

May, 2015

Dear Friends,

I heard a pastor say many years ago, "There is no foreign or home in God's mission vocabulary." We are told to go into all the world, and that includes our hometown and the surrounding areas of Chattanooga. We can reach out to those with physical and spiritual needs right where we are. We *can* as the saying goes "Bloom where we are planted" by reaching out to help meet the needs of the homeless through our shelters and chapel services, and those with addiction problems through our Christian Life Program. As people come into our shelters or our Christian Life Program we see them 'bloom' and change as God works in their lives. Do they all change? No. But should that stop us from reaching out to those in our own area of the world? God uses the ministry here to reach some out of the many that come through our doors. By your giving and support you are a part of the change.

'Marie' said, "Thank you for all you have done" as she told me that it was her last night in our temporary emergency overnight shelter. She had gotten a job a few months before and had been saving her money to get an apartment. We worked with her to help her as she got up very early every morning, caught the city bus to work, worked in a local hotel in housekeeping and came back to the shelter each night. She was very thankful to have a place to go each night to have supper, get a shower and a place to sleep. Marie called recently asking if she could come by after work to eat supper with our shelter guests and the night staff and attend chapel with them.

'Diedra' was standing at a cash register in a local store. I saw signs in the store offering discounts if you joined the store's membership list. I asked the cashier for information. The lady heard me say, Chattanooga Rescue Mission. She turned to me and said, "Do you remember me? You helped me several years ago. I now have a good husband, children, a home, but you were there when I needed you. God has been good." She stepped over and hugged me and said, "God bless you all."

'Hilda' was here for awhile after going through a divorce and other problems. She is now living in an apartment and building bridges back to her children and family. 'Hilda' calls once in a while to talk to the night staff and let them know how she is doing. She made a decision for Christ while here and expressed her appreciation for the shelter and a safe place to stay. 'Hilda' also said, "I never knew the power of prayer. I have learned it here."

Because you reach out to others through the ministry here, these ladies, and many others have been helped. Our shelter is a 365 days a year ministry meeting physical needs of food, showers and a place to sleep. Spiritual needs are met through our daily chapel services, our Christian Life Program and counseling. During the month of April 2,581 meals were served and 2,069 beds were filled. Each person who comes through the doors of the mission has the opportunity to hear the message of God's redemptive love and forgiveness!

God *IS* working through you. We appreciate so much your generous support and prayers. What you do is vital to what is done here in our Chattanooga 'mission field.'

With our sincere thanks,



Kaye Jones

Director of Women's Ministries