



RESCUE CHATTANOOGA

News from Chattanooga Rescue Mission

SUMMER ISSUE 2012

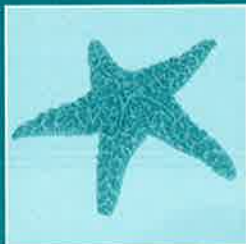
www.chattanoogarescuemission.org

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

From living under a bridge . . . to living with God as my light and my salvation



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



Just a Starfish?
Pg. 2



Giving and Receiving . . .
it's always a two-way
street
Pg. 2

My name is Russell. I don't have the words to describe how much I appreciate the Chattanooga Rescue Mission. If it were not for God, the kindness of donors and this place of rescue I'd probably still be living under a bridge, drinking myself to death. Living outdoors month after month is not all that easy. I used to live with the possums and the raccoons — animals which would often eat my food at night. When I did go into town, I felt ashamed of who I was and how I looked. Every day, my drinking just got worse and worse. That's why I'm so grateful for the Mission and for how it's helping to straighten out my once-crooked life.

It's easy to get addicted . . . and so hard to get clean and sober. But I'm taking it a day at a time . . . and I do feel I'm making progress. I love the Bible classes here at the Mission and it's great to be getting to know the Lord better with each passing day.

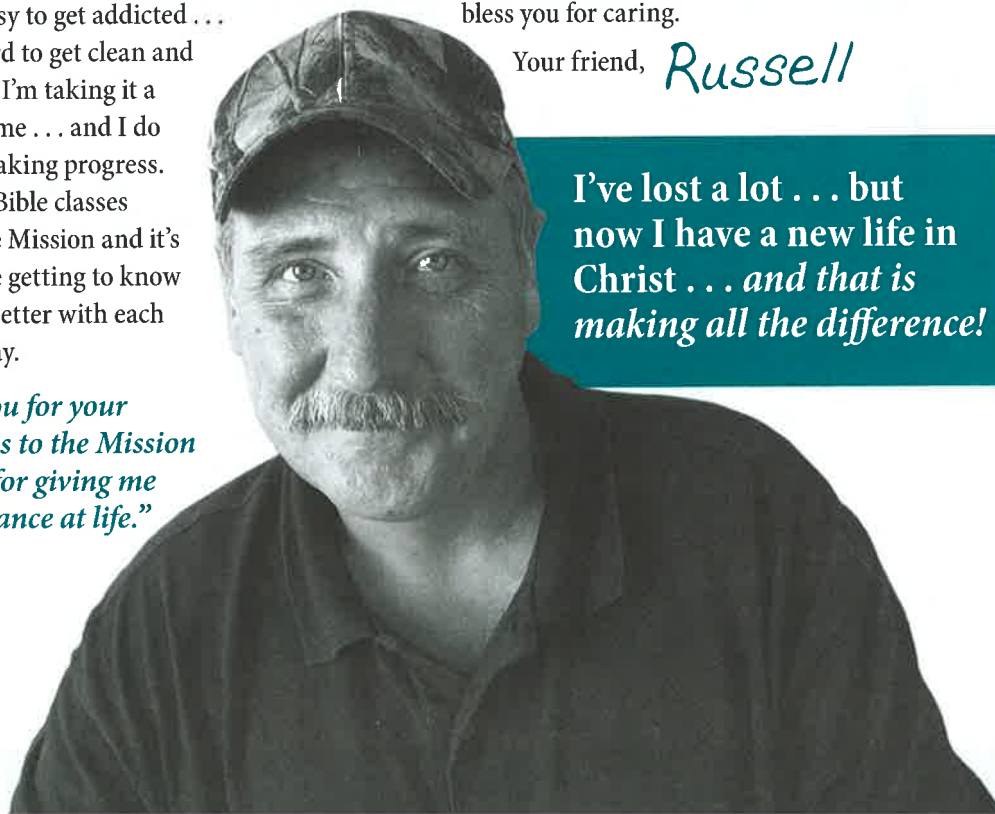
"Thank you for your donations to the Mission . . . and for giving me a new chance at life."

I've lost so much — family, good jobs and so many opportunities. All that loss is hard to think about. But today I'm living in the present, and God is my light and my salvation. It feels so good to wake up sober for once. I don't know why it took me so long to see the light — God's light of love, mercy and grace.

Thank you for all you do to help keep the lights on in the Mission for someone like me. I wonder if you realize how vital your gifts of money and influence mean to us who struggle to make it through another day. I hope you and your family enjoy the coming summer months. If you ever see me, one thing is for sure: I won't be living under a bridge. God bless you for caring.

Your friend, *Russell*

I've lost a lot . . . but now I have a new life in Christ . . . and that is making all the difference!



An Encouraging Word from Dale Grisso

Dear Friend of Chattanooga Rescue Mission,

Thank you for your ongoing support of God's work here at the Mission. Thank you for standing with us throughout the year — and especially during these critical summer months. The other morning, a gentleman came to the Mission and asked to speak with me. He said he'd been following the work of the Mission through our newsletters and other mailings. Then he reached into his pocket and handed me a check for a thousand dollars. Do you think that brought a smile to my face? It sure did. But whether a gift is large or small, *every gift is great when God is in it.*

We are a hospital for the homeless and the spiritually needy

Some folks see the Mission as an ER for those who've come to the end of the line physically. And it is. But it's also a hospital for disheartened spirits — people who've made so many wrong choices and who now want to put God at the center of their lives. That's why our Christian Life program is so vital. This is where we see lives changed for the present and for eternity.

Now the summer months are here again. And again, *homelessness, poverty and despair will not be taking a summer vacation.* That said, if God moves you to invest in yet another life at this time, we will be most grateful. Thank you for believing in the Mission and for inspiring us to do even more to bring people into the presence of the God of rescue.

Your servant to the needy,



Dale Grisso

Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries



"Thank you for believing in the Mission and for inspiring us to do even more to bring people into the presence of the God of rescue."

Just a Starfish?

Yesterday I was reminded of the story of the man

who had come upon a beach on which thousands of starfish had washed up. As he was walking along the beach throwing starfish back into the water, he was reprimanded by a passerby, saying, "You can't save all those starfish. There are just too many to have an impact." The man quietly picked up yet another star fish and threw it into the water, and then said to his accuser, **"It made a difference for that one!"**

The task of meeting the needs of the human heart is overwhelming. So many needs all around us. It is bigger than any one of us. However, I am happy to report that it worked in the life of Eli, who called just yesterday to tell us he was still doing great. And for Dale, who is now working on a horse ranch in Florida. And what about Carol, now a shoe clerk in northern Georgia? Robert wants to use our curriculum to help others in Memphis. It did make a difference for these and for many others who have come through the doors of the Chattanooga Rescue Mission.

Recently, I received a call from a man asking if his donation really made a difference. As a matter of fact, it does. It may seem like just one tiny "starfish," but that is the key to one more being rescued. Thank you for praying, for giving, for volunteering. With each of us doing our part, we just might clean up the whole beach!



Giving and Receiving . . . it's always a two-way street

The computer used to compose this message is powered by electricity. Even though we can't see them, electrons continue to flow into the computer and then back out. In this simple example, electrical energy has value only when it flows in both directions. Think of the water that flows through the hundreds of feet of pipes in your house or apartment. You use that water for drinking, bathing, washing clothes and dishes. Then, unless things go terribly wrong, that water flows back out. So what is the message in this message?

An abundant, fulfilling life involves both giving and receiving. When you give your hard-earned money to reach out to our neighbors in need . . . when you use your influence for good . . . and when you volunteer your time to help those who come to the Mission with physical and spiritual concerns, you give of yourself.

And when you give, you also receive the joy and satisfaction that your act of kindness is providing someone with hope for one more day.

The Mission relies on your friendship and ongoing support to help those in need

To give your donation today to provide nourishing food, clean clothing, safe shelter and God's love to those in despair, please use the remit slip enclosed, or make your donation on our secure website www.chattanoogarescuemission.org. Continue to know the joy of giving by sharing part of yourself with others. Thank you for your kindness and generosity toward the needy during the summer months and throughout the year.

