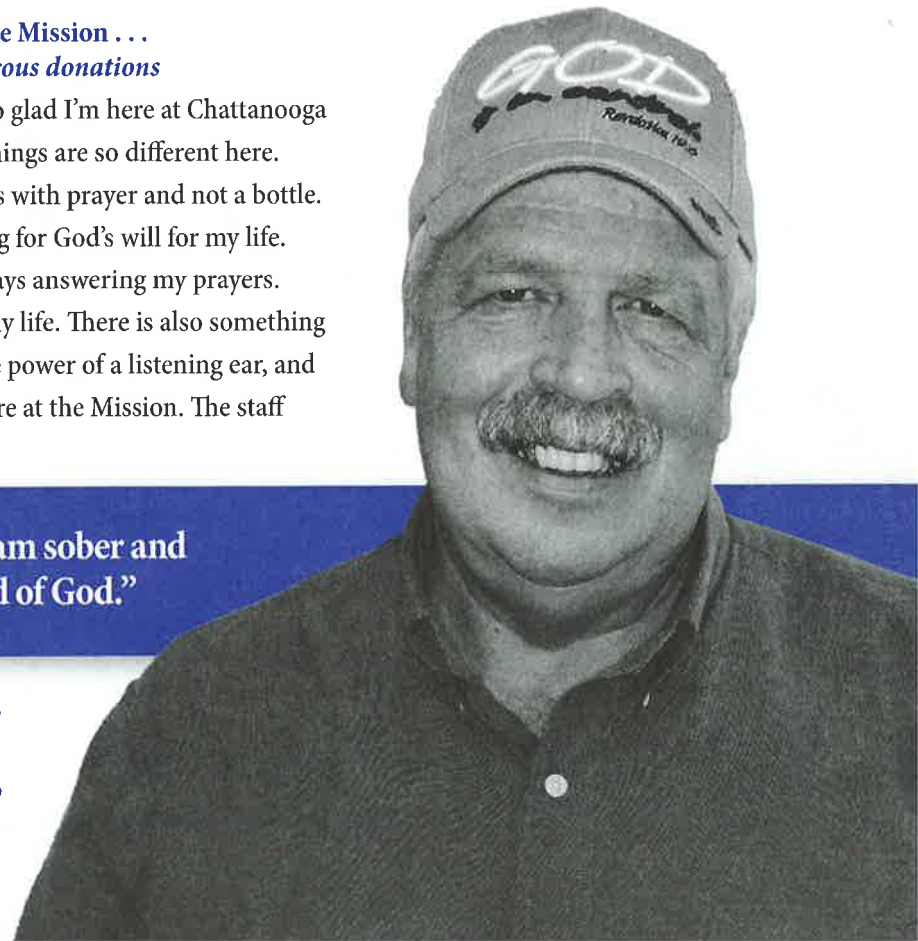
### I thank God for the Mission . . . and for your generous donations

That's why I'm so glad I'm here at Chattanooga Rescue Mission. Things are so different here. I now start my days with prayer and not a bottle. I am always praying for God's will for my life. And I feel He's always answering my prayers. God is enriching my life. There is also something awesome about the power of a listening ear, and that's what I get here at the Mission. The staff

listens to me. Everyone has a kind word. I'm grateful I am sober and that I'm a child of God. Every day I'm coming to a better understanding of His Word. Thank you so much for your part in keeping the Mission's doors open for me. Whether you give money, clothing or any other form of assistance, I want you to know how much I appreciate you. I also want to wish you a happy Easter.

Your friend,

*Donnie*



**"I'm grateful I am sober and that I'm a child of God."**

**Thank you for your kindness to me . . . and for helping me get another chance at life.**

## Dale Grisso, Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries

Dear Friend of Chattanooga Rescue Mission,

I have good news for you, news you already know, but all good news bears repeating. This news is that God is alive. Our Savior is risen and He lives in the lives of every resident at the Mission who has given his or her life to Christ — people like Donnie, whose testimony you are reading in this newsletter. Because Christ lives, Donnie and scores of others who come through our doors now have hope for the future.

### It's all about being transformed by a risen Lord

The great thing about this ministry is *we have truth on our side*. Addicts don't embrace truth. They can't handle their own problems. Most of our residents tell us they've tried to live life on their own terms, *but nothing has ever worked out*. That's why so many feel they are failures. But, because Christ is now alive in their hearts, they wake up each day with new opportunities, new hope and a change of attitude. No longer do they live with failure. Instead, they are learning to know God's truth, *and that truth is setting them free*.

But we cannot carry on this ministry of rescue on our own. You are a vital member of our team, and God keeps using you in miraculous ways. I also want you to know our residents pray for our donors every day . . . and that includes you. On any team, every player is vital for success, and no team member is more important than another. So God bless you for all you are and what you do to help us bring God's message of hope to so many lives. Aren't you glad our Savior is risen?

Your servant to the needy,



Dale Grisso  
Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries



**"Most of our residents tell us they've tried to live life on their own terms, but nothing has ever worked out."**

## I'm Tired of Running

Our Ladies Director recently received the following note from one of our shelter guests:

### *"I'm Tired of Running"*

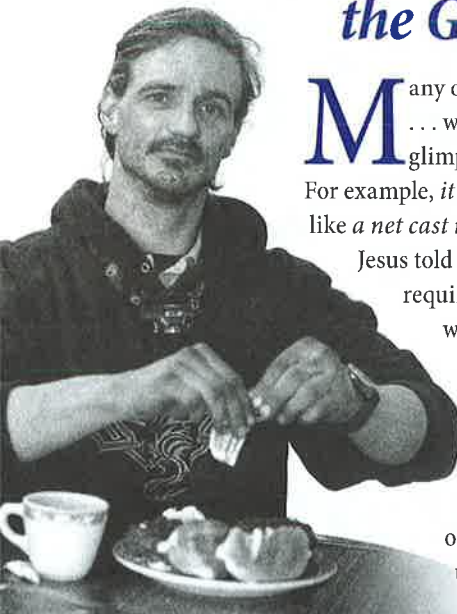
*Please pray for me, I'm having trouble getting away from my past. Every time I try to change my life and leave those past sins alone and follow my Father's words, these past sins keep following me, so I've been running from them. I've ran from 4 houses, 3 motels, to Nashville (a Mission), now here. I'm tired of running; I want to do right. It's in me; I hear my Father talking to me. Pray 4 me.*

Janet succinctly described the lives of many of the people who come to our doors for help. Mistakes from the past plague them. Rather than face them, they run from city to city, from one home or relationship to another which appears to be more promising. Just when it looks like the skies have turned blue once again, the same old problems rear their ugly face again!

There may be good reason why it always seems like the problems move with them. The problem is internal. Merely changing the external environment cannot resolve issues in the inner man. That is why at the Chattanooga Rescue Mission, we try to do more than merely meet the basic needs of food, clothing and shelter. We address issues of the heart, of our relationship with God, and of the sinful choices we have made. When a person is willing to turn around and face their life with all its sinful failures, then they find forgiveness, hope, peace and rest. They no longer need to run once they have run into the arms of Jesus and found Him to be a perfect refuge.

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## Windows and Mirrors . . . Two biblical ways we share the Good News with our Mission guests . . .



**M**any of Jesus' stories are called *window parables* . . . windows through which we're able to catch a glimpse of what the Kingdom of God looks like. For example, *it is like buried treasure* (Matthew 13:44) or *like a net cast into the sea* (Matthew 13:47). Other stories Jesus told are *mirror parables* . . . messages which require us to look inward . . . to see ourselves as we really are. The story of the Prodigal Son is one such example (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32).

At Chattanooga Rescue Mission, we share both types of Jesus' parables to inspire our guests and bring a ray of hope into their lives. These encouraging words of scripture give our friends the opportunity to: a) *catch a glimpse of God's intentions and*

*desires and b) to see themselves realistically — and to know what they can become when they acknowledge the saving power of a risen Lord.*

### ***The empty tomb is a message of eternal hope***

As we approach the Easter season, our Mission guests need to know they are loved, accepted and appreciated for who they are. And when they hear the story of the empty tomb and come to faith in our risen Lord, *that's the day that their lives begin to turn around*. To carry on this ministry of rescue at Easter and throughout the year, we continue to count on your enthusiastic support. To give your generous donation today, please use the enclosed remittance slip, or make your donation online at [www.chattanoogarescuemission.org](http://www.chattanoogarescuemission.org). God bless you for being an Easter friend to people in need.

***" . . . when our friends hear the story of the empty tomb and come to faith in our risen Lord, that's the day that turns their lives around."***