

Rescue  Mission  
OF MIDDLE GEORGIA

THE

MISSION

Bell

VOLUME 23 • ISSUE 2 • FEBRUARY 2022

"Where Healing Begins"

EXCITED  
FOR MY  
FUTURE

p.4



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# THE MISSION Bell

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- 03 FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**  
Will You Partner With Us?
- 04 TESTIMONY FROM THE MISSION**  
Excited For My Future
- 06 LIFE CHANGERS**  
Monthly Giving Partners
- 07 NEEDS LIST**  
Donation Drives That Change Lives
- 10 SCENES FROM AROUND THE MISSION**  
Graduation
- 12 MEN'S DIVISION HAPPENINGS**  
How Will You?
- 13 WOMEN'S DIVISION HAPPENINGS**  
Welcome Jessica Coleman
- 14 BARN CENTER**  
Weekly Sales
- 15 BARGAIN CENTER**  
Great Savings

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THROUGH  
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FROM THE *President's Desk*

## WILL YOU Partner With Us?



We are very excited to share what God is doing here at the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia. We have grown in the number of men, women, and children that we have the pleasure of serving and are so very happy with this amazing growth since moving to our new campus. God has far exceeded our expectations since the move in 2019.

The men's division currently has 82 men in our program. This is double what we could accommodate at our Hazel Street location. God's amazing hand is certainly at work here, and we cannot wait to see where He takes this ministry.

The women's division has expanded to 23 women and 8 children currently receiving services with us. God knew that we needed to expand the number of women and children we serve, and He certainly has provided a safe place for their healing.

We are extremely thankful to this community for your generous love and support of what God is doing here. You are helping to truly change lives by way of Jesus Christ.

With growth comes more opportunities to serve and pray for our ministry and we ask that you partner with us. There are opportunities available to become a **LIFE-CHANGERS** monthly giving partner (more details on page 6), and opportunities to mentor and volunteer. Becoming a **LIFE-CHANGERS** partner will help ensure that everyone gets the daily essentials and care they need, like meals, housing, counseling, job training, Bible study, spiritual mentoring, and life-skills classes. **LIFE-CHANGERS** provide the Mission with a consistent and reliable source of funding that allows us to meet day-to-day needs and plan ahead.

You play a very large role in our ministry, and we are so very thankful for you! We love you and pray God's love and mercy surround you!

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*

## Excited FOR MY FUTURE!

My name is Charles Matthew Anderson, III. I was born in Decatur, Georgia and spent the first 14 years of my life living in Duluth, Georgia. I grew up having both of my parents present. My dad worked for Delta Air Lines, and my mother worked for General Electric. I was an only child, with one of my half-siblings only around during the early stages of my life. You could say I was spoiled a bit. We traveled a lot, and I was able to experience much the world had to offer from an early age. I played sports and was very active. I played football and basketball from the age of 5 to 18. Always being the tallest made these sports the easiest for me to play, and I performed rather well at them. I knew sports wasn't where my bread was buttered. Academics were always a priority for me growing up. Both of my parents went to college, so performance and achievement played a major role for me. The expectations were clear. If I performed well, good things would happen, or so I believed. If I had the best education, I would get the best job, I would make the most money, I would live the happiest life. Certainly, some aspects of that logic are applicable, but judging myself based on these merits has led to much shame and disappointment in my life.

Before starting high school, my parents and I moved to Newnan, Georgia. This was a bit difficult for me, as I didn't know anyone and had to adjust to a new environment and a different, slower pace of life. I quickly acclimated myself, playing sports certainly helped that. I made straight A's through school, played football and basketball, was part of the Beta Club, National Honors Society, and the Math Team. Outside of all of this, I had a full basement to myself, and my friends were always over. Here, I began to drink and smoke pot, initially. There were a few bedrooms down there and the hormones of my teenage friends raged, you could say. My parents were okay with what we were doing at the time, because they felt it was safe to do where we lived under their roof, and my grades weren't suffering. Soon, however, harder drugs were introduced. Cocaine, Meth, ecstasy, crack, pain pills, hash, mescaline, mushrooms, and



CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

## Testimony CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

acid all made their way into my living area in high school. My house had become the party house, and I really felt untouchable at the time. I thought I had everything going for me. I didn't know that my desire for substances was a mask for something I needed to feel and believe about myself, something that I didn't want to address and wanted to mask.

After graduating from East Coweta High School in 2004, I started attending the University of Georgia in the fall of 2004. Here, I pledged Pi Kappa Alpha because I wanted to be a part of something and fill my need to be accepted. During this process, I was asked to change certain physical and stylistic traits about myself, which didn't sit well with me. So even though I was accepted, I wasn't really accepted, at least I didn't feel like I was. I ended up leaving the fraternity before even a year. My substance use was daily in Athens, I wasn't used to having to go out of my way to meet people. People usually came to me. I really failed to adapt socially, but my substances kept me at bay, or so I thought. I was drinking, smoking weed, and using cocaine daily. My grades weren't great through all of this. I didn't really feel like I was living during this time. I was getting hammered all the time with some friends I went to HS with who also went to UGA. In 2007, from the advice of my family psychiatrist, I withdrew from school. I also found out that I was living with diabetes and didn't know it. A drug addict at 21 with another debilitating disease to go with it. My life wasn't so great.

Back home in Newnan, I didn't have much direction. I didn't know what I was doing or even a purpose for doing what little I did do. I was depressed and continued to use. I soon found myself in rehab after rehab and jail after jail. I didn't recognize the person I had become. This wasn't the person I wanted to become. I didn't sign up for this. I didn't sign up to be a slave to crack cocaine and allow it to consume my every thought, my every day. What happened to Charles? Where was he? Where is he? I began to isolate myself from so many people who cared and loved me. I would manipulate and use my poor parents, who wanted so desperately to believe the words coming out of my mouth that I wanted to stop and would finally do the right thing. I was selfish and didn't care about anyone. Only myself and my addiction.

I had a few stints of sobriety as an adult. I spent 18 months at A Better Way Ministries, where Christ entered into my life and then completed Drug Court after that. At a point from 2011 to 2014, I had three and a half years of sobriety.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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# Donation Drives

## THAT CHANGE LIVES

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I even went back to school at the University of West Georgia and finished my degree during this time. I earned my BBA in Economics, which was a really proud moment for me and something I had always set out to do. Again, I felt I was on the right track and was a little too comfortable with my sobriety. I would eventually fool myself into thinking I could drink socially, which I now know I cannot do. Maybe 99/100 times I could be okay, but the other 1/100 I would crave cocaine and/or crack, and then off to the races it was. Once I get the taste, I have a hard time stopping. It usually takes me being physically removed from a binge to stop it. During this time, between 2015-2020, I would stay clean for a few months here or there. Something was definitely amiss during this time. I would have good jobs but didn't have a real purpose. I was living solely for myself. I was prideful, egotistical, selfish, stubborn and a litany of other negative character traits. I had no stability and was only living one weekend at a time, drowning myself in substances and other vices of the world.

I was clean for a time during the pandemic, but I relapsed while I was working from home doing IT for Amazon. I was in a bad spot once again. Before I entered the Mission, I was on a 5-day crack binge and didn't care whether I lived or died. I had reached a new low point in my life. I needed help but didn't want to stop. I knew I had to do a hard reset in my life. My family was very concerned and often didn't know where I was or what I was doing. No one did. My shame wouldn't allow anyone in, not even to try and help me. I'd find myself sleeping in crack houses for days at a time, paranoid and afraid of even the slightest sound. I was consistently chasing my next hit. My life had turned into a demoralizing avenue of self-loathing, burdened by my continual bad choices. I was in a hole I didn't know how to escape.

Since being at the Mission, I have learned to accept myself, despite the innate flaws that I carry. I don't have to live up to some unattainable standard that the world somehow created in my mind. I am perfect just the way God created me. I've been taught that it's okay to be vulnerable and show emotion. That being transparent and open provides a sense of freedom that I haven't felt before. I don't have to hide behind my shame and that my past failures don't have to define who I am as a person. I have been shown what love is and what grace constitutes. My old vantage point of what masculine strength was is so wrong; I can truly allow God to work in my life when I am weak. I am fully okay with that. I don't have to pretend to be someone I'm not and I don't have to maintain

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



## Testimony CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

a stoic demeanor at all times. I've learned to feel again, and deal with past issues without feeling the need to run to a substance to deal with whatever feelings of insufficiency or failure the world may place on me. I can talk to God and talk to those God placed in my life about my issues, without fear of judgment and be loved all the same.

My biggest challenge since being here is loving people where they're at. Being patient and kind. Expressing God's love continuously, despite what I may be feeling or how someone else treats me. Taking the time to respond the right way, instead of just reacting. To not overwhelm myself and fall back into performance-based measurements of myself. To know that I am accepted despite not always feeling like I am. Being in an unknown city has been challenging as well, but also refreshing. I don't know anyone here and that unfamiliarity can allow me to focus on myself and self-care, instead of worried about what may be going on around me. I can truly start over wherever I would like, as I do not have any kids and have never been married.

I am passionate about football and basketball, especially UGA football. I enjoy traveling, culinary arts, exercising, and EDM. Live music and live sporting events in different cities and different venues have always been exciting for me. My curiosity about the world is piqued, and I love exploring new places, whether cities, neighborhoods or just certain streets. I really enjoy culture and all that it encompasses. Upon completing my time at the Mission, I plan on staying for at least 3 months in Phase 3, so I can still be a part of a community that has served me so well. I will seek employment here in Macon and see what doors are opened and what kind of atmosphere will best suit my needs and my skill set. I am at peace and live in gratitude every day for all that I have, both good and bad. All my hardships have led me to this exact moment, and I am enthralled for the unknown opportunities that lie ahead.



# SCENES FROM AROUND THE MISSION

Congratulations to our graduates!





## Men's Division HAPPENINGS

# How Will You?

In 1995, a non-profit organization in Denver, Colorado came up with the idea to set aside a day to encourage and perform random acts of kindness. Since then, it has gained popularity and spread to the point of now, every year, in February, a day recognized and celebrated nationally as Random Acts of Kindness Day. That day is February 17, 2022.



What a wonderful concept...treating others with kindness. Not just the people we know and love, but strangers. I believe that's the idea behind the random part. Thinking about this day as it approaches, makes me wonder, what if we, especially those of us that have been imparted with the Holy Spirit, took this to heart and allowed the life of Christ in us to spread like wildfire through our kindness towards those around, friend and stranger alike? In the Bible, Paul explains to us in Galatians 5:22, that the fruit of the Spirit carries with it the attribute of kindness. Because God's Spirit now resides in us through Christ Jesus, we have the power and ability to show others kindness; it's who we now are!

A day of observance is wonderful to have, but this is and should be our life. In John 13:35, Jesus tells us, "By this, all will know that you are My disciples if you have a love for one another." That was a message to believers about fellow believers. In Mark 12:31, Jesus says that "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Now that pretty much covers believers and non-believers alike. There is no greater act of love than meeting the needs of others, and there are many ways we can do this. It could be by meeting the physical needs of someone by financially providing a meal, some clothing, or even paying a bill for someone you know that may be struggling. But there are needs that we all have that go much deeper than those. Each of us has emotional, relational, and spiritual needs. Through His wonderful Grace, God has equipped us all to uniquely meet these needs in the people we encounter. It could be through words of affirmation and encouragement, writing someone a personal letter, or even asking someone to join you for lunch or dinner. I look forward to experiencing this with the men of the Rescue Mission. They are some of the kindest men I know, and I will always jump at the opportunity to learn from them on how to love those around me in a much more intentional way.

How will you share the kindness in you? I'd love to hear your story and share it with the men, [jason@rescuemissionga.com](mailto:jason@rescuemissionga.com). With so much negativity being pumped through to us by the many different outlets, let's allow the life of Christ in us to be the water our parched and weary world needs.

  
Jason Beck, *Vice President of Programs*

## Women's Division HAPPENINGS

WELCOME

# Jessica Coleman!

We are so very happy to announce that Jessica Coleman is our new Women's Program Director. Jessica has a phenomenal story, and we know God has brought her to our Mission family to love the women and children well!

### Comments from Jessica about this new journey:

*I was first introduced to the Rescue Mission back in 2015 when my husband, Tillman, and I were struggling through drug addiction. At that point, we had spent the previous 10 years together dragging our families and children through the chaos and insanity that a life of addiction brings. On March 23, 2015, Tillman checked into the Rescue Mission and allowed God to begin working in and through him. Once he graduated and came home from the Mission, I went to a program called the Potter's House for Women in early 2016. Although it was a difficult 7 months, I look back on that time with such gratitude, awe, and wonder. It was during that time that I came to life! God showed me in miraculous ways who He is. Through intense discipleship, I learned what it meant to walk with God and live a life surrendered to Him, trusting Him because He is good and faithful, and has great things in store for me and my family.*

*I am so incredibly grateful for the people that God used to pour into my life during my time at the Potter's House and since being home. I am passionate about women's recovery and the work that is done through the ministry of the Rescue Mission. My family is a product of ministries like the Mission, investing in and loving on broken people like Tillman and me. I am so overwhelmed with gratitude that God would see fit to use me in this capacity. I am very excited to watch the lives of the women and children at the Mission be impacted in the same way that mine was. I am excited that I get to play a small part in the process and glory to God, He has given me a front-row seat to watch the miraculous! Dead women coming to life!!! It doesn't get much better than that, and I am looking forward to the journey!*

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:  
The old has gone, the new is here!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17*



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