

# THE MISSION Bell

"LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF" - MATTHEW 22:39

## Caleb Johnson

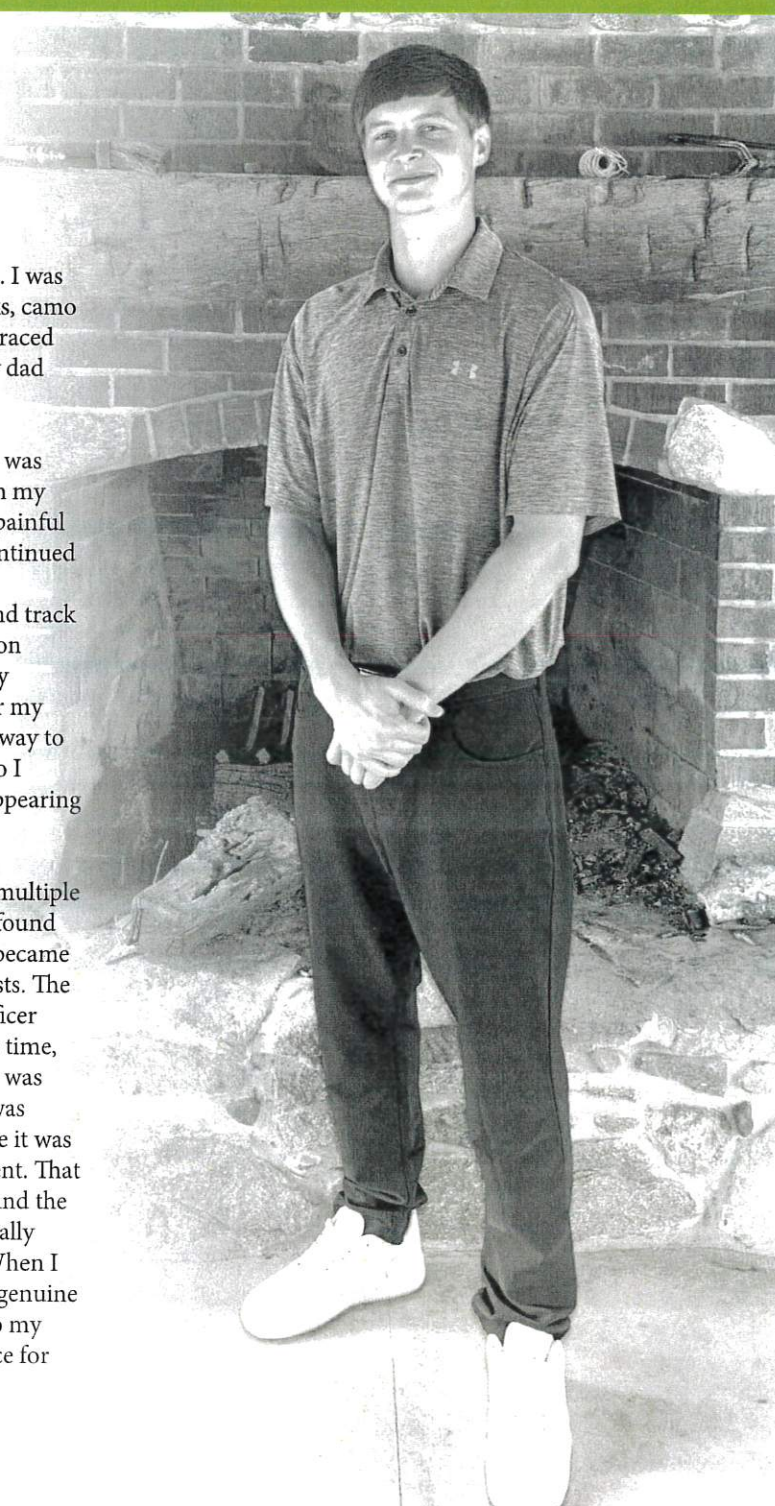
### RESIDENT TESTIMONY

Before I found myself at the Mission, I had an adventurous childhood. I was born in Florida and grew up surrounded by four-wheelers, mud trucks, camo gear, hunting, and fishing — just your typical country lifestyle. I even raced dirt bikes for seven years. Then, everything changed. My mom left my dad and married another man, and my whole life flipped upside down.

Living in Greensboro with shiny cars was nice at first, but my stepdad was abusive, and the fun of the city life faded quickly. My relationship with my dad shifted to occasional visits during summer and school breaks—a painful adjustment that left a lasting impact on me. My stepdad's behavior continued to worsen over the next eight years. In high school, I stayed busy with activities like Beta Club, the drone program, robotics club, baseball, and track and field - using them as a way to keep myself distracted and focused on something positive. Eventually, my mom left him and took me and my siblings to live with our grandma in Florida. The pressure of caring for my siblings became overwhelming, leading me to make poor choices as a way to deal with the stress. Life was tough, and I didn't want to deal with it, so I started sneaking out, climbing out of windows, doing drugs, and disappearing for days on end.

What started out as an escape, became my imprisonment. This led to multiple arrests, toxic relationships, a lack of responsibility, and even prison. I found myself unable to keep a job, my weight dropped, and sleepless nights became the norm. My anger started to consume me, leading to violent outbursts. The cycle repeated for years until I was arrested in Athens, Georgia. An officer found me unconscious in my car—and though I didn't realize it at the time, he had just saved my life. After I was arrested, I fell into a dark place. I was overwhelmed by hopelessness and the painful feeling that my family was slowly losing faith in me. My dad, who is a correctional officer, told me it was clear jail wasn't working for me anymore—I needed something different. That pushed me to start looking into rehab programs, and that's when I found the Rescue Mission. I applied, got accepted, and that's when everything really started to change. I arrived at the Mission on September 15th, 2024. When I got to the Mission, I instantly felt surrounded by a sense of peace and genuine welcome. I have been working on myself ever since, allowing God into my heart so He can allow me to rest in Him. It has been the best experience for

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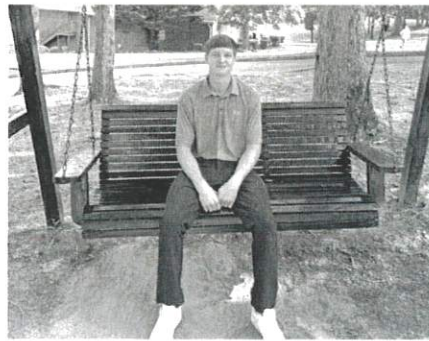






me, and I am very grateful for everyone who has helped me along the way.

I've experienced a complete change in the direction of my life since coming to the Mission. I am so much better mentally, emotionally, and of course physically. While at the Mission, I stayed active and found purpose in both work and community. I restored furniture, repaired drywall, painted buildings, and even built a swing for residents to enjoy. I also got involved spiritually—attending Celebrate Recovery at nearby churches and was baptized in the creek behind the Mission. When I first came here, I was filled with hopelessness, believing that change was impossible for me and that I was unlovable. But this program gave me the space to open up, allowing me to show my true self and embrace vulnerability in a safe, supportive environment. The people at the Rescue Mission met me right where I was and walked alongside



me every step of the way on my journey to recovery. For the first time, I was able to be loved for who I truly am. I've spent a lot of time trying to change my behaviors without really understanding where they were coming from. Now, I realize the importance of the self-evaluation process. It's something that can be applied to almost any situation, whether good or bad. My time at the Rescue Mission has allowed me to form meaningful, lasting relationships—and, more importantly, to rebuild the relationship with my family that I thought was lost.

I graduated in July, and I am continuing my journey in our transitional program, Aftercare, while searching for a job. I hope to start a career as a diesel technician working with heavy machinery. I would like to stay in Aftercare long enough to get on my own two feet and build a solid foundation for



myself, then step out and fully apply what I've learned to my life moving forward. I intend to keep in touch with the staff and continue walking alongside the brothers and sisters in Christ I've met during my time at the Mission. I've learned that my true identity is in Christ, and with Him, I'm capable of doing all things that are good.

As I continue this new chapter, I'm learning to trust the process and remain grounded in the truth of who I am in Christ. Every step I take, no matter how small, brings me closer to the life I've been working toward—one built on faith, purpose, and resilience. I know there will be challenges ahead, but I no longer face them alone. With God's strength guiding me and the lessons I've learned shaping my path, I'm walking forward with hope, determination, and the confidence that my best days are still to come.

## Help Our Hurting Neighbors

**HELP NEEDED BY 8/31!**

You and 34 other caring friends are needed to help our broken and hungry neighbors get through the rest of summer... and open doors to a new life!

Be the ONE who provides a hurting neighbor with:

- Meals that comfort and sustain.
- A safe place to rest and recover
- Life-changing care through God's love



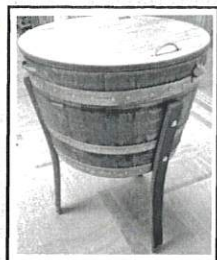
**Life changing support, rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, provides healing and hope to our most vulnerable neighbors... **GIVE NOW!****



# OUR ANNUAL AUCTION

## Going Once, Going Twice, Sold!

Our annual **Auction** to support the men, women, and children in our life-recovery program will be **open for bidding from September 2 at noon until September 15, towards the end of the LIVE auction**. We have hundreds of amazing items, including artwork, sports memorabilia, trips, jewelry, gift baskets, and more. **You'll need to register to bid on any items in the online auction.**



Authentic Napa Valley Half  
Barrel Ice Chest



Airfree Elite Air Purifier &  
Roto Shovel



Olive & Cocoa Twinkling  
Bottle Lights



Johnny Cash Commemorative  
Handwritten Lyrics



Purple Heart Poplar  
high top table



All-weather recliner



Olive & Cocoa Dapper  
Lion & Storybook



### JUST FOLLOW THESE EASY STEPS:

1. Go to this link: <https://qtogo.us/qmlink/rescuemissionga>
2. Click on: Register for Event
3. Complete the required fields and click Submit Registration.
4. You will receive a welcome text message from Qtogo.
5. Start bidding!

Not interested in any auction items but still want to support the Mission...you can give to our CALL TO ACTION at <https://qtogo.us/qmlink/rescuemissionga> now through September 15th.

If you are the lucky winner of an online Auction item, we will have your item ready for pick-up on **September 17th from 8:00 am -6:00 pm at the Rescue Mission, 6601 Zebulon Road, Macon.** If your item fits into a 9x12 envelope, we will be happy to mail it to you.

*For assistance with registration, bidding, donations, or prize pick-up, please contact Dawn Burns at 478-743-5445 ext. 301 or [dawn@rescuemissionga.com](mailto:dawn@rescuemissionga.com)*



# OUR THRIFT NEWS

## CELEBRATE OUR THRIFT STORE WEEK!



Thrift Stores

### OBSERVED AUGUST 11TH –16TH

- New sales daily
- Like us on Facebook for more information on sale details and other thrifting news
- Come shop at the **Bargain Center** at 3375 Napier Ave in Macon, Georgia, and the **Barn Center** at 6601 Zebulon Road at the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia



### WHY THRIFT?

**Saves Money.** Quality items at an incredible discount. Supports a circular economy, extending the lifespan of items, reducing the demand for new production.

**Environmental benefits.** Purchasing items secondhand reduces textile waste. Prevents items from going to landfills, saving water, energy, and raw materials.

**Unique, High Quality Finds.** Can uncover vintage or designer items for a fraction of the price.



### WHY THRIFT WITH THE RESCUE MISSION:

- You not only save, you help fund programs for the men, women, and children we serve.
- Every time you shop in our stores, you're making a difference in hurting lives.
- Our stores provide a training ground where our residents in the long-term life-recovery program can learn vital workplace skills as they perform day to day retail functions.
- 100% of proceeds stay in Middle Georgia.
- When you donate local and shop local, you help local.



# Rescue Mission

OF MIDDLE GEORGIA

Complete the enclosed reply card or donate online at:

[rescuemissionga.com/newsletter](http://rescuemissionga.com/newsletter)



Scan here!

### Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia

6601 Zebulon Road, Macon, GA 31220

**Monday – Saturday | 8:30 am – 6:00 pm**

(478) 743-5445 | [info@rescuemissionga.com](mailto:info@rescuemissionga.com)

[rescuemissionga.com](http://rescuemissionga.com)

@rescuemissionmidlega

maconrescuemission

### Schedule A Donation Pick-Up

Steve Floyd | (478) 743-5445, ext. 314

[donate@rescuemissionga.com](mailto:donate@rescuemissionga.com)

### Bargain Center Thrift Store

3375 Napier Avenue, Macon, GA 31204

**Monday – Saturday | 10:00 am to 6:00 pm**

(478) 743-5445, ext. 317 | [niger@rescuemissionga.com](mailto:niger@rescuemissionga.com)

MissionBargainCenter

### Barn Center Thrift Store

6601 Zebulon Road, Macon, GA 31220

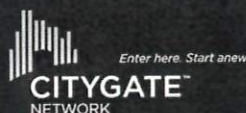
**Monday – Saturday | 10:00 am to 6:00 pm**

(478) 743-5445, ext. 406 | [kyle@rescuemissionga.com](mailto:kyle@rescuemissionga.com)

MissionBarnCenter



**GIVE YEAR-ROUND** Consider becoming a monthly giver and have a lasting impact throughout the year! Find out how at [rescuemissionga.com/monthly](http://rescuemissionga.com/monthly)



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.