



# RESCUE CHATTANOOGA

News from Chattanooga Rescue Mission

 HOLIDAY ISSUE 2014

[www.chattanoogarescuemission.org](http://www.chattanoogarescuemission.org)

1512 S. Holtzclaw Ave., P.O. Box 3624, Chattanooga, TN 37404-0624

## FROM CHAOS, SELF-DESTRUCTION AND DESPAIR

### ... to a life of peace

**M**y name is Valorie. I want you to know I no longer believe Satan's lies. His lies have kept me from seeing the truth. They have held me in bondage for most of my life. I was addicted to drugs because they numbed my pain. Men were my gods, and I chased after them like there was no tomorrow. I have been repeatedly raped, spent time in prison for theft and basically lived a life displeasing to God. While I still have a long way to go, I want you to know how much your support of

Chattanooga Rescue Mission means to me and my recovery. My mind is being renewed through reading God's Word, prayer and meditating on the things of God. God is breaking strongholds that have kept me captive to Satan for more than 20 years. Today, I feel so blessed.

**God bless you for introducing me to the Truth** Here at the Mission, our counselors and teachers listen to us. They take time to answer our questions. There is no judgment here. Not long ago I stole a bicycle, but I returned it the next day because I knew it was the wrong thing to do. And

**"My mind is being renewed through reading God's Word, prayer and meditating on the things of God."**

recently I told Social Services I was disabled and could not work. That, too, was a lie, so I went back and told them the truth. I would never have done these things had it not been for Chattanooga Rescue Mission and for how much you care about someone like me. Tonight I will again be able to sleep in a safe place. I have not felt this good in years. God bless you for caring so much. I hope you and your family enjoy a wonderful holiday season.

Your friend,

*Valorie*

*God bless you for keeping the doors of the Mission open for someone like me*



Dale Grisso, Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries

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The Loneliest Time of the Year

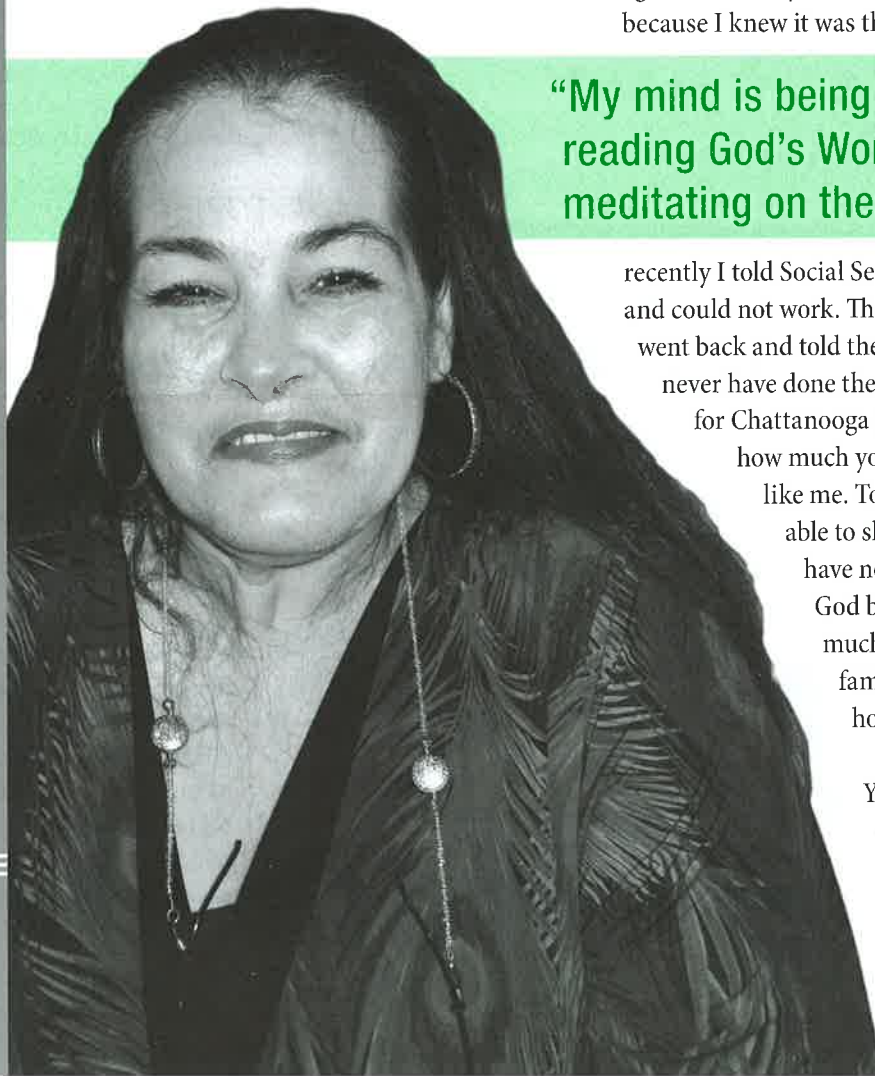
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During the holiday season the poor and the needy need to know how much you care

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## Dale Grisso, Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries

Dear Friend of Chattanooga Rescue Mission,

Have you ever noticed how some things grow in the most amazing places? It might be a blade of grass poking its head through a crack in the sidewalk. Even a small tree or bush will sometimes make its appearance through hardened cement or through a brick wall. Well, here at Chattanooga Rescue Mission we are also making some amazing discoveries. The world may say, *Nothing good can come out of the life of an addict. They're too far gone. They've burned too many bridges. Sorry, they're just out of luck.* We would disagree with those assessments because through your faithful support we see miracles happening daily as lives begin to change for time and eternity.



*"... through your faithful support we see miracles happening daily as lives begin to change for time and eternity."*

### God bless you for your support of this ministry of rescue

Every time I stand before our students in class, I look into their faces and see unlimited potential. Yes, they have made mistakes in their lives. Yes, sin has put them on the wrong track. But today is the first day of the rest of their lives, and God has a wonderful plan for their future. Mission work is like planting a garden. We plant the seed, water it, fertilize it with love, compassion and exposure to God's Word. We may not see the harvest, but we know that once our guests and residents are touched by God's love their lives will never be the same. Now as we celebrate the birth of a baby in Bethlehem, we continue to remind our friends their lives can be transformed... just as so much of the world was changed because of the birth of a Savior. Thank you for your ongoing support of this ministry of rescue. God bless you for caring.

Your servant to the needy,



*Dale Grisso*

Dale Grisso  
Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries

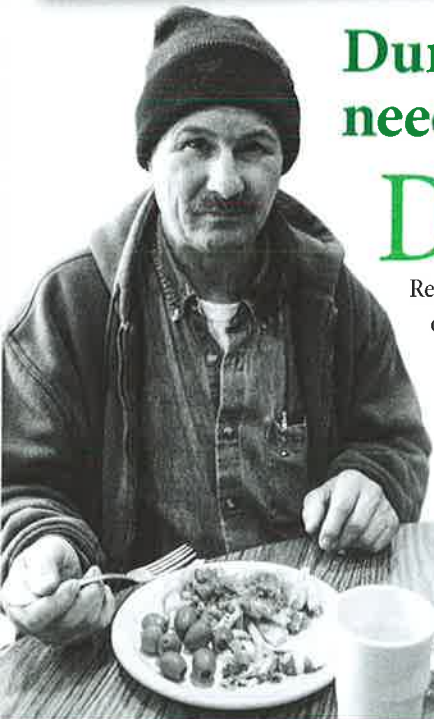


## The Loneliest Time of the Year

We've all probably heard the song proclaiming "It's the most wonderful time of the year." Unfortunately it's not that way for everybody — especially for our homeless friends. To them it is the *loneliest time of the year*. Here's a sample of things we have heard recently: "As a kid it was fun, now it's just another day." "I wish I could go home for Christmas and have it like old times; but after my family told me I was only welcome at Thanksgiving and Christmas, now I don't feel welcome even then." "We tend to remember the sadder things during the holidays, that's why there are so many suicides then." "My family never decorated or gave gifts, so now I don't even try to do special things." "Why do anything just for me?"

Yes there are some aching hearts out there, and the holidays make it even worse. But wait! It doesn't have to be sad. There are still people out there who care, who want to be a friend. There are places to go to experience the love and joy of the holidays. For the homeless, we want that place to be Chattanooga Rescue Mission. Our Thanksgiving dinner has so much life and enthusiasm. It's as close to being home as you can get. Then when Christmas comes, we shower our guests with gifts and hugs. And it's not just the homeless who benefit. Our volunteer corps reports being just as much ministered to as our guests. There's something about being tied into something bigger than ourselves, of being a part of a broader "family." Care to join us? You just might get that special holiday spirit back.

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## During the holiday season, the poor and the needy need to know how much you care



During this joyous holiday season, you once again have the opportunity to show your concern for others by helping Chattanooga Rescue Mission continue to open doors of opportunity to those in need — people who are homeless, who have had little or no food to eat, who have no real friends, who are sick and who hold little hope of a future. For most, a happy Christmas is little more than a dream. The good news is your gift today helps make this dream a reality for those who come to the Mission. And as a faithful supporter of this ministry of rescue, you already know the joy you give to others always comes back to you.

### Thank you for being a friend to those in need

Because you continue to show compassion for the physical and spiritual needs of so many, those who come to us during the long holiday season are enjoying bountiful meals, safe shelter, counseling and other expressions of God's love, all given with hearts eager to serve. Right now, to show your tangible concern for homeless people during this time of year, we invite you to use the remit slip enclosed to send your gift of any amount. Also feel free to make your donation on our secure website, [www.chattanoogarescuemission.org](http://www.chattanoogarescuemission.org). God bless you for helping us share the message of the birth of Jesus with our friends, and how a commitment to the Savior promises to bring peace and joy to their lives.

*"... the joy you give to others always comes back to you."*