



RESCUE CHATTANOOGA

News from Chattanooga Rescue Mission

FALL ISSUE 2014

www.chattanoogarescuemission.org

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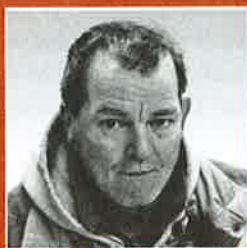
Dale Grisso, Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries

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Death or jail were my options . . .

My name is Ron. I can honestly say God and this Mission saved my life. I've been haunted by alcohol and other drugs since I was 13 years old. I'm now 47, so you can see how much substance abuse has played a role in my life. At first I thought drinking was fun. Alcohol was also easily accessible, because my parents and grandparents drank and we drank along with them as kids. I used to be a good athlete. I played baseball, basketball, wrestled and did karate. I actually used to have a six-pack, something every athlete hopes to have. However, I eventually gave up my physical six-pack for the ones you buy in a liquor store. I had many athletic scholarships available to me, but I lost them all, along with all desire to do anything with my life.

God is giving me the tools to face my spiritual battles

For too long I didn't care about anything except getting high. The sad thing is I was a Christian while I was doing all this. I was allowing Satan to trick me into thinking I could get high just one more time. I think you can understand why Chattanooga Rescue Mission means so much to me.

Here I am learning to face my spiritual battles with weapons that are giving me victory. For me this starts with reading the Bible and being fully surrendered to Jesus.

Thank you for all your donations of money and service to the Mission. You have no idea

"I was allowing Satan to trick me into thinking I could get high at least one more time."

how far your investments reach into the hearts of people like me. In fact, if there were no Mission I'd probably either be dead or spending the rest of my life in jail. God bless you for your generosity. I'm one thankful man this Thanksgiving season.

Your friend,

Ron

I can't thank you enough for your kindness. Your donations are giving me a second chance at life.

From the desk of
Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries

Dear Friend of Chattanooga Rescue Mission,

Our program residents prayed for you this morning, as they do every morning during our devotions. And if you wrote a special prayer request on the remit slip when you gave your recent donation, we took your specific praise or expression of need to the throne of grace. You are a vital part of this ministry and we count it a privilege to remember you in our prayers. And now, at this Thanksgiving season, we are more grateful than ever for your support of God's work of rescue here in Chattanooga.



"This is God's work, and together our heavenly Father is giving us the strength to help rescue those who are lost."

God's comfort in a time of storm

For those who come through the Mission's doors, we are a refuge in a time of storms. Imagine if you were lost at sea. The waves are pounding and your ship is breaking up. You have a feeling there's no hope for survival. And then, in the distance, you see a rescue boat approaching your sinking vessel. Suddenly, you have hope in your heart. Then, when the rescuers finally arrive, you thank God you have survived. You have been saved. This is pretty much how our guests feel when they come to the Mission. They are lost. They live in terror, beleaguered by the storms of life. For most, there is little or no hope. But then they receive a hot meal, a warm bed, clean clothing and the knowledge that someone cares. *That is the day that turns their lives around.* And you play a significant role in this ministry of rescue. Thank you for standing alongside us week after week, month after month and year after year. This is God's work, and our heavenly Father gives us the strength to help rescue those who are lost. God bless you at this Thanksgiving season.

Your servant to the needy,

Dale Grisso
Dale Grisso

In Due Season
We Shall Reap



IN OUR MODERN CULTURE everything is instant. For example, in the food industry all one has to do is pop something in the microwave, and dinner is served! Ask the farmer, however, and he will tell you that food production is not that fast. It takes months to raise a crop. There's the preparation of the ground, the planting of the seed, the coming of the rains, and the painfully slow process of weeding while the tender plant grows. Even once the fruit appears, there is the waiting until just the right time to pick the fruit. Farming takes time!

Such is the work of the ministry to the homeless. While we daily sow the seed of the Word, it is not until the stubborn ground of the heart has been made ready — often by having one's life completely overturned — that the seed finds fertile soil and new life can begin. Daily, we water the young plants with a fresh dose of the Word. Finally, we start to see some growth. Often it looks like the plant is so fragile and the growth is taking place so slowly, that we

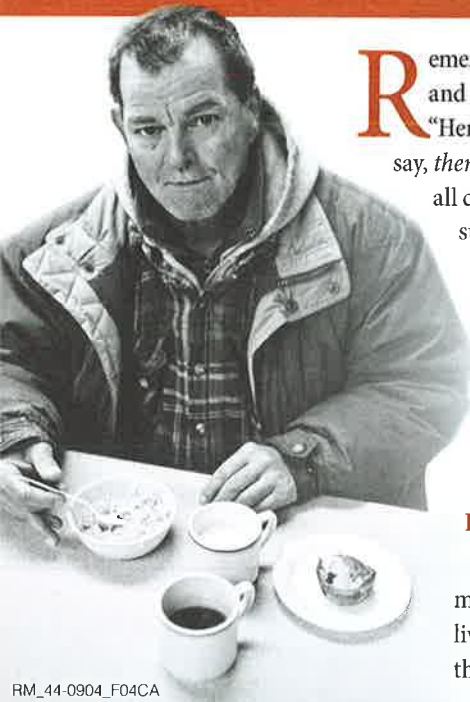


presume that nothing is happening. Yet it is! Attitudes are changing; old habits are becoming loathsome; the roots of faith in God's Word are growing deep. Months and years of labor go into picking out the weeds that would stop

growth. When that precious fruit of Christ-likeness is seen, it is well worth the effort. The key ingredients to a good harvest: fertile soil, good seed, rain, weeding, and TIME. In due season, we shall reap. THEREFORE, WE FAINT NOT.

REACHING OUT TO THE NEEDY . . .

A privilege we share together at Thanksgiving . . . and throughout the year



Remember when we played *hide and seek* as kids . . . and when we shouted from our hiding place, "Here I come, ready or not?" Well, as some might say, *there's a sermon in there.* Because one day, it will all come to an end — *ready or not.* Sunrises and sunsets will be no more. It will no longer be necessary to go to the office or do the laundry. Our affluence, fame and influence will become insignificant. Our grudges, frustrations, worries and suspicions will also finally disappear. So will all our *to do* lists that served us so well for so long. Ready or not, some day it will all come to an end.

It's all about choices . . .

In reality, in the end, it will not be about how much we got, but how much we gave. Did we live with a sense of entitlement, or were we thankful for God's mercy and for the

opportunities we were given to reach out to those in need? When our final words are spoken, it will be all about our integrity, compassion, courage and empowerment of others. Living a life of significance doesn't happen by accident.

"In reality, in the end, it will not be about how much we got, but how much we gave."

It's a choice we must make every day. Thank you for making the choice once again at this Thanksgiving season to reach out to the poor, hungry, homeless and abused who come through the Mission's doors. To continue your vital financial involvement with the Mission, please use the remit slip enclosed. You may also make your donation online at www.chattanoogarescuemission.org. God bless you for being a friend to men and women in need at this Thanksgiving season . . . and for always being one who cares.