

THE

MISSION

Bell

VOLUME 22 • ISSUE 6 • JUNE 2021

"Where Healing Begins"

MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

p.3

SAVE THE DATE

p.6



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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**

Monthly Giving

There are so many exciting things going on at the Mission these days. In late May we opened our second thrift store, the Barn Center, on our campus in Macon. We're gearing up for another big graduation this summer, and the best news of all is that the number of men, women, and children entering our life-recovery program is growing every day! We are so grateful for how God continues to move in such a mighty way here at the Mission, and we are so humbled and blessed to be a part of His ministry.



We have an awesome staff and volunteers that love on our residents and provide them the support and services they so desperately need. Here at the Mission, we've seen that what really makes a difference in their lives is **consistent support and encouragement**.

Our **LIFE CHANGERS** *monthly partners* provide that consistent support and encouragement through their automatic monthly gifts. **This support is the foundation** of the meals, housing, counseling, and spiritual mentoring offered to the men, women, and children here at the Rescue Mission.

Your regular, monthly support helps make sure that everyone gets the help they need. ***Will you please consider becoming a LIFE CHANGERS MONTHLY PARTNER today? It's automatic, it's convenient, it's a blessing AND IT'S A LIFE CHANGER!***

Pat Chastain, President/CEO

YOU have the power to stop the cycle of heartbreak & start a cycle of hope & REAL-LIFE CHANGE!



**PLEASE BECOME A MONTHLY PARTNER TODAY...
and CHANGE LIVES FOREVER!**

SIGN UP TODAY AT

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/rescuemissionga>

Testimony FROM THE MISSION

Clean & Sober

Hello! I am Gwen Dorminey, and I was born in May of 1971 to Bonnie and Warren. We lived in Darien, Georgia until I was eight years old. That was the year my dad was transferred to Waycross, Georgia for his job. I started third grade at Waresboro Elementary and graduated from Ware County High School. Growing up in the country, I was a tomboy through and through. If I wasn't playing in the dirt and climbing trees with my male cousins, we were hunting and fishing with our dads. I couldn't see it then, but I can look back now and see that I was already seeking validation from the male figures in my life. I married the "boy next door" shortly after graduating high school. That relationship, as so many after it, didn't last long.

My drinking began when I was 20. Freshly divorced and having never been a part of the bar scene, I jumped in with both feet. Since I couldn't drink at the bar yet, my of-age roommate came up with the perfect plan. I would be toasted when we arrived, then drink water all night and she would be buzzed by the time we left. I hear others talk about alcohol "speaking" to them or making them feel a certain way from their first drink, but I don't remember this happening with me. However, from the beginning, I drank to get drunk. I never comprehended "social drinking."

Ironically enough, a few months after turning 21, my drinking all but stopped for several years. Then I got involved in a relationship which included hanging out with his friends and family every weekend and my drinking started again. It continued to increase at an alarming rate. Before that relationship ended, I



CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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.

PAPER TOWELS

TOILET PAPER

Liquid Bath Soap

Hand Soap

Deodorant
(Male & Female)

Razors

Shave Gel

Advil

Allergy Medicine
(not Benadryl)

Children's Cold
Medicine

Children's Tylenol

Cleaning Products

Bleach

409 Cleaner

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

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

IT'S Possible

When attempting to figure out what to share with you, I had many thoughts swimming around my head. To be honest, I know that in June we get to celebrate Father's Day, but my thought was, I've already written about that. However, I have since had to say goodbye to my father. So I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate my father. I will start by saying, growing up, I had so much hatred for my dad due to his alcoholism and the chaos that it introduced into our lives. I lived with this deep-seated resentment until I reached my thirties. Looking back, even through my hatred, God, in His great goodness, allowed my dad to be an example to me as he began his journey through recovery. My dad's journey began on February 22, 2008. It was his example that lead me to see that change was indeed possible as I began my own journey through recovery in January of 2009. Our path to recovery looked different in the beginning, but as we both remained committed to the process, God began to do something amazing. In His grace, He allowed two wounded individuals to walk together, heal together, and build together something that neither one of us ever had together...a relationship. What a beautifully clumsy process it was and often very painful and frustrating. Through recovery, I got to experience something I longed for many years, a daddy.



At 33 years of age, that journey began. Through the hard and rocky road of recovery, my dad and I got to experience God's sweetest gift, forgiveness. It was through this that I learned the realities of forgiveness were at times very difficult due to extreme pains of the past. However, through Christ, the ability to forgive is indeed possible. Depending on the circumstances, forgiving someone can be a grueling process. It's not about simply reciting the correct words. It's about allowing God to step foot into some extremely vulnerable areas of our life and at times our past, and then allowing Him to direct us towards very difficult conversations with those whose actions have affected us. Although my father had his part to play, there was a part that I played as well, and I needed to confess those things to him also. There are so many in the world, that have experienced much pain and deep wounds from their fathers. For any hope of healing, forgiveness must take place. The redemptive work of Christ Jesus in our hearts is key, restoration and reconciliation is a definite possibility regardless of when you begin or how much time has passed. Recovery allowed my father and me the opportunity to do this hard work, and Christ gave us the strength to endure the messiness of the process. It was through Recovery that Christ allowed me to experience my dad, and my dad got to experience his son. But more than that, we became friends and brothers in Christ.

I love you Pops. Thank you for being a champion for recovery; your example lead to breaking the cycle. You are missed, but I will see you again. Because of Christ, I know this to be true. Happy Father's Day!

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

Jason Beck, Vice President of Programs



"I TELL YOU THE
TRUTH, WHATEVER
YOU DID FOR ONE OF
THE LEAST OF THESE
BROTHERS OF MINE,
YOU DID FOR ME."

MATTHEW 25:40



YOU have the power to stop the cycle of heartbreak & start a cycle of hope & REAL LIFE CHANGE!

Brad and Bernes never expected to live on the streets or struggle with addiction. Both were looking for help to overcome the struggles of their past and to find a better way to live when they came to the Rescue Mission.

Every day we help people like Brad and Bernes who are looking for a new way forward in their lives by providing a path of hope, redemption and empowerment through Jesus Christ that brings about real, lasting, life change.

Our **Life Changers monthly partners** provide the foundation of the meals and housing, counseling and work training, Bible study and spiritual guidance that are so vital to the men, women, and children in our life recovery program.

***PLEASE BECOME A MONTHLY PARTNER TODAY...
and CHANGE LIVES FOREVER!***

SIGN UP TODAY AT

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/rescuemissionga>

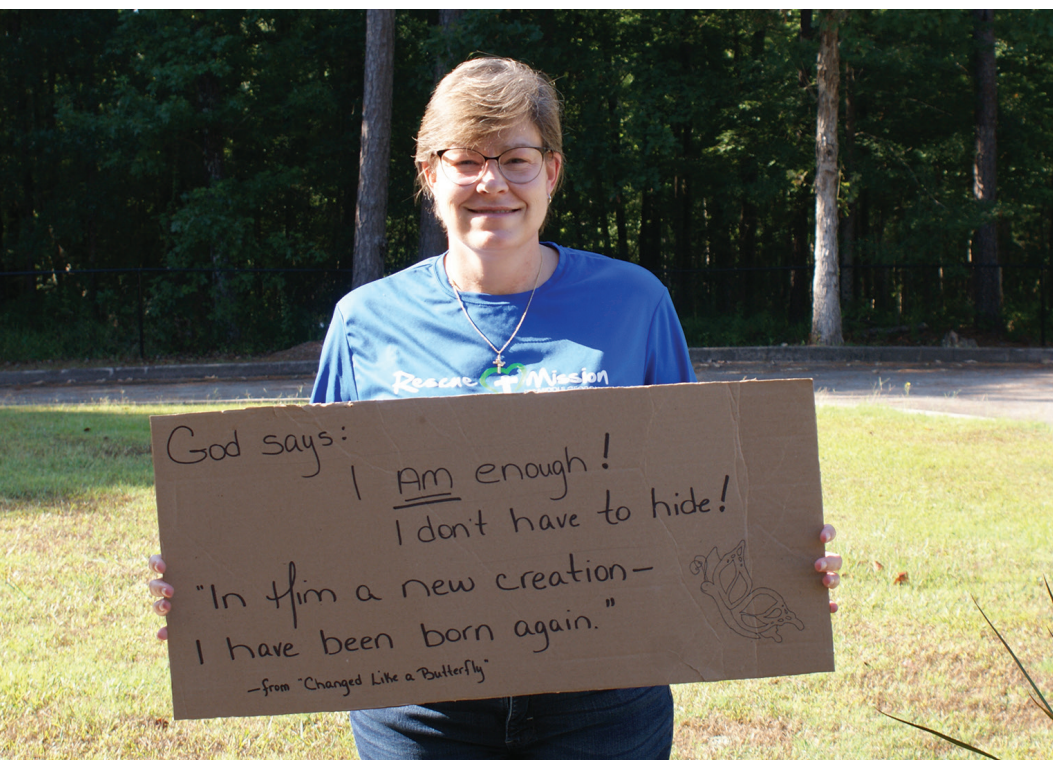
Testimony CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

was having several drinks every single day just to “cope” and was told I “had a problem”. Me?!!! No way! I turned 30 just before this relationship ended.

Although I basically stayed single, there were friends with benefits over the next several years... still trying to feel validated, valued, and worthy. I was still drinking every day quite heavily... still wanting to numb the negative feelings and self-beliefs inside.

In my late 30's, I met my second victim... I mean, husband, and moved to the Chicago-land area. I spent four years in that relationship and the drinking continued daily. Somehow, I managed to complete a Certified Veterinary Technician program, graduated with honors the day before my 40th birthday, and was the speaker at our graduation ceremony.

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Testimony CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

A few months after graduation, I reluctantly admitted I had a problem with alcohol. Within the next year I participated in four separate rehab programs, progressing in length from a 10-day out-patient to a 28-day in-patient. Nothing seemed to work. Although my drinking did not, my marriage ended. I moved back to South Georgia and had many bouts of short-lived sobriety followed by longer and more intense bouts of drinking.

My next in-patient program was six years later and three months long. Unfortunately, I was back to drinking again after only a month. Six months after that I totaled my truck and got my first drinking-and-driving-related tickets... 20 years after I first started drinking and driving. I was told more than once through the years I was a “functioning alcoholic” and the judge even said I was the “most highly functioning alcoholic” she had ever encountered. That’s not the kind of compliment you go fishing for.

From the moment I was handed those tickets in July 2019, my path to the Mission began. I finally arrived here in May 2020 after continuing the struggle with trying to stay sober and continuing to fail. I attended meetings, tried sponsors, even changed churches, but the bottle kept pulling me back in... and ever further down into the black hole I could not seem to stop digging. When presented with the opportunity of another program or a year in jail, I had never even heard of the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia, but I knew something had to change. I wasn’t far from being six feet under and although my actions and choices during my “drinking career” haven’t always respected my family and my upbringing, I knew my parents didn’t deserve to bury their only daughter.

I was ready for a change, I thought. Little did I realize just how broken I really was... and how painful it can be while the changes and healing take place. The staff here is so truly amazing. I treasure each of them and count them as sisters and brothers in Christ as well as dear friends. They’ve loved me where I was and have been right beside me through this thing we call life. We have laughed and cried, teased, and chastised, all while we all learn how to be more like Christ every single day.

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SCENES FROM AROUND THE MISSION



We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Northway Church in Macon for making our trip to Raven Cliffs Trailhead in Helen, GA possible. We would also like to thank our new friends at Concord Church @ Mt. Yonah for feeding us and ministering to us after our hike.



SAVE THE DATE!

SEPTEMBER 20TH AND 21ST 2021

The event kicks off with a clay shoot on Monday, September 20th at The Meadows Gun Club at 9:00 a.m. The VIRTUAL silent auction will be held that night starting at 6:30 p.m.

The golf tournament is Tuesday, September 21st at 12:00 noon at three courses: Idle Hour, The Brickyard and River Forest. An awards ceremony will follow at each course. The format is a 4 man scramble.

For more information or to register please visit:

www.fivestarccelebrityclassic.com



Testimony CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

On May 14, 2021, I celebrated one year of sobriety. Although I count that as a great milestone, making Jesus Christ Lord and Master of my life is the only way it was possible. The most challenging part of my journey has been letting go of the control so God can work in me and realizing there is nothing I can do in my own power to make Him love me more.

I've been at the Mission for a year now, and I am looking forward to graduating this coming July. I still have a lot to learn, and I know God's work with me will never be done. That is a comforting thought to me because if He's still working on me, I shouldn't give up either.



“

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.
Philippians 1:6

”

Women's Division HAPPENINGS

NEW TWO-SHIFT Work Therapy

A lot has been happening at 6601 Zebulon Road and God's hand has truly been on the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia. May 25th was the grand opening of the new Barn Center and this has given the women a greater opportunity to become a part of the work therapy community and become a big part of what God is doing.



Because of the number of women that the Lord has sent to the Mission to receive healing and recovery, for the first time, the women can go to a two-shift work therapy schedule allowing them to fulfill roles that in the past were designated for the men.

Some of the work therapy details that have opened for the women include:

Processing • Pricing • Barn Center • Kitchen

We are so thankful to this precious and loving community that continues to support the Rescue Mission and made this expansion possible. It's such a blessing to see the women's excitement as they get to go to work and know that they are playing such an important role in not only their recovery but in the lives and recovery of those that will come after them.

Linda Wessells

Linda Wessells, Women's Program Director



Check out the newly renovated
BARN CENTER

and be among the first in
Middle Georgia to ship our great
selection of unique finds!



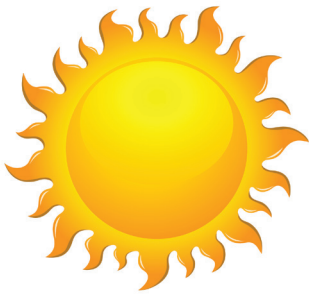
Furniture, Household Decor, Table Settings,
Kitchenware, Jewelry & So Much More!

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DEALS**
AT

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When you shop the Bargain Center you not only save, you help
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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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