



RESCUE CHATTANOOGA

News from Chattanooga Rescue Mission

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www.chattanoogarescuemission.org

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From 26 years of addiction . . . to giving God control of my life.

My name is Timothy. You have no idea how much I appreciate all you do to keep the doors of the Chattanooga Rescue Mission open for someone like me. Your donations are giving me the chance I need to change the direction of my life. I was an addict for 26 years.

I started smoking pot in the seventh grade. Then, when I was 18, I saw my dad blow his brains out. From that day on, life was a downward spiral filled with aggravated assaults, alcohol and jail time. I was a mean drunk, always looking to pick a fight. The end result of my lifestyle was, I was going nowhere fast. That's why

I can say the Chattanooga Rescue Mission is the best thing that's ever happened to me. It's quiet here. God's presence is everywhere. I pray, read the Bible, go to classes and am slowly becoming the person I think God wants me to be.

I should have known better . . .

Even back when I spent most of my time in the bars, I knew I was better than just being an alcoholic. I simply refused to allow God to take control of my life. I should have known better. After all, I grew up in church. But one day I decided to go my own way — which was a path to destruction.

No longer do I wake up in the middle of the night and grab another beer. No longer do I gulp down a six pack so I can black out. No longer am I looking for my next fix. Today, I can say my heart is being changed. Thank you again for all you do to help me and so many others here at the Mission. The best news of all is that I know I'm saved.

Your Friend,

Timothy

"It's quiet here. God's presence is everywhere. I pray, read the Bible, go to classes and am slowly becoming the person I think God wants me to be."

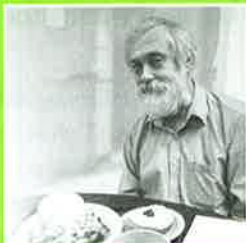
*Thank you for your kindness . . .
and for your generous support of
the Mission. You are helping to
save my life.*



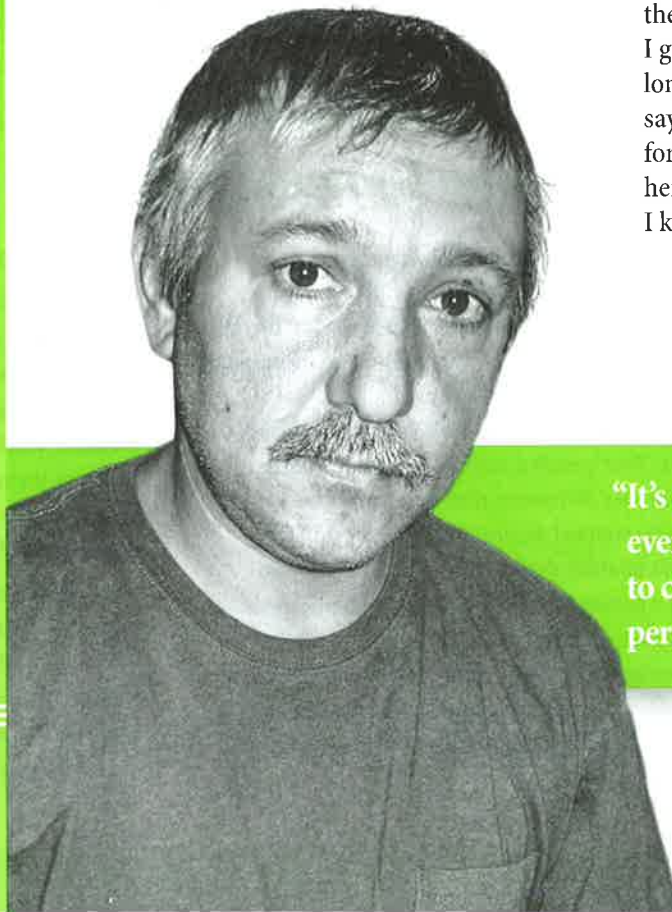
An Encouraging Word
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Thank You for Making
Yourself a Blessing
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Dale Grisso, Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries

Dear Friend of Chattanooga Rescue Mission,

You are so faithful in your giving and acts of service. Thank you for standing alongside us as we continue to engage in this ministry of rescue. I want to share a story with you. When this man came to the Mission he was a prime example of *unrealized potential*. He was not a happy person. He couldn't find work, and life was not going well for him. Now, all that has changed.

Our friend now lives in Arizona. He's working full-time and he checks in with the Mission often just to tell us how God is blessing his life. In his last call he asked us for advice on how he can prepare himself to counsel others in need. What he learned at the Mission years ago continues to bear good fruit. I just wanted you to know the gifts you give to the Mission keep on giving. In fact, they have a ripple effect in people's hearts here in Chattanooga and all across the country.

Thank you for your investment in the lives of the needy

Here's what I know about you. You don't stand on the sidelines. When you see someone in need you respond with compassion and caring. You also know how hot a Chattanooga summer is for any of us . . . *and you are even more aware how oppressive it is for the homeless*. Thank you for investing in the lives of so many as we encourage them to let God transform their hearts. God bless you for praying, for visiting the Mission and for continuing to believe in what God calls us to do.

Your servant to the needy,



Dale Grisso
Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries



"God bless you for praying, for visiting the Mission and for continuing to believe in what God is calling us to do."

Panning for Gems

I wanted to do it for years. But it cost so much. If I didn't get anything, then my money was wasted. But then again, several friends have had great results. This time, I decided to take the plunge. I bought a bucket of dirt and my family and I panned for gems.

In a large way, searching for precious jewels is what the Chattanooga Rescue Mission is all about. Not jewels to make a piece of jewelry, but diadems for a crown to cast at the feet of Jesus.

One thing I learned was that gems do not come already polished. They're found in the midst of dirt and sand. Yuck! And when you find one, you are very likely to think that it is just a rock. Even though I had told the family not to assume anything in the bucket was useless, my daughter was sure that we had a worthless large rock in our bucket. Upon opening it, we found it was a Moroccan geode with spectacular crystal formations. Again, that is what CRM is all about. Our clients don't always appear to be the most savory persons in the world. They come from places of deep sin. Yet, God looks past a rough exterior and sees a heart that can be made beautiful by His transforming grace. These trophies of grace surely are a delight to our God, just as our geode will grace our living room shelf. So, what else did our gem hunting produce? There was quartz and calcite in several colors, blue aventurine, amethyst, jasper, emerald, Tim, Angel, Robert, Mike, Jessica . . . and I think I'm about to crack open some amazing geodes right now. I'm hooked . . . on mining God's gems.

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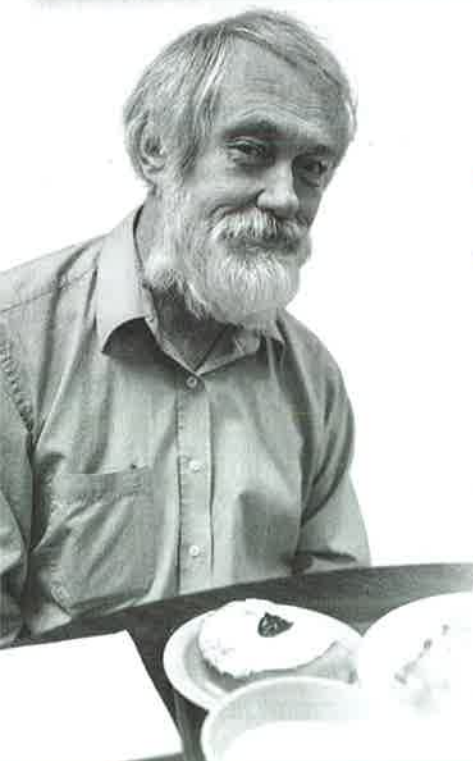
Thank you for making yourself a blessing to someone in need today.

Because of your tangible expression of compassion, someone at Chattanooga Rescue Mission today is discovering there's a better — and a *new* — way to live. Your kindness continues to pay great physical and spiritual dividends in the lives of those who come to our doors. Your concern helps our Mission guests realize they *do* matter after all . . . and your ongoing support assures our friends you will always be there during their time of need. You bless a person who lives in a state of homelessness with your smile, a pat on the back, or a word of encouragement. Every ounce of your compassion counts . . . because you never know when a single word of kindness helps pull someone back from the edge.

We are grateful beyond words for your support

We're all on a journey, often following different road maps for different reasons. And when you share your heart and abundance with weary travelers, you breathe new life into their spirits and help give them the courage to carry on. Everyone at the Mission is grateful to you for your many expressions of love.

To continue to make a difference in lives young and old this summer, may we encourage you to give yet another generous donation at this time? You may use the remit slip enclosed, or give your gift online at www.chattanoogarescuemission.org. God bless you for being someone who cares.



"Those who come to us for assistance during troubled times may never meet you, but they will always remember your acts of kindness . . ."