

Rescue  Mission
OF MIDDLE GEORGIA

THE

MISSION

Bell

VOLUME 23 • ISSUE 4 • APRIL 2022

"Where Healing Begins"

GOD
IS MY
HOPE

p.4

happy
EASTER

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THE **MISSION** Bell

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PROVIDING *a Path of*
HOPE, REDEMPTION,
& **EMPOWERMENT**
THROUGH
Jesus Christ



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FROM THE *President's Desk*

Good Friday COMMUNITY MEAL



Easter and Good Friday are quickly approaching, and we are looking for a few people to help us drive and deliver meals in the community on Good Friday, April 15, 2022. We will be delivering to the homeless and others without the means to prepare food in the downtown Macon area. This is a great ministry opportunity and a way to share the Gospel with so many hurting in our community. It is our goal to feed over 1,200 people this Good Friday, but we will need your help to do this. I can't think of a better way to share the love of Jesus than by delivering a warm meal to someone hungry.

It is not necessary to have attended volunteer training to help deliver meals. Many that have done this in the past are families. So, if you have friends or know anyone who has mentioned that they would like to become involved volunteering with the Rescue Mission, this is the perfect time to invite them.

If you are available to help, you can sign up by calling Patti Stevenson at 478-743-5445 ext. 403 or patti@rescuemissionga.com. She will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Delivery times are from 8 am – 11 am. We will have two shifts of volunteers between these hours.

We are also still collecting food donations for our Good Friday meal. Our menu is going to include ham, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, and pound cake. If you can't volunteer on Good Friday but would still like to participate in some way, we would be grateful for any of the above items that you could donate. Donations can be dropped off at our main location, 6601 Zebulon Road, Macon, GA. We also need cups, individually wrapped plastic utensil sets, and napkins. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated also!

May God bless you this Easter! Thank you for volunteering with the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia and being a living example of John 13:35, *"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."*


Pat Chastain, President/CEO



GOD IS MY Hope

My name is Roger Patton. I was born in Savannah Georgia in January 1973. I was raised in the small coastal town of Darien, Georgia. A lovely town when I was a child. I lived with both my parents and my older brother. I lived a life that seems nice from the outside, but like so many other people's lives there were hidden secrets. My father's form of discipline, like his father before him, was rough, to say the least. Discipline from my mother was no better. Both didn't know what a backside was used for and would result in backhands, beatings with a belt that was so intense they would leave black welts that had to be covered with clothing. My mom would throw whatever she could get her hands on.



At the tender age of six, I had already been abused twice by non-family members. These were "friends of the family" that were trusted to watch me when my parents, who were EMTs, were on call. I never shared that with them, because like so many other kids, we were made to feel afraid and that it was our fault. At the age of 13, I began drinking as a way of release from the emotional and psychological trauma and to become more socially acceptable having always been an awkward person. By the time I was 17, I already knew alcohol was going to be an issue.

At 19, I decided to join the Navy to get my life straight. While the military taught me great things about loyalty and following orders, it did nothing to help with my drinking. If anything, it just added to it. Shortly after boot camp, I married Toni, someone who became my best friend. I was able to open up to her and share the things that I had been through in my life.

My wife and I had two beautiful girls. One was born in 1995, and the other in 1997. The most beautiful things that ever happened in my life. I made a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Testimony CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

promise to myself that I would never be abusive like my parents had been to me. I generally left the physical discipline up to my wife knowing that she would have a gentler hand. I didn't realize until later in life that I was an emotional abuser through lack of expression of love and time devoted to them.

Through the years, I dabbled with other drugs, but it was alcohol, that always had its claws in me. It was around 2015 that I went to my first rehabilitation center. I found it to be a horrible experience due to the facility, and honestly, I was there for others not me. Quickly relapsing after leaving there, my wife and children begged and pleaded with me to quit drinking. All the while, they were thinking that I just didn't want to quit, and I was thinking I don't know how to quit.

After many years, my family just could not take it anymore, and after 24 years my wife divorced me. It was crushing. I had just lost my best friend and the one person I loved more than anything in the world other than my children. I couldn't blame her or my daughters. A person can only take so much. This brought me to my first trip to the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia in May of 2019. I wanted to come this time, I wanted to be sober, and I wanted to fix all the things I had broken, especially my relationships. I began learning the tools that the Rescue Mission teaches you and turning my life back to God.

When I graduated, things began to get better in the relationship with my daughters not perfect not even great but better. The relationship with my ex-wife also began to improve, and we were hanging out together a lot. There was one problem though. I failed to stay connected. By this I mean I quit going to church, I quit going to meetings, and I quit talking about things that I was going through with someone that would listen. Not necessarily respond, just listen. Within 6 months, I was back in my head, which for me can be a dangerous place to be. It's dark there and hard to cope with. So, I began slipping with a drink here and a drink there. Currently, I was living with my two daughters. I had given them a box of urinalysis strips to test for alcohol and ask them to hold me accountable. Later, I found out that they were worried that I would get mad with them if they had asked. Oh, how I

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Stories of Hope

"I'm not broken anymore."

Lisa first started using drugs and alcohol as a teenager to numb the pain of a broken home. "I had years of brokenness... just running from myself. I didn't care if I lived or died." Though she called herself a Christian, she knew she wasn't living the way God wanted. Then one day, she felt a spark of hope and decided to get help at the Mission. "I wanted to find the Lisa God created, not the one who had a mask on all these years."

Though Lisa was scared when she first entered the program, she soon realized she was right where she needed to be. "I began to work on myself and build my relationship with God. I'm learning to forgive myself and heal from toxic relationships." She's working on restoring the relationships with her children and strengthening her faith. "Whatever God has for me next, I know I just have to trust in Him. **I'm grateful to be here, and that the Mission believes in me.**"



Help create more Stories
of Hope...become a
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478-743-5445 ext. 404



Stories of Hope begin with YOU!

Donation Drives THAT CHANGE LIVES

Your generous donation of these much needed items help the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia to be good stewards of our resources while meeting the daily needs of the men, women and children we serve. THANK YOU for any help you can give in meeting these needs.

MEN'S BOXER BRIEFS

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Visit Our **Amazon Wish List** to Browse, Order & Ship items directly to the Rescue Mission with just a few quick, easy steps...

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For more information contact Karen Kinsler at 478-743-5445 ext.404 or karen@rescuemissionga.com

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Testimony CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

wish they had asked. After breaking their trust, I had to move out and move into a paid-by-the-week motel room. I had once again destroyed what I worked to restore with my daughters and ex-wife.

Now alone and miserable, I began drinking more and more. Until one night I came to my senses while looking in the mirror. I called Jason Beck, and with much shame, let him know that I had fallen off the wagon and wanted to come back. In typical Jason Beck fashion, he said “Brother come on back home.” I returned on May 28th, 2021. This time I changed my way of thinking, refreshed my memory of the tools previously learned, and even learned some things that I missed before. It took me a while to understand and more importantly accept that as a son of God all things go to His glory for those who are in Christ Jesus and to know that He has nothing but good for me whatever the path is to get to it. Trusting Him is not easy and can be scary, but without Him, I have no hope because He is my hope. I trust Him with my future, with my family, and that He will make something beautiful out of the broken pieces of me. Thank you for letting me tell you my story. May God keep you and bless you.



Consider it pure joy,
my brothers and
sisters, whenever you
face trials of many
kinds, because you
know that the testing
of your faith produces
perseverance. Let
perseverance finish
its work so that you
may be mature and
complete, not lacking
anything.

- JAMES 1:2-4

Certification

Award Received

We are thrilled to announce that we have been named Best of 2022 Recovery Program! We are amazed at what God continues to do here at the Mission and are thankful for this award.



Women's Division HAPPENINGS

Happy Easter

With the coming of Spring comes warmer weather and more sunshine! We can't help but notice the new life bursting forth in the greening of the grass and blooming of the trees and flowers. Eggs are hatching, birds are singing and there is the newness of life all around us! Planted in this season of new life is the holiday celebration in which our Christian faith is rooted... Easter! The celebration of our resurrected Savior and King!



As we prepare to celebrate, we have some activities lined up for the ladies and their children on the weekend of Easter. Rock Springs Macon is having an Easter Egg Drop EGGstravaganza on Saturday, April 16. This will be a fun time for the women and children to fellowship and enjoy the activities planned for the day. The morning of Easter we have planned a special breakfast for the residents where we have asked the honorable Judge Colvin to come to speak to and encourage the ladies. It is going to be an exceptional time for the women, and hopefully, one that they and their children will always remember.

Life at the Mission is busy. We are growing and learning every day! We do have a few needs that we would like to share with our community. You guys are always so faithful to donate, and your generosity allows us the opportunity to play a small part in making an eternal impact! Our immediate (and always present) needs are:

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Towels
- Washcloths
- Journals
- Cleaning Supplies
- Women's Underwear (Medium-3X)

Please continue to keep us in your prayers! God is working and moving in extraordinary ways! It is beautiful to watch Him show Himself to the residents of the Mission. My faith is growing as He proves Himself faithful, time and time again!

Jessica Coleman
Women's Program Director

"If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself." - 2 Timothy 2:13

SCENES FROM AROUND THE MISSION

We would like to give a special thanks to Brooke Hartley and Porter Elementary for hosting a Cleaning Supply drive for us. The students collected items for several weeks to donate to the men, women, and children in our programs. We are truly thankful for their kind hearts for serving others!



Men's Division HAPPENINGS

No Longer

We all, at times, carry things in life that seem to weigh us down, drain our strength, and invade our thoughts. Often these things arose in childhood, or years ago, and we've just found a way to go through life, albeit unhealthy and without experiencing freedom, pretending that we're ok. Unfortunately, as the years go by, the baggage we've accumulated, due to unresolved sin issues and shame, gets heavier and heavier. Whether it's from what's been done to us or what we've done, the guilt becomes unbearable and begins to seep into every facet of our life. We find ourselves constantly searching for a way to numb the pain, dim the memories, and lighten the load. Without Christ, our methods are feeble, giving us only momentary glimpses of relief, and always leading to more pain and a deeper sense of the shame we already feel, further fueling a cycle of destructive life choices. Our hope and prayer, for every man that God brings to the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia, is that they would and will experience freedom from the devastating effects that shame has on our lives, through a relationship with Jesus Christ. As Christ does His healing work on the heart, our part, as staff and residents alike, is to create, cultivate, and nurture an environment of safety, where the trust of others can begin to develop. As the foundations of trust begin to be laid, little by little, heart-wrenching stories of sin and shame start coming out. We get to experience this with the men daily through our group time, whether it's through the sharing of journals or discussions driven by the curriculum. One of the unique ways we use to illustrate moving forward is by meeting at our pavilion, building a fire, and burning the



things that have caused us so much pain and anguish. For some, it comes in the form of a letter, for others, it may be a list. For many, what's shared by the fire, it's the first time that they've been able to say aloud what's been weighing them down. Our time by the fire represents a beautiful moment where the Holy Spirit is invited in and the love of Christ Jesus, through others, is allowed to encourage and support the hurting, healing, and hopeful heart of the one speaking. It's an extremely sacred moment where many men, for the first time, choose to risk trusting those around them with what's true. 1 Peter 5:7 says, "casting all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you" and in Hebrews 12:1-2 it says "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author, and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." We recently had one of these fireside experiences, and we hope that through the radical work of the Holy Spirit every man that participated walked away a little lighter, more trusting of others, and completely open to what a life hidden in Christ Jesus has to offer....no longer bound to the weight of sin and shame.

Jason M. Beck

Jason Beck, Vice President of Programs



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