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*“All I wanted was
for her to love me.
Instead, she hurt me.”*

— Maria

*Thank you
for showing
me how to live
God’s Way!*

your mission messenger

EASTER ISSUE 2014

Mom and My MESSED-UP LIFE — by Maria

Ever since I was a little girl, I loved school. I remember winning spelling bees and earning As and Bs, and I was so happy. I dreamed of graduating, getting my diploma, and escaping the fields of Florida, where my family worked as farm laborers.

But when I was 13, my mom had other plans. As her oldest daughter, she expected me to leave school to help raise my younger siblings. I never did graduate.

It seemed like my mom never loved me or supported me. I don’t know why. She always insulted me. She would tell me that I wasn’t her daughter, when I knew I was. She

never trusted me and she treated me different from my brothers and sisters. All I wanted was for her to love me. Instead, she hurt me. And for a long time, I hated her.

I started drinking and doing drugs. I didn’t want to have anything to do with my mom. Even when she became a Christian and tried to change, I was too angry.

My boyfriend and I came to Indiana in 2007. By that time, I wanted to get away from drugs, but my boyfriend continued to deal cocaine. In 2008, we both got arrested and went to prison.

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Mom and My Messed-Up Life

(continued from page 1)

Starting Over

That's when I took a hard look at my life. I realized I not only hated my mom, I hated myself. I asked God to help me, and I finally forgave my mom. We made peace and I started to cry. Then I learned to love myself more.

"I asked God to help me, and I finally forgave my mom."

I got out of prison two weeks ago and came straight to Open Arms, because I had nowhere else to go. The people here have already shown me so much love and care. They're teaching me how to live God's way, and it's working. I already found a new job and I'm planning to finally go back to school and graduate!

I called my mom this week — and she said she's proud of me. I felt like a little girl again, but this time I was so happy.



An Encouraging Word from Van . . .

Dear Friend of the Kokomo Rescue Mission,

In just a few weeks, many Christians here in Kokomo will begin their journey of Lent, a 40-day journey leading up to Good Friday and Easter. Lent is a time we remember Christ's 40 days of fasting in the desert, as well as His own dark journey toward the horrible suffering and death He would endure on the cross.

When I reflect on Christ's journey to the cross, I also think about His disciples traveling with Him. They knew something was coming, something foreboding, but they didn't know what. I can't imagine the fear and anxiety they must have felt in those days before Christ's resurrection.

And then, of course, this dark journey of Lent reminds me of what many of our homeless and addicted guests must walk. The hunger and thirst of walking through their own deserts. The harsh nights of sleeping outside when they have no home. The emotional torment of being spit on, ignored, or abandoned. The confusion and anxiety of not knowing how their journey will end — or if it will ever end.

A Partnership That Leads to New Life

But you and I know there is an end. And even better, because of Easter and Christ's resurrection, there is a new beginning. A new life awaiting.

That's what your gifts to the Kokomo Rescue Mission really mean. Thanks to you, together we are able to provide them with the food and shelter they need for today. But more than that, together we lead them to the foot of the Cross and then the hope of the resurrection. We give them the spiritual food that leads to new life for all eternity.

Thank you for partnering with the Kokomo Rescue Mission and with Jesus Christ in this extraordinary ministry of resurrection and new life.

Your servant,

Van C. Taylor, Executive Director



"It's that hope in Jesus, His resurrection and His power to transform lives from the inside out; that is the foundation of everything the Kokomo Rescue Mission does."

Jesus changed the world on Easter morning

Imagine that first Easter morning. Jesus was dead. But in an instant, He opens His eyes, takes a deep breath, moves His fingers, wiggles His feet — and stands! He is risen! He rises not only in spirit but in His glorious, new resurrection body — whole, complete, renewed. And in that moment, the entire world changes forever.

Today, every man, woman, and child is offered that same hope for new life — whole and renewed in their bodies, minds, and souls. That is the same hope that compels us to reach out to every hurting person who comes to the Kokomo Rescue Mission, so they can experience the healing power of Christ's resurrection in their own lives. And your generosity toward these same precious people proves that you too share this same eternal hope — and we thank God for you!

Paddling as FAST AS I CAN

— by Dennis

“Dad, we’re done with you. That’s it.” That’s what my daughter told me in 2008, after yet another of my failed attempts to quit drinking. My son felt the same way. What she said really hit home. No more contact with my kids, no more watching my grandkids grow up. I was alone, and it was the lowest point of my life.

And yet, I still couldn’t stop.

I’d been drinking for 33 years. By 1992, I was already drinking up to a case of beer every day. I knew I was an alcoholic, but I liked drinking. So I kept doing it.

Ten years later, I finally accepted that I needed help. I went to a spiritual retreat, got saved, and Jesus came into my heart . . . but I started drinking again.

I went to rehab. I went to A.A. meetings. I tried therapy. Nothing worked. I’d get sober for a couple of months, and fall off the wagon again. Even after losing the support of my kids, I couldn’t control it.

Learning to Live God’s Way

By 2011, I could no longer hold on to a job. I was bankrupt. No one wanted me around. I had no future. Then I found the Kokomo Rescue Mission. When I learned they had a program to help guys like me,



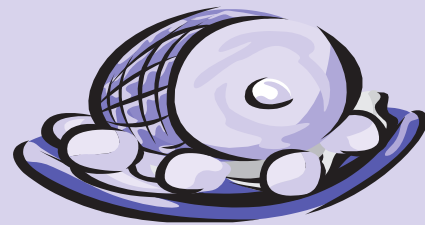
“The Kokomo Rescue Mission is exactly what I needed.”

— Dennis

I signed up. It was the turning point of my life.

The chaplains cared about me. I experienced love wherever I went. In chapel, I felt close to Christ like I never did before. The Holy Spirit came inside me and I started to understand how important I am to God — and even to my family. Then the classes I took here taught me how to live God’s way and I started growing spiritually.

The Kokomo Rescue Mission is exactly what I needed. I’ve been sober a year and a half now. My kids are back in my life and have started to trust me again. And I believe the Lord has big plans for me. I still have a long way to go, but I’m paddling as fast as I can.



What’s on the Easter Menu?

We are planning to serve ham and scalloped potatoes, green beans, corn, chicken and noodles and dinner rolls. A nice assortment of salads and desserts will complete the meal. The tables will be decorated with the cards our donors have signed and mailed in, letting our guests know that someone cares about them and wants them to know that, because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, they can have hope.



Fifth Sunday
Focus on
the Mission

“Full Meal Deal” Sunday March 30, 2014

People who come to the Mission for help with groceries receive a source of protein packaged with other items to make a complete meal. Please help us provide them with a “full meal deal.” Collect non-perishable sources of protein such as canned meat, beef stew, chunky soups, canned pasta with meat, boxed mac and cheese, and peanut butter.

ng . . . your support transforms lives.

Your Gifts Bring New Life to Hurting People

Every gift you give and every prayer you pray for those who are hungry and homeless at the Kokomo Rescue Mission brings new hope and resurrection life to those who have lost hope for a better life. God is transforming lives through you! But every day, more men, women, and even families continue to seek our help — and they need people like you to give them hope and another chance for new life in Jesus Christ.

To give your generous gift today, please use the enclosed remit slip, or make your donation online at www.kokomorescuemission.org. You may also call us at **765-456-3838**. Thank you for being an Easter friend to men, women, and children who need your help.

“Your prayers and gifts bring new hope and resurrection life to those who have lost hope. God is transforming lives through you.”



13th Annual Walk-a-Mile-in-My-Shoes



At Open Arms, homeless women and children are experiencing a love that restores broken lives — thanks to all who participated in the 13th Annual Walk on February 8. Hats off to our great sponsors, volunteers and walkers for making this year’s event another huge success! Read more about the Walk and see photos at kokomorescuemission.org

Honoring Loved Ones with Tribute Gifts



An important tradition in many families is making charitable contributions in memory of, or in tribute to, a beloved friend or family member. Honoring a person through a charitable gift is a wonderful way to ensure worthwhile values continue to influence the community and world around us.

Memorial and tribute gifts can be a heartfelt way to remember family members who have had a meaningful influence on your life.

Gifts for an occasion such as Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, a birthday or another noteworthy occasion show how very much you care for the person.

Remembering a loved who has died with tribute giving helps preserve the person’s legacy.

Honoring a person with a gift at the time of their favorite holiday such as Easter, Christmas, or Memorial Day can be another opportunity to share.

For more information on Tribute and Memorial giving, visit our website at: www.kokomorescuemission.org

CLINTON COUNTY Ministry of Hope

An Outreach of the Kokomo Rescue Mission

Ministry of Hope volunteers from about **14** different churches prepare and serve a free meal **once** per week in Frankfort. All are welcome to the hearty, nutritious meal served at 6:00 p.m. Thursdays at Faith Family Ministries. The Mission also partners with LIFT (Living In Fellowship Together) Ministries in Frankfort to provide a second meal every Saturday at the Neighborhood Center. Volunteers also offer devotions following the meal.

Bags of groceries to serve 10 meals for up to 4 people are given to those who qualify every month. For families of 5 or more people, additional portions are added.

Clinton County Ministry of Hope is funded by the Kokomo Rescue Mission through proceeds from A Great Find and donations from individuals and churches. You may designate any gift to the Mission for CCMOH in the memo of your check to the Kokomo Rescue Mission and mail it to P.O. Box 476, Kokomo, IN 46903-0476.



My Easter Gift

YES, Van, I want to help give new hope and life to hurting people.

- Please bill my credit card:
- VISA MC

Here’s my Easter gift of:

- \$20.50** to provide **10** meals and other assistance
- \$30.75** to provide **15** meals and other assistance
- \$61.50** to provide **30** meals and other assistance
- \$_____** to provide as many meals and as much care as possible

ACCOUNT NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Kokomo Rescue Mission
P.O. Box 476
Kokomo, IN 46903-0476

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▶ Please mail this completed form with your Easter donation, or you may give your gift online at www.kokomorescuemission.org. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.