



# RESCUE CHATTANOOGA

News from Chattanooga Rescue Mission

HOLIDAY ISSUE 2015

[www.chattanoogarescuemission.org](http://www.chattanoogarescuemission.org)

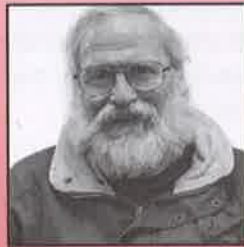
1512 S. Holtzclaw Ave., P.O. Box 3624, Chattanooga, TN 37404-0624

## I am a changed person . . .

*thanks to the goodness and mercy of a loving God*



**An Encouraging Word**  
from Dale Grisso,  
Director of Men's  
Discipleship Ministries  
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Thank you for your  
generosity this season  
Pg. 2



Going back home  
for Christmas!  
Pg. 2

**M**y name is Savannah. I can honestly say God has made me a changed person. If I had not come to Chattanooga Rescue Mission to get my life back together, I would either be in jail or dead. That's how bad my addiction was to prescription drugs. Since age 14 I have been medicating myself. Starting at that young age, because of a bad back, I was given every kind of pill, muscle relaxant and nasal spray imaginable. All that added up to a life of addiction. One day my husband said to me, "Savannah, you have to get help or this marriage is not going to make it." I knew he was right. It wasn't long before God directed my steps to Chattanooga Rescue Mission — where my transformation began. Here I'm learning to read the Bible, I'm praying, and the chapel services

nervous wreck when I had to make my speech. But for once the tears we shed were tears of joy *and not of pain and suffering*. Something else. Every single day I think of you who donate so much of your time, money and energy to keep these doors open for someone like me. You go out of your way to reach out to all of us who are struggling to make it. Someone asked me recently if I was a miracle. My answer was an immediate yes. God has spared me so many times, and now I owe it to God and my family to keep my life moving in the right direction. Thank you again for taking the time and making the effort to reach out to me.

**"God has spared me so many times,  
and now I owe it to God and my  
family to keep my life moving in  
the right direction."**

mean so much to me. I can honestly say I'm no longer tempted to use prescription drugs. I just never thought it would take a Rescue Mission to give me the tools that would finally give me peace of mind.

**For once my family and I cried tears of joy**

When I graduated from the Mission's nine-month program my husband, daughter and mom and dad were present at the ceremony. I know I cried several times, and I was a



Today I'm a better wife and mother . . . *and with God's help, my life will only get better*

Chattanooga Rescue Mission  
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Chattanooga, TN 37404-0624  
(423) 756-3126  
[www.chattanoogarescuemission.org](http://www.chattanoogarescuemission.org)

## Dale Grisso, Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries

Dear Friend of Chattanooga Rescue Mission,

I know you join me in being glad there was at least *one* place that Bethlehem night for the Savior. It certainly wasn't the local Hilton. It was a place for livestock, and a manger was the only place available for the Lord to lay His head — a manger out of which a cow may have been eating only minutes before. So there He was — Jesus . . . a homeless child who would soon be recognized as the Son of God. Perhaps this is one of the reasons Jesus identifies so strongly with the homeless who come through the doors of Chattanooga Rescue Mission.



**"Thank you in advance for your ongoing support of what God is calling us to do."**

Here's what happens when you help make sure there is room for one more:

- A person may come for a bed or a hot meal — but he or she soon realizes hope is once again in sight.
- Those who once thought they were unemployable find jobs and become productive members of society.
- Others go into Christian ministry, where they share their testimony with others of how God continues to move in their lives.
- Bridges once burned with families are rebuilt as Christ becomes the head of the household.

All this and much more takes place because you continue to ensure there is room in the inn — *in a place called Chattanooga Rescue Mission*. Now as we enter the holiday season hundreds more will come through our doors. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support of what God is calling us to do . . . to love Him and to make Him known. God bless you richly at this special season.

Your servant to the needy,

*Dale Grisso*

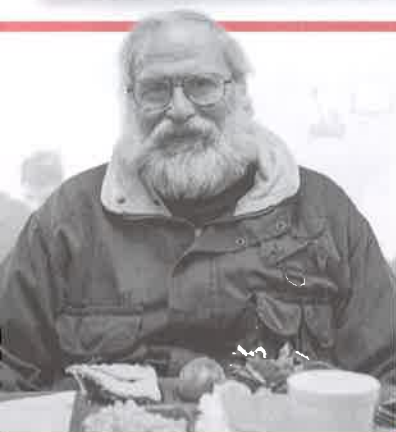
Dale Grisso  
Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries

## My First Christmas at Home

Back  
↑

I could hardly believe my ears. Sis said everybody wanted me to join the family Christmas gathering. I guess for most folk that is an annual occasion. But I haven't been invited for years. The last time I talked to my parents they said that I would never be welcome back into their house — that I was hopeless and they had given up on me. Now, they are actually going to let me come home for Christmas. Me! The prodigal, the family disgrace, the hopeless alcoholic!

So much has changed this last year. About this time a year ago I was hopeless. Sin had a death grip on me, and I had given up on myself. Then, one night I wandered into the Mission. I saw how the people there were happy, smiling, and enjoying life. The people in the program were so different. I knew some of them — we used to see each other at the bars. They told me how God had changed their lives, and it was obvious He had. They said that it was Jesus that I needed. And they were right! It is different now. I'm going home for Christmas — the first time in quite a few years. I just hope that somehow I can make up for all the heartache and disappointment I have brought them. Maybe even someday I'll be able to get my own place and be able to invite them. But that's in the future. For now, I'm going to savor the miracle of my first Christmas back at home!



## Thank you for your ongoing generosity throughout the year . . . and especially during the holiday season

Once in the year — and only once — the whole world stands still to celebrate the advent of a life. Only *Jesus* claims this worldwide, undying remembrance. Christmas celebrates that moment when God stepped down from the stairs of heaven as a baby. Aren't you glad the light shining from a humble manger is strong enough to lighten our lives? Thank you for helping us share this divine light with so many who've lost their way.

Once again you have continued to help sustain this ministry of rescue for another year. You've been generous month after month, season after season. Even when times are tough, you stand alongside those in need. *Thank you.*

### Stomachs filled . . . spirits lifted

Now as we at Chattanooga Rescue Mission prepare for

the holiday season once again, you are the spiritual wind beneath our wings. Every day, hungry mouths come to be filled. Spiritually parched spirits are fed. And whether our guests verbalize it or not, all will leave a bountifully filled Mission table with hearts filled with gratitude.

The Christmas season continues to be *one of the greatest opportunities we have all year to share the good news of freedom in Jesus Christ*. You have already played a great role in lives that were once damaged goods. Now with God as your strength, please continue to carry on your own personal ministry of rescue.

To send your donation today to help our friends during the holiday season, please use the remit slip enclosed. You may also give your gift on our secure website at [www.chattanoogarescuemission.org](http://www.chattanoogarescuemission.org). Thank you.

**"Even when times are tough, you stand alongside those in need. Thank you."**