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This Thanksgiving, I'm grateful that YOU gave me the chance to live a better life.

your mission messenger



FALL ISSUE 2016

Looking Into the Mirror of Jesus

— BY MELISSA

The Bible says we're only visitors in this world, and our real home is in heaven. I like that, because I know there's a better place and a better life waiting for me, and I'm looking forward to that.

My childhood was really bad. When I was 5 years old, I had a stepfather who beat and raped me for almost four years. He ended up going to prison when I was 9, but my life would never be normal. My biggest issue is self-esteem, not feeling like I'm good enough or that I'm very pretty. I was always a loner or I hung out with the kids who were always picked on. And I've spent my life getting involved with all the wrong guys. I got pregnant when I was 16 and didn't finish high school.

By the time I was 30, I had three children by fathers who couldn't — or wouldn't — support me or them. And I ended up with some serious health issues: I have diabetes, bad neuropathy, liver problems, and one of my legs swells up so bad I can't walk sometimes and I have to be hospitalized.

“My biggest issue is self-esteem, not feeling like I'm good enough or that I'm very pretty.”

Two years ago, I ended up homeless and came to Open Arms, but I left too soon. Now I'm back again, and

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Looking Into the Mirror of Jesus

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I'm not going anywhere.

Thanks to Open Arms, I'm learning new skills to help me take better care of myself and my kids. They're also helping me manage my health issues better. But I think the most important thing Open Arms has taught me is that Jesus Christ is the answer.

When I look in a mirror, I don't see someone I like. But Open Arms has taught me to look in the mirror of Jesus. When I do that, I see someone who's beautiful looking back. I see who I really am, and someone's who worthy of Christ's love.

Thanks to you, because you support Open Arms, I know when I leave here I'll have the tools I need to lead a better life for me and my kids.

An Encouraging Word from Van . . .

Van Taylor, Executive Director

Dear Friend of the Kokomo Rescue Mission,

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and enter his courts with praise and be thankful to him and bless his name" (Psalm 100:4).

That's what Thanksgiving is all about at Kokomo Rescue Mission. As Christians, we want to remember all that God has done for us, and to celebrate our blessings in Jesus Christ. And that means we're determined to make our Thanksgiving Day a very big deal for our guests and for our community.

I know it's awkward to write to you about Thanksgiving in September. But because we plan to serve 700-800 special meals on Thanksgiving, we have to start planning right now. We have to arrange for publicity, contact partnering churches, figure out the menu, and shop for incredible amounts of food. We need tables and chairs, decorations, music and a sound system, name tags, cleaning supplies, plates, coffee, hairnets, and gloves. It's a huge project!

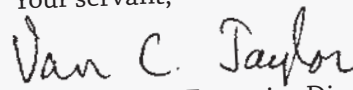
Right now, our biggest need is turkeys. We can't wait until November to cook 30-40 turkeys; we need to prepare them now, so when November comes, we can gather all the other supplies we need.

Your Support Will Make This the Best Thanksgiving Yet

And that's where you come in. I am so grateful for your faithful support all year round. Your generosity, and the compassion of this extraordinary community of Kokomo, is incredible. And that's why I want to ask for your help this fall. Your donations of turkeys, your financial support, your volunteer time, and your prayers will make this Thanksgiving the best one yet for our homeless and struggling neighbors.

Even more, I invite you to come celebrate yourself, in person. Everyone's welcome. Let's offer thanks together, all of us, one big family, praising God's name. *Thank you!*

Your servant,



Van C. Taylor, Executive Director



"We're determined to make our Thanksgiving Day a very big deal for our guests and for our community."

Homeless Men, Women, and Children

Give praise to the LORD, proclaim His name; make known among the nations what He has done." (1 Chronicles 16:8).

That is exactly what your mission messenger newsletter is all about . . . praising God, proclaiming His name, and letting everyone know what He has done in the lives of hurting men, women, and children at Kokomo Rescue Mission. But more than that, it's how God is using caring, compassionate people like YOU to provide struggling neighbors with food, shelter, grace, healing, and even salvation — transforming their lives today and for eternity. Thank you for your faithful generosity.

Please remember hurting people this Thanksgiving

Evan's New Path to Life

Every morning, Evan, a 42-year-old guest at Kokomo Rescue Mission, gathers with other guys at the Mission to share what they're grateful for that day. "The other day, I said I'm grateful for peace of mind after living my whole life with that constant chaos and worry about how I was going to get more money for more alcohol," he says.

Evan grew up just north of Kokomo, where he was raised by loving parents who took him to a small country church every Sunday. But at age 16, he got a car, and for the first time discovered a whole other world of alcohol and drugs. Almost overnight, the "straight-A student and all-American kid went down the drain." Instead of heading to college, he dropped out of high school. He never recovered from the shame or the feelings of failure that haunted him every day.

"My whole adult life was one failed attempt after another to stay clean and sober," he says. "But when I was clean and sober, I was miserable. Why stay clean and sober if I was going to be miserable all the time? I just didn't want to face the reality of my life."

Nowhere to go but Kokomo Rescue Mission

He lost jobs and isolated himself more and more from friends and family. His dad was the last "steady rock" in his life. When his dad died in 2005, he spiraled even more out of control, eventually drinking almost half a gallon of vodka a day, until he ended up penniless and

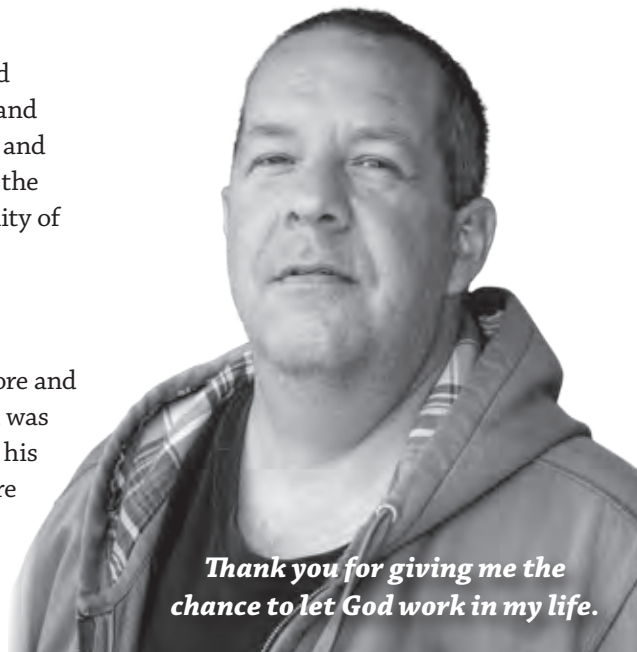
homeless last February. He had nowhere else to go but the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

Suddenly, Evan was attending devotions and chapel five days a week. "God started working in my life, I know that," Evan says. "I had to get out of my own way and let

"I had to get out of my own way and let God take control and lead me."

God take control and lead me. That relieved a lot of stress and it's changed everything. I'm learning that all it takes is a little faith in God and to just do what I have to do today to glorify Him.

"This place gave me structure, hope, direction, and a new path to life."



Thank you for giving me the chance to let God work in my life.

Upcoming Events



Red Ribbon Christmas Outreach

A Ministry of Kokomo Rescue Mission

The temperature outside still feels like summer, but fall is just around the corner. With fall comes cooler temperatures and our thoughts start to turn to Christmas.

For some in our community, Christmas is a difficult time. Our Red Ribbon Christmas volunteers work all year-round to help make Christmas brighter for those in our community who are in need. You too can help bring the message of hope that comes with celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus.

Contact our Volunteer Coordinator at (765) 456-3838 to volunteer with preparing or delivering Red Ribbon Christmas boxes.

Need Your Help This Fall!

This fall and Thanksgiving season, please continue to remember the increasing number of homeless neighbors, and all those in need, who are coming to us seeking hope and a new start. Your gifts to Kokomo Rescue Mission this fall will help ensure that every man, woman, and child who comes through our doors will receive nourishing food, warm clothing, safe shelter, and the promise of God's transforming power right through Thanksgiving.

To donate immediately, please use the enclosed remit slip. You may also give your donation by visiting us online at www.kokomorescuemission.org or call us at **765-456-3838**. Thank you for touching so many lives through your generous giving this fall and throughout the year.

God is using caring, compassionate people like YOU to provide struggling neighbors with food, shelter, grace, healing, and even salvation.

Thanksgiving is quickly approaching!

We are expecting to serve 900 delicious, traditional Thanksgiving meals at our Great Thanksgiving Banquets this year. We will be serving at two locations through our outreach in Frankfort called the Clinton County Ministry of Hope on Thursday, November 17 and Tuesday, November 22. On Thanksgiving Day at Grace United Methodist Church, we will serve dinner from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



To serve 900 meals, we'll need:

- 30 Large Turkeys
- 10 Boneless Hams
- 50 #10 Cans Green Beans
- 50 #10 Cans Corn
- 900 Servings of Potatoes (Instant)
- 900 Dinner Rolls
- Dressing Ingredients:
- 50 Loaves of Bread
- 50 Stalks of Celery
- 10 lbs. of Onions
- 10 doz. Eggs

Please let us know as soon as possible what you can provide. Kokomo Rescue Mission's holiday outreach depends on your generosity.

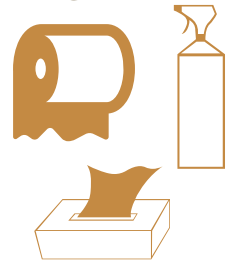
More info about Mission events at www.KokomoRescueMission.org

Re-Stock the Mission

October 30, 2016 is "Re-Stock Sunday," where you can help us stretch our ministry dollars.

Organize a collection of household items and supplies which will be used at the Mission. Items used throughout the year are things like:

- Powdered Laundry Detergent
- Antibacterial Hand Soap
- Disinfectant Spray
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Facial Tissue



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My Thanksgiving Gift

YES, Van, I want to help hurting and homeless men, women, and families today and through the coming Thanksgiving season.

- Please bill my credit card (please print):
 VISA MC DISCOVER

Here's my Thanksgiving 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	AMOUNT
NAME	SIGNATURE	
ADDRESS		
CITY / STATE / ZIP		
EMAIL ADDRESS		

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

► Please mail this completed form with your Thanksgiving 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.