

THE

MISSION

Bell

"BEAR ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS, AND SO FULFILL THE LAW OF CHRIST." GALATIANS 6:2

James Williams

RESIDENT TESTIMONY

My name is James Williams, and this is my testimony.

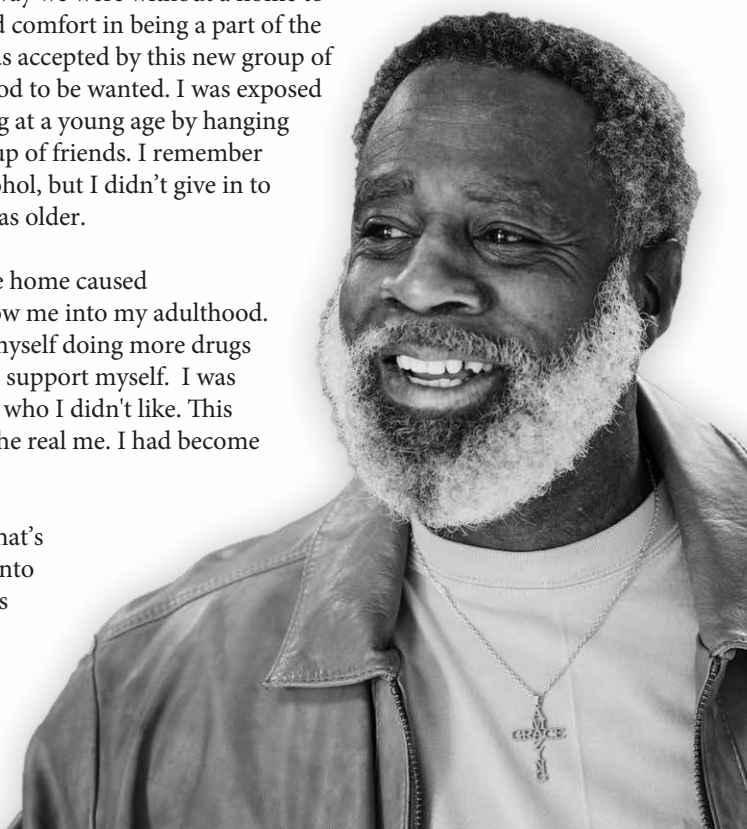
I was eight years old when my mother and father went through a divorce. It broke our family up. My father was very abusive to my mother, so my mom ran with my siblings and me to keep us safe. There were times when we were homeless and had to live with other people. We never stayed in one place long, because we knew they didn't want us there. Mother kept us in church every chance she got, and I am thankful for that. We moved around and never really had a stable home, but we knew she loved us. Life was kind of hard without my father being there. My mother struggled to keep a roof over our heads and keep us in school, but somehow she did it.

I remember in middle school wanting to feel like I was a part of something, I was trying to fill a void in my life. I started hanging with the wrong crowd, and it kind of took me down the wrong path. I was tired of moving from place to place ... I didn't think we should be living the way we were without a home to call our own. I found comfort in being a part of the "wrong crowd". I was accepted by this new group of friends, and it felt good to be wanted. I was exposed to drugs and drinking at a young age by hanging around this new group of friends. I remember trying drugs and alcohol, but I didn't give in to this lifestyle until I was older.

Never having a stable home caused homelessness to follow me into my adulthood. Over time, I found myself doing more drugs and not being able to support myself. I was becoming somebody who I didn't like. This wasn't me; it wasn't the real me. I had become an addict.

My mom died, and that's when I went deeper into my addiction. ... I was in a bad way. It was then that I realized, "I need

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Immediate Needs

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Deodorant
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Razors & Shaving Gel
- Men's Underwear – Large, XL, XXL


Ways To Help

- Thrift Store donations
- LIFE CHANGERS monthly partners
- Matching Gifts
- Donate a vehicle
- Request a speaker
- Volunteer

Connect With Us

 rescuemissionga.com
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 dawn@rescuemissionga.com

 478-743-5445

 6601 Zebulon Road, Macon, GA 31220

 **Bargain Center**
3375 Napier Avenue, Macon
478-743-5445 ext. 317

Barn Center
6601 Zebulon Road, Macon
478-743-5445 ext. 406

Donation Pick-Up
Steve Floyd, 478-743-5445 ext. 314

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to get out of this cycle. I need some help!” I got arrested and that was the best thing that probably could have ever happened to me. I had shelter. I had food. I had clothing. I had rest. I began to look like James again. I began to feel like James.

After I finished doing my time, I didn't want to get out. I was afraid of going back to that lifestyle because I didn't have any solid foundation. So I prayed. I prayed that God would put me in a place or lead me to a place where I can get some stability, strength, something that will hold me, some kind of good foundation. And I wasn't going to leave the jail. I wasn't going to leave until somebody or something good happened, and it did happen. This lady brought me an application for the Rescue Mission.

When I first got to the Mission, I was nervous, but the people here, the staff, made me feel... welcome. Come on in. Whatever you don't have, we're going to make sure you get it. You're going to be okay. And I felt that... I felt this security from this place that I was going to be okay. I felt safe and welcome here.

I don't miss doing drugs. I don't miss being homeless. It's like I'm in a new world. It's like I'm in a better place than I was before, and my mind is in a better state than it was before. I think differently. I talk differently. I am different thanks to God's love for me.

Before I came to the Mission, I was lost. The Mission has brought me out of that dark place and I'm grateful, very grateful. I'm loved. The Mission has taught me that I'm loved by God and others. I'm accepted by other people.

I plan to just be a better person and live a sober, clean life and love others like I've been shown love and been given love. I think that the key to life is to love somebody and share God's love with others.

I am thankful to the Rescue Mission, because I've learned how to be myself again. I learned how to accept things for what they are and people for who they are and not to judge others and to be strong. I thank God for bringing me here to start my new life.



The First Step... to a **Second** **Chance**

There is a Chinese proverb that says, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” For people who are ready to journey off the street, away from addiction, homelessness, or unsafe relationships, and into restored lives, that first step is often the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia’s Life-Recovery Program.

Our free faith-based program offers a safe, loving community where men and women can build trust, relationships, and confidence in order to gain healing, stability, and self-sufficiency as they recover from past hurts, habits, and hang-ups. We integrate recovery care with

intense spiritual development that meets their physical, social, and spiritual needs.

Jason Beck, VP of Programs, recently shared that “One of the many joys at the Mission is the moment when people start to feel safe and cared for – it changes everything. They begin to relax, to start trusting and engaging with others, and that’s when the healing journey really begins. For me it is a great privilege to be a part of.”

Through counseling, life-skills classes, Bible study, peer recovery activities, work therapy, and other support, men and women are able to identify the underlying causes of their choices and behaviors, receive healing, and learn coping tools, all of which empower them to rebuild relationships with loved ones, secure employment, find housing, and live productive, transformed lives.

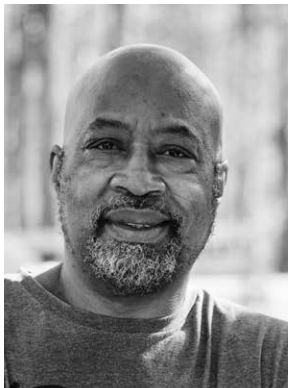


It's a life-changing program that produces real results!

If you know of someone struggling with addiction, domestic violence, homelessness, or other life-challenging issues, we're here to help!

GET HELP TODAY at www.rescuemissionga.com/how-we-help or 478-743-5445.

Glimpses of Hope...



WALTER H.

“Since coming to the Mission I am free. I have peace of mind. I’m learning a new way of living. This Mission...I thank God for it. I even thanked my parole officer for bringing me here, because it’s saved me.”



VICTORIA C.

“The people at the Mission didn’t give up on me, when I wanted to give up on myself. I’ve learned to love myself, to trust God, that’s the biggest thing. I now see God working in me and through me. I’m not the Victoria I was before I came here. I’m a whole, healed person now, not defined by the drugs or other behaviors. I’m defined by who God says I am!”



RAY C.

“Since being here, I’ve overcome my addiction. I have five kids, and they’re so proud of me because I’ve done nothing but use drugs most of their lives. But now they see a sober daddy, and they’re proud of me for the first time. That’s a big thing for me!”



ALEX H.

“When things get tough, I was always a runner. I’ve learned to face the things that have hurt me, to face my fears, and the hard things that life gives us. I’ve learned my self-worth, that I’m okay and God loves me. I was homeless in the past and struggling to take care of my kids. Now I know we’re going to be okay and that I can take care of us with God’s help.”



TAYLOR K.

“I was adopted at 9 weeks old, because my mom and dad were drug addicts. Unfortunately, I took it to mean nobody wanted me. That started my abandonment issues and looking for love somewhere. This led to some bad relationships. Because of this, I used to always worry about what other people thought about me. And I guess I tried to make others happy, so they’d like me. I know now I don’t have to worry about that. I’m very comfortable with who I am now. I look in the mirror and I’m happy with who I see, not because of my outsides, but because of my insides. I know now I am worth having healthy relationships for me and for my kids.”

Start Another Ripple Effect!

It can be hard to imagine that the decisions we make today can have a long-lasting impact for generations. But they can. One person one decision, CAN make a difference for countless others.

Take for instance, Police Sergeant A. E. McGee, who made a decision one night in 1952 that is still changing lives 72 years later. As he “walked the beat” in downtown Macon, he was tasked with arresting what the city deemed as “drunks” and “vagrants” people on the streets who suffered from addictions and homelessness. With nowhere to go and little hope of receiving any real help with the issues they faced, these individuals were caught in a cycle – repeatedly jailed, released back into the same circumstances, and then jailed again and again.

Sergeant McGee believed that there had to be a better alternative, a way to provide a path of hope and redemption for these people. He began to take these men to his home, where he provided food, shelter, and spiritual counsel. Through Sergeant McGee’s love, compassion, and guidance, many of these supposed “lost souls” were able to turn their lives around. And... **THE RESCUE MISSION WAS BORN!**

With the help of area businessmen, they opened the first shelter in Macon that is still providing hope, redemption, and empowering people 72 years later, and is not only changing the individuals lives but also the lives of those who love them, and our community!

Today, every time you support the Mission you start a new ripple effect.

There’s no way to know how far it will go. There’s no way to know how many lives will be impacted. There’s no way to know the path you’ll pave for generations.

But God knows...and you can know that YOU WILL make a difference!

In honor of Sergeant McGee’s decision 72 years ago, each \$72 you give to our **RIPPLE EFFECT campaign** this month provides Christ- centered recovery care for one person. **The healing they experience will not only impact them, but all the lives they touch...their family, friends, coworkers...and therefore our community.**

That means the ripple effect YOU start today could still be going decades and generations from now!

Complete the enclosed reply card or donate online at rescuemissionga.com/newsletters



Proud “Certified Excellent” member of City Gate, accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, and recognized as a “Four Star Charity” by Charity Navigator.



GIVE YEAR-ROUND

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



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WWW.RESCUEMISSIONGA.COM



BARGAIN CENTER

3375 Napier Avenue

BARN CENTER

6601 Zebulon Road

Schedule a pick-up
478-743-5445 ext.314