

THE

MISSION

Bell

VOLUME 24 • ISSUE 1 • JANUARY 2023

"Where Healing Begins"

NO
LONGER
HIDING

p.4



Happy New Year!

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



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FROM THE *President's Desk*

Two Great Stores Supporting Life-Changing Ministry

Thank you to all our wonderful shoppers and donors for supporting our Thrift Ministry last year. As you begin cleaning from the holidays, please remember the Rescue Mission for any gently used items you no longer want. We would love to come to your home and pick these items up or you can drop them off at any of our donation drop-off locations.



We're truly grateful for all the donations we receive and for every dollar you spend supporting our Thrift Ministry. Whether you're cleaning out your home or garage, replacing furniture or appliances, or just don't want your items any longer... we'd love them! We accept new or gently used items to provide the best shopping experience possible for our customers. We gladly take items from yard sales and estate sales also.

Scheduling a pickup is quick and easy by choosing the option below:

1. Visit our website, www.rescuemissionga.com/thrift-stores/
2. Click schedule a donation
3. Complete the form and our logistics coordinator will contact you to confirm the pickup time and date

OR

1. Call our logistics coordinator directly – at 478-743-5445 ext. 314
2. Email our logistics coordinator – donate@rescuemissionga.com

OR

1. You can drop off your small donation to any of our 21 bin locations by visiting <https://www.rescuemissionga.com/thrift-stores/>
2. You can also drop off your donation at the following locations (follow the directional sign to DONATION DROP OFF) Monday-Saturday from 9-6
3375 Napier Ave, Macon, GA 31204
6601 Zebulon Rd, Macon, GA 31220

Every time you shop, you're supporting our life-changing recovery programs for men, women, and children from our community.

Pat Chastain, President/CEO



Testimony FROM THE MISSION

No Longer Hiding

My dysfunctional childhood started when I was about six or seven years old. We lived in a nice middle-class apartment home where my brother and I would split a beer with our dad. As we got older, we would sneak alcohol from the glasses of the adults that would come to the parties that my parents had at our home. Our sister would help us have our parties with the kids that came with their parents to these parties. I'll never forget that smell of the smoke coming from that



red plastic cup. When I saw how it made them act, I had to try it. I would sneak and watch them so I could figure out how to use them properly. After I would watch and listened to how it was done, I would sneak and practice without the smoke. Then, one day, a fight broke out just after my father had lit it up. I quickly grabbed the container and noticed it said "Power Hitter" on the side. I squeezed the cup, breathed in, held my breath, and released, just like I had seen the grown-ups do. I put it down and sat on my bed, not sure if I had done it properly. After a minute, my brother asked me what I was doing and that's when it hit me. For the next ten to twenty minutes, I couldn't stop laughing! I loved it... that feeling was, at the time, the greatest feeling I had ever felt in my entire life.

When my mother and father got divorced, we moved from our middle-class apartment home to the projects, or what I call the "Devil's Den". I was surrounded by single mothers living in debt and bad relationships and hopeless kids addicted to using and dealing drugs with no father figure in

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Testimony CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

their lives. The children were meaner and faster and bigger than me. I was a little excited about this new life, but mostly I was scared.

By thirteen years old, I was rolling joints, having sex, fighting, and drinking. Pretty soon, money started to become tight at home. Child support stopped, bills started to get behind and I would notice my mother crying in bed at night. When I asked her what was wrong she would tell me that even though she worked 48 to 50 hours a week it still wasn't enough to provide for the family. My brother and I would eat cheese and cereal regularly and the clothes we wore had to be shared since we are only one year apart. So, to help out, I started selling candy and joints at school. My uncle would give me some weed with the promise to pay him for it later and my grandmother gave us candy from Tom's candy shop. They sold like hotcakes! Sooner than later, my brother and I were pulling in 60 to 100 dollars every week! As I continued in school, I learned in math class about expenses, profit, and supply and demand and applied what I learned to the business we were running. Everything was going great! We were dressing the part too. We would go to school in the clothes mom bought us from K-Mart, and then change into the clothes we bought from the mall once we got to school. At this point, life was fun for me and my brother. Things took a turn, however, when we were noticed by a big drug dealer that started liking my sister. He said he liked the way we carried ourselves, how well we ran our business, and could tell we knew what we were doing by the way we dressed. One day, he poured some white sugar-like substance on the table, rolled a twenty dollar bill, stuck it up his nose, and sniffed. Then he handed me the bill. He got angry when I accidentally wasted what was on the table, but after realizing it was my first time, he calmed down and instructed me on how to do it properly. Once I got it right, a light bulb lit up in my mind: I could put this stuff in the joints I'm selling at school and triple my profit! My brother and I talked the idea over and started selling the laced joints that month.

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Women's Division HAPPENINGS


Christmas 2022

Christmas 2022 was one for the books! Our women and children were so richly blessed by the outpouring of love, support, and prayers from our community of donors and volunteers. We are so fortunate to have such amazing support from friends and family in the middle Georgia area, and we can not thank you enough. I sincerely believe this was a Christmas they will never forget!



Now that the dust has settled a little from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, we are looking at specific ways to develop and polish our community at the Mission so we can operate most efficiently. The growth we experienced in 2022 is staggering, and the only thing holding us where we are is the lack of space. Our greatest need at this time is transitional housing for our graduates and more rooms to house more women and children as residents in the program. We are busting at the seams, and it doesn't look as though brokenness within the world is slowing down any. With more women in the program, we need multi-purpose buildings as our class sizes have grown and we need rooms large enough to accommodate them. These are all great needs to have and even greater than our needs is the fact that God is faithful, and He will provide exactly what we need when we are ready to receive it.

Today I am asking that you would pray specifically for the women's division. Please pray for the women and children, that they would take this time at the Mission to grow intimately with our Savior and King. Please pray for our staff, Stephanie, Chako, Tracey, and myself. Ask God to continue to pour out of us and into the hearts and lives of our residents. If you feel led, please make a donation towards our Building Campaign for our women & children. Pray for our leadership, our senior staff, and board members as they make decisions that will impact not just the men, women, and children currently in the program, but the lives of many more people and generations to come. We are so blessed to have such amazing support from our community and I thank all of you for your prayers!


Jessica Coleman
Women's Program Director



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.

Cleaning Products

TOILET PAPER	Fabuloso All Purpose
PAPER TOWELS	Cleaner
Bleach	Windex
Lysol Spray	Pine-sol
Bathroom Cleanser	

Other Items Needed

MEN'S BOXER BRIEFS (Large & XL)	Cold Medicine
Spiral Notebooks	Allergy Medicine (not Benadryl)
Liquid Bath Soap	Children's Cold Medicine
Razors	Twin Sheet Sets
Shave Gel	Towels & Washcloths
Advil or Tylenol	

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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Can \$35 a month **CHANGE A LIFE?**

YES, your gift restores hope
& broken lives

Each day, hurting men, women, and children come to the Rescue Mission. They're looking for food...and help to rebuild their lives on solid ground. Providing a meal feeds their weary bodies.

But healing a hurting soul takes time.

Life change doesn't just happen overnight. It takes hard work, God's grace, and support from caring friends along every step of the healing journey.

We invite you to become a *LIFE CHANGER* today...

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Saves you time & the cost of postage.

Become A Monthly Partner TODAY

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Meet Cheryl whose life is being changed at the Rescue Mission

Cheryl suddenly found herself alone as a single mother when her husband died unexpectedly. Grieving and feeling abandoned, she turned to drugs and co-dependent relationships to help cope with the pain.

After years of addiction, feeling alone, and distanced from God, Cheryl was excited when her brother reached out to her and brought her to the Mission. Here she's been able to deal with the root cause of her struggles, refocus on her relationship with God, and gain the tools she needs to heal and gain a new and brighter future.



Give monthly - impact lives all year long!

Testimony CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

The outcome was as expected, pulling in just over \$400 at the month's end. My sister's admirer was shocked that we had made such a profit from just selling candy and laced joints and that if we talked to our sister for him, he would hook us up with more products. That was an offer we couldn't refuse, and he made good on his promise. He warned me not to use the product too often but before I graduated high school I was a full-blown addict,

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Testimony CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

thirty pounds lighter than when I started the year with no new clothes, no new clients, and a broken relationship with my brother. In fact, it hurt my brother so badly that he and I ended up fighting. We fought not because we lost clients but because he lost his brother to cocaine. He watched the light dissipate from my eyes and my soul.

The day I realized I needed help, I was standing in the middle of the street looking for a way to get high. It was night and very dark and I thought to myself, "this is madness!". At that moment, I started to cry, and I asked God to help me. Immediately the street light above me got brighter than normal like it was shining only on me. I knew God had heard my prayer, and the next day I called the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia and told them I was ready for a change.

Since being at the Mission, I have realized that my whole life has been spent looking for security, peace of mind, and happiness in outward appearances, drugs, sex, and drinking. My parents getting divorced and moving to the projects had a big impact on me, and I used drugs and alcohol to get by and fit in. I have learned to think before I act, slow down and view the whole picture and release control to Jesus. I now view my failures and shortcomings as something God used to bring me back into a relationship with my family. Now, because of the change in my life, I can do the things I'm passionate about like living life, helping people, driving, and shopping. I no longer need to hide my shame and guilt with worldly external things because Christ has set me free! I am so excited to see what God has for me as I begin my new life in Him. I graduated from the Men's Life Recovery Program on January 6, 2022, and I humbly ask that you pray for me as I begin my new journey.

**"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid;
do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be
with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:9**

Men's Division HAPPENINGS

BAPTISM AT The Rescue Mission

Hello, 2023! It's my prayer, as you read this short article, that you become encouraged about what Christ is doing here at Rescue Mission and allow that encouragement to fan the flame within you and go! Go and share the Gospel of Jesus.



Yes, we are a life recovery program, but at our core, our hope and desire are to make disciples, that make disciples. It's our purpose. The prayer is that as men come, they would have a very personal encounter with Jesus and receive the gift of salvation through faith. As they get to experience His Grace, they begin to heal and mature into who God says they are; chosen, completely forgiven, fully accepted in Christ... a giver instead of a taker, a lover instead of a luster, a servant instead of a master. Men are no longer held by the chains of self-centeredness, but because they now have Christ in them, they now have the desire to give away what they've freely received.

One of the sweetest gems of discipleship is sharing our experiences of memorial faith steps along our journey. One that we often get to celebrate with our brothers, here at the Mission, is their step-in obedience through believers' baptism. Over the past year,

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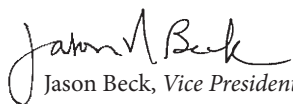
Men's Division CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

we have seen many of the men, God has brought to the Mission, take such a bold step. A step that proclaims that I am no longer identified by the old self, but now identity as a believer in Christ, saved by Grace, through faith. Being on such a beautiful piece of land, with a serene, wooded landscape and a creek that runs through the campus, we can now celebrate salvation through baptism, as a community, whenever a man decides to receive Christ as his Lord and Savior. Even when the water temperature may tempt you to grit your teeth.

As you read this, I pray you to realize that you're playing a part in the men's journey here with us. Please continue to pray for the men that are currently here, that have recently made the most important decision of their life, and the many whom God Himself is preparing to come. Pray that the men continue to experience a safe environment, centered around nothing but the Gospel and that we would always be an organization that keeps the great command and the great commission of our Lord Jesus at the forefront as we witness men's lives transform right before our eyes.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen."

– Matthew 28:19-20



Jason Beck, Vice President of Programs



We have New Inventory & SALES at
THE BARN CENTER
EVERY WEEK!



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Monday - Saturday / 10:00am - 6:00pm
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When you shop at the Barn Center you not only save, you help fund programs for the men, women, and children we serve!



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programs for the men, women, and children we serve!



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BARGAIN CENTER

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

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