



RESCUE CHATTANOOGA

News from Chattanooga Rescue Mission

SUMMER ISSUE 2010

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

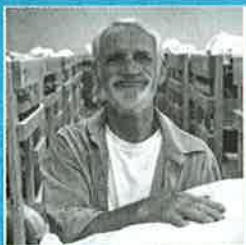
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I Bought a Bar at Age 26 and I made sure I drank the inventory.

My name is Ron. Many things in life help to make us the people we are. One mistake I made at age 26 was to buy a bar. I wonder if there's anything that can get a man in more trouble. My wife and I had separated and I had plenty of money in my pocket. But I also drank my inventory. I became a professional at drinking.

As with any person, my story has as many twists and turns as one might imagine. But let me fast forward to what God is doing in my life at Chattanooga Rescue Mission. I've been here almost two years. I'd never cooked in my life, but when I arrived the Chaplain threw me the keys and said, "Okay, you take care of the kitchen." The Lord is helping me every step of the way.

I'm giving God full control of my life

Last Thanksgiving I had the privilege of helping to serve food to some 300 grateful people. But it's not just the cooking that's fulfilling. I'm also receiving more and more knowledge about God and His Word. No one forces anything down your throat here. But if you want to learn about the deeper things of God, this is the place to do it.

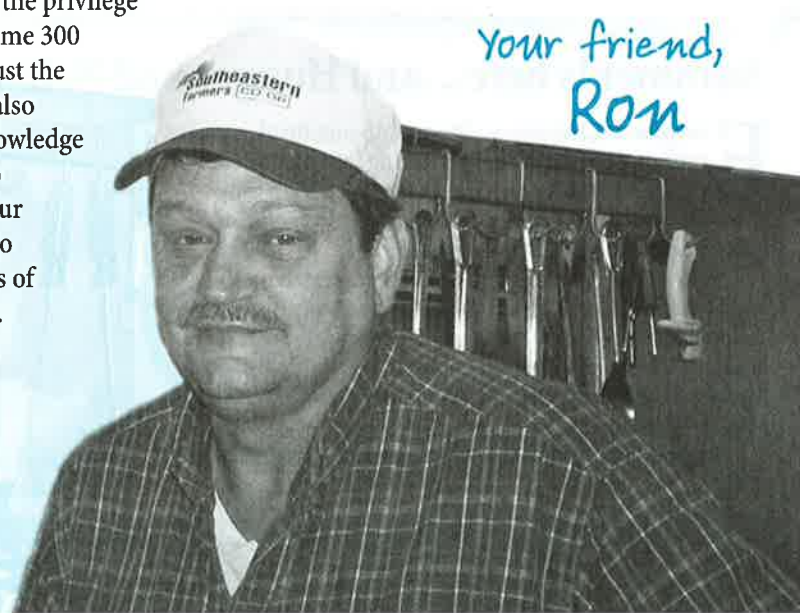
Thank you for giving me a place to learn more about God and myself

So what am I learning? I'm learning to give up my pride to become teachable. I would never ask for help before. *Now I seek whatever help I need.* In the past if something was broken, I was determined to fix it. *Today, I say God, you take care of it. I'm not smart enough to handle this situation.*

"In the past if something was broken, I was determined to fix it. Today, I say God, you take care of it. I'm not smart enough to handle this situation."

Yes, I've wanted to leave the Mission a time or two, but I thank God He didn't let me do it. I thought I was done with the program. But now I realize that "commencement" means a beginning – the start of a new life in Christ. I also don't have enough words of gratitude to give to you who provide money and Christian service to the Chattanooga Rescue Mission. We would not survive without your prayers and financial gifts. I can tell you even the smallest gift is important. I just hope you know how much you mean to me and to everyone else here. God bless you.

*Your friend,
Ron*



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

As I sit at my desk reading through my growing stack of notes from donors, I'm reminded once again that *you* are the lifeblood of what we do here. The Mission is one more extension of your compassion for people in need — people you may never even meet.

Not long ago I took one of our residents with me to a Bible conference. One morning as we spent time together learning, laughing and enjoying ourselves, he leaned over to me and said, "You know, I never knew I could have this much fun without being on drugs." We both smiled. And he said it again. "I thought I had to get stoned to have a good time. But now I realize that this is the life worth living."

And that's what it's all about: *living life on God's terms and from His perspective*. The way of the street is one of self-centeredness. It's all about me...how I can get my next high... or how I can manipulate people into getting what I want.

Self-centeredness turns into service

But when our guests invite the living Lord into their lives, self-centeredness becomes service, love and compassion. And without your ongoing support there would be no stories of victory in the lives of so many.

Something else. I want you to know that you are never far from my thoughts. You may live alone. You may have a fixed income. You may be going through deep waters in relationships with your spouse, your children or grandchildren. I just want you to know you are always on my mind in my prayers. God bless you for giving through your own pain as you reach out to others in need.

Now we're in our new facility. We thank God for the opportunity to extend our care to even more men and women here in Chattanooga. I urge you to come down and pay us a visit at our new CRM campus, located at 1512 S. Holtzclaw Ave. Your continual support is now more vital than ever as our expenses increase to meet the new responsibilities God is giving us. God bless you for who you are and what you do to touch the lives of people in need.

Your servant to the needy,

Dale Grisso

Dale Grisso, Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries



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New Location, New Challenges, New Opportunities

We all knew that the Chattanooga Rescue Mission needed to expand its facilities. I don't think any of us realized just how much we needed to grow, that is, until we actually made the move. On the very first day we were **at our new location (February 26), we had more people lined up outside than we had bed space to sleep** — and this was in our brand-new, enlarged dorms. And every night since then, we have been housing nearly double what our bed capacity had been in our old facility. It's an understatement to say our new building has already proven to be tremendously needed.

It would be putting it mildly to say that in this move we hit the ground with our feet running. **We did not close the shelter for even one night in order to make the transition.** That was quite a task in and of itself. Then, there was the challenge of logistics, of making the traffic (car and human alike) flow smoothly. Then there was the assignment of remembering where the new location for supplies was. We are still looking for some things! The larger building also means an increase in operations: more food, more laundry, more utilities — more of everything.

While our new location has already given us many more opportunities to minister to the homeless, hurting souls on the street, the truth is that we have just begun. **We are currently using only 15,000 of the 33,000 square feet in the building.** We have not yet touched the adjacent dentist's office. And just in case we outgrow these, there is close to an acre of grass that could house most anything we would like to put there. It would appear that the Lord has placed an open door before us of a magnitude even larger than we had imagined. **Even with the recent enlargement, the need is great.** The space is available. Can we count on you to make the rest of it happen through your generous gift to this worthy ministry?

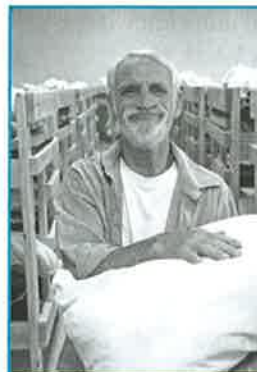


Summer is here...and Hunger and Pain refuse to take a Vacation in Chattanooga

Everyone at Chattanooga Rescue Mission thanks you for your outpouring of support during the recent Easter season. We're happy to report that your generosity continues to be a part of the life-changing process for so many who come through our doors.

Your gift is an act of compassion that keeps on providing food, clothing and shelter for the truly needy in our community. Without your support there would be no Mission. There simply are not enough words in the language to express our thanks to you for the vital part you continue to play in this ministry of rescue.

It's true that we continue to graduate men and women from our various recovery programs. But, in fact, no one ever



really graduates from the spiritual course presented to them. That's "course work" that never ends. It's a lifelong process. And it's true for us all: If we believe we don't need to continue to grow spiritually, it's a sure sign we have more learning to do. Thank you for growing with us in the things of the Lord.

We're all works in progress

As you are moved by the story of one changed life in this newsletter, please remember this testimony reflects someone who is a *work in progress*. Isn't that how it should be with all of us? Together let's agree our spiritual journey may come to a close each night, but that it begins all over again each morning.

To give your donation immediately, please use the remit slip enclosed, or make your donation online at www.chattanoogarescuemission.org. God bless you for being a friend to those in need of your compassion.

"Thank you for your investment in the lives of the poor and needy in Chattanooga during the critical summer months and throughout the year."