

RESCUE CHATTANOOGA

News from Chattanooga Rescue Mission

FALL 2011

www.chattanoogarescuemission.org

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

After a while, the judge got tired of seeing my face

My name is Orlando. I pray that the Lord heaps his blessings upon you for all you do to help people like me. I don't know how you can be so generous — especially when I'm sure you have your own challenges in life. All I can say is *thank you*.

Because of you I'm at the Chattanooga Rescue Mission. For 17 years, I was in and out of prison. After a while, the judge got tired of seeing my face. During those years, my life consisted of making wrong choices and hanging out with the wrong crowd. I started using drugs when I was 12 and it was downhill ever since.

It wasn't a good idea to use alcohol to try to numb reality

I also drank every day. I thought it might be a good idea to use alcohol to numb me from the reality of my life. That was not a good idea, because now my problems had problems. During my addictions I never picked up a Bible. It was all about me. Then one day I found God while living in a small town in Georgia. That was the day that turned my life around.

The *other* good day was when I walked through the doors of the Chattanooga Rescue Mission. That was the next best decision I ever made. Here, I'm studying God's Word, and I'm learning how real the Lord is to me. One thing for sure: if God can transform my life, God can work with anyone.

Thank you for playing such an important part in my life. I'm one grateful man!

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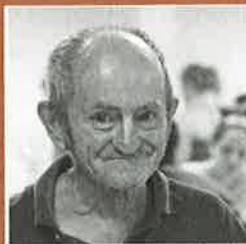
I know my recovery would not have happened if it were not for a loving God, a caring Mission and the generosity of someone like you. I'm so thankful this Thanksgiving. May the Lord bless you as you reach out to so many with your love.

Your friend,

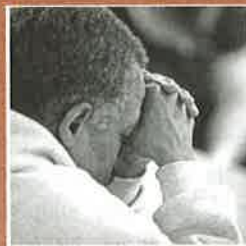
Orlando



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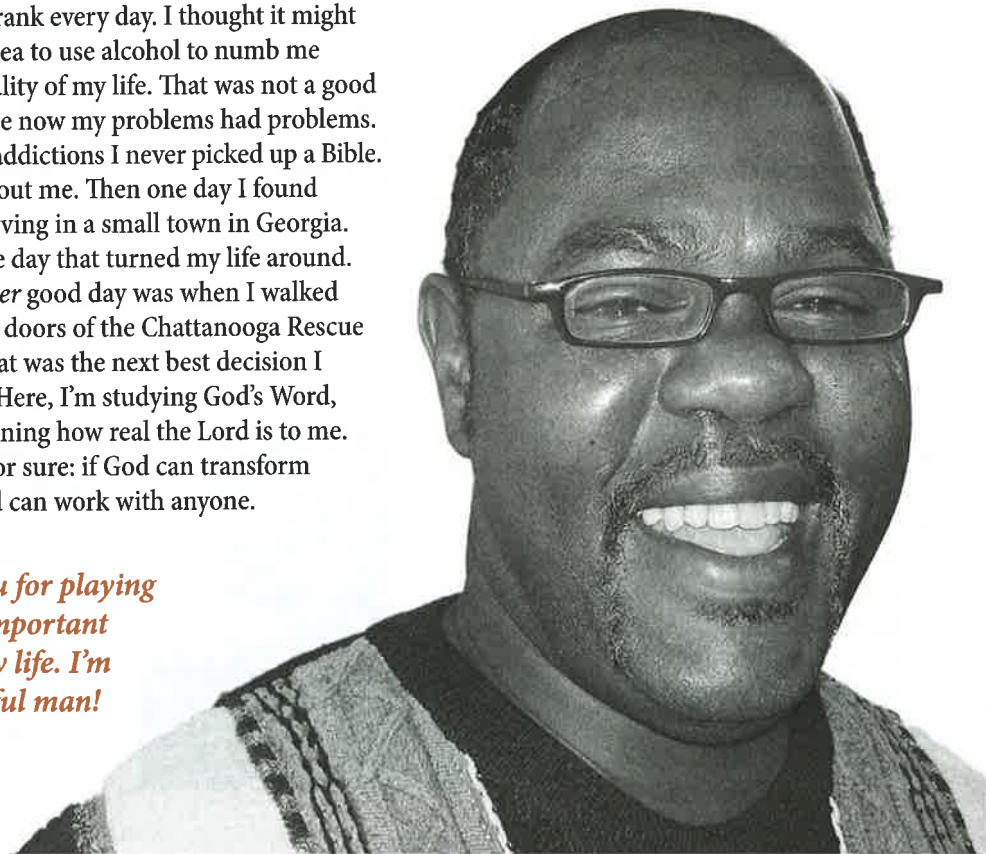


Our Children
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You always give from a heart of gratitude
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An Encouraging Word from Dale Grisso

Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries

Dear friend of Chattanooga Rescue Mission,

As we approach the Thanksgiving season my heart is filled with gratitude for all you continue to do to reach out to so many who've lost their way. As you read Orlando's story I hope you realize that you are playing a large role in his recovery.



"As you read Orlando's story I hope you realize that you are playing a large role in his recovery."

Another example of a transformed life is one of our guests who saw a homeless man going barefoot. His heart went out to that man, so he took off his own shoes and put them on the man's feet. That's the love of Christ in action. This is what occurs in the heart of a man or woman when God occupies first place.

Thank you for cheering us on . . . day after day . . . year after year

I see us here at the Mission much like football players. We're out there slugging it out on the muddy turf. But then we look up, and we see you there in the stands . . . alongside some 18,000 other supporters of the Mission. You're cheering us on. You're encouraging us on every play. That makes you a special friend indeed. Without you, there would be no game, no plays . . . and no winning touchdowns.

And whether you can give \$2.00 or \$200 . . . the amount of your Thanksgiving gift doesn't matter when it's given with a heart of compassion and love. God bless you for praying for us . . . and please know that you, too, are always in our prayers.

Your servant to the needy,

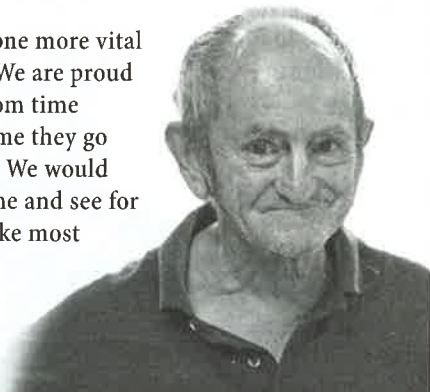
Dale Grisso

Dale Grisso, Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries

Our Children

Often, we have likened the Chattanooga Rescue Mission to one large family because we are so close knit. A few days ago, one of the men in our program said he wished he could have had me as his father. While physically many of our people are older than the staff, in a very real sense we are called upon to fulfill the role of parents. Like a loving mother, we comfort broken hearts and nurse wounded spirits back to health. Like a father, we spend much time instructing in the Word of God and have to rebuke those who choose to become disobedient. Above all, we strive to display unconditional, Christ-like love and try to serve as role models.

Like earthly parents, there's one more vital function that is ours to perform. We are proud of our kids! They may mess up from time to time, but the majority of the time they go on to become productive citizens. We would encourage you to stop in some time and see for yourself. Be prepared, however; like most parents, we're just waiting to find somebody to whom we can brag on "Our Children."



You always give from a heart of gratitude

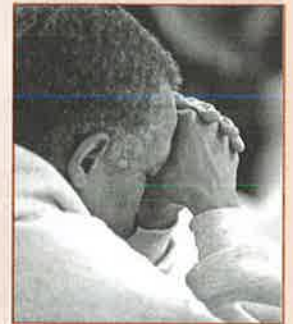
. . . and this Thanksgiving people in distress need your acts of kindness as never before

The little girl was attending her first circus. She laughed as the clowns took their pratfalls and as the elephants trumpeted their arrival into the center ring. But what took her breath away was the trapeze artists. Mouth wide open, the girl could not believe her eyes. They really *did* fly through the air with the greatest of ease.

She turned to her mother and asked, "Mama, but aren't they afraid?" A man sitting next to the girl heard the question and answered, "No, young lady. They're not afraid. You see, they trust each other."

Fear not . . . for I am with you

And therein lies the message. Trust breeds confidence . . . and confidence leads to a life that can hold great meaning. But it all depends on where we place our confidence. It was the Apostle Paul's *trust in God* that enabled him to overcome his fear and continue to preach in Corinth for another 18 months. It was *trust in God* that took the fear from David's heart as he looked into the face of the giant Goliath.



"Those who come through the doors of the Chattanooga Rescue Mission are learning to handle fear God's way . . . and what they are learning is life changing."

And it is trust in God that allows our Mission guests to leave the past behind and embark on a new adventure with God at the helm of their lives. Those who come through the doors of the Chattanooga Rescue Mission are learning to handle fear God's way . . . and what they are learning is life changing.

To give your gift today, please use the remit slip enclosed, or make your donation online at www.chattanoogarescuemission.org. Thank you for your generous support.

A Ministry of Refuge

While rescue missions do their best to provide a good bed, clean sheets and towels, and quality food, they are not necessarily known for providing hotel-style accommodations. Recently, "Jackie," one of our shelter guests, told me how she would be moving into her own apartment. In explaining how she would miss us, she mentioned that she slept better here than in any place she had ever been in her life. The word "refuge" came to my mind. She was expressing that our "shelter" truly was a place of calm apart from danger or distress. Many of our guests find that a mission such as ours provides things which money and fancy living quarters cannot: security, love, and acceptance. We are their shelter from the storms of life.

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"We know that unless our residents place the power of a living, loving God at the center of their hearts, nothing will change."