



RESCUE CHATTANOOGA

News from Chattanooga Rescue Mission

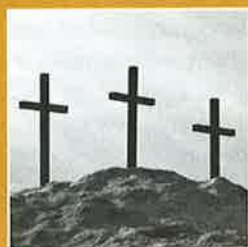
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An Encouraging Word from Dale Grisso, Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries Pg. 2



CRM . . . A Regional Ministry Pg. 2



Thank you for your ongoing support to our ministry Pg. 2

I can finally look in a mirror and like what I see . . . thanks to God, the Mission and to a friend like you

My name is Jessica. If you've ever struggled with an addiction, you know all about pain and suffering. And if you know someone *with* an addiction, you also know the meaning of the daily agony and sadness. *Meth* was all that mattered to me. The needle did its dirty work, and the higher I got the more I felt like Superwoman. I'd clean the house madly. I would even take a Q-tip and attack every corner of my rooms to make sure everything was clean. My life was one big obsession.

I'm growing in the things of God

That's why I give thanks to God that I heard about Chattanooga Rescue Mission and the programs offered here. I'd been in jail for two weeks because of my trouble with the law, and when I came through these doors I was in bad shape spiritually, emotionally and physically. But because of the nutritious food, I quickly began to feel better. And because of the spiritual, no-nonsense counseling, everything about me began to change. I know to grow in the things of God is a daily process — one that I'm committed to. In the past, I didn't dare to look in a mirror.

Today, I can, and I see a completely different person.

No more am I living in what once seemed like burning flames of fire. I know I still have a long ways to go in my Christian walk, but I thank God I'm not where I once was. Thank you for your part in helping me get my life back. Your donations of time and service are making all the difference in the world.

With gratitude at this Thanksgiving season,

Jessica

"I know I still have a long ways to go . . . but I thank God I'm not where I once was."

God bless you for caring about me. I will always be grateful for your kindness.

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Dale Grisso, Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries

Dear Friend of Chattanooga Rescue Mission,

In general, homeless people are not the most grateful men and women on earth. Life on the streets has sucked out what little joy they may have ever had. That is . . . *until* Thanksgiving. Here at the Mission on Thanksgiving, we provide a hot meal with all the trimmings. We have live music, friendly servers and an atmosphere that's 180 degrees opposite from how our guests live on the streets and in the alleys of our city.

Once unsmiling, homeless people begin to open up. They talk to us. We hear them say things like . . . *Nobody loves me . . . but you love me . . . I've been rejected for years . . . but you do not reject me . . . I've never had a place to go . . . but you welcome me as a member of the family . . .*

And when the Thanksgiving feast has ended, they stay to talk. It's hard to get them to leave. They are so captivated by the love of our staff and our volunteers. Just being accepted makes their day.

Thank you for your sacrificial giving

How does this happen? Because *you* help make it happen. You give sacrificially of your time and money to help us make Thanksgiving special for our homeless friends. You tell us you'll never quit caring. You have a soft spot in your heart for the addicted, the homeless and for those who've lost their way.

Thank you for joining me in being a hope provider for the needy. Thank you for being part of our ministry team, and for making a difference in someone's life. With God as your strength, you are helping us see lives changed for eternity. God bless you for caring. Happy Thanksgiving.

Your servant to the needy,

Dale Grisso

Dale Grisso

Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries



"Thank you for being part of our ministry team, and for making a difference in someone's life."

CRM . . . A Regional Ministry

Often when I am in one of the surrounding communities, someone will say something on the order of "We don't have any homeless people around here." The supposition is that homelessness is a phenomenon only found in the larger cities. While it is true that one may not see homeless people hanging around the smaller communities, that does not mean there is something about the larger cities which contributes to homelessness. The simple truth of the matter is that homeless people come from all over. They tend to congregate in the cities because that is where the services are located. When one has repeatedly failed to find a job in a small town, he tends to go to a larger town. If one was hungry and needing a place to stay, he'd gravitate to places that offer a free bed and food.

Let me illustrate the diversity of our clientele with the persons in our Christian Life Program. While Chattanooga has a fair representation, two are from North Georgia, two from North Alabama, two from Florida, and one from Pennsylvania. Recent CLPs have come from Sweetwater, Reliance, Sequatchie County, Cookeville, South Pittsburg, Soddy-Daisy and Oneida. Incidentally, over half identified themselves as country guys rather than city slickers.

CRM is very much a regional ministry. Its clients and its friends are scattered all over the Tri-state area. In a very real sense when persons from outlying areas support CRM, they are helping solve a problem that may have actually originated in their very own community. God has providentially placed people in desperate need of help in our path so that we can minister the wonderful news that hope is just ahead. Please join us as, together, we impact Southeast Tennessee, Northwest Georgia, Northeast Alabama, and even the regions beyond.

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Thank you for your ongoing support of our ministry



Our Mission guests come through our doors filled with regret, fear and anxiety. They are hungry, often sick and without decent clothing. Countless numbers have spent too many days living on our streets. But when they come to the Mission, they suddenly find themselves in a new, supportive environment. We remind them God loves them *and so do we*. The four words *this too shall pass* are often the most comforting words our guests have ever heard. As they embrace the love of Jesus, they begin to understand God has never given up on them.

The light of God begins to shine in their eyes

As our friends reflect on who they were and how far they've come, a light comes to their eyes — the

light of a God who loves them and has a plan for their lives. They learn no problem is too great for God. They also learn they'll never have to face a challenging situation alone again — unless they choose to reject the love of a God who cares.

However, none of these miracles would happen were it not for your prayers and faithful giving to this ministry of rescue. Thank you for all you've done in days past. But hunger and homelessness are everyday occurrences . . . so we come to you again, asking you for your generous support. To give your gift, please use the remit slip enclosed, or make your donation online at www.chattanoogarescuemission.org. God bless you for being a caring friend to people like Jessica . . . not only at Thanksgiving but throughout the year.

"The four words *this too shall pass* are often the most comforting words our guests have ever heard."