



RESCUE CHATTANOOGA

News from Chattanooga Rescue Mission

HOLIDAY ISSUE 2013

www.chattanoogarescuemission.org

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



Dale Grisso, Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries

Pg. 2



The Vacant Seat at the Table . . .

Pg. 2



Thank you for supporting Chattanooga Rescue Mission . . .

Pg. 2

Chattanooga Rescue Mission
1512 S. Holtzclaw Ave., P.O. Box 3624
Chattanooga, TN 37404-0624
(423) 756-3126
www.chattanoogarescuemission.org

I just wanted to be left in a hole to die . . . *but today I see a ray of hope*

My name is Jonathan. One thing I'm learning here at Chattanooga Rescue Mission is there's hope for everyone. I've sat in too many jails. Living on the streets, I had nothing. All I did was sell and use drugs. I don't know how many times I tried to kill myself. The sad thing is I was on drugs and alcohol since I was 14. The good news is I've been sober now for two years. But during those earlier days, I just wanted to be left in a hole to die. Now, for the first time in my life, I feel I have hope.

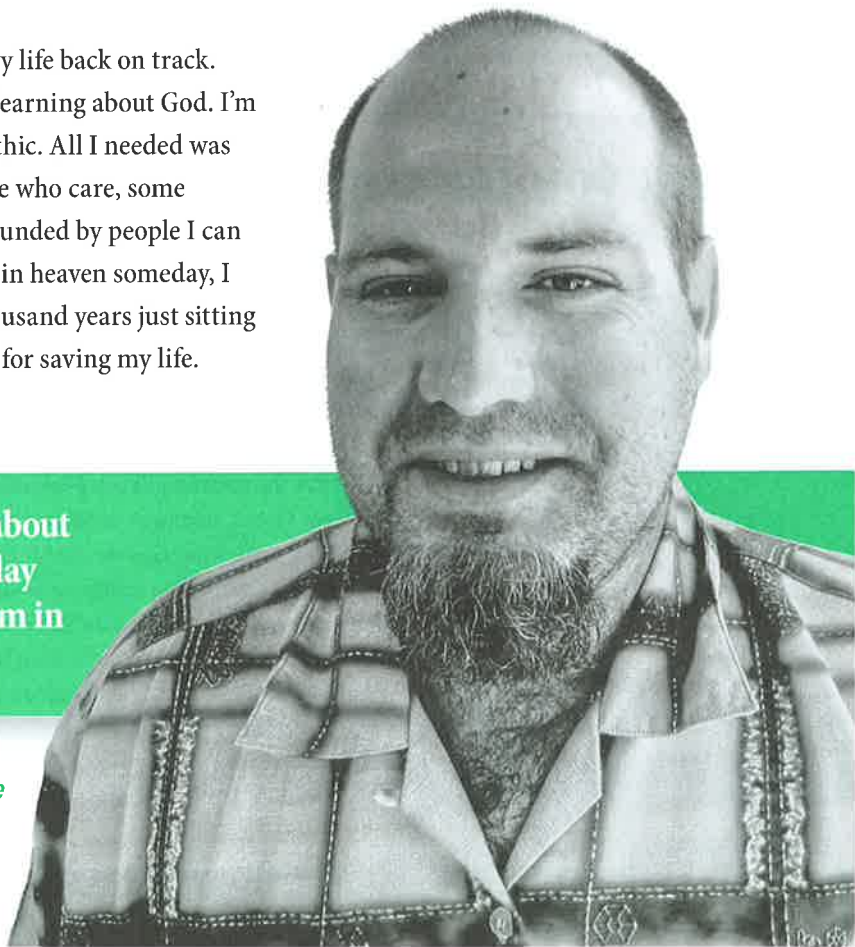
I will spend eternity thanking Jesus for saving my soul

It feels great to get my life back on track. Here at the Mission, I'm learning about God. I'm rediscovering my work ethic. All I needed was my heavenly Father, those who care, some structure and to be surrounded by people I can trust. When I meet Jesus in heaven someday, I expect to spend a few thousand years just sitting at his feet, thanking him for saving my life.

I also want to say a kind word to you who donate and volunteer your time and money to the Mission. A simple loaf of bread feeds 12 people. And it's amazing what the Mission can do with a donation of just a few dollars. I can assure you that whatever your involvement is with the Mission, God is using your donations for his glory. God bless you at this Christmas season.

Your friend,

Jonathan



My past life was all about bondage. My life today is about total freedom in Jesus Christ.

Thank you for helping me get a fresh start at life.

Dale Grisso, Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries

Dear Friend of Chattanooga Rescue Mission,

They may seem like such small things to you and me. Some socks, a warm coat, a pair of shoes, a sweat shirt and a bag of toiletries. I'm talking about the gifts you give to the homeless at Chattanooga Rescue Mission each Christmas. And in just a few weeks, this is exactly what you will again be giving our Mission guests — along with warm meals, friendly handshakes and a reminder that God loves them and so do we.

I remember a time in the past when my own family had fallen on hard times. Money was in short supply, and we simply did not know which way to turn. That Christmas, some local fire fighters provided us with Christmas gifts given with arms of love. From that day forward, I have been keenly aware how much the smallest thing means to a person who has nothing.

The Mission is a place of healing

Those who come through our doors have nothing of this world's goods. In many cases, their families have written them off. But when they come to the Mission, they soon realize someone does love them and that the Mission is a place of healing. This new awareness begins when they embrace the child of Bethlehem, Christ the Savior our Lord.

Thank you for your donations. God bless you for your prayers . . . and for giving our guests the two most important things in the world: to know they are loved, and to have the opportunity to discover true hope is found only in Jesus Christ. May you and your family enjoy a blessed Christmas.

Your servant to the needy,

Dale Grisso

Dale Grisso
Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries



“Those who come through our doors have nothing of this world's goods. In many cases, their families have written them off.”

The Vacant Seat at the Table

As a family becomes more geographically diverse, everyone looks forward to the grand holiday reunion. Amid all the laughter, there's a sad undercurrent. Nobody knows where brother Joe is. No family member has so much as talked to him for several years. Finally one of the siblings broaches the subject: “I wonder what Joe is doing this year?” “Hope he's okay,” responds his sister. “I wonder if he'll ever get straightened out,” chimes in a brother.

What the family does not know is what is going on in Joe's heart about this time of year. He misses the party. He wonders how the rest of the family is doing. He would love to share in the joys of the holidays. But Joe is homeless and penniless. He doesn't try to contact anybody because he feels that he would not be welcome. That longing for security, love, and acceptance keeps him searching, hoping . . .

Joe finally arrives at Chattanooga Rescue Mission. Here he finds a family atmosphere and is lovingly pointed to the Savior. Here he finds that there is help in overcoming those binding sins. Here Joe finds that his family still loves him; it's just that they got tired of being stolen from and lied to. Joe becomes a brand-new man. Next year the banner on the porch reads “Welcome Home Joe.”

This story illustrates why our ministry is so important during the holidays. More than any other time of year, hearts are more tender to God and toward the family that the homeless person left behind. I can't help but wonder who I am going to sit beside this year . . .



RM_43-1110_F04CA

Thank you for supporting Chattanooga Rescue Mission



Christmas is love in action. Each time you reach out to the homeless and destitute, you give to them as God gives to you. *Thank you for sharing from your abundance with those who come to the Mission for food, clothing and shelter — all vital for physical survival.*

But the greatest gift you give is the Person of Jesus Christ, sent to us in human form so we all might know what God the Father is really like. When you reach out to a lost soul and give of your finances and acts of Christian service . . . it's always Christmas. Thank you for providing this ongoing spirit of God's great gift, which we share at the Mission during this special season and throughout the year.

Lives interrupted by a loving God

Our Mission guests soon understand it's good to be interrupted by a loving God who has a divine plan for their lives. During that interruption, our friends learn their schedule is not for them to manage . . . *but rather that it be arranged by the Christ of Christmas.*

In the spirit of this great season of giving, we encourage you once again to give a donation of any amount to help lessen the suffering and pain of those who come through our doors. To put your donation to work today, please use the enclosed remit slip, or give your donation online at www.chattanoogarescuemission.org. God bless you for being a Christmas friend to those in need.

“When you reach out to a lost soul . . . it's always Christmas.”