

THE MISSION Bell

"DEAR CHILDREN, LET US NOT LOVE WITH WORDS OR SPEECH BUT WITH ACTIONS AND IN TRUTH." - 1 JOHN 3:18

Jamahal Walker

RESIDENT TESTIMONY

I was born at St. Mary's Hospital on October 12th in Richmond, VA. My mom's name is Brenda Walker, and my dad's name is Waverly Walker. My mom always told me and my brother, Brandon, that she always wanted children. She said that she told the Lord, if He would give her children, she would give them back to Him—and she did.

I remember family trips to North Carolina to visit family or to Buckroe Beach in Hampton, VA. These were the happiest moments of my life.

During this time, I was in school, caught in the middle of my parents and not sure how to help or cope. I was put into an adult role way too early and never really got to experience a childhood. I loved my mom, and she needed me to help out and do the things she and my father couldn't do.

My father was a functional alcoholic. He was always gone. When he was home, he was never positive or happy. There was always anger, arguing, hurt, and confusion. This was what I went to sleep with and woke up to. All I wanted to do was escape, fit in, and be loved.

In my high school years, I felt alone, sad, different—like I wasn't good enough. These feelings led to hanging out with groups that I had no business hanging out with. They were not good for me or my walk with God. I began to use drugs to cope, to fill a void, and to help deal with the shame of the lifestyle I had chosen. I made terrible choices then, and it cost me dearly.

Eventually, I went to my first rehab facility, which lasted 30 days. The same night I graduated from this rehab, I went out, made the same poor decisions, and got arrested again. I was humiliated and knew I had disappointed my family. These deep feelings of shame and humiliation only made me run back to the same people and things that I was trying to stay away from. Only this time, the enemy had my mind made up. This was who I was, what I deserved, and all I'd ever do.

I was in an internal fight with myself. To the world, I was trying to be a good son to my parents, a good brother, a good employee, and a good Christian—yet I was still struggling with drug abuse. I walked in fear, guilt, and shame for years, and no one knew. This fear, guilt, and shame made me feel very depressed and sad. I was wearing so many masks that I had no idea who God said I was, so I started to believe the world.

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God has been so faithful and good to me. He never took His hands off of me. I met a guy named Micah Meredith, who I began to hang out with. I'm convinced God put him in my life just to tell me about the Rescue Mission. He had gone to the Mission, and he began to talk to me about how much it had helped him. When he told me how long the program was and where it was, I wasn't interested at the time.

During this same period, my brother was saying that I should think about a rehab facility to get healing and rest, but I wasn't ready yet. I will never forget asking the Lord, "Father, is the Rescue Mission where You want me to be? If so, I need a sign. Make it clear to me." I prayed that prayer and immediately started back using drugs.

God heard my prayer, though. I was fired from both jobs within two days. I was put out of my home and had nowhere to go. Then, all of a sudden, an intake coordinator from the Rescue Mission called, did a phone interview, and told me I could come the next day. That was all the confirmation I needed.

When I first got here, I was nervous, but the guys and staff have been nothing but kind, warm, and welcoming. Since I've been a resident at the Rescue Mission, I've become a resident manager. I've been baptized, and I have completely made Jesus my Lord and Savior. I see the importance of Him now.

The person who has made the biggest impact on my life is the director, Jason Beck. He teaches our classes, and when I say he is a true man of God, I'm not exaggerating. I thank God for his teaching, his insight, and his excitement to help people. Anything I need, he goes above and beyond to help—even stopping just to say hi when there are 15 people wanting his attention.

I've been blessed with the opportunity to learn from God and heal wounds that I have suffered from in my life. God is so faithful and amazing. He gave me this gift. I get the chance and the time to learn about who I am in Him and how much He loves me. Since coming to the Mission, I now know that I am walking in His grace and that all my sins—past, present, and future—are already forgiven. That is such an amazing feeling because I feel like I am walking in the identity God says I am.

Since being here, my view on life has changed, as well as how I see people in the world. I no longer walk in fear or make a decision, burst through the door, and expect God to bless it. Now I pray and wait for God to open the door so I can walk through it. I feel like I am walking in victory. This is truly freedom for free.

I've met a lot of residents here, and I've learned a lot from them. The proudest moment I've experienced here is becoming an Resident Manager and working in the administrative office. No one knows, but I actually prayed for that position 11 months ago. I asked God for it, and He gave me the desire of my heart. He is such a great God.

I feel the Mission has given me the chance to heal old wounds and scars. Now that I am healed, I no longer operate or move out of being hurt. I move and operate out of being healed and healthy. My choices are better—although not perfect, and I am still human. I now have the tools needed to evaluate behaviors, learn from them, and listen to the Holy Spirit, who lives in me and guides me. I completely trust God and His love for me.

Jeremiah 29:11 and Psalm 91 are two scriptures that I read often and pray over my life every day.

After I graduate, I've asked God to leave me where He wants me to be. I want a great life, and I want the life God has for me. The Mission means a lot to me. It's only here where a man can come with nothing but the clothes on his back—no money, no nothing—and God can transition him and change his heart and his mind. It's here that God can bless him with necessities, friends, and family. These are things that only God can do—things that man could never do.

God is so good, and I give Him all the glory and the praise. I thank Him for leading me to the Mission. The Bible says our steps are ordered by God; although we may stumble, we will never fall. There is no doubt in my mind that God has ordered my steps here.



Thrift Stores

Jewelry will be 15% off every Wednesday in February. Some exclusions apply.

Our Thrift Stores are more than places to shop. They are vital extensions of the ministry of the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia. Through thrift, God takes what is given and multiplies it into meals, shelter, recovery, and restored lives. When you donate or shop, you become part of the work God is doing to bring hope, dignity, and new beginnings to our neighbors in need.



Celebrating the New Year & Our New Graduates!!

Here's to fresh starts, new milestones, and bright futures ahead.



On January 9th, we gathered to celebrate one of the most joyful moments in the life of our ministry: graduation from our Life Recovery Program. On this special day, we rejoiced as **18 men and 3 women** completed the program and stepped forward into a new season of freedom, healing, and purpose through Jesus Christ.

Graduation is far more than the completion of a program; it is a testimony to the transforming power of God. Each graduate represents a story that has been rewritten by grace. Many entered our doors burdened by addiction, homelessness, broken relationships, and deep wounds from the past. Through months of discipleship, counseling, accountability, and daily surrender to Christ, they have experienced the truth of *2 Corinthians 5:17*:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

The evening was filled with worship, testimonies, prayer, and overwhelming gratitude. Graduates shared how God

met them in their darkest moments, how His Word reshaped their hearts, and how the love of Christ—lived out by staff, volunteers, and supporters—encouraged them to believe lasting change is possible. Tears of joy flowed freely as family members, friends, and Mission supporters celebrated alongside them, praising God for lives restored.

At the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia, our Life Recovery Program is rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ. While we provide safe shelter, meals, education, and job training, we know that true transformation only comes through a personal relationship with Him.

Graduation also marks a beginning. As these men and women move forward into employment, stable housing, restored families, and active church involvement, they do so equipped with biblical truth, life skills, and a renewed sense of God's calling on their lives. They leave not walking alone, but anchored in Christ and supported by a community that continues to walk with them.

We give all glory to God for what He accomplished on January 9th. We are

deeply thankful for every donor, volunteer, prayer partner, and church that makes moments like this possible. Your faithfulness allows all of us at the Mission to continue proclaiming hope to the hurting and leading lives to the only One who truly saves.

Please continue to pray for our graduates—that they would stand firm in their faith, grow in wisdom, and boldly live out the work God has begun in them. As *Philippians 1:6* reminds us,

"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Together, we celebrate the transforming power of Jesus Christ at work in the lives of those we serve.



If you would like more information about our Life Recovery Program, please contact Jason Beck at 478-743-5445 ext. 304, jason@rescuemissionga.com, or Stephanie Ramirez at 478-743-5445 ext. 305, stephanie@rescuemissionga.com.

Wheels to WORK

If you have a gently used vehicle you would consider donating, we would be grateful to connect with you. To learn more, please contact **Dawn Burns** at **478-743-5445 ext. 301** or **dawn@rescuemissionga.com**.

Thank you for partnering with us as we continue to share the hope, love, and restoration found in Jesus Christ—one life and one set of keys at a time.



Did you know that gently used vehicles donated to the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia are often passed directly on to our program graduates?

Through our **Wheels to Work Program**, reliable transportation becomes a powerful tool for restoration, independence, and hope.

Maddie Manns and Lloyd Gambrell were all smiles when they received their vehicles through this program. Like so many of our residents, they faced significant barriers due to not having reliable transportation. Without a vehicle, securing and maintaining employment—one of the most important steps in rebuilding a stable, Christ-centered life—can be incredibly challenging.

At the Rescue Mission, we believe in helping individuals move forward with dignity and purpose. The Wheels to Work Program is one practical way we live out the love of Christ, helping our graduates transition from life recovery into the community with confidence and stability. When you support this program, you are making a direct, tangible impact on someone who has worked hard to rebuild their life and is ready to take the next step forward.

Currently, several of our graduates have secured employment and are in need of reliable transportation to get to and from work. A donated vehicle can truly be life-changing—opening doors to opportunity, responsibility, and long-term success.



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