



An Encouraging Word from Van

page 2



Walking a Straight Path

page 3



Honoring Loved Ones with Tribute Gifts

page 4



“I was determined to abuse myself to death.”

— Stacy

Thanks to you, I'm experiencing joy instead of nightmares — for the first time in my life!

your mission messenger

EASTER ISSUE 2013

LEAVING MY TOMB, Walking into the Light

Imagine never knowing a moment of joy in your life. Never knowing a moment that was not black, paralyzing pain. You live your life with a protective wall no one can penetrate. Your life is worthless, useless and unlovable. You hate yourself, you hate everyone else and you hate God.

That's what happens when your father molests you for almost 12 years — and he's a pastor. Yes, that's what happened to me.

I escaped home when I was 15, and I spent the next 17 years on and off the streets, filling my body with marijuana, Valium, Xanax, cocaine, ecstasy, PCP, mescaline, methamphetamines, heroin, crack cocaine and

more. Anything to numb the pain, anything to keep me awake so I did not have to sleep and face the nightmares. I was determined to abuse myself to death.

By January 2011, my arms were covered with bruises, scars and needle marks. But for some reason, I decided I wanted to live. That's when I came to Kokomo Rescue Mission's Open Arms for women like me.

Love Seeping In

My father died a week later. His death shook me up. At first, I didn't know what to feel. But I knew I had to open my life to God and change. One day, I put my face to the ground and said, "God, I cannot do this. I can't fix my life. It's time for you to take control."

(continued on page 2)



Serving Six Counties

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Leaving my Tomb, Walking into the Light

(continued from page 1)

I suddenly felt a rush of something I'd never experienced before in my life. It was like I could hear God speaking, I could feel him so near. I shouted out loud to the other women, "Oh my gosh, I think I felt God!" I didn't know it then, but I felt joy. For the first time ever.

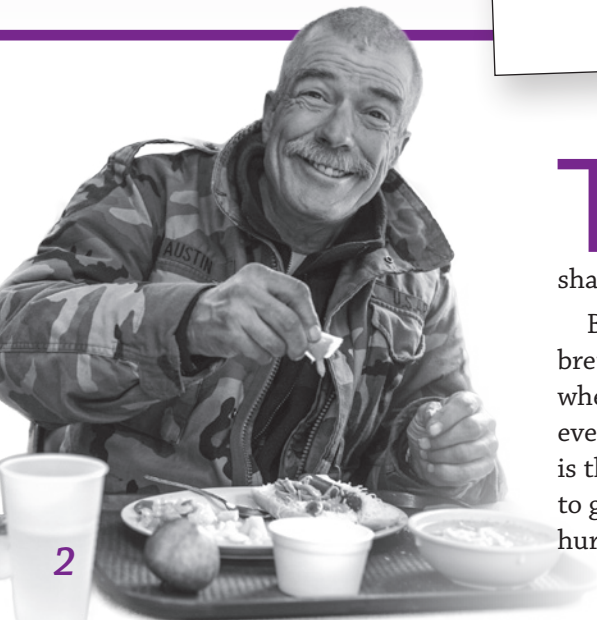
I've been here nine months now. The walls around me are falling and love is seeping in.

The Bible says that when Jesus died, they buried him in a dark, black tomb. But on Easter Sunday, He rose again, came out of the tomb, and walked into the light. I believe that story is true, because He's done the same thing for me.

4in10



Of the approximate **636,000** individuals who are homeless [on a given night] in America, nearly **4 in 10** are unsheltered (living on the streets, in cars, abandoned buildings or other places not intended for human habitation).



An Encouraging Word from Van . . .

Dear Friend of the Kokomo Rescue Mission,

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2:20). Think about that amazing truth for a moment — that the lives we once lived are gone. And now Jesus lives through us, transforming our lives for eternity.

That is the meaning and power of Easter. It's my hope, it's your hope and it's the hope of Robert and Stacy, whom I hope you read about in this issue of **your mission messenger**. Indeed, it's the hope of every hurting and homeless man, woman and child who comes to the Kokomo Rescue Mission seeking help and a new chance at life.

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. And, it's why your gifts matter.

Your sacrificial love for "the least of these" is transforming lives

Yes, when you support the Kokomo Rescue Mission, you offer food, shelter and clothing to those Jesus called "the least of these" — the hungry, the homeless, the sick, the naked and the oppressed. But as important as those things are, ultimately, your gifts are leading them into the arms of Jesus, who, alone, can give them a new heart and a new life.

As we journey together through this season of Lent toward our celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus, thank you for caring for the "least of these" at the Kokomo Rescue Mission. Because, as Jesus said in Matthew 25, whatever you have done for "the least of these," you have done it to Him. Your loving care, generosity and sacrificial love are truly and profoundly transforming lives for eternity.

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."

Please Give Easter Ho

Tonight, thousands of men, women and children all over Indiana — many of them right here in Kokomo — will have no place to call home. For those who have never been homeless, it's impossible to fully understand the misery, shame and despair they endure — the hopelessness that cripples their lives.

But there *is* hope for every one of those Jesus called "the least of these my brethren" (Matthew 25:40). It's the hope of an empty tomb that Jesus left behind when God raised Him from the dead that first Easter morning. A hope that promises everyone who believes a chance for new life, health and wholeness. And, that promise is the reason the Kokomo Rescue Mission ministers to "the least of these" — thanks to generous people like you who share our hope in a Risen Savior and compassion for hurting people.

Walking a STRAIGHT PATH

Proverbs 3:5-6 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

It’s so true. If you just slow down and listen to what God is saying to you, you’ll go in the right direction. I learned that here at the Kokomo Rescue Mission. I wish I’d learned it a lot sooner.

My parents were alcoholics and drug addicts. I was raised in the midst of poverty, emotional abuse, beatings and violence. I was also picked on at school because my clothes were never up to the other kids’ standards.

So, I learned early on that if I want something, I’m going to get it. My way.

And, my way involved a lot of drugs and alcohol. By the time I was 17, I started selling drugs and burglarizing cars and homes so I could afford some of the nicer things I wanted in life.

I went to jail three times in five years. But the last time, I was looking at a long prison sentence. I vowed to change. I went to God and asked him to forgive me for everything, and I pleaded for one more chance. And, I got it. Instead of prison, they let me come to the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

The Road to New Life

I’ve been here for almost a year now, and they’ve given me structure and skills to set goals, find a new job and budget



“I learned early on that if I want something, I’m going to get it. My way. And, my way involved a lot of drugs and alcohol.”

— Robert

my money. But most important, they taught me to trust in the Lord and always put him first. I even got to lead another man to Christ recently, and now my chaplain says I should consider going into the ministry.

Wow. I’ve gone from being a drug dealer and thief to a man of God who cares for others more than I care about myself. Only God can do that. But, He used the Kokomo Rescue Mission and people like you to do it.

Thank you for giving me the chance to be a stronger Christian and a better person in the community.



12TH 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 12th Annual Walk on February 9. 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 www.kokomorescuemission.org



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 tent cards our donors have signed and mailed in, letting our guests know that someone cares about them, and wants them to know that the hope we have in the resurrection of Jesus Christ can be theirs.

Hope to Hurting People

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 bring new hope and resurrected life to those who have lost hope for a better life. God is transforming lives through you!

But every day, growing numbers of men, women and even families continue to seek our help. They need to know there’s hope. They need to know there’s a Risen Savior who promises them hope. And, they need people like you to help give them another chance for new life in Jesus Christ.

To give your generous gift today, please use the remit slip enclosed, 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.

Growing numbers of homeless men, women and children need people like you to help give them another chance for new life in Jesus Christ.

Honoring Loved Ones with Tribute Gifts

An important tradition in many families is to make 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 can help to show how very much you care for the person.
- Remembering a loved one 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.

More information on Tribute and Memorial giving can be found on our website at: www.kokomorescuemission.org.

Over the course of a year, the odds of experiencing homelessness for a person in the general U.S. population are 1 in 194;

- for a person discharged from prison or jail, the odds are 1 in 13;
- for a person living doubled-up (living with friends, family or other nonrelatives for economic reasons), the odds are 1 in 12;
- and, for a person who has aged out of foster care, the odds are 1 in 11.

CLINTON COUNTY MINISTRY OF HOPE

An Outreach of Kokomo Rescue Mission

Ministry of Hope volunteers from about 15 different churches prepare and serve a free supper twice a week in Frankfort. All are welcome to the hearty, nutritious meal served Tuesdays at 6:00 pm at the Paul Phillippe Resource Center and Thursdays at 6:00 pm at Faith Family Ministries. Volunteers also offer devotions following the meal.

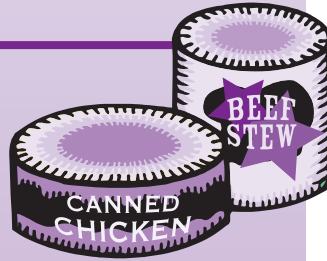
Bags of groceries to serve 10 meals for up to four people are given to those who qualify every month on the 3rd Tuesday evening at PPRC. For families of five or more people, additional portions are added.

Clinton County Ministry of Hope is funded by 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 or write your check to Clinton County Ministry of Hope and mail it to P.O. Box 852, Frankfort, IN 46041.

Fifth Sunday Focus on the Mission

"Full Meal Deal" Sunday — March 31, 2013

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.



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

► 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.