

THE

MISSION

Bell

VOLUME 22 • ISSUE 12 • DECEMBER 2021

"Where Healing Begins"

Merry
CHRISTMAS



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



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FROM THE President's Desk

Matching CHALLENGE

What if you could personally help a man, woman, or child go from struggling to thriving in just a matter of months?

There's good news. YOU CAN.



Every day we have the awesome privilege of watching God literally transform struggling and broken men and women right before our eyes. It's amazing to see the healing that's taking place in their hearts begin to show on their countenance as they move toward a new life by way of Jesus Christ.

I could tell you countless stories of men and women who have found healing and freedom from the wounds and experiences of their past here at the Rescue Mission. But I think it's better if you hear it from one of them, so I hope you'll turn to page six and read Clarence's story. Learn how after years of addiction, homelessness, and estrangement from his family, he has recommitted his life to Christ, found a new peace through his relationship with Him, and is witnessing his relationships with each of his family members being restored.

It's faithful and generous supporters like YOU that made Clarence's story and hundreds and hundreds more like his possible. Without your gifts to this ministry, we simply could not provide the hope and help these hurting individuals so desperately need. Now we have a unique opportunity as we approach the end of 2021 that we're really excited to share with you.

Some generous partners have offered to fund a MATCHING CHALLENGE. They've contributed a total of **\$50,000** and challenged others like you **to collectively contribute an additional \$50,000** by December 31st. If you and other partners meet this MATCHING CHALLENGE, our ministry will secure a total of **\$100,000** to help those working to build a stable and Godly life.

All gifts must be received by December 31 to be counted toward the Challenge. Please take a moment to read Clarence's story and send your gift today to help other men and women at the Mission. **THANK YOU** for continuing to be an extension of God's grace and mercy. YOUR partnership is a blessing to so many people!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Chastain". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Pat Chastain, President/CEO

A Life Change BY WAY OF JESUS CHRIST

My name is Joshua States, and I have been in the Rescue Mission program for eight months. I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you about my life, my addiction, and how God has changed me since being at the Mission. I hope my story will encourage you today and that you will know how much I appreciate you supporting the Rescue Mission, because when you support the Mission, you are supporting my new life through Christ.

My life was completely out of control due to my years of drug addiction; I was facing death if something didn't change. I was at the end of my rope and knew that it was time to seek help. God placed the Rescue Mission in my path, and I knew He was sending me here for a true change of heart. Because of the support of this wonderful, giving community, I was able to take full advantage of the life recovery program here, and I am clean and sober today thanks to you! Today I am clear-headed and have peace in my heart.

The day I realized my life was being controlled by my addiction was when my brother told me that the last conversation he had with our oldest brother was about how they needed to help me get my life together. They could both see that I was going to die if I continued down the path I was on. I was completely out of touch with reality and was literally on death's doorstep.

I am the youngest of 4 boys, and we were raised by our mother and father. Unfortunately, my father passed away when I was 9 years old. This drastically changed the trajectory of my life. Ten years later, my older brother was shot



CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Please join us for our
Graduation Celebration

Friday, January 7, 2022

Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia

(Rock Springs Church Bldg.)

6601 Zebulon Road, Macon, GA 31220

6:30 PM Praise & Worship

7:00 PM Graduation 8:00 PM Refreshments



Clarence's Story

“On the streets there were no good days. I was worn out. I was so tired”.



Before the Rescue Mission, I was on the street. I got to where I just didn't care about myself no more, didn't care about my family no more. Seemed like one thing led to another, using drugs, stealing. I just got so tired of living like that. I just existed. I was my own worst enemy.

I had a young family and also had some other folks staying with me that I was taking care of. The money pressures were getting big all the time. Then some friends talked me into trying drugs to forget about my problems. Well, I got addicted and used for 25 years and that cost me everything. My family, my home, lots of jobs. I was homeless and alone. I moved from city to city, finding shelter and food wherever I could.

“I don't believe God ever left me. I left Him”.

I finally asked my daughters for help. I sure didn't deserve their help after the all I'd done, but they started looking for me a place to go and that's how I got to the Rescue Mission. The Mission is all about love, God's love. They gave me a safe place where I could look at the things that led me to live this way. I walked with the Lord when I was young and now, at the Mission, I found my way back to him.

If I do things my way, it's probably never going to work out for me. The Rescue Mission reminded me that my meaning in life is to love and serve God. God's healing me. He has healed my relationship with my girls and I'm getting to know my grandkids too.

Clarence and so many men and women like him are finding hope and a new life by way of Jesus Christ at the Mission thanks to your financial support. As 2021 draws to a close we want to thank you for blessing the Mission with your support and changing the lives of our hurting neighbors. We'd also like to ask you to prayerfully consider a year-end donation to our **MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE** to support the ministry as we move into 2022. **THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS!**

“Before the Rescue Mission, I just existed. But today I live for Him, and life is good”!



For more information on these and other ways to give call 478-743-5445 ext. 404

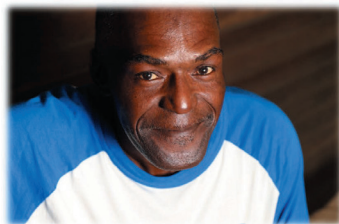
Help Clarence and others like him with our

\$50,000

MATCHING CHALLENGE

DOUBLE the impact of your
YEAR-END GIFT!

Two generous partners have offered funding for a **Matching Challenge**. They've contributed a total of **\$50,000** and challenged other donors like you to collectively contribute an additional **\$50,000 by December 31**.



My Gift to Help Clarence and Others Like Him

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

_____ My check for \$_____ is enclosed

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LIFE CHANGING GIFT!

Donate online now! rescuemissionga.com/clarence

Return to: Rescue Mission
6601 Zebulon Road
Macon GA 31220

Reply Envelope Provided on Page 5

Testimony CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

and killed. I could never understand why my dad was taken from me. I desperately needed him and wanted him to be in my life.

My drug use started when I was 11 years old after my father passed away. This was such a traumatic time in my life, and I was searching for anything to numb my pain. Marijuana did just that, and I began using it regularly. Later in my teenage years, marijuana wasn't enough, and I found myself trying other drugs. I felt empty, alone, and was in a place of utter darkness. My mother did her very best in raising 4 boys. She worked multiple jobs, and I was often left to be cared for by my brothers. They were dealing with their own pain and had no clue how to care for me in the way I needed. I used drugs as my escape from everything. Isolation became another form of escape for me. I would withdraw, bottle everything inside, and never express myself to anyone around me. Isolation and drug use became a very dark place for me to hide, and I did this for many, many years.

Since being in the Mission program, I have learned so much about myself. I've learned that I never really grieved my father's death nor my older brother's death. I have deep emotions from my childhood and am just now dealing with the losses in my life. I struggle with understanding my feelings, because I masked them for so long. God is teaching me that He is in control over all my feelings of failure, hopelessness, and my deep desire to be loved. He is the answer! I have also realized that I have been without a true relationship with Christ and that I have been missing out on the love He has for me. His love has truly helped me overcome and given me the peace I have longed for my entire life. His love is perfect and is exactly what I've needed all my life.

I plan to graduate from the program in January and pray God will bless me with a family of my own. I would love the opportunity to be the father I never had by teaching my children things that I had to learn on my own. I desire to share my love with others, and I am excited about the possibility of a family!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Testimony CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

The Rescue Mission has impacted me so much with my relationship with Jesus Christ, my Lord, and Savior. I was lost without Him, empty and broken inside. I have tried to fill this void that could never be filled with other things; only Jesus can fill it. The Lord has been speaking to me through the Mission, guiding me every step of the way, and I am so thankful.

God has blessed me with a giving spirit, and I have a strong desire to help others. I am fervently praying for Him to use me for His glory once I complete the program. I will follow His guidance before I make any decision about my future. Thank you for your part in giving me a second chance. I am forever grateful for the Rescue Mission and your support!



Oh, give thanks to the
LORD, for He is good!
For His mercy endures
forever. PSALM 107:1

SCENES FROM AROUND THE MISSION

We are so very thankful for Real Life Church and how they love the Rescue Mission. Each year, they collect turkeys to help feed those in our community for our Thanksgiving meal. We are so grateful for their partnership!



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.

TWIN COMFORTERS

TWIN SHEET SETS

READING GLASSES

(all strengths)

Liquid Bath Soap

Hand Soap

Razors

Shave Gel

Advil

Allergy Medicine

(not Benadryl)

Children's Cold

Medicine

Children's Tylenol

Cleaning Products

Paper Towels

Bleach

Furniture Polish

Swiffer Dusters

Bathroom Cleanser

Fabuloso All Purpose

Cleaner

Windex

Pine-sol

Donate much needed items RIGHT FROM YOUR COMPUTER!

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

Items purchased locally can be brought to the Mission at 6601 Zebulon Road.
For more information contact Karen Kinsler at 478-743-5445 ext.404 or karen@rescuemissionga.com

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Men's Division HAPPENINGS

Love Through Giving

As December rolls in, excitement fills the air as we get ready to celebrate the birth of Christ, I want to first take this opportunity to thank you all for your tremendous show of love and support for the men of the Rescue Mission and Ministry of the Mission. Without your involvement, it wouldn't be possible to accomplish the things we do throughout the year.



Many will be preparing to spend this Christmas much differently than they did last year due to Covid. Christmas, most importantly, is our celebration of the birth of Jesus; it's also a time that families get together and share their love towards one another. Traditionally, one of the ways we do this is through giving. Oh, the joy it brings to give a gift to someone, especially someone you love. Many of the men at the Mission won't get to experience this with their families for a variety of reasons...separation, divorce, estranged, poor life choices, travel.... the list could go on and on.

Something that we try our best to do, with your help, is make sure that every man here receives a gift on Christmas. The men of the Rescue Mission are some of the most loving and thoughtful individuals I've ever had the opportunity to cross paths with, regardless of what they might have experienced in their pasts. With your help, we can ensure that each one of these amazing men receives something special this Christmas morning! Your help in this will communicate two things that all of us desperately want to hear... We see you, and we love you!

God in His goodness and His Grace gave us all the gift of His Son, Jesus. What better way to be an extension of Him, than by giving to others.... not with the motive to get, but simply out of love. We have a couple of ways for you to be involved in this, either through sponsorship or by purchasing the gifts yourself. The beauty of Macon is the people's willingness to step in the hardships of others. There are not too many things more difficult than not being able to spend Christmas with your family. However, I do believe that with your love, through giving, you can help make this a special Christmas for some pretty amazing men.

Please mail donations to 6601 Zebulon Rd and mark them to my attention. Thank you again for loving the men here so very well!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jason Beck'.

Jason Beck, Vice President of Programs

Women's Division HAPPENINGS

Merry Christmas

FROM THE WOMEN'S DIVISION

Christmas is always a big deal at the Rescue Mission, but it is also a difficult time for the women that are in our program struggling with believing that they are not able to provide a Merry Christmas for their children. The love of this community has made a way for these women to bring that joy to their children.

Year after year, I am in awe of our God and how He uses our local body of believers as they allow the love of Jesus to flow through them by giving of their time and resources to those who are looking for a new life that can only be found in Christ.

Not only are the children thought of and provided for, but you always make sure that the women know that they are loved by their Heavenly Father as they are blessed with the generosity that flows from this community. Their precious little faces are awesome to see on Christmas morning. We can never express how much your love and support means to each of the women and children residing here.

Knowing that although they are in a trying season of their lives, they can have peace in their hearts as they are allowed to know what it means to experience God's presence and know that even in their brokenness, Jesus is with them.

*"Behold, the virgin will conceive
and give birth to a son, and
they shall name Him Emmanuel,"
which translated means,*

"God with us."

MATTHEW 1:23

Linda Wessells

Linda Wessells, Women's Program Director



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OUR **NEW INVENTORY & UPCOMING SALES AT**

THE BARN CENTER



**Furniture, Household Decor, Table Settings,
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6601 Zebulon Road, Macon
Tuesday - Saturday / 10:00am - 6:00pm
478-743-5445

When you shop at the Barn Center you not only save, you help
fund programs for the men, women, and children we serve!



facebook.com/MissionBargainCenter

Bargain CENTER

3 EASY WAYS TO Donate



1

CALL 478-743-5445 ext.314
to Schedule a Pick-up

2

Go **ONLINE** to
Schedule a Pick-up

3

VISIT One of Our
27 Donation Bins

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FURNITURE • KITCHEN ITEMS • CLOTHING • SO MUCH MORE!

Remember to call us when you are spring cleaning!

3375 Napier Avenue, Macon
Monday-Saturday / 10:00am - 6:00pm
478-743-5445

When you shop the Bargain Center you not only save, you help fund programs for the men, women, and children we serve!



facebook.com/MissionBargainCenter



P.O. Box 749 | Macon, GA 31202

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GIVE YEAR-ROUND

Consider becoming a monthly giver and have a lasting impact throughout the year! Find out how at rescuemissionga.com



BARGAIN CENTER

Shop at 3375 Napier Avenue or donate items to a great cause. For large pickups call 743-5445.

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Macon, GA



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