Jesus is in the Mission Tonight!

By C. Lee Clark, Rescue Mission CEO

On this hot summer night, my wife Sandra and I joined the men and women as they headed to Chapel from dinner. Grateful for air conditioning yet still sticky from the humidity, many found old timey cardboard fans from the reception table along with Bibles for any needing one. We all settled in as Reverend Bobby Twine from Central Baptist Church played the keyboard with a mix of rousing spirituals. The atmosphere of the room shifted as faces lit up, fans waved a bit faster, hands were raised in joyful praise and folks joined in singing along. Jesus was in the house tonight!

Chaplain Sam Grant acknowledged the passing of two dear friends who’d stayed at the Mission and designated the evening as a memorial service in their honor. One speaker shared the Lord’s Prayer, another read John 14, focusing on the comfort Jesus gave his disciples. “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me.” Requests were shared and prayers lifted.

A shelter guest stood and shared from his heart. He spoke of his friend who’d passed, his character, the way she found good in others, encouraging and not tearing down. “Be the person that others remember for good” he said as he moved us with powerful emotion to be better people.

Uneita Mathews, long-time Mission staff member and volunteer, was up next. In her kind, gentle way, Uneita introduced her song, “His Eye is on the Sparrow.” As she sang, my eyes wandered the room. People from many backgrounds and experiences were here tonight. Many leaned forward, eager to hear the music. One or two quietly read, lost in their own thoughts. There was a stillness in this moment, an acknowledgment of something special happening among us. As the final chorus faded, “I know He watches over me” settled in us, comforting our hearts.

This is a night at the Rescue Mission. All are equal and welcome, from the first-time guest uncertain of what to expect, to folks who come back after getting jobs and housing to encourage others. On this night two guests stood out to me. One was a new lady, her second night at the Mission. On crutches, she came to the Mission from the hospital, well enough to go home, but no “home” to go to. She marveled at the level of talent in this chapel service. Another young man, in his twenties, novel in hand, created his own space in this room. I wondered what he felt being here. Was he touched as I was? Did he know others cared for him? Did he know God watches over him?

A few days later, one of our newest staff members declared “I love Chapel at the Rescue Mission” She is not alone. Chapel is a singular event at this Rescue Mission. With a Mission Statement of “Helping Hurting People in Jesus’ Name”, Chapel is a key place where the love shared in chapel. We love because He first loved us. This love in Jesus’ Name is the glue that holds it all together.

Of all the things the Mission does – powerful, important things like feeding people, providing safe shelter, teaching job skills, empowering people to live sober lives, healing the sick, connecting those homeless to places to live – nothing compares to the love shared in chapel. We love because He first loved us. This love in Jesus’ Name is the glue that holds it all together.

And we are here because you give of the time, talents and treasure God has entrusted to you. Thank you. Jesus is in the Mission tonight. And with God’s blessing and your support, that will never change.

We may not know how any one of us will react to a Chapel service. And each night is certainly different. We, as guests, come from diverse traditions or with no faith at all. Each is treated with respect and kindness. As a result, space is created where healing can occur. That’s something we all need.

It's a Street Party and You're Invited!

Attend the LOVE Week Party on 4th Street on Saturday, August 3 from 4-8pm. Join us for a free cookout, face-painting, bounce house and games for kids, music, fun, and fellowship courtesy of Elevation Church.

Receive this newsletter online call (540) 343-7227 rescuemission.net
2nd helpings (540) 491-9409 Shop/Gallery
(540) 491-9409 Cafe
Thrift 460 (540) 904-5012
http://stores.ebay.com/roanoke-rescue-mission

P.O. Box 11525, Roanoke, VA 24022 rescuemission.net (540) 343-7227
AUGUST 2019
The Broken Road to Recovery (in her own words)

by Lisa Pero, Participant in The Way Forward Recovery Program

I started my journey with drugs and alcohol when I was 11 and lived in the grips of addiction for 30 years. I am now 41 and I am in the third phase of “The Way Forward” recovery program.

Anyone who suffers from addiction or loves someone that suffers knows that even 1 day is devastating. Living with addiction was consuming me and I had no hope of being freed from my disease.

By the end of my active addiction I had been homeless, became a criminal and went to prison, destroyed my marriage and lost my children. I had been robbed, assaulted, disrespected, torn down. I was untrustworthy and disrespectful. I was living a miserable life and I thought that I deserved it. I was without faith and my god was inside of a needle. By the time I had reached that last day I had lost everything that I loved to my addiction.

Just as I was deciding how to end my own life God stepped in and for the first time I was able to hear him clearly. I made the choice to surrender to his will for me and seek recovery. On that last day I walked away from drugs and haven’t looked back.

When I was in active addiction I was selfish, self-absorbed and self-centered, everything revolved around me and my disease. I expected for someone to come along someday and fix me. If I had continued to hold onto that belief system I would have died waiting on that day. God’s love and grace gave me the strength that I needed to surrender. The Rescue Mission gave me a place to experience recovery and I realize that it’s not about me anymore but about what God did for me.

God has restored me to sanity. He gave my family a mother, sister, and daughter again. I have a relationship with him that is beyond anything else I have ever experienced. He has given me joy and the chance at true happiness. I can now love and be loved. I now understand that all of the things that happened in my life, had purpose, had meaning, and have made me uniquely qualified to help another addict.

Psalm 34:18
God is close to the broken hearted and he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

I know these words are true because once I was broken, God showed up!
A Partnership to Feed

On July 17th, a caravan of more than 300 motorcycles paraded into the parking lot of the Berglund Center, each one carrying a box of food to give to someone in need.

The Rescue Mission partnered with the Star Touring Riding Association and Feed the Children to make sure more than 400 families in need could receive a box of non-perishable foods and another box of personal care items.

“We know through our Manna Ministry grocery box distribution at the Rescue Mission that there are hundreds of families in the Roanoke Valley who could end up in our homeless shelters without that monthly food assistance,” says Chief Development Officer Tracy Altizer. “We were excited to be a part of this event with Feed the Children and Star Touring because it will provide those families and many others with additional staples during a time when children are not receiving meals at school.”

Star Touring CEO Ginger Cease says this is the 18th year the motorcycle organization has coordinated this event, always in a different city. “As the local partnering non-profit, the Rescue Mission really stepped up and made everything work seamlessly,” she said, “and to have them for distributing the more than 400 vouchers was a tremendous help to bring it all together.”

Aaron Hazel, Director of Corporate Partnerships for Feed the Children said the event for him never gets old. “Just to see the faces on the people receiving the boxes makes it all worthwhile,” he explained. “Sometimes you will see them cry and say ‘I had no idea how we were going to eat tonight.’ It’s all about providing hope and resources to families who need it.”

Boxes that went unclaimed from the event were returned to the Rescue Mission, where they are being stored and given to guests along with Welcome Home baskets as they move from shelter into homes.

Volunteers of Belmont Christian Church in Christiansburg, served in the THRIFT 460 store

Volunteers of the Central United Methodist Church in Salem prepared snacks, sorted a donation of socks, and organized the THRIFT 460 store

Volunteers from Faith Covenant Family Church served at the THRIFT 460 store

Friends and family of Matt Bartley collected over 60 water bottles for guests
IN MEMORY OF

Ed Adams . . . . . . . . . . . . . Kari Adams
Patsy Aker . . . . . . . . . . . . . Mrs. Paula P. Vail
Annie Andrews . . . . . . . . . Ms. Wanda Broady-Q-Hartman
Robert BeCraft . . . . . . . . . . . . Dean Cole
Ralph C Boggess . . . . . . . . . . . . Macie Ann Goggess
Richard L. Booth . . . . . . . . . . . . Thomas & Derley Booth
Alberta Brammer . . . . . . . . . . . Debby & Larry Gibson
Reda Burnett . . . . . . . . . . . . . Mr. & Mrs. Dan C. Delp
Harry E. Campbell, Sr . . . . . . . Mr. James L. Campbell
Nolan Cassell . . . . . . . . . . . . . Mr. & Mrs. Nolan Cassell
Dick Collingwood . . . . . . . . . . . . Michael & Martha Collingwood
Raymond Corris . . . . . . . . . . . . Mary Jean C. Sullivan
Tom Culpepper . . . . . . . . . . . . Michael & Martha Collingwood
William (Bill) D. Cushman . . . . . . Mrs. Betty Jo Tuck
Dick Cushman . . . . . . . . . . . . . Thomas & Derley Booth
In Memory of GIVEN BY

In Honor of GIVEN BY

Valley Blue Ridge Soccer Team served dinner

Salem Presbyterian Church’s middle school youth prepared food for a meal

Volunteers from Orvis served dinner

Volunteers from Midway Baptist Church spent 3 days serving throughout the Mission
Former Shelter Guest Going After her Goals

“I’m hungry for success, but you can’t just wait for it to come to you. You have to go after it, and keeping a good attitude and your goals in mind will help you get there.”

At 27, Shenice Crowder lives by this wisdom, even has a recipe for success on the wall of her brand new dining room. Crowder moved into her apartment in June after spending three months in Family Shelter with her five-year-old daughter and nine-year-old son.

“We had been living at my mom’s in Rocky Mount,” she explains, “but it was time for me to be independent and have my own place. We came to the Rescue Mission until I could make that happen. The Mission helped me build good habits and learn the importance of organization and routine. I was able to get a job and start working a week after I got there.”

When Crowder quickly realized she needed more hours, she worked with Children’s Minister Natalie Kline to secure after school care for her children at West End Center. “I was able to move out of the shelter sooner because of that,” she says. “Hard work is a good thing and a necessity.”

A self-described natural born leader, Crowder says being at the Mission was humbling, an experience for which she’s grateful. “A leader knows how to follow and serve, and I needed to learn that. God is helping me enjoy being a servant, and I’ve learned that being able to help other people gives me life.”

Crowder says she loves to write, and that journaling daily while at the Mission allowed her to see how God may be using a difficult situation in her life to prepare her for something else.

“It’s all there in my journals,” she says. “I want to one day open a dormitory trade school for people who are homeless. They can live there while they learn their trade, and we’ll have teachers and mentors for them. I have it all planned out.”

A member of Jesus is Lord Assembly of Love, Crowder says her mentor at church encouraged her to make her fresh start at the Rescue Mission. “I’m so glad she did, and look where I am now,” says Crowder. “God will use this part of my testimony to help other people. I’m just getting started.”

Volunteer with Us!

**CURRENT VOLUNTEER NEEDS**

**Volunteer Transporters**
- Tuesday, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
- Wednesday, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**2nd helpings Café**
- Help in the kitchen and dining area, Monday - Saturday, 11:00 - 2:00pm

**Retail Volunteers (460 Thrift Store)**
- Help sort, process, merchandise & bag donations, Monday - Saturday, 9:00 - 12:00 noon or 1:00 - 4:00 pm

**Distribution and Recycling Center (DRC)**
- Process and tag donated items, Mon. - Wed. & Sat., 9:00 - 12:00 noon or 1:00 - 5:00 pm; Thursday, 9:30 - 12:00 noon or 1:00 - 5:00 pm; Friday, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm *(must be age 14 or older)*

**Manna Ministries**
- Boxed groceries distribution, Saturday only, 7:30 - 10:30 am

**Kitchen Volunteers**
- Breakfast from 5:00 am - 8:00 am daily
- Lunch from 11:30 am - 2 pm
- Prep times 8:30 am - 11:30 am or 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm
- Dinner from 4:15 pm - 7:15 pm

**Day Resource Center Monitors**
- Men's Shelter, Monday - Friday from 8:30 am - 11:30 am; 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm
- Women's Shelter, Monday - Thursday, 9:00 am - 1:30 pm

**Shelter Service Monitors**
- Monitor shelter desk; assist staff with guest needs; provide direction and support to guests, Noon to 3 pm; 3 pm to 6 pm; or 6 to 9 pm

**Family Group Leader**
- 1 Hour per Week and a 3-4 Hours outing once a month

**Children's Ministry**
- Lead children's chapel program for k-5th graders, or
- Help with child care for infants through pre-k.
- From 6-7:30 PM weekday evenings
- Contact Natalie Kline 777-7661 x8703 or email natalie.kline@rescuemission.net

**Recovery Learning Center**
- 1-2 hours per week - volunteers needed to teach foreign language, art (sketching) and the basics of MS Office.

To Volunteer Please Contact our Volunteer Manager at 540-777-7651 or volunteer.info@rescuemission.net

Not sure how you can help or want to learn more about our services? Join us for a tour of the Rescue Mission any Monday at noon starting in the reception lobby at 402 4th Street SE.
5th graders from New Hope Christian Church decorated lunch bags and sorted school supplies

Thanks to the Salem Fair for collecting more than 3,000 pairs of brand new socks for our shelter guests on Rescue Mission night

Volunteers of Welltown United Methodist Church from Clear Brook helped prepare food for the kitchen, cleaned the shelters, organized the DRC and THRIFT 460 store, as well as donated $500 to the Rescue Mission

Friends from Allstate brought employee donations including hygiene items, baby diapers, and flip flops for shower shoes

James Turner from First Impressions Barber Shop served in Angels with Scissors

Wish List

- **Clinic:** Sunblock
- **Shelter Ministry:** Full size bottles of Men’s & Women’s Body Wash, Razors (twin blade or more), Shampoo
- **Food Ministry:** Pancake Mix (Water Only), Milk, Salad Dressing, Seasoning, Metal Forks/Knives/Spoons, Biscuits
- **Manna Mission Ministry:** Cases of Water, Canned Meat, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Cereal, Coffee

Meals and More

These numbers represent lives changed through God’s blessings and your generosity!

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<tr>
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<th>June 2019</th>
<th>YTD 2019</th>
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<tr>
<td>Meals Served</td>
<td>14,076</td>
<td>91,871</td>
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<td>Shelter Nights</td>
<td>6,921</td>
<td>49,330</td>
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<td>Clothing Items Provided</td>
<td>3,166</td>
<td>18,705</td>
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<td>Professions of Faith</td>
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<td>843</td>
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<td>Volunteer Hours</td>
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<td>Class Hours of Instruction</td>
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<td>Clinic Patient Visits</td>
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<td>Value of Healthcare Provided</td>
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<td>Case Management Encounters</td>
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<td>Recycled Items (pounds)</td>
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<td>Manna Households Served</td>
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<td>Tour Participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Donations (pounds)</td>
<td>97,771</td>
<td>522,641</td>
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The Rescue Mission is an equal opportunity provider.