



RESCUE CHATTANOOGA

News from Chattanooga Rescue Mission

 EASTER ISSUE 2015

www.chattanoogarescuemission.org

1512 S. Holtzclaw Ave., P.O. Box 3624, Chattanooga, TN 37404-0624



Dale Grisso, Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries

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Can You Imagine?

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God bless you for being a friend to homeless people . . .

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From Living in a Fog of Despair

. . . to enjoying a relationship with Jesus Christ

My name is Cheyann. I was born and raised here in Chattanooga. For more than 30 years all I cared about was drinking. My mama was an alcoholic and we spent most of our time drinking together. I started my habit when I was 12 years old, and before I knew it I had to drink every day. I would wake up wanting to drink. I would go to bed wanting to drink. Eventually I would drink a 12-pack of beer just to feel happy. During that time I lost jobs and people precious to me. When I did work, all I thought about was drinking. I so wish I had known about Chattanooga Rescue Mission years ago. But God had His plans, and all I can say is I'm glad I'm here today where I am finding my way back to God.

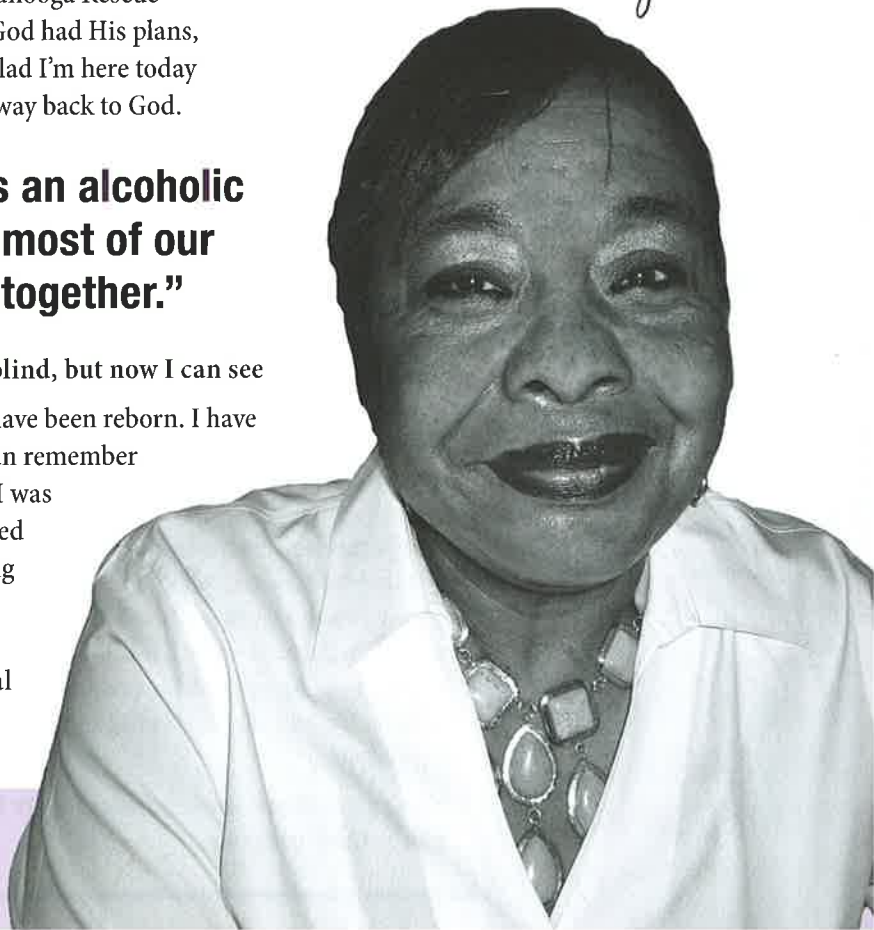
the song *Amazing Grace* — especially those lines that say, *I was blind, but now I see*. Today I see clearly, where in the past I lived in a fog of spiritual despair. I love the program here and everything it teaches me about applying the Bible to my life. If you remember only one thing about my story, it would be this: Never give up on God, and never lose hope, because through Him all things are possible. God bless you at this Easter season as together we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

Your friend,

Cheyann

“My mama was an alcoholic and we spent most of our time drinking together.”

I was once spiritually blind, but now I can see. No question about it, I have been reborn. I have a new chance at life. I can remember reading the Bible when I was young, but I never studied it. I always thought going to church would save me. Now I realize the importance of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I can relate to



Thank you for giving me a second chance at life . . .

Dale Grisso, Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries

Dear Friend of Chattanooga Rescue Mission,

I didn't understand why the line in the store was taking so long. And then I heard the woman a few people in front of me talking about Jesus with the cashier, and how Chattanooga Rescue Mission and God had changed her life. At first I was taken aback because I thought this woman had returned to her addiction. I had not seen her since she left the Mission. Then she saw me, and what she said moved me deeply. She said the Mission had reached out to her at the lowest point of her life. She reminded me how broken she once was. That's when tears came to my eyes. I don't cry often, but this was one of those times when I was especially touched by God's presence in the life of someone your donations helped bring back to life.

Thank you for your part in seeing lives transformed through the power of Jesus

And that's what the resurrection is all about. That's what Easter is all about — going from death to life; moving from the walking dead to living a life God wants people to live. Every once in a while I receive a note from one of our former guests. It's encouraging to know they keep notes from their Bible classes. One lady said she continues to draw strength from those notes. One man wrote, "I miss my notes, but my wife took them when we split up." (*Perhaps there will be something in those notes that will bring that couple back together.*) I hope you sense my excitement at how God continues to work in the lives of those who keep coming through our doors. No longer are they dead in their sins. Today, their lives are being transformed and relationships are being restored. Thank you for being a valued partner in this ministry of rescue, and for keeping hope alive for so many.

Your servant to the needy,

Dale Grisso

Dale Grisso
Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries



"I don't cry often, but this was one of those times when I was especially touched by God's presence . . ."



Can You Imagine?

Can you imagine all that you own being in one plastic grocery bag?

Can you imagine saying, "It was a great day!" because you found a quarter while walking down the street that day?

Can you imagine having only socks to wear on your feet on a day where the temperature dipped close to freezing?

Can you imagine your family telling you they never want to see your face again?

Can you imagine having only a light jacket to wear through the long winter months?

Can you imagine sleeping under an overpass or in a tent in Mid-January?

Can you imagine feeling unwelcome everywhere you go?

Can you imagine . . . being homeless?

Can you imagine the relief that is felt when one steps through the doors of the Chattanooga Rescue Mission?



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God bless you for being a friend to homeless people . . . and for celebrating Resurrection Day with our Mission guests

The old cliché has it that *behind every successful man there is a surprised mother-in-law*. While there's plenty of humor in that thought, it's true that life moves in a positive direction when the efforts of an individual and the encouragement of others come together. When it comes to Mission work, our guests learn two things: that a loving God is their *ultimate supporter*, and that the Mission staff is here to provide the ongoing encouragement needed as our friends learn to walk in the ways of the Lord. To our guests it's often surprising how quickly God turns their lives around. But after all, *this is what resurrection power is all about*.

Your gifts mean more to our guests than you might imagine

The good news is your prayers, influence and financial support are what give us the opportunity to minister to the whole person — body, soul and spirit. Your involvement in this ministry is doing more good than you could ever imagine.

It's hardly headline news that it's always a challenge for the Mission to meet its financial obligations. But with God's help and your continued generosity the Lord always provides for our needs. To send your Easter donation today, please use the enclosed remit slip. You may also give your special gift on our secure website, www.chattanoogarescuemission.org. Thank you for partnering with us in caring for people in need during the Easter season and throughout the year. Our entire staff thanks you for your kindness to so many in need.

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