



RESCUE CHATTANOOGA

News from Chattanooga Rescue Mission

FALL ISSUE 2010

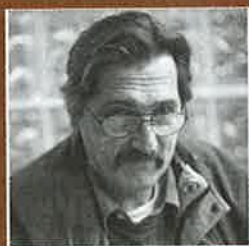
www.chattanoogarescuemission.org

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

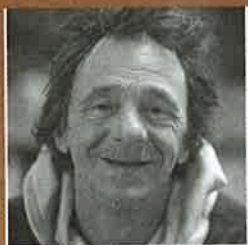
Inside:



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



Still Clean! Pg. 2



Thank you for your loving support... Pg. 2

From the Pain of Addiction... to the waiting arms of my heavenly Father

My name is Mary Ellen. After I lost someone I loved who was killed by a drunk driver, I lost it. My emotional problems mounted like I never expected. I can't even begin to explain the pain and the hurt. Even though I was saved at 28 years of age, I still allowed Satan to control my response to my great loss. That's when I turned to drugs and antidepressants. The combination just about killed me.

Before long, I lost my home and just about everything that was dear to me. But all the time, God was there helping me know there was a better way. Eventually I came off the drugs, but I was a nervous wreck. The withdrawal was terrible. Even then, it took me three months *not* to want the drugs. It's not an easy task to kick that kind of habit.

Before I came to Chattanooga Rescue Mission I didn't want to live. There was nothing to live for — or so I thought. But then I started going to chapel. I studied God's Word and I began to pray again. Little by little, I realized God still moves stones — mostly stones I put in front of me to make me stumble. But a loving God is removing those obstacles that once ruled my life. I praise Him for that.

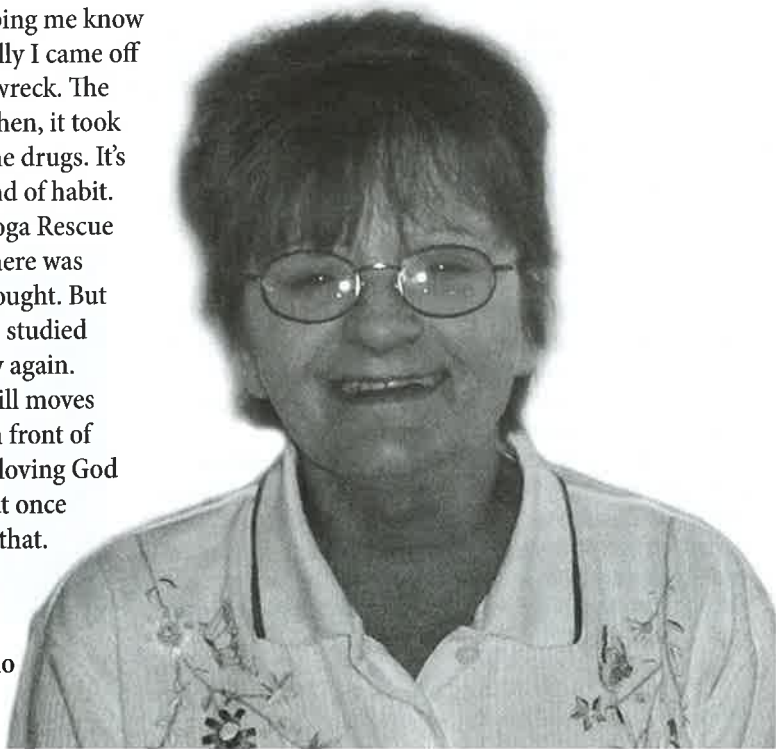
Thank you for your service, donations and influence

I'm also grateful to you who give so much of your service,

money and influence to keep the doors of the Mission open for someone like me. I had never been around homeless people before. But now I'm here among them — and I love them. My heart goes out to every person who is at the Mission — for whatever reason.

“Eventually I came off the drugs, but I was a nervous wreck. The withdrawal was terrible.”

Thank you for helping the Mission create an environment where I can live in peace. I've never been closer to my God. I never want to go back to that old life. With God's help, I'm being still and I'm letting God take over with His mighty presence. I'm grateful to so many who are helping me.



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

My heart is filled with gratitude for how you continue to show God's love to those who continue to come to our doors — and now our *new* doors. The first night we opened our new facility we had a full house — with 15 folks sleeping on the floor. But we would never have this expanded opportunity for service and witness without your ongoing support. Thank you for all you do to help us make Christ known to so many who have lost their way.



“We would never have this expanded opportunity for service and witness without your ongoing support.”

While every person has his or her own story, there is a general theme that seems to be part of each individual's growth in Christ. I see this pattern in six steps:

- **First**, folks come through our doors in physical and spiritual despair. Their lives are shattered and broken.
- **Second**, over time they begin to realize there is both help and hope in a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **Third**, they begin to dig deeper into the Word of God where they learn the Scriptures and lean on the Lord for strength.
- **Fourth**, they come to the self-realization of who they are and what God wants from them. They begin to restructure their thoughts as they develop the mind of Christ.
- **Fifth**, they are mentored and become involved in a Bible-believing church.
- **Sixth**, they begin to experience victory and productivity as they return to society changed people.

Again, thank you for giving us the opportunity to carry God's truth as a torch of faith as we minister to so many here at the Mission. It's my prayer that you keep allowing this same God of love and comfort to live deeply in your own life. I know you, too, face enormous challenges. I hope you'll never give up. Keep on keeping on. For God is still mighty and He's still on the throne.

I hope you'll come visit us at our new facility soon. Come see the results of your investment in the lives of others. You just may come away saying *I never knew the Chattanooga Rescue Mission was doing so much good for so many.* God bless you at this Thanksgiving season and every day of the year.

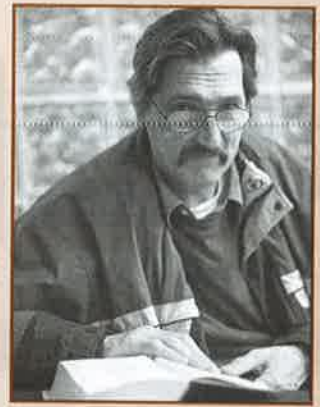
Your servant to the needy,

Dale Grisso

Dale Grisso, Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries

Still Clean!

It is always a thrill when one of our graduates pays us a visit. Immediately it's just like old times, with laughter, a bit of teasing, and swapping information about other former CLPs. Then somewhere in the conversation the big question always comes to the table: "Are you still clean?" Normally, we don't have to ask the question, as they will volunteer the information.



Such is the case with one of our graduates who popped in the other day. Though he has been through some difficult times since his graduation, he was thrilled to report that he has been clean from drugs ever since his graduation two years ago. Counting the year he was in the program, **he has now been free from his addiction for three years.** That was something which he once thought could never happen. Yet it has! As he told us, the need to drink or do drugs simply is not there now that he knows how to take his problems to the Lord. Indeed, when one knows Christ there is no longer the need for escape through bottles or pills.

This graduate is but one of many who come back to tell us that the joy of the Lord surpasses any earthly thrill. They now have something truly worth living for.

The Return of a Shelter Guest

It's not unusual for us to minister to people who may never come our way again. Nor is it unusual for someone to come back to the shelter after being gone a while. Susan, however, did something new. After staying with us for several weeks, she was able to get a job and move out from our emergency shelter. Mission accomplished!

Ah, but Susan showed back up at our door. This time it was at the office entrance, and her hands were full of plastic bags containing clothing and supplies for our shelter. **She wanted to minister to others in the same way that the mission had ministered to her.** An even greater mission accomplished. She had left the ranks of those being helped and moved into the realm of pouring her life into helping others who are less fortunate.

Thank you for your loving support of this mission of rescue...

When lives once hard as steel come face to face with the power of the risen Lord, miracles begin to take place. When purpose and meaning take the place of living by the lawlessness of the street, lives are changed and priorities are rearranged. And when God becomes a reality in the hearts of our residents, there's a ripple effect in their lives that cannot be denied.

But none of these miracles could take place without your kindness and generosity. Your donations and prayerful support of Chattanooga Rescue Mission help us plant seeds of hope in lives that once knew only desolation. Then as the Holy Spirit works in shattered spirits, new life emerges. Growth happens. What was once old becomes fresh and new.



You give so much more than food and warm beds

We are truly grateful to you for standing alongside us as we bring Christ's message of light and hope into the lives of so many who live in darkness. Yes, you provide nourishing food, warm beds and comfortable clothing for men, women and children. But you give so much more: *your ongoing compassion and caring provide a disciplined, loving Christian environment where people can say yes to Jesus, who wants to make them whole.*

To give yet another generous donation, please use the remit slip enclosed. Your donations to Chattanooga Rescue Mission go directly to help heal broken hearts and crushed spirits. Thank you for reaching out to families and individuals who struggle during the fall months and throughout the year. You may also give your donation on our secure web site at www.chattanoogarescuemission.org. God bless you.

“Your ongoing compassion and caring provide a disciplined, loving Christian environment where people can say yes to Jesus, who wants to make them whole.”